



Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention



ANALYSIS:

Patterns of violence post-election Results and dispute resolution



Definition

“...Acts or threats of coercion, intimidation or physical harm perpetrated to affect an electoral process or that arises in the context of electoral competition. When perpetrated to affect an electoral process, violence may be employed to influence the *process* of elections – such as efforts to delay, disrupt, or derail a poll – and to influence the *outcomes*: the determining of winners in competitive races for political office or to secure approval or disapproval of referendum questions.”

UNDP, Timothy Sisk 2009

“Electoral conflict and violence can be defined as any random or organised act or threat to intimidate, physically harm, blackmail or abuse a political stakeholder in seeking to determine, delay, or to otherwise influence an electoral process.”

Jeff Fischer 2002



Post-election violence

Results conflict	Conflict that occurs in disputes over election results and the inability of judicial mechanisms to resolve these disputes in a timely, fair, and transparent manner
Representation Conflict	Conflict that occurs when elections are organized as “zero sum” events where ‘losers’ are left out of participation in governance.



Post-election violence

<p>Between Voting and Proclamation</p>	<p>Armed clashes among political parties Vandalism and physical attacks on property of opponents Targeted attacks against specific candidates or political parties Attacks on the electoral authorities</p>
<p>Post-Election Outcomes and their Aftermath</p>	<p>Attacks on rivals Attacks on electoral authorities Violent protests Heavy handed responses by security forces (Re-) emergence of armed resistance groups Escalation or perpetuation of violence</p>



Analysing violence

- **Perpetrators**
- **Victims, targets**
- **Methods, intensity**
- **Location**
- **Motives**
- **Triggers**
- **Causes, enabling conditions**
- **Effects**



Analysing the risks of violence

Causes (structural), triggers (proximate)

Triggers

Campaign

Electoral loss

Mobilisation (suppliers of violence)

No disarmament

Partisan
security
forces

Political (Stakes)

Powerful
executive

No role for the
opposition

Structural (Context)

Resource
competition

Inequality