

Group B: Strengthening early warning and response capacities in-country

Questions

1. What are good practices to ensure that early warning leads more systematically to early responses by in-country actors?
 2. What role do civil society organisations (CSOs) play in the different stages of early warning to early response, and what capacities need to be strengthened and how?
 3. What are good practices of applying early warning and response systems to prevent electoral violence?
- Actions aimed at strengthening early warning and response capacities in-country cannot take place in a vacuum. The EU therefore needs to use the various tools available to it and to try to create a platform for civil society.
 - A problem faced by many civil society organisations (CSOs) is that the early warning tools work well but there is either limited political will for early responses or they have difficulties working with governments.
 - One example of a good practice for ensuring that early warning leads more systematically to early responses by in-country actors is the use of microgrants (e.g. through subgranting). For example, these grants can be used very effectively in the prevention of electoral violence or to work with youth and other groups on inclusion. They can lead to rapid responses if the recipients are well-embedded at local levels.
 - It is important to work with a variety of leaders at the community level in order to reduce the potential for violence to erupt.
 - Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions have recently also come to play an important role in preventative analysis and engagement.
 - The fact that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is watching can also have an effect on levels of violence.
 - There should be an exchange of ideas between civil society from countries which have experienced electoral violence and civil society from countries which have avoided it.
 - The EU should work more and better with regional organisations and try to better understand how to assess the integrity of information received through early warning systems.
 - Since it often takes a long time for organisations in-country to receive funding, it would be useful for donors to develop more flexible and faster funding mechanisms (e.g. microgrants) as a means of supporting early responses.
 - It is important to bear in mind that the EU is a political actor and that it needs to engage in a political manner. At the same time, it is also important to have space for civil society to act in the EU's partner countries.
 - One example of working at the local level involves the establishment of community groups made up of local leaders which are representative of a community's diversity and which can identify issues to work on. Work with these community groups should be established over a long time and before violence erupts so that sufficient trust can be built to enable them to respond when it does.
 - Technological means can be helpful in establishing local early warning systems (e.g. training community reporters and providing them with mobile phones).
 - It could be helpful to develop indicators for [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 16](#) in order to better monitor and implement change to support early warning.