

PROPOSED CPIA CONFLICT PREVENTION EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS)

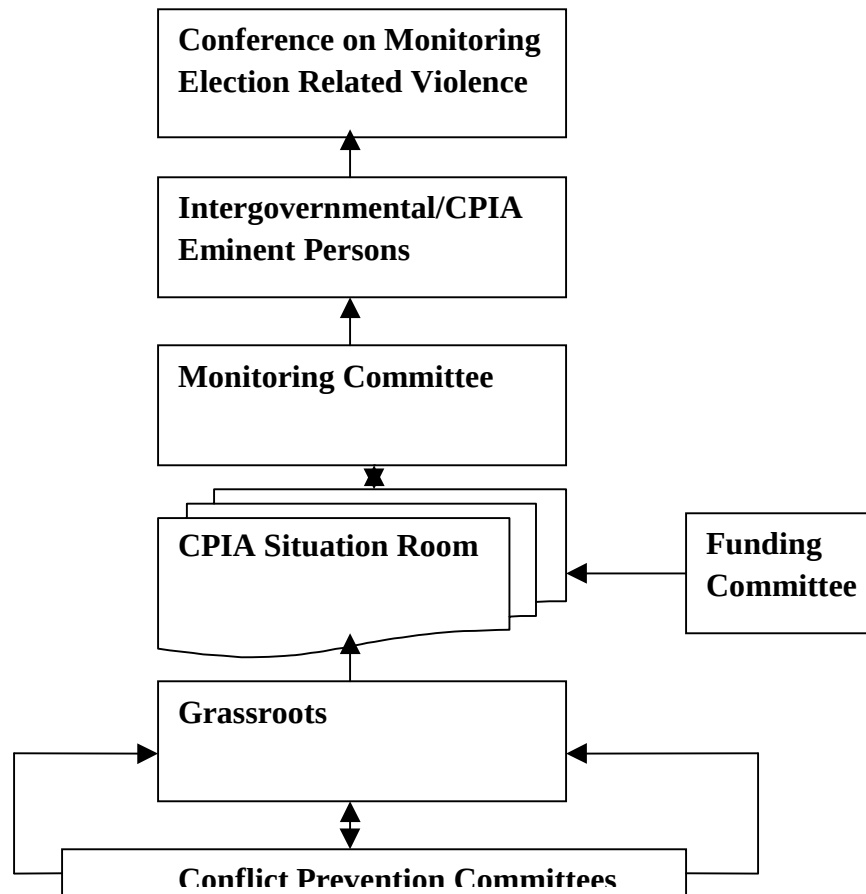
PURPOSE

- An EWS provides indicators on potential election related violence
- It enables us to prepare for the violence and act accordingly to mitigate against or prevent it.
- The EWS enables us to make decision-oriented selections and to check weak areas within the electoral system
- The EWS allows us to search for exceptional situations and aids in early detection of undesirable situations.

AIMS OF THE CPIA EWS

The CPIA EWS aims to collect, collate and analyse data in order to detect and identify the signs of potential election related violence before it explodes into uncontrollable violence. It is designed to detect and signal impending election related conflicts for the purpose of making possible, preventive intervention instead of reactive action as has been the case over the years. The strength of this EWS is its ability to “trigger” rapid reaction to a potential crisis situation.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSED CPIA EWS



Grassroots

This is made up of CPIA Provincial Coordinators, local civil society organizations, Traditional Chiefs, Community Leaders, Local Religious Leaders, Monitoring Committee. These stakeholders will constitute conflict prevention committees in their localities. They operate throughout the year.

CPIA Situation Room

The CPIA situation room is the first information processing centre for all the information collected from the different provinces. The situation room ensures that factual information is separated from rumours and misinformation. This information centre operates daily.

Funding Committee

This committee is composed of individuals and institutions supporting the Early Warning System

Monitoring Committee

This committee is made up of Political Parties, Civil Society, Church Leaders, Trade Union Leaders and other key stakeholders. It meets regularly to consider and act on the information from the CPIA situation room.

Intergovernmental/CPIA Eminent Persons

This committee is made up of CPIA Eminent Persons, Government Representatives, and State Enforcement Agencies. The committee meets when it necessary to do so.

Essential elements for EWS

- Effective Communication
- Fair and accurate media reporting
- Confidence building for all stakeholders
- Capacity building for Implementers
- Sincerity of political parties
- Not a blame game or finger pointing
- Non-partisan civil society

Needs of EWS

The EWS system requires adequate funding for it to function effectively. These requirements range from communication equipment, transport needs, computer and office equipment to human resources. Above all it requires an effective structure.

- Civil Society to act as civil society and not as part of government or political opposition
- Political parties MUST stop finger pointing
- The Media must report fairly and accurately
- All political parties should denounce violence
- It's high time the business community joins hands with everyone to prevent conflict