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Election Situation Room

Coordinated Election Observation Platform for
the 2024 General Elections in Ghana

Explanatory Guide

Electoral Violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM) Project



With additional support from



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Explanatory Guide

The Election Situation Room (ESR) is a key component of the broader project titled “Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM)”, funded by the European Union. This project is being implemented in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Its primary objective is to mitigate electoral violence through the implementation of prevention and response mechanisms in Ghana.

In Ghana, the ESR is coordinated by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP Ghana) in collaboration with its partner, the National Peace Council (NPC). The ESR is specifically designed to monitor, report, analyse, and facilitate responses to violent threats, contributing to the peaceful conduct of the general elections scheduled for 7 December 2024. E-MAM also encompasses the monitoring and reporting of incidents of physical violence, hostile communication, adherence to the principles of good governance, and other irregularities that may undermine the election's integrity.

WANEP and NPC deployed 510 accredited observers including 319 observers deployed by WANEP mainly to 195/276 prioritised “very high-risk” to “Medium-risk” constituencies across Ghana's 16 regions (refer to the deployment map below) and 191 observers deployed by NPC across all the regions. These observers will use a checklist comprising 63 questions, divided into six forms, to monitor voting processes within their assigned areas. Reports will be submitted through a Geospatial Information System (GIS) platform specifically designed for this purpose. Additional updates will be received via dedicated WhatsApp channels and phone calls between the situation room and field observers.

Deployment Plan for 510 Observers by WANEP and NPC

		Total Number of Constituencies	Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Observers		
							WANEP	NPC	Total
1	AHAFO REGION	6	1	1	2	2	9	12	21
2	ASHANTI REGION	47	4	2	23	18	40	19	59
3	BONO EAST REGION	11	1	2	6	2	15	15	30
4	BONO REGION	12	3	2	5	2	17	8	25
5	CENTRAL REGION	23	1	2	11	9	19	9	28
6	EASTERN REGION	33	0	0	17	16	17	14	31
7	GREATER ACCRA REGION	34	5	3	23	3	49	40	89
8	NORTH EAST REGION	6	3	3	0	0	12	13	25
9	NORTHERN REGION	18	9	4	5	0	46	11	57
10	OTI REGION	9	1	1	2	5	8	9	17
11	SAVANNA REGION	7	2	3	1	1	11	6	17
12	UPPER EAST REGION	15	8	3	4	0	38	10	48
13	UPPER WEST REGION	11	0	2	8	1	12	7	19
14	VOLTA REGION	18	1	9	8	0	11	0	11
15	WESTERN NORTH REGION	9	0	1	3	5	5	8	13
16	WESTERN REGION	17	0	2	6	9	10	10	20
		276	39	40	124	73	319	191	510

Operational Structure of the ESR

The operational strategy is informed by the number of identified hotspots across the 16 regions, as identified through WANEP's National Early Warning System and the hotspots mapping. A total of 134 personnel has been recruited for the ESR operations in Ghana. Of these, 66 personnel will staff the eleven Regional Elections Response Groups (RERGs), while the central coordinating ESR in Accra will deploy 68 personnel across five rooms: Data Gathering, Analysis, Decision, Fact-Checking and Communication Rooms.

- The **“Data Gathering Room”** will be responsible for direct communication with the 510 field observers and community monitors. A team of 32 will manage data collation through the ArcGIS 123 survey platform and other media channels.
- The **“Analysis Room”** comprises seven experts for interpreting the data to inform response actions. Experts in this room include specialists in conflict and data analysis, security, law, statistic, youth and gender, human rights, and communication.

- The **“Decision Room”** Chaired by Board members of the National Peace Council (NPC), comprises five eminent persons who can influence responses to identified threats. Other members include the Director of the National Centre for the Coordination of Response Mechanisms (NCCRM), the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of WANEP, etc. The decision room will leverage 66 members of the Regional Elections Response Groups (RERGs) set in 11 regions namely Upper East, Savannah, Bono, Upper West, Ashanti, Bono-East, Greater Accra, Northern, North-East, Western, and Volta. These individuals will engage stakeholders at the local, regional, national, and international levels to undertake preventive actions to mitigate potential electoral threats.
- The **“Fact-checking Room”** is led by five fact-checkers mobilised by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) and West Africa Fact-Space, WANEP's partners on information disorder issues. Their role is to fact-check information in collaboration with data collectors, observers and other relevant sources.
- The **“Communication Room”** is coordinated by three communication experts who have been recruited to monitor traditional and social media for threats in polling areas not covered by our observers. It will also enhance the visibility of ESR operations and disseminate critical information to stakeholders, including the media.

The ESR will be operational for three days, from 6th to 8th December 2024, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and response capabilities during the electoral period. Four to five declarations will be issued during the three days.

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