



## **Election Barometer: Developing Community Capacities for Monitoring & Responding to Electoral Violence in West Africa**

As part of its efforts to address electoral violence in West Africa, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) regional secretariat, its national networks and members across the sub region conducted a series of capacity building project for civil society organisations and other major actors to prevent, mitigate and respond to electoral conflicts.



A cross section of participants in Cote d'Ivoire

The first phase of this project targeted the Ivorian Elections to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010, the district elections in Ghana on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2010, the Liberian presidential elections in October 2011 and the Sierra Leone elections in 2012. A training seminar was organised in all four countries to not only develop indicators for monitoring risk factors that could degenerate into electoral violence but also put in place a motley committee comprising of religious and traditional leaders, women, youth and personnel of the security services to respond in a timely manner to contain any violent incidents. The training seminar was made possible thanks to IBIS West Africa for providing the financial supports.

WANEP subscribes to the view that sustainable democracy requires active citizen's participation in holding their representatives and politicians accountable. Thus, it is imperative to ensure that electoral process is not just adjudged to be free and fair but also seen to be so by the people and the international community. In West Africa, where more than half of the total populations, live under the poverty line, bad governance (characterized by fraudulent elections, rampant corruption, and abuse of power), competition for scarce means of sustainable livelihoods, religious intolerance and a surging youth unemployment and restiveness

have become a mainstay of the body polity. These are key proximate factors that constitute a major threat to the fragile peace and stability in the sub-region.



A cross section of participants in Liberia

WANEP is committed to working for the safeguarding of the democratic space in West Africa in solidarity with the citizenry, CSOs, government and its agencies, ECOWAS, the African Union and the international community as a way to deepening and sustaining democracy and good governance.

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