THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACHIEVING CREDIBLE, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS 2020 IN GHANA

A STAR Ghana Foundation Learning Paper

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

Ghana held it 8th consecutive presidential and parliamentary elections since the return to constitutional rule in 1992 on Monday, December 7, 2020. The elections were the first partisan national elections to be conducted by the new leadership of the Electoral Commission (EC) which assumed office in August 2018. The voting processes on the Election Day were generally smooth across the country. The results management processes including the collation of results and declaration encountered some incidents of crowding, chaos and violence including the loss of some lives. The immediate post-election period witnessed some protests largely organized by the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) and its followers over the outcomes of the presidential elections and some parliamentary results. A restraining order secured by the Ghana Police Service from court subsequently debarred the NDC from engaging in further public protests and demonstrations in Accra. On December 30, 2020, the presidential candidate of the NDC, Mr. John Dramani Mahama filed a petition in the Supreme Court to challenge the presidential election results declared by the EC. After nearly two months of court proceedings, the Supreme Court on March 4, 2021 dismissed the petition on the bases that the petitioner did not demonstrate how alleged errors and corrections made by the EC affected the validity of the results declared. In a post-verdict speech, Mr. Mahama disagreed with the process of the petition trial as well as the verdict of the Supreme Court but said he was legally bound by the decisions of the Court. In the absence of any review application, the court ruling officially concluded the chapter on the 2020 elections.

Like many previous ones, the 2020 elections saw the active support and participation of civil society groups and organizations whose diverse interventions complemented the work of key election stakeholders such as the EC, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the Security Agencies, the National Peace Council (NPC) and the National Media Commission (NMC), among others. The STAR-Ghana Foundation (SGF), aware of the critical role that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play in complementing the efforts of key election stakeholders in the achievement of credible, peaceful and inclusive electoral processes and outcomes, and in consolidating its electoral support to previous elections, launched an Election 2020 Call in August 2019. The Call which had the overall aim of 'increasing the effectiveness of citizens' actions for credible, peaceful and inclusive presidential and parliamentary elections' focussed on addressing three main issues namely:
*   Vigilantism and election-related conflicts;
*   Political party manifestos and debates; and
*   Inclusion and active participation of all citizens.

The launch of the Election Call had been preceded by stakeholder consultative meetings which sought to share information on the purpose and strategy of the Call and to collate inputs to inform the strategy of the Call. In November 2019- one year ahead of the 2020 Elections, the STAR Ghana Foundation, with funding from the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office of the British High Commission and the European Union launched 26 projects under the Election Grant Call. The wide range of projects spanned the length and breadth of the country, and included national and local level interventions. The work of STAR-Ghana's diverse group of partners across the country was complemented by a number of dialogues, colloquiums and convenings facilitated by STAR-Ghana and which highlighted key governance and election-related issues such as the cost of doing politics in Ghana, the fight against political vigilantism, how to address socio-economic inequalities through political party manifestos, and the robustness of Ghana's electoral system.

This Learning Paper provides an overview of CSOs' contribution to the 2020 electoral process around the key themes of vigilantism and electoral violence; inclusion and political participation; and manifestoes and issue-based campaigning. It also seeks to identify and document key lessons from the implementation of the various initiatives implemented by STAR-Ghana partners and other CSOs and to identify entry points for improving the effectiveness of civil society election-support interventions. Overall, the paper seeks to draw lessons for enhancing electoral credibility and inclusion in Ghana. The paper is organized into four main sections: Section One is the introduction to the report while Section Two sets the discussion in context by providing a broad overview of elections under the fourth republic and highlights key achievements and challenges so far. Section Three focusses on the key developments which shaped the context of the 2020 elections while Section Four discusses various election support interventions implemented by civil society groups in support of the 2020 electoral process. Section Five looks at some key achievements, challenges, lessons and recommendations from the work done by civil society groups and how this can be enhanced in future elections. The paper also draws from the inputs from STAR-Ghana Foundation Election 2020 Call grant partners during a two-day virtual learning session held in March 2021.

SECTION TWO:
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ELECTIONS IN GHANA SINCE 1992

Elections enjoy popular support in Ghana and Afrobarometer trend data since 2002 show that majority (approximately 80%) of Ghanaians on average support the selection of leaders through the ballot box. This support has reflected in high voter turn-out which has hovered around 61% to 85% except for the elections of 1992. Most previously-held elections since 1992 were generally assessed to be free, fair and peaceful. Electoral competition, particularly among the two leading political parties, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) is keen, with both parties having roughly equal chances of winning elections. This keen electoral competition has produced three electoral turn-overs, with the two main parties alternating power. A prevailing vibrant media space and an active civil society environment continues to support the electoral process. Peaceful transfer of power since the year 2001 has been the feather in the country's cup.

Despite these positive indicators, elections in Ghana face significant challenges some of which are recurrent. The dominance of the two leading parties in national politics, the limited influence of relatively smaller political parties and the high stakes in elections due largely to a constitutional design which entrusts enormous powers to an executive president has contributed to a highly polarized political environment where national consensus on some key issues such as constitutional reforms has been difficult to achieve.

Apart from the above, elections in the country continue to be characterized by very high and unhealthy levels of suspicion and mistrust among political parties as well as a great degree of distrust in the Electoral Commission (EC) particularly by opposition political parties. This has on many occasions set the EC and opposition political parties on very antagonistic paths which detract from consensus-building despite the opportunity that the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) platform presents for engagement. The period following the exit/retirement of the first and longest-serving Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Kwadwo Afari-Gyan has particularly witnessed some breakdown in relations between the EC and opposition political parties. The situation partly stems from the nature of appointment of the chairperson of the EC which largely and constitutionally lies with the president and the incumbent party for that matter.

There are also recurrent questions about the credibility of the voter register and the pathways for cleaning the register. This, in some instances have dominated discussions in the pre-election environment and generated very intense controversies between the EC and some parties, particularly the main opposition party. To date, there is no reliable mechanism for ridding the voter register of names of deceased persons, a development which contributes to bloating and inaccuracy of the register. While the compilation of a

new register to replace old ones provides a temporary solution, the processes of compiling a new register tends to be disputatious and cumbersome, and comes with other challenges including disputes over the eligibility of some persons and the bussing of people by political parties from one corner of the country to the other for purposes of registration.

Another perennial difficulty is the high levels of tension and the sporadic incidence of violence which characterise the electoral process and often put nearly everyone on edge. While understandably elections are high-stakes activities with considerable interest in the outcomes, the uneasiness which dominates the electoral process has been unhealthy. The menace of violent political vigilantism which recently reached a crescendo presents considerable threats to the peace and security of the country while a weak sanctions regime poses enormous threat to the gains so far made.

There are low levels of females' participation in political office across the governance spectrum but this is yet to get adequate national attention. A draft Affirmative Action Bill has been in the works for many years while women's representation in Parliament has since 1992 hovered below 15%, halfway down the UN-recommended minimum threshold of 30%. A mix of factors including socio-cultural biases against female leadership, the combative nature of electoral competition, the high cost associated with electoral competition and the absence of an Affirmative Action law have contributed to these low levels of female representation in politics.

Other challenges confronting the electoral process include: gaps in civic and voter education, regarding for instance the role of Members of Parliament; the monetisation of politics and resultant high cost of elections for candidates and political parties; the high costs associated with organizing elections; vote-buying; the abuse of incumbency for electoral advantage; the threat of misinformation; increasing presence of politician-owned media pursing highly-partisan interests; high levels of sensationalism in sections of the media; and the partisan tagging of independent bodies including CSOs and state entities.

While electoral reforms and the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) platform instituted by the Electoral Commission with support from political parties have helped the country to navigate some of these challenges, these have not been adequate, and in some instances have been challenged. For instance, the reform agenda, particularly those that fall under broader governance reforms and require constitutional amendments have failed to see the light of day. The IPAC platform has also sometimes been muffled and resulted in stalemates. Addressing many of the identified challenges require multi-stakeholder efforts which go beyond political parties but also political commitment to see through reforms.

SECTION THREE: THE 2020 ELECTIONS IN CONTEXT

The 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections were the first national-level partisan elections to be conducted by the new leadership of the Electoral Commission which took office in August 2018 after the dismissal of the previous Chairperson, Mrs. Charlotte Osei and her two deputies who were impeached over official misconduct. Mrs. Osei had been appointed into office in 2015 by the former president Mr. John Mahama. The appointment of a new Chairperson, Mrs. Jean Mensa by President Nana Akufo-Addo was met with outright rejection by the NDC. This was followed by several hostilities between the new leadership of the EC and the NDC on a number of issues.

Few months after taking office, the new leadership of the EC had its first major task of organizing a referendum in parts of the country in respect of a proposed creation by government of six new administrative regions in Ghana. The referendum issue had bipartisan support and the conduct of the exercise did not face much partisan scrutiny. While the exercise was generally peaceful, there were some public concerns about viral videos of suspected electoral malpractices during the conduct of the exercise. In a report on the exercise, CODEO expressed concerns about the unusually high incidence of manual verification recorded during the exercise, with some observed polling stations recording between 20% to 58% incidence of manual verification while others recorded between 5%-19% [1]. The referendum was followed by a by-election in January 2019 in the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency in the Greater Accra Region following the passing of the sitting MP. An infamous security deployment for the by-election and a violent incident which erupted on the day of the polls and triggered widespread public condemnations resulted in the establishment by government of a Commission of Inquiry to look into the occurrences of the but a government white paper later rejected portions of recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry.

Months after the by-election, the EC had to organize the District Level Elections (DLE) across the country. As part of its preparations, it conducted a nationwide limited voter registration exercise which became the subject of another controversy as the NDC challenged the EC's decision to carry out voter registration mainly at its district offices instead of doing so at electoral area level. Eventually, the EC created additional registration centers for some difficult-to-reach communities across the country and the elections took place subsequently on December 17, 2019 in a generally-calm atmosphere with a characteristically low voter turn-out (around 33%). The election had initially been planned to be taken together with a referendum intended to amend article 55(3) of the constitution to allow for political parties' participation in local government elections. The

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[1]https://www.codeoghana.org/assets/downloadables/CODEO%20Final%20Report%20on%20observation%20of%20the%20December%2027%20Referendum.pdf

referendum was suspended by the president just about two weeks to the exercise, prompting the EC to halt its preparations in that respect.

Towards the 2020 elections, one contentious issue which dominated the pre-election environment was the EC's decision to compile a new voter register. The issue became a subject of protracted dispute between the NDC on one hand and the EC on the other. While the EC argued that its existing IT infrastructure was obsolete and could not guarantee credible elections, the NDC believed that compiling a new voter register was wasteful expenditure particularly since the EC had successfully used the existing register for the 2019 DLE. The ruling NPP supported the compilation of a new register which had been its preference over the years. A group of CSOs also expressed disapproval of the idea of a new voter register largely over value-for-money concerns. A suit filed by the NDC in the Supreme Court to challenge the EC's decision to compile a new register while disallowing the use of the existing voter ID card for identification for registration purposes was not granted by the Court, paving way for the EC to go ahead with fresh voter registration in late June 2020.

While the EC's preparations for the new voter registration exercise was racing against time due to its tight timetable, it hit a snag with the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which by the end of the first quarter of 2020 had reached the shores of Ghana and forced the imposition of restrictions on movement of people and social activities. After a postponement of the exercise, the Commission finally commenced registration on June 30 amidst considerable public concerns around the risk of a potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. At the onset, the EC had difficulty enforcing relevant COVID-19 safety protocols as outlined prior to the exercise. The early days of the exercise was particularly marked by crowded scenes at some registration centers. The EC, however subsequently improved on the safety measures for the registration exercises. Other challenges to the registration exercise were abuse of registration procedures by some party agents and persons and isolated incidents of tension, chaos and violence.[2]

At the end of the registration exercise, approximately 17million people had registered. This figure was well above the EC's projected target of 15million people and despite COVID-19 fears. With the nationwide voter registration out of the way, the EC had a major hurdle cleared and proceeded to finalize the new register. Candidate nominations took place in October 2020 and a total of 12 aspirants out of 17 were cleared by the EC as qualified. Due to a ban on open campaign rallies, political campaigning and open activities were largely limited.

The pre-election environment was also characterized by some security challenges including secessionists threats to national peace and security, concerns about security deployment to border regions, and some pre-election violence which characterized the

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[2]CODEO's Preliminary Reports on the 2020 Voter Registration Exercise

voter registration exercise. Early in the election year, the National Chairman of the NDC, Mr. Samuel Ofosu-Ampofo was arrested and subsequently charged by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) over a leaked audio which surfaced in February 2019 in which he was allegedly heard outlining plans to carry out some criminal activities such as abductions and kidnappings against some key persons including the Chairperson of the EC and that of the National Peace Council. Mr. Ofosu Ampofo, together with a Deputy Communications Officer of the NDC (Mr. Kwaku Boahen) have since been standing trial in the courts.

In the wake of public concerns around election security and violence, a new law (Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019) was passed to address challenges such as electoral violence. The Act bans acts of vigilantism in the country, disbands vigilante groups, including political party vigilante groups and land guards and prescribes a 10 to 15-year jail sentence for violators. The National Peace Council pursued a multi-stakeholder process involving the two main political parties to disband violent vigilante activities. The process yielded a roadmap and code of conduct for disbanding vigilantism activities and was signed by the NPP and the NDC.

Overall, despite the challenges, the 2020 elections took place in a generally-stable political environment. The conduct of the elections on election day was fairly smooth, with few challenges about logistics deployment. However, the counting, and in some cases the collation of election results encountered some challenges such as crowding and chaos at collation centers and some violence which in some cases resulted in the loss of human lives. A few parliamentary candidates challenged the outcomes of their constituency elections results while the presidential results became the subject of an election petition in the Supreme Court for the second time since 1992. A ruling by the Court on March 4, 2021 which affirmed the presidential election results declared by the EC has put the matter to rest while some of the parliamentary cases are still pending in courts.

SECTION FOUR: CIVIL SOCIETY ELECTION SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

CSOs interventions towards the 2020 elections mirrored traditional areas of support such as election observation, civic/voter education and peace promotion, violence monitoring, peace support interventions, media monitoring of hate speech and language use. Apart from these however, there were other relatively new interventions such as intensified efforts around manifestos and media monitoring of mis/disinformation and fact-checking. Conspicuously missing was the IEA presidential debates involving either or both of the two main political parties, constituency level parliamentary debates, and monitoring of abuse of incumbency. The broad spectrum of interventions implemented during the elections was supported by various development partners including the USAID, the EU, UKAid, the Netherlands Embassy, DANIDA, the STAR-Ghana Foundation, OSIWA and Oxfam. Some of the key interventions implemented by CSOs, particularly STAR-Ghana Election 2020 grantees are outlined below. The interventions are discussed around the three main issues of vigilantism and election-related conflicts, inclusion and political participation and manifestoes and issue-based campaigning.

4.1   Manifestos and Issue-Based Campaigning

Political campaigning and electoral politics in Ghana often focus on policy issues much as personality attacks and insults. Sometimes, even discussions around issues get shrouded in insults. This development has generated considerable public concerns around how political discourse can potentially degenerate and the need for mechanisms to be put in place to sanitize unwholesome language which could be detrimental to election peace and stability. Steering political discourse towards the kind that is issue-based has therefore been an objective for some civil society groups who have increasingly resorted to a variety of interventions in this regard. Such interventions have largely been in the areas of political party manifestos, candidate debates and media monitoring. Such initiatives implemented during the 2020 elections are highlighted below.

4.1.1   Interventions Around Political Party Manifestos

While political party manifestoes have been part of the electioneering process in the past, the 2020 electoral process saw an enhanced public focus on and intense analyses of the content of manifestoes. In previous elections for instance, public attention was drawn to issues such as the catchy themes of party manifestoes and which political parties originated which fancy ideas. However, increasingly, a lot more attention is being put into proper assessment of the feasibility and responsiveness of manifestos to key issues of national interest.

During the 2020 electoral cycle, a number of civil society groups implemented a lot more interventions on party manifestos. Some of these interventions sought to influence the content of manifestos while others focused on assessments of these manifestos. For

instance, the Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF), with support from STAR-Ghana facilitated a process of informing party manifestoes with inputs from the private sector. PEF collected private sector inputs from around the country and used same to engage political parties. Similarly, the CSOs Platform on the SDGs in collaboration with the Social Accountability Forum and the Civil Society Platform for Social Protection put together a Citizens' Manifesto on Social Protection which was out-doored in May 2020. The document was the product of a series of consultations with citizens and citizen groups including civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional leaders, women and adolescent girls, opinion leaders, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and other citizens. It sought to influence the development of parties' manifestos and to provide a reference point for assessing the social protection programmes of government. The Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) also conducted an assessment of the manifestoes of the NPP and the NDC and presented its findings to the two parties. The GFD also shared with the political parties its recommendations on how best to implement manifesto promises to derive greater impact for persons with disabilities.

Outside of STAR-Ghana Foundation support, other interventions included IMANI's Manifestos Score Card and CDD-Ghana's Manifestos for Development Project. IMANI's Manifestos Score Card which was instituted in 2015 assessed the implementation status of the ruling party (NPP)'s 2016 manifesto promises. IMANI disseminated its scores from the assessment and this received widespread coverage in the media. It also engaged the office of the Vice-President and the manifesto committee of the NDC on particular policy areas of interest. In the previous (2016) elections, IMANI had assessed party manifestoes to establish whether the various promises made in those documents were quantifiable or not as part of efforts to check vagueness and therefore the ability to hold political parties/politicians accountable to their promises.

Left: Imani team after meeting the NDC Manifesto Team: Right: The CDD team after meeting with the NDC Manifesto Team. *Source: Imaniafrica.org/CDD-Ghana*

On its part, CDD-Ghana introduced its new initiative on manifestos about a year to the elections. The intervention sought among others, to 'strengthen the capacity of political parties in generating responsible, inclusive and sustainable manifesto policies and programs; enhance the use of data and evidence in drafting political party manifestos; and improve the effectiveness of manifestos of political parties in addressing critical national long-term development and governance issues'[3]. The Center engaged sectoral experts who compiled issues and evidence on key sectors in the country. The findings from the expert assessments was shared with key stakeholder and political parties. A subsequent assessment of the manifestoes of the NDC and the NPP examined their 'feasibility, relevance and responsiveness to fundamental and transformational issues and the priorities of citizens relating to the social sectors'[4]. Another CDD-Ghana initiative dubbed Youth Speaks Forum which was implemented in partnership with the Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF) focused on deepening youth engagement on political parties' policies and programmes, particularly on youth development. The intervention brought together regional level representatives of political parties and youth leaders to discuss youth development while promoting a very cordial atmosphere for dialogue.

Other interventions involved work by a group of 22 CSOs which put together a CSO manifesto on education much early in the elections year with the aim of informing the education sector policies of the political parties.

At the regional and local levels, organizations such as Friends of the Nation (FoN) mobilized citizens from some constituencies in the Western Region, identified key issues affecting them with respect to the oil and gas industry, and subsequently engaged political parties on these issues.

4.1.2 *Candidate debates*

Candidates debates have increasingly been a feature of elections in Ghana since the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) established its Presidential Debates program in the year 2000. Debates provide candidates a platform to articulate their proposed plans and policies towards national development while providing voters with some bases to assess the intentions of candidates and or their political parties. While the IEA did not organize its traditional presidential debates and encounters during the 2020 elections, there were some presidential debates put together by other CSOs. In November 2020, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) in collaboration with the National Commission for Civic Education and STAR-Ghana also held a Presidential Debate in Accra. Participants in the debate were Mr. Kofi Akpaloo of the Liberal Peoples' Party; Dr. Henry Herbert Lartey of the Great Consolidated Peoples' Party (GCPP); Mr. Ivor Greenstreet of the Convention Peoples' party (CPP); Mr. Hassan Ayariga of the All Peoples' Congress (APC); and Madam Akua Donkor of the Ghana Freedom Party (GFP). These debates had the participating candidates answer questions on a wide range of national socio-economic development issues.

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[3]https://cddghana.s3.amazonaws.com/2020/11/Assessment-Report-cmplt...pdf
[4]https://cddghana.s3.amazonaws.com/2020/11/Assessment-Report-cmplt...pdf

An education sector-focus debate was also organized by NORSAAC, in partnership with the University for Development Studies (UDS). The participating political parties included the NDC, the NPP, the CPP and the PNC. The event helped highlight the educational policies of the political parties and afforded the participating political parties the opportunity to throw more light on these policies and plans.

Political party representatives at the NORSAAC-UDS Political Parties Debate on Education Sector policies
Source: myjoyonline.com

IMANI Africa, in partnership with the Multi-Media Group organized two presidential debates for candidates of 'minor' political parties and aspiring independent candidates. The first took place in August 2020 and involved six aspiring independent presidential candidates namely Mr. Marricke Gofi Gane, Mr. Kofi Koranteng, Mr. Samuel Ofori Ampofo, Mr. Carl Ebo Morgan, Mr. Onipayede Ossom Teye and Dr. Tom Asiseh. None of these aspirants made it to the ballot paper after the presidential elections nominations process in October 2020 disqualified some of them. The second debate took place in October 2020 and featured some aspirants from relatively smaller political parties including Ms. Brigitte Dzogbenuku of the Progressive Peoples' Party (PPP); Mr. Peter Apesera of the Peoples National Convention (PNC); Mr. Kofi Akpaloo of the Liberal Peoples' Party (LPG); Mr. Ivor Greenstreet of the Convention Peoples' party (CPP); and Mr. Hassan Ayariga of the All Peoples' Congress (APC).

4.1.4   *Media Monitoring of Language Use and Ethical Standards*
The media plays a significant role in shaping political discourse and in enhancing a focus on issue-based campaigning. Given the dangers associated with media sensationalism and perceived falling standards in media practice, it has become imperative for some time that the media space needs some support to enable it to live up to its mandate, particularly of informing the citizenry during elections, and to also help set the right agenda for political discourse. A number of organizations therefore implemented interventions aimed at building the capacity of some media practitioners on conflict-sensitive reporting, ethical media practice, hate speech and election security. The Ghana Journalists

Association (GJA) carried out one such intervention which targeted journalists from local (Akan) language speaking media houses. Similar initiatives by the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) benefitted about 150 media practitioners from around the country.

Other interventions also focussed on media monitoring of language use and ethical violations. The MFWA at the beginning of the second half of the year 2020 commenced its initiative on monitoring of media ethics as well as the monitoring of abusive and indecent language on radio. The organization published bi-weekly reports of its findings which essentially named individuals, media houses and media platforms which engaged in violations of media ethics, or indulged in indecent or abusive language[5]. To further broaden the scope of the MFWA monitoring work, CDD-Ghana in October 2020 partnered with the MFWA to scale up the number of radio stations captured in the monitoring exercise. The collaboration increased the number of radio stations monitored in the exercise from 20 to 40. The intervention succeeded in naming and shaming media houses, journalists and individuals who violated media ethics or indulged in indecent language use during the period of monitoring. The GJA and the National Media Commission also carried out some monitoring interventions in this regard.

Source: mfwa.org

To further help reduce the incidence of hate speech, abusive language and other indecent expressions on the airwaves during the elections, CDD-Ghana in partnership with the NMC embarked on some in-depth engagements with journalists, editors, and media owners in seven (7) regions of the country. The engagements which were facilitated by a group of media experts entailed discussions around issue selection, framing and presentation by the media and how they impact elections and peace building. The

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[5]https://www.mfwa.org/publication/mediaethic-report-june-1-14-2020/

engagement highlighted some real challenges facing media practitioners in the country. Other initiatives and interventions by media-focussed CSOs such as Penplusbytse, Dubawa, and Fact Check Ghana and the MFWA focused on the potential threat of fake news and dis/misinformation. The range of interventions included fact-checking online stories and strengthening the capacity of the media in dealing with misinformation as a real threat to electoral integrity and peace.

4.1.5 Public Discussions on Key National Issues

A number of organizations facilitated stakeholder dialogues and public engagements aimed at addressing some key issues of national interest as the country prepared to go into the elections. Organizations such as the STAR-Ghana Foundation, IDEG, Penplusbytes, and Dubawa convened a number of in-person (prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic) and virtual activities particularly webinars to explore various topics such as how to safeguard electoral credibility, the impact of COIVD-19 on the elections, demonetization of electoral politics, campaign financing, how to address fake news and disinformation among others. The virtual platforms opened up these discussions to audiences beyond the traditional reach of such engagements.

Source: star-ghana.org

4.2   Vigilantism and Election-related Conflicts

One area which received considerable civil society attention was vigilantism and election-related conflicts. The developments during the January 31, 2019 Ayawaso West Wuogon constituency by-election ignited public fears about possible outbreak of election violence if political vigilantism was not curtailed. This prompted and or boosted efforts by government, governmental agencies and civil society organizations to work towards eliminating the menace ahead of the 2020 elections. Thus, several CSO initiatives at both the national and local levels targeted this problem, with a range of interventions including civic/voter education to sensitize citizens about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring election peace, efforts to eradicate violent vigilantism, and initiatives aimed at fostering communal peace and dialogue. Some of these interventions include the following.

### 4.2.1 Development of a Roadmap and Code of Conduct to Eradicate Politically Violent Vigilante Activities

While government's efforts in this direction culminated in the passage of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act (2019), the National Peace Council, working with some CSOs such as the Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG), WANEP and CDD on a framework for ending violent vigilantism in the country. These efforts resulted in a Roadmap and Code of Conduct to Eradicate Politically Violent Vigilante Activities which was signed by the NPP in February 2020 and subsequently by the NDC in June 2020 after the party (NDC) raised some initial misgivings about the roadmap including the specific role of key electoral stakeholders in the implementation of the roadmap. The signing of the roadmap and code of conduct committed the two main political parties to the elimination of violent vigilante activities.

Signing of Road Map and Code of Conduct by the NPP and NDC. Source: peacecouncil.gov.gh

4.2.2 Presidential Peace Pact

Another major intervention to promote violence-free elections which had the active participation of civil society was the signing of the Presidential Election Peace Pact between the two leading presidential candidates. The Peace Pact which was at the instance of the National Peace Council, the National House of Chiefs and the National Chief Imam was supported by IDEG and other CSOs such as NORSAAC. The Pact committed the endorsing presidential candidates to smoke the peace pipe at all times during the election.
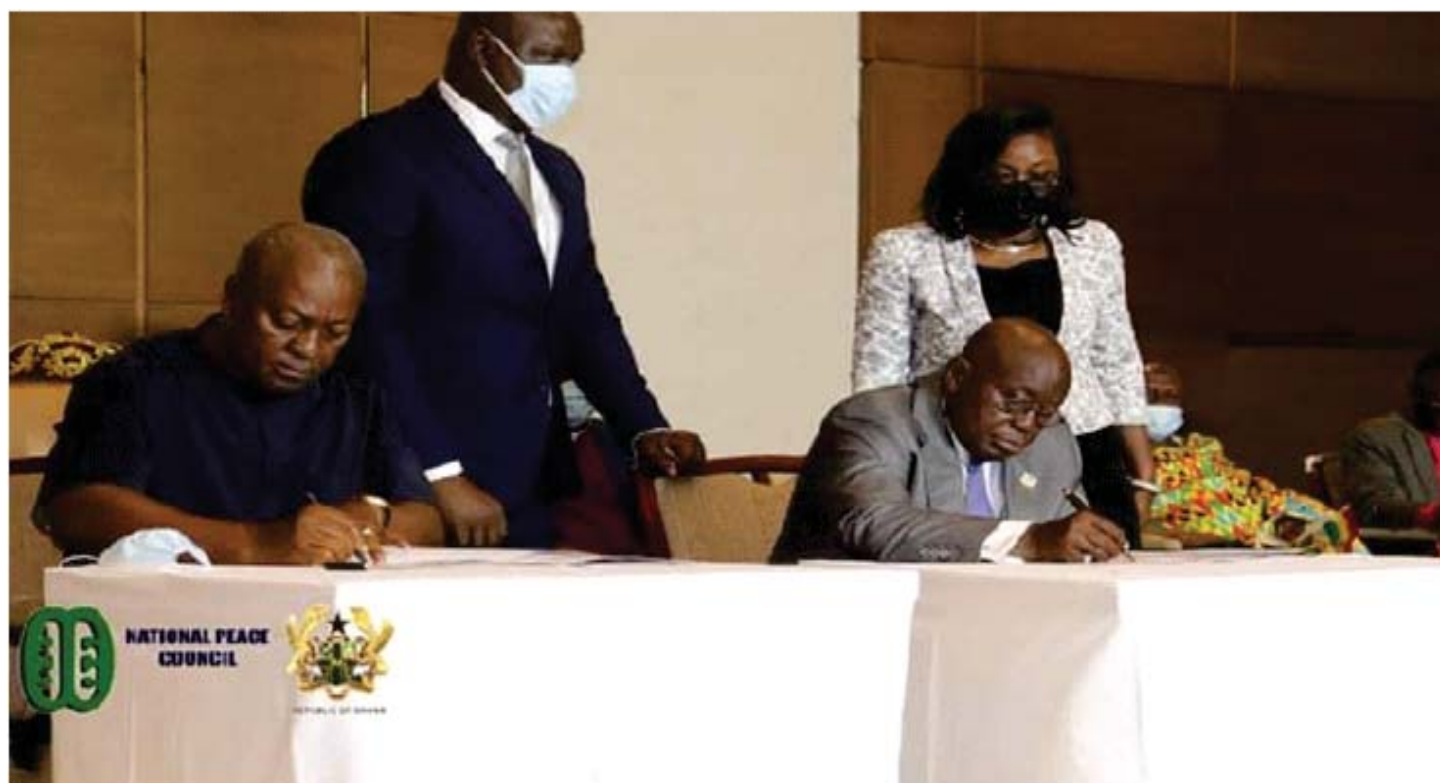
Source: National Peace Council

4.*2.3*   *Community Engagement and Early Warning Interventions*

The West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP) and the National Peace Council (NPC), in September 2020 launched the National Election Response Group (NERG) which comprised eminent persons including representatives from several state and non-state institutions including the NPC, the EC, the NCCE, STAR-Ghana. The NERG had responsibility for discussing, developing, and recommending response strategies to violent threats to the 2020 elections. Regional Election Response Groups (REGS) were designed along   a similar arrangement with focus on a cluster of regions. A similar intervention was an effort by CDD and the National Peace Council to enhance the capacities of some hot-spot communities in dealing with conflict prevention and peace mediation. In this regard, through CDD and the NPC established Peace Mediation Committees in some 6 selected districts across the country and built the capacity of committee members to address conflict-related issues in their respective communities.

There were other regional and local level interventions by other CSOs as well. For example, the Youth Empowerment Synergy (YES), with technical support from WANEP, trained and deployed some 60 Young Peace Ambassadors[6] to three regions in northern Ghana ahead of the elections. The Peace Ambassadors had responsibility for facilitating communal peace by responding to early warning signs of conflict and through mobilization of other young persons to promote peace. WANEP also facilitated and trained inter-party youth dialogue committees and women caucuses in eleven constituencies in four northern regions. The intervention sought to promote incident-free

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[5]https://starrfm.com.gh/2020/11/2020-polls-yes-deploys-60-peace-ambassadors-to-northern-ghana/

elections by providing relevant skills and knowledge to the Committee members as agents of dialogue and peace. Other smaller interventions included a CDD-Ghana/UNDP intervention in a few hot-spot constituencies such as Akwatia and Asutifi which, through Board-Games created awareness among the youth on the need to avoid violence and have peace.

Young Peace Ambassadors trained by the YES ahead of the 2020 elections: Source: ghanaweb.com

In the post-election period, there were efforts to reduce tension and urge public calm as a number of civil society organizations in election programming including IDEG, CFI, CDD, GII, MFWA and NORSAAC, among others utilized the power of collective voice to wade into certain post-election developments which they believed had the potential to undermine national peace and security. Their press statements provided some middle ground opinion on developments such as the banning by the Police Service of public protests by the NDC as well as the decision of the EC to take a near 4-week break in the midst of some post-election agitations by the NDC.

4.2.4. *Civic/Peace Education*
Civic/voter education also received widespread support from various civil society groups, formal and informal as part of efforts to enhance election peace. For instance, CDD-Ghana and CODEO partnered with the NCCE to roll-out a 5-6-week community-level civic and voter education program in all 260 districts across the country. The intervention involved the recruitment of Civic Educators (one each per constituency) who partnered with district NCCE personnel and carried out voter education. The Christian Council of Ghana and other religious bodies also rolled out voter education campaigns aimed at enhancing citizen participation in the elections. Other civil society groups and

community-based organizations also carried out sensitization activities at community levels. Civic/voter education messages focussed on election peace, issue-based voting, COVID-19 safety protocols and political tolerance among others.

4.3   Inclusive and Active Citizen Participation

Some civil society interventions sought to enhance citizens' participation in the electoral process at various phases of the elections. Some of these interventions are presented below.

4.3.1   Citizen Election Observation

Election observation deepens citizens engagement in electoral processes and their contribution to election credibility. It also helps safeguards the right of citizens to vote and provides critical feedback to election stakeholders on the conduct of an election. The Coalition of Domestic Election Observation (CODEO) rolled out a comprehensive observation exercise which spun the pre-election phase to the post-election period. Beginning with observation of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Exercise, CODEO observed nearly all aspects of the electoral process from voter registration through long-term observation of the pre-election environment to observation of the post-election environment. On Election-Day for instance, the Coalition mobilized and deployed 4,000 citizens as polling station observers across the country. Its Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) enabled an independent verification of the presidential election results. The Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) also deployed about 700 observers nationwide and mounted Situation Rooms in various regional capitals where observer reports were received, analysed and disseminated. Other organizations which also deployed observers included the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD), Abantu for Development and NORSAAC and partners, among others.

A member of the GFD observing elections on Election Day. Source: https://www.facebook.com/gfdghana

4.2.2 Direct Constituency Engagements with Voters

With STAR-Ghana support, the Multi-Media Group implemented an initiative dubbed the Ballot Box which brought together voters and parliamentary candidates in some selected constituencies to engage on issues of local interest. The initiative allowed parliamentary aspirants to discuss local development issues while providing constituents with the opportunity to ask questions affecting their communities. These events which were also carried live on the Multi-Media platforms facilitated voter-candidate engagement and promoted voter participation.

4.2.3 Vulnerable Groups and the electoral process

There were interventions which targeted vulnerable groups and their participation in the electoral process. The GFD for instance conducted some zonal engagements for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to promote knowledge and understanding on political party policies and promises on issues affecting PWDs. The organization also engaged the EC on how to enhance access of PWDs to the electoral process. Socioserve-Ghana and its partners also facilitated engagements between some hard-to-reach communities and their District Assemblies and parliamentary aspirants on their development needs and other issues of priority to them (communities).

SECTION FIVE:
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Achievements

The various interventions implemented by CSOs during the 2020 electoral cycle cumulatively contributed to enhanced electoral transparency, improved public access to informed assessment of political parties' manifestos, strengthened media capacity and role in election reportage, and enhanced election peace and security. Some of these achievements are highlighted below.

5.1.1 Enhanced Campaign Discourse and CSO-Informed Manifestoes

CSOs engagement with political parties on manifestoes yielded some modest gains. For example, eight out of a set of recommendations that the Private Enterprise Foundation shared with the NDC and the NPP were captured in the manifestoes of these two parties. More generally, the 2020 electoral process witnessed tremendous public interest in and scrutiny of political party manifestoes. Public expectations of the manifestos of the NDC and the NPP for instance, heightened in the days leading to their launches. The days and weeks following the release of these manifestos were characterised by intense media scrutiny, analyses and expert discussions about the content of the manifestos. CSOs enhanced the discourse on manifestoes by providing unbiased, non-partisan and expert assessment of the provisions in the manifestoes of the political parties and therefore complemented the efforts of the media in setting the public discourse agenda on manifestos. Manifesto assessments aided public assessments of the past performance of the two main political parties. Significantly, this development transforms the nature of politics and campaigning from one of vile personality attacks, which may not be completely eliminated though, to one which is more issue-based. The outcomes of the elections particularly at the parliamentary level arguably suggests that voters may have paid attention to campaign messages and local development issues instead of purely partisan considerations.

5.1.2 Increased Focus on Relatively Young and Smaller Political Parties

The candidate debates organized by organizations such as GBC-NCCE-STAR-Ghana, IMANI and Multi-Media, NORSAAC and UDS attracted considerable public interest and put a focus on the participating political parties some of whom had previously protested their exclusion from the IEA's presidential debates. Given the overbearing dominance of the NDC and the NPP in national politics, it is significant to have such interventions which do not concentrate public interests in just two candidates.

5.1.3 *Independent Assessment of the Electoral Outcomes and Contribution to Electoral Integrity and Peace*

While the outcomes of the presidential elections were disputed by the runner-up and there were some public concerns around errors made by the EC in the presidential election results declared, the assessment of the electoral process and verification of its outcomes by credible independent citizen groups like CODEO provided a form of a second opinion on what transpired at the polls and allowed citizens to make their own assessments of electoral outcomes. Observation also enhanced the electoral process with relevant recommendations on how some challenges could be addressed for improved electoral experiences. In the pre-election period for instance, CODEO's pre-election observation reports provided critical early feedback to stakeholders on electoral activities and made relevant recommendations for addressing them. During the voter registration exercise for example, CODEO highlighted some challenges such as crowding at registration centers and the collection of voters' details by party agents at registration centers. The EC subsequently issued a statement to caution party agents to desist from the practice while it strengthened its mechanisms for enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols. CODEO's observation reports were also used to inform several media discussions on the electoral process.

5.1.4 *Contribution to General Electoral Peace and National Stability*

The range of interventions implemented by CSOs at both the national and local levels no doubt contributed overall to the general peace in the country during and after the elections. It is remarkable to note that voting on Election Day proceeded in a generally calm atmosphere which means most citizens heeded the various calls from various actors including civil society to be law-abiding. On the other hand, the Peace Pact intervention was very symbolic, timely and communicated the commitment of the two leaders to an incidence-free election. In the post-election period, the Peace Pact became a reference point for demanding responsible conduct from the two leading presidential candidates and their supporters. Despite the NDC's rejection of the presidential election results, the party ultimately resorted to court to seek redress. At the local level, significant progress was made as some election conflict-prone constituencies/communities such as Asawase, Ejura Sekyedumase, Asutifi and Akwatia witnessed relative calm and peace during the elections. These constituencies had targeted interventions by various civil society groups. For instance, the work of Peace Mediation Committees established by CDD-Ghana/National Peace Council served as an early warning mechanism for conflict prevention and included direct community peace outreach activities. In some instances, the Committees were able to take steps to intervene in developments that had the potential to escalate conflicts.

5.1.5   Strengthened Role of the Media in Elections

It is worthy to note that the media significantly shifted its focus to policy issues during the 2020 electoral cycle and asserted its role in setting the policy agenda. Regarding the use of indecent language on air, a report[7] by the MFWA show significant reduction in the use of indecent language in the months of December 2020 and January 2021 on some radio stations monitored by the MFWA since June 2020 during which period it named and shamed individuals, media platforms and journalists who indulged in the use of indecent language. The interventions from CSOs in support of the media effectively contributed to increased media focus on policies, government performance and party manifestos.

5.2   Challenges

Despite the achievements, a number of challenges confronted CSOs in their efforts to promote credible elections and peaceful outcomes. These challenges include the following;

5.2.1   An unforeseen global pandemic and impact on CSO work

CSO interventions can be impacted by unforeseen developments but the COVID-19 pandemic was one that was difficult to imagine by anyone. Within less than three weeks after recording its first cases of the virus on March 12, 2020, Ghana went into a partial lock-down which abruptly halted socio-economic activities in some of the busiest parts of the country. The raging pandemic which affected the electoral calendar also meant that many CSOs, could not carry out many of their planned interventions. Some projects could not take off at their planned timelines while other activities had to be delayed. Thus, the main impact of the pandemic on CSOs were delays in project delivery and restrictions in the mode of delivery as many interventions planned around physical presence of people had to be modified into virtual engagements or some other forms. The development narrowed the time window available for project implementation and to achieve desirable outcomes. The implementation of some interventions unfortunately became so close to election dates and did not allow the electoral process to leverage all the benefits of an early intervention.

The pandemic also had negative impacts on funding for civil society work around the elections. Some development partners cut down on funding for CSO election programming and this meant that implementing partners had to scale down their interventions as funding levels could not support some originally proposed election support interventions. The situation presented implementation challenges to a number of CSOs who had to rethink program execution while having their original objectives in mind. Meanwhile, costs on project implementation needed to accommodate contingency measures to contain the risk of the spread of the virus among project staff. Given the unreliable nature of funding for many CSOs in Ghana, the pandemic presented additional funding constraints to project implementation and required a lot more activity adaptation and innovation to achieve intended objectives.

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[7] https://www.mfwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Jan-final-report1-Abby.pdf

5.2.2 Challenges in Access to political parties and missed opportunity to engage leading presidential candidates

Projects achieve desired results if delivered according to plan, with key stakeholders participating as expected. Some civil society election-support interventions required the participation of political parties at various levels. However, while some CSOs were able secure the participation of political parties whether at the national, regional or district levels in their program implementation, others found it difficult to enlist party representatives in planned programmes, a situation which presented some deficiencies in the achievement of project objectives. For instance, some CSOs which worked on manifestos could not get direct audience with the ruling political party (NPP) to discuss manifesto-related work and had to find alternative means of sharing information with the party.

On the other hand, voters missed out on an opportunity to scrutinize the two leading presidential aspirants on not just their intended policies and program particularly in respect of their performance in office. An apparent attempt by IMANI to have a debate involving the candidates of the two NDC and the NPP could not materialize as the incumbent president, Nana Akufo-Addo turned down the request 'due to pre-arranged commitments'[8]. The candidate of the NDC, former president John Mahama on the other hand, indicated his willingness to take part in a debate with his main contender but it is not clear as to why he did not participate in other debates (the GBC-NCCE-STAR-Ghana debate).

5.2.3 Limited Interest in Issues Affecting Women and other Vulnerable Groups

While there was commendable focus on party manifestos and policy proposals, a major gap in this discourse was a limited interest in and focus on issues affecting females and other vulnerable groups. A lot of the discourse on manifestoes focused largely on the economy and infrastructural development and had little room for issues about gender. This has the potential to further side-line very critical issues about female participation in politics and related challenges.

5.2.4 Limited Public Understanding on Observation Methodologies and Outcomes

In the post-election period, it became apparent that within sections of the public, there was some limited public understanding around election observation methodologies such as the PVT as the estimates of the PVT was misconstrued in the wake of the EC's errors in officially declared results. There were indeed online attacks on CODEO and its Acting of Chair about the PVT estimates and this prompted CODEO to issue a statement to clarify public misconceptions about its PVT estimates.

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[8]https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Akufo-Addo-turns-down-IMANI-s-request-to-participate-in-Presidential-Debate-1073275

5.2.5 *Incidence of Violence and Chaos*

Although the 2020 elections were generally peaceful, the incidence of violence at various phases of the electoral process means that a lot more still has to be done to sensitize citizens against electoral violence. Similarly, the security agencies must be sensitized particularly on their role in enforcing the law and being accountable to the public.

5.2.6 *Media non-compliance with ethical standards and use of decent language:*

Despite efforts to curb ethical violations and the use of indecent language on air, MFWA's media monitoring reports showed a prevalence of ethical violations throughout the election season. Some of the most-guilty media platforms included those that are pro-artisan. This presents key questions about how to elicit compliance from offending media practitioners after monitoring interventions identify such violations.

5.3 LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A number of lessons can be derived from the work of civil society around the 2020 electoral process. These lessons also present opportunities for enhancing future work and improving desired outcomes. These include:

5.3.1 *Collaborations within CSOs and partnerships with the media state institutions enhance programme delivery and impact*

Many CSOs interventions in support of the 2020 elections benefitted greatly from varying forms of collaborations with sister CSOs, the media and relevant state actors. Many CSOs utilized identified opportunities in state-CSO relationships to design interventions in support of the electoral process. Within CSOs collaborations including networking and coalition-building optimise resources including expertise, broadens scope of interventions and promote learning among partners. Such collaborations can include less formal and less organized civil society groups and can also involve national, regional and district/constituency/local level actors. Similarly, CSO-media collaborations serve to maximise impact. While CSOs may have well thought-out interventions, the media has the leverage to amplify the reach of interventions. The several engagements between CSOs and the media during the 2020 elections demonstrate that the right collaborations yield maximum results. The willingness of some state actors such as the NCCE, the National Peace Council, and the National Media Commission to cooperate with civil society present great opportunities in election programming. All these institutions cooperated with various CSOs to deliver diverse election support interventions such as civic education, media monitoring and conflict prevention during the 2020 election year.

5.3.2 *Diverse strategies to address conflict prevention is effective*

The plurality and diversity of civil society efforts in the area of conflict prevention complemented themselves and left little room for failure. The range of CSO interventions during the 2020 elections which sought to address conflict prevention included peace education through diverse media (radio, community information centers, online engagement, etc.), public sensitization on the anti-vigilantism law, youth-focussed peace

activities including the deployment of youth ambassadors, and targeted conflict prevention structures such as Peace Committees among others. These helped ensure that diverse causes of conflict were addressed. In some instances, organizations employed multiple strategies to address problems and this reinforced set objectives. For example, CDD-Ghana and CODEO carried out nation-wide peace promotion activities but also ensured that some communities benefitted from additional targeted interventions such as Peace Board Games and the work of Conflict Mediation Committees.

5.3.3   Community-based and targeted conflict prevention mechanisms work
Approaches rooted in grassroot leadership and support proved effective particularly in the area of conflict prevention. The Youth Empowerment Synergy for instance was able to tap the energies of young people from specific communities in northern Ghana and develop their capacity towards addressing violent conflicts int their communities. In the Eastern and Ashanti regions, constituencies such as Akwatia and Ejura Sekyedumase benefitted from focused interventions which proved effective as the hotspots in these areas recorded very peaceful elections. CSOs may operate at the national level but if designed interventions have communities at the heart of their approaches and there are important local linkages, such efforts can make significant impact.

5.3.4   Technology and virtual engagements can enhance the reach of certain types of interventions
While online platforms have existed for some time and some CSOs have deployed them to complement traditional outreach platforms such as radio and television, the COVID-19 circumstances unleashed an unprecedented wave of virtual engagements with civil society organizations not being left behind. Many CSOs leveraged the opportunity to reach out to audiences far and near on a diverse range of issues through webinars and other online events. Virtual engagements can be cost-effective while allowing organizations to tap expertise from various geographical locations. Of course, virtual platforms may not be ideal for other types of engagements and can come with their own challenges but CSOs can be tactical about who and what to use such platforms for. For example, interventions aimed at less urban communities with difficult access to internet may not utilize virtual platforms while interventions targeted at urban elites stand to benefit from virtual opportunities.

5.3.5   Early start of interventions enhances impact
The early implementation of interventions aimed at influencing political party manifestos helped make some impact even in the face of other challenges. Organizations seeking to influence manifestoes must allow adequate time for in-house work (collective public/stakeholder inputs and analyzing information) before setting out to engage the parties. Engagement with parties must take place taking into consideration parties timelines for outing their manifestos together. This makes it much easier to incorporate relevant proposals in the final document.

5.3.6   *Joint stakeholder efforts reduce the threat of misinformation*

Finally, collaborations involving relevant actors such as fact-checkers, media monitors, the media regulator and observers who may have the right expertise and experience are effective in reducing the threat of misinformation to electoral credibility. The 2020 MFWA-Dubawa-Penplusbytes-CODEO fact-checking collaboration effectively leveraged the respective resources and expertise of the various partners to provide swift information on some viral news on the elections.

5.4   CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CSOs provide very critical election support which complement the work of key stakeholders in achieving credible electoral outcomes. In the 2020 election cycle, CSOs in Ghana performed creditably well in living up to their mandate in the face of challenges. However, there is space for more improvement in future electoral cycles, and given that some of the challenges confronting Ghana's electoral process are perennial, it is imperative that CSOs continue to engage the electoral process to strengthen the democratic gains so far made. In doing so, a number of recommendations are necessary. These include:

5.4.1   *Build synergies and increase collaborations within civil society*

While collaborations with other CSOs may not always be simple and straightforward, CSOs must continue to pursue more collaborative work with sister organisations as this is likely to avoid duplication of efforts, enhances the cost-effectiveness of interventions, reduces fatigue in stakeholder engagement, and can potentially maximise impact. For example, while diverse CSOs may be working on manifestoes from different angles, it will be important to have some form of coordination among them which then makes it easier for them to engage political parties instead of several entities trying to seek appointments to engage the parties.

5.4.2   *Deepening engagement with state institutions*

First, there should be more collaborative engagements between CSOs and state institutions in the implementation of interventions. Such approaches prevent any latent competition and possible conflicts between state institutions and CSOs, strengthens stakeholder buy-ins, enhances the legitimacy of such interventions and ultimately elicits stakeholder support and cooperation in project implementation. CSOs must also be more tactical and review existing strategies of engagement with key state institutions if they want to influence policy directions and outcomes. While engagements with some key state institutions may be challenging based on leadership style in those institutions, it is imperative that CSOs are able to accommodate the nuances of engagements. This means CSOs must continue to find new ways of engagement which may entail reviewing existing strategies to see how best they can be adapted to achieve intended objectives. In this sense, engagement must not take the form of a win-lose approach but rather should be a complementary effort aimed at deriving the best outcomes for the country.

5.4.3 Strengthen Observation of the Election Results Management Process

CSOs should deepen transparency initiatives around election results management process by boosting their observation of this process particularly from the various layers of results collation. Additionally, CSOs must implore the EC to make copies of results sheets at various levels available to independent observers to enhance the transparency of the results management processes.

5.4.4 Intensify Efforts around Conflict Prevention

More efforts should be channeled towards monitoring the implementation of the anti-vigilantism law to identify progress and challenges and how enforcement can be enhanced where necessary. There should also be continuous public sensitization on electoral rules and regulation to enhance public awareness and elicit the deterrence effect of the law. Similarly, monitoring of the implementation of the road-map and code of conduct for political parties must be priority activity before the next elections.

5.4.5 Advocacy for Electoral Reforms

Advocacy efforts towards electoral reforms, particularly in the area of election results collation and declaration must receive serious attention to address some of the challenges that were encountered during the 2020 electoral process. There are some grey areas in the results collation process which need clarity in electoral regulations. For example, how many requests for re-collation can be made by a party, what is the procedure for making corrections to results already declared and the role of the regional collation centers. These areas need to be clearly outlined in the electoral rules to address gaps and improve stakeholder confidence an acceptability of electoral outcomes.

5.5.6 Addressing Misinformation

Organizations working with the media can facilitate a collaboration between the EC and traditional media houses to address the challenges posed by misinformation.

5.5.7 Reviewing Stakeholder Engagement on Observation Methodologies

Observer groups should deepen public engagement on observation methodologies to further boost public understanding on observation efforts and their outcomes. Such engagements can highlight the advantages and limitations of the different approaches to observation to help manage public expectations about observation outcomes.

5.5.8 Intensifying Efforts to Address Existing Gaps in the Electoral and Governance Framework

Finally, CSOs must vigorously pursue interventions targeted at very deficient aspects of governance processes including the low representation of women in politics, the absence of campaign financing regimes, abuse of incumbency, police accountability and constitutional reforms among others. Efforts in this regard may entail constitutional reforms which require coordinated efforts within civil society. Current efforts in some of these areas are ad hoc and lack effective coordination. CSOs can also leverage their

relationship with the media to highlight the issues of low female representation and similar governance challenges.

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ANNEX

GRANT PARTNERS

No.	Partner Name	Project Focus
**ELECTION 2020 PROJECT - PHASE 1& 2**	
**ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AND VIGILANTISM**	
1	BElim Wusa Dev't Agency (BEWDA) - UER	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
2	Tim Africa Ghana, AHAFO NETWORK OF NGOs - , Tepa Ahafo	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
3	CALID/ League of Youth Coalition - Tamale	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
4	The Light Foundation - Accra	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
5	Muslim Family Counseling Services (MFCS)- Coalition of Muslim Institutions (COMI), - AR	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
6	SYPPA - Ashaiman GAR	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
7	VEReF & Partners in Democratic Governance - Peki	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
8	NORSAAC - NR	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
9	Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) - GAR	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
10	Christian Council of Ghana - GAR	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
11	WANEP Ghana - Coalition for Peaceful Elections and Development (COPED), Tamale	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
12	Ghana Journalist Association -Accra	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
13	Forum for Actions on Inclusion, Transparency and Harmony (FAITH) in Ghana Alliance - Accra	Electoral Violence and Vigilantism
**INCLUSIVE ELECTION**	
14	Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) and Penplusbyte - Accra	Inclusive Election
15	Presbyterian Community Based Rehabilitation Programme, Garu - UE	Inclusive Election
16	Coalition for Inclusive 2020 General Election - Voice Ghana Ho VR	Inclusive Election
17	Abantu for Development	Inclusive Election
18	Socioserve-Ghana/ Echoes Youth Foundation Ghana/ Radio Afram Plains Coalition, Akosombo ER	Inclusive Election
**INFLUENCING MANIFESTOES AND ISSUES-BASED CAMPAIGNING**	
19	Media General Ltd	Influencing Manifestoes and Issues-based campaigning
20	Multimedia Group Limited	Influencing Manifestoes and Issues-based campaigning
21	Media Foundation for West Africa	Influencing Manifestoes and Issues-based campaigning
22	Ghana Broadcasting Corporation	Influencing Manifestoes and Issues-based campaigning
23	Friends of the Nation (FON) - WR	Influencing Manifestoes
24	Private Entreprise Federation - Accra	Influencing Manifestoes
25	Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) - Accra	Influencing Manifestoes
26	Partnership for Credible and Inclusive 2020 Elections (PACI) - GDCA - NR	Influencing Manifestoes
**ELECTION OBSERVATION**	
27	Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)	Election Observation
28	Institute for Democratic Governance, IDEG	Election Observation