



NEWS SITUATION TRACKING OF BURKINA FASO ELECTIONS

Vol. 3



Location: Diebouougou (Bougouriba-Sud Ouest), Gayeri (Komondjari-Est)

Issue: Challenges around the electioneering process

Date: November 21-24, 2015

COMMUNITY PROFILING

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

INCIDENT PROFILING

Population:

Diebouougou (Total Population: 35,047; Total number of registered voters: 18,896-app. percentage of voters to population-54%)

Gayeri (Total Population: unspecified; Total number of registered voters: 20,151)

Ref: CENI, Wikipedia (2006-2014)

Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

Diebouougou: it is a town bordering Bobo Dioulasso to the west. Considered a hotspot of political violence, its major ethnic group is the Lobi. Minor ethnic groups include the Dagara and the Fulani.

Gayeri: It is a medium risk town for election related violence in the Komondjari province of Est region. Fada borders Komondjari where the military base that mobilized against the September 16 coup was situated. In terms of insecurity, Gayeri is notorious for high level of armed robbery cases. There is official restriction of movement especially for strangers in the town from 5pm till dawn. The town is also close to the border between Burkina Faso and Niger. The major ethnic group is the Gourmaniche. Minority ethnic groups include Fulani and the Mossi.

Politics:

Diebouougou: The town is known politically to be in opposition and anti establishment, which sometimes is expressed in violence.

Direct Actors: Movement du Peuple Pour le Progress (Peoples Movement for Progress) MPP, Union for Progress and Change-UPC, Congress for Democracy and Progress-CDP, Municipal authorities, Provincial CENI

Affected Persons: community members, youth groups, Citizens

Interested Actors: Electoral Commission (CENI), Ministry of Territorial Administration and decentralization, Ministry of Justice, Civil Society groups including Diakonia, PDEV, WANEP, local and international election observation groups, religious leaders, media owners in hotspot areas.

Three incidents were reported and observed by WANEP National Early Warning System in two areas comprising one hotspot and one medium risk area of Burkina Faso. The incidences profiled focused on the intra party dispute, political intolerance and accident involving a political leader.

At Diebouougou, there was reported violent confrontation on November 22, 2015 between UPC supporters and an unidentified youth who attempted to damage a vehicle belonging to a UPC member during their campaigns in the town. A successful attempt was made by the NEWS monitor in the area to break up the fight. Also in the same town, violence was reported among MPP supporters over food rations shared during their meeting.

An accident was reported along the Bilanga-Maldjabari road in Gayeri involving an MPP vehicle. The wife of an MPP leader was killed during the accident while the leader survived. The MPP accused the UPC of foul play and complicity in the accident based on their lack of empathy over their loss. However, the UPC has sent their condolence message to the leadership of MPP in the town.

Intolerance among political party supporters remains the greatest trigger for violence during the elections of November 29 in hotspot areas such as Diebouougou. Out of the 13 incidences reported in the situation tracking between November 8- 24, 2015, seven of the incidences representing approximately 54% are attributed to intolerance among and between political parties and community interest groups. Despite ongoing programs and interventions by civil society organizations as well as the Ministry of Territorial Administration, political parties continue to violate the Pact of Good Conduct as well as the electoral code.

The significant risk from crime and insecurity especially in locations such as Gayeri, has the potential security implication for local and international observer groups deployed to this area during the elections of November 29. It may also mar the conduct of the voting process especially as the voting time schedule is expected to end by 6pm. Community members as

In 2013, violent demonstrations against the prefect of the province led to the burning of the Metropolitan Assembly and the residence of the prefect. During the 2014 uprising, properties and public utilities were destroyed by protesting youths. It has mixed influence of all political parties. It is the hometown of Tahirou Barey, (a Fulani) the presidential candidate of PAREN party.

Gayeri: The town has the influence of major political parties such as the CDP, UPC and MPP. It is the hometown of Paramanga Ernest Yonli, a former prime minister during the government of ex President Blaise Compaore. During the 2014 uprising, the town strongly opposed and demonstrated against the introduction of Article 37 into the constitution. They also joined the movement by the military from Fada against the September 16 coup.

well as CENI officials stand the risk of abuse and harm in polling areas or locations without adequate security.

OPPORTUNITIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The National Police should deploy adequate security to hotspot areas as well as high crime areas to reduce the risk of abuse on CENI officials, voters, local and international observers during the election of November 29.
- The ongoing media peace messages on non violence and respect for the pact of good conduct by the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Justice, PDEV, Diakonia e.t.c. should be strengthened and maintained across all the provinces. It should target youth groups and political party supporters in the lead up to the election.
- The need to conduct interaction forum for national and provincial media on non-violence communication/reporting to encourage responsive information dissemination and reduce sensational reporting likely to trigger violence before and during election.
- Traditional chiefs and religious institutions should organize and maintain frequent consultations with community members with support from provincial

CENI and the Ministry of Territorial Administration in town hall meetings to update and elicit feedback concerns from the community in order to cultivate rapid dispute response channels for identified elections risks before and during and after the elections.

- Religious institutions need to promote peace messages and enlightenment through their platforms to discourage violence within communities.
- Political parties are encouraged to conduct sensitization on non-violence and responsible communication for their supporters and members at every meeting in the lead up to the November 29 elections.
- The National police should utilize the local media to disseminate security information and channels of communication/hotlines that will ensure the security of all stakeholders participating in the elections especially in hotspot areas.
- Local and international observers groups are encouraged to build communication channels for information sharing on emerging threats in target areas and security concerns which can leverage on their levels of influence or contacts to respond to threats.
- The NEWS steering committee needs to commence a contingency plan of engagement and response to possible second round of presidential elections beyond November 29, 2015.