



IFES Voice

Global expertise.
Local solutions.
Sustainable democracy.



Preventing Electoral Violence through Enhancing Security, Trust and Electoral Integrity



IFES defines electoral violence as "any harm or threat of harm to any person or property involved in the election process, or the process itself, during the election period." In order to better understand electoral violence, IFES has conducted systematic research on electoral security and electoral violence from a new perspective through the use of previously untapped resources: election observation reports. This article offers highlights from a forthcoming study that aims to shed some light on measures taken by stakeholders around the world to ensure that elections are held free from violence.

Election Management

IFES President Sweeney Testifies on Capitol Hill on Election Support in Africa

Ahead of Nigeria's important 2015 general elections, IFES President and CEO Bill Sweeney provided testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations on "U.S. Election Support in Africa." During his testimony, President Sweeney discussed the implementation of effective electoral assistance in Africa, democratic progress in Nigeria and provided recommendations for improving future aid.

Election Integrity and Transparency

Notes on Democracy



In this IFES Q&A, IFES Bangladesh Chief of Party Alistair Legge talks about the Pave Against Violence in Elections (PAVE) program, including how the program started; the role of violence in Bangladesh's political and electoral processes; the instrumental role of women in election conflict and security programming; and lessons learned to prevent or mitigate electoral violence in other contexts.

Photo Gallery



A Look at Nigeria's 2015 General Elections

Nigeria's 2015 general elections were widely watched by observers, with significant implications for the democratic future of the country. Despite security concerns stemming from Boko Haram, election observation missions applauded the Independent National Electoral Commission for its impartiality and

Taking Stock of Nigeria's 2015 General Elections: A Post-Election Q&A

In this post-election Q&A, IFES Program Manager Julia Hedlund discusses why the outcome of the Nigerian 2015 general elections were so important for democracy in the country; security concerns on Election Day; the performance of new technologies; and the legacy of outgoing Independent National Electoral Commission Chairman Attahiru Jega.

Citizen Participation

Civic Education for Free and Fair Elections in Burundi

In an effort to address simmering political tensions and significant changes to polling procedures in Burundi, IFES is implementing a nationwide civic and voter education campaign ahead of slate of elections scheduled for 2015. By strengthening the capacity of Burundian civil society and media to implement civic and voter education, IFES is working to empower these groups to reach out to the electorate, mobilize voters, and allow the Burundian people to fully participate in the political process.

Inclusion and Empowerment

IFES Disability Rights Programming Receives Innovative Practice Awards

On February 25, 2015, IFES' disability rights programming received two Innovative Practice Awards from the Zero Project at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. IFES' global approach to inclusion was highlighted along with a specific accolade for IFES Nepal's work to include people with disabilities in local governance structures.

professionalism and Nigerians for their enthusiastic participation in a historic vote that led to the country's first democratic transition of power.

Alumni Update



Former IFES Senior Program Manager for Francophone Africa Greg Kehailia has over 15 years of experience as a field practitioner in governance, democratization and electoral processes, mostly in war-torn, post-conflict and transitional countries. In this Q&A, he discusses how and when voter education can effectively reduce the incidence of election-related violence, the challenges of managing programs in Francophone Africa and the Middle East, and provides recommendations for young professionals in the democracy and governance sector.

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