

Liberia International Election Observation Mission



National Democratic Institute

On October 10, 2017, credible national elections will be an opportunity for Liberians to experience the country's first peaceful and democratic transfer of power. Transparent and accountable elections would strengthen Liberia's nascent democratic institutions and reinforce its status as an emerging democracy in Africa.

Developing Peaceful and Credible Electoral Processes

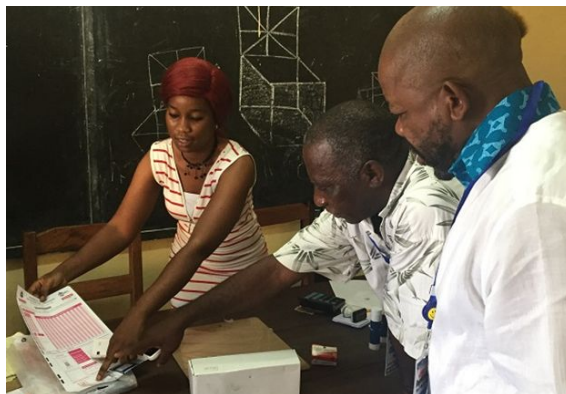
The National Democratic Institute (NDI), in partnership with the West African Election Observers Network (WAEON) and its secretariat, the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), is implementing a 14-month international election observation program that aims to enhance the integrity of the polls by conducting impartial and continuous monitoring of all phases of the election process. The program includes both short and long-term missions to assess the pre-election period, and will also be monitoring election day and post-election periods in Liberia. International election observation enhances the integrity of election processes by promoting public confidence, deterring and exposing irregularities and fraud, and mitigating electoral violence. By increasing timely access to information about the election process, the international election observation mission aims to facilitate early responses to emerging issues and contribute to building confidence in the credibility of the electoral process.

Pre-Election Observation

NDI will observe the pre-election period by conducting two pre-election assessment missions to evaluate election preparations, identify concerns, and offer recommendations to promote improvements that can contribute to more peaceful and credible elections. NDI is also deploying long-term analysts and observation teams around the country in advance of and during the campaign period to meet with voters, county-based election officials and political actors to assess election preparations and the political environment. Based on their reports, NDI will produce in-depth analyses, placing particular emphasis on election administration and the legal framework; incorporation of gender in the elections and gender-based election violence as a fundamental consideration in the electoral process; and the role of traditional and social media in the election process.

Election Day Observation and Post-Election Monitoring

NDI will also deploy delegates to observe the October 10 polls in all 15 counties. Delegates will meet with national and local stakeholders prior to the polls and visit polling stations on election day to observe opening, polling, closing processes, vote counting, and tabulation procedures. After the elections, long-term observers and analysts will continue to monitor the announcement of results and the resolution of election disputes.



Liberian voter registrar explains registration processes to mission delegates.

Post-Election Electoral Reform

During the post-election period, NDI will work with citizen monitors to facilitate dialogue among Liberian election stakeholders to identify lessons learned on the conduct of the election and set priorities for electoral reform. NDI plans to organize a conference to discuss recommendations for electoral reform and develop a legislative action plan to implement priority reforms.

Partnership with WAEON

The international election observation mission will feature long-term observers and short-term delegates from WAEON, a network of citizen monitoring groups in West Africa, who will contribute valuable regional observation experience and expertise to the mission.

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