



## MEDIA ASSESSMENT REPORT

ELECTORAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA (EISA)- INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTION  
OBSERVER MISSION (EISA-IEOM)

TO

LIBERIA 2023 PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS



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# 1. Background

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This media analysis report covers the period September 1, 2023, to October 31, 2023. This period included campaigning for Liberian presidency and legislative seats, the running of the elections on 10 October 2023, the announcement of the legislative winners and the results of the first round of voting for the presidential candidates, and the announcement of runoff election among the top two presidential candidates. This media analysis report comes from the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa International Observation Mission (EISA-IEOM) to Liberia own media observation and engagements with key stakeholders in the 2023 elections. These stakeholders include media institutions, candidates, voters, and elections observation missions. The engagement followed an interview script containing questions about inclusivity, impartiality, objectivity, gender balance, media ethics, media knowledge about elections, conflict sensitivity, and misinformation and disinformation.

The key highlights from the assessment are as follow:

- The media coverage of the elections was largely done in newscasts.
- The media covered the contestants in the elections more than the electoral process.
- Most media institutions did not dedicate segments of their broadcast to elections coverage, except ECOWAS Radio.
- Most of the media did not dedicate segments of their broadcast to women’s issues regarding the elections.
- Nearly all the media institutions do not have in-house electoral guidelines.
- No cases of electoral violence could be attributed to media reports.
- Friendship with politicians makes it difficult for journalists to be impartial in their reportage.

## 2. The Legal Framework

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Article 15 of Liberia’s Constitution, which is the organic law of the country, promotes free press. Therefore, the proliferation of media institutions in Liberia is justified in the most supreme law of the country. Article 15 also mandates the state-owned media to not deny any citizen access to its platform “because of any disagreement with or dislike of the ideas expressed” (Constitution of Liberia, 1986, p19).

Furthermore, in 2010, the country enacted the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act that compels public officials and private officials who serve public interests to release information to the press and the public on request (FOI, 2010). The FOI law is a crucial democracy and governance instrument because it promotes transparency, accountability, and access to information.

In addition to the constitutional provisions and the FOI law, Liberia enacted the Kamara Abdullah Kamara (KAK) Act of Press Freedom in 2019. This law was a milestone achievement for the press in the country because it decriminalizes free speech. Specifically, the KAK Act repealed the following sections of the Penal Code 1978<sup>1</sup>:

Section 11.11: Criminal Libel against President

Section 11.12: Sedition

Section 11.14: Criminal Malevolence

Until the enactment of the KAK Act, journalists could be fined or jailed for any of these three offenses.

Liberia also recognizes the role of the media in the country through several international human rights and democracy instruments related to freedom of expression. The Country rectified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, which promotes media freedom (AU, 2007). Liberia is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and therefore subscribes to Article 19 of this international instrument (UDHR, 1948).

These legal instruments smoothen the ground for free press and enhanced democracy in Liberia. They allow for the creation and practice of media institutions throughout the country. They also make information seeking the rights of the journalists. However, media stakeholders' engagements by EISA-IEOM revealed that in some cases, the implementation of the FOI law (particularly) has been difficult.

**In summary**

The proliferation of media institutions in Liberia gets its backing in the organic law of Liberia and other statutes.

Article 15 of the Constitution promotes free speech, press, and access to state-owned media, while the KAK Act (2019) removes repressive laws, thereby ensuring quality journalism. The FOI Act (2010) promotes transparency and accountability, aligning with Liberia's commitment to democratic openness.

### 3. The General Election Context

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The elections in Liberia are highly contested. The 2023 elections were the fourth Presidential and Legislative elections to take place in Liberia since the end of its civil war in 2003 – the previous being 2005, 2011, and 2017. The 2023 elections, like the preceding elections, saw huge contests. A total of 20 candidates out of 1030 candidates registered to run for the Presidency in the 2023 elections. In the 2017 elections, 20 out of 1024 candidates ran for

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to [KAK Law of Press Freedom.pdf \(emansion.gov.lr\)](#), journalists could be imprisoned for critiquing powerful and influential persons under the guise of sedition, criminal malevolence, and criminal libel against the president.

President while 16 out of 925 candidates ran for President in the 2011 elections, and 22 out of 762 candidates contested for the Presidency in Liberia’s first post-war Presidential and Legislative elections in 2005 (TCC & NDI, 2005; TCC, 2011; TCC, 2017). While these statistics depict high competition for public offices in Liberia, they also explain a very busy media environment during an election year in the country.

Throughout the election period the media are expected to facilitate the political discourse, update the public with election-related information, and amplify civic voter’s education efforts. In addition to these presumed responsibilities which indicate a busy media environment, the high competition for media space among politicians and other stakeholders also add to the pressure on the media during election years – sometimes leaving an ethical dilemma for the media. These contexts account for the need to monitor the behavior of the media each election year, to ensure that the media contribution to democracy is consistent with best practices. Therefore, this media assessment does that by dissecting the media performance during the political campaign and elections periods for the 2023 elections in Liberia against the following indicators: inclusivity, impartiality, objectivity, gender balance, media ethics, media knowledge about elections, conflict sensitivity, and misinformation and disinformation.

## 4. Inclusivity

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- **Coverage of different political parties**

Media coverage of all political parties in an election gives the public the opportunity to know the candidates and to assess the candidates. This makes the need for an inclusive media very significant. In addition to reports from EISA-IEOM Long-term Observers (LTOs) in the counties, media monitoring (for radio stations) and content analyses of newspapers stories by EISA-IOEM Media Analyst indicate that much of the media coverage of political parties and candidates’ rallies were done in newscasts. Stakeholders’ engagements with the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON), the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL), journalists at ELBC, OK FM, and Prime FM confirm this assessment.

In some instances, the campaign trails of four or more candidates appeared in a single newscast on radio stations and in a newspaper publication. While this benefits the candidates in the elections and their political parties, they sometimes exclude lesser-known candidates who do not engage in campaign launch. Similarly, the media coverage of the campaign and elections was mostly robust in the urban areas of the country, with the radio being the key medium.

Representative and Senatorial candidates in Montserrado County, for instance, received the most media attention. EISA Media Analyst encountered a Representative Candidate in Grand Gedeh County. The candidate noted that unlike in Montserrado where the media sometimes

go after his counterparts to appear on their platforms, he had to spend money to arrange his appearance on the local media, and he did not have the opportunity to appear on the national radio. Although the political activity in the urban areas explains this media trend, it must be noted that it disenfranchised voters in the rural areas of the opportunity to know their candidates and to hear their campaign promises.

- **Coverage of NEC CVE including other election stakeholders**

The inclusion of civic voters' education (CVE) into media coverage contributes to voters' literacy and increased voters' participation. Against this backdrop, the creation of election-specific programs and election-specific columns on radio stations and in newspapers during the election period is necessary. Reports from EISA-IEOM LTOs in the counties, media monitoring, media content analyses, and stakeholders' engagement revealed that only Smile FM in Grand Gedeh County and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Radio ran an election-focused program that exclusively covered the elections. The stations also aired CVE messages and other election-related messages in the form of jingles and had phone-in talk shows around the elections. The national broadcaster (ELBC), on the other hand, ran a program called the 'Open Conversation'. Although the Open Conversation was not dedicated to covering election issues, it provided the stakeholders in the 2023 elections the space to communicate with the voters. Unlike these stations, most media outlets provided coverage for election-related issues on an occasional basis. The implication of this media behavior is that the reach of civic voter education efforts relies heavily on paid media and other engagement efforts to reach all targeted audiences.

- **Coverage of persons with disabilities**

Media stakeholders' engagement by EISA-IEOM revealed that no media institutions committed programs to issues of persons with disabilities relative to the elections. Similarly, the tactile ballot papers created by the NEC did not get sufficient media coverage and there were no media discussions around the disable-friendliness of infrastructures used by the NEC and political parties during the campaign period and on voting day. These claims were confirmed by an engagement with a university student with disability and media monitoring and content analysis by EISA-IEOM. This form of media coverage of the elections contradicts Article 12 of the PUL code of ethics: *The journalist should ensure equal access to the media for the presentation of divergent views and dissenting opinions* (PUL, 2009).

- **Coverage of political debates**

The 2023 general elections in Liberia saw two presidential debates on 3 October and 10 October 2023 in Monrovia and Gbarnga, Bong County respectively. The debates were organized by Internews (a media development organization) under its USAID sponsored Liberia Media Activity, and they were conducted by a consortium of Liberia media institutions. According to the organizers, the debate sought to enhance electoral transparency, stimulate civic engagement, facilitate policy analysis, ensure equitable representation of all candidates

and on the overall promote informed decision-making at the ballot box. While participation in political debates during Liberian elections is not mandatory, it is necessarily important for the promotion of issue-based politics. The debates provided the space for Liberians to hear and examine the campaign platforms of political parties and candidates in the elections. However, seven of the 20 presidential candidates attended the 3 October 2023 debate in Monrovia while nine presidential candidates attended the 10 October 2023 debate in Gbarnga. Notably, neither of the two candidates that ran in the presidential runoff election participated in either of the two presidential debates.<sup>2</sup>

EISA-IEOM did not encounter any media reports explaining why those presidential candidates missed the presidential debates. Neither did the mission encounter any media reports of awareness being created on the necessity of the presidential debates. The media did not also call out candidates who (deliberately) skipped the presidential debates.

**In summary**

Most of the political campaign coverage by the media was largely done in newscasts. The coverage of election-related activities by non-political actors such as election observation missions was low. Similarly, there was not much media coverage for persons with disabilities. The coverage of CVE messages and activities by the NEC were largely done by paid media. Some of these messages were communicated in simple Liberian English and local vernaculars. The lack of election-specific programs on radio stations and election-specific columns in newspapers makes it difficult for the media to cover all candidates in the elections along with other elections stakeholders. NEC publicity in the media, especially CVE on the elections, relied heavily on paid media on few stations in Monrovia and in the counties.

No law compels candidates to participate in political debates during elections. Candidates who did not participate in the presidential debates were not called out by the media. Notably, the top two candidates in the presidential elections did not attend the debates.

## 5. Impartiality

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In an interview with the PUL, the Union indicated that it is aware that it is difficult for journalists to separate facts from propagandas because of media institutions or journalists' alignment with political parties or candidates. Politicians befriended by journalists get favorably covered by their media friends. This claim by the PUL was confirmed by FeJAL and WIMDeV.

Additionally, some individuals switched careers from journalism to politics but still maintain strong ties with their previous colleagues and media institutions. To the EISA-IEOM's

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<sup>2</sup> [Liberia: Consortium of Media and Civil Society Organizations Conclude 2023 Presidential Debates in Liberia \(liberianobserver.com\)](https://liberianobserver.com)

knowledge, four journalists left the journalism profession at the start of 2023 and registered to contest for legislative seats in the 2023 elections. This friendship with politicians, journalists-turned-politicians, and affiliation with political parties create conditions for biased or partial media coverage. Also, media coverage was mostly skewed toward media owners who contested in the elections, as alleged by a representative candidate in Montserrado County district number four.

Furthermore, proximity or familiarity make the media highlight certain individuals or politicians in their reportage. This is evidenced in an inference made by a journalist who described the October 3, 2023, Presidential debate as '2023 Presidential Election Super Losers Debate.' Although seven candidates attended the debate, the candidate (Simeon Freeman) with close proximity or familiarity with the media made the news that Tuesday evening.

Article 8 of the Press Union of Liberia Code of Conduct cautions against biased reporting. The Article states: *The journalist should refrain from biased coverage of events that have tribal sectional and political implications.* Although the code of conduct prescribed punishment for violators in the form of fine, suspension, and expulsion from the union, there is no legal framework effectuating the Union's punishment. For example, an expelled member of the union only ceases from being a member of the PUL but not from practicing journalism in Liberia.

**In summary**

The alignment some journalists and media institutions have with politicians and political parties makes it difficult for impartial media coverage. Media coverage is sometimes skewed toward journalists who contested in elections as well as media owners contesting in the elections. Finally, the Press Union of Liberia punishment does not affect the career of journalists who violate its code of conduct.

## 6. Objectivity

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A stakeholder engagement with FeJAL and WIMDeV revealed that camaraderie or friendship between individual journalists and political actors makes it difficult for objective media coverage of all political actors in the elections. It is not forbidden for media practitioners to build their network with political actors per se. However, when journalists strive to not [whether justly] injure the relationship that exists between them and political actors, then the obligation to be objective is undermined by friendship. This friendship phenomenon contradicts commitment to Missouri School of Journalism's Walter William's Journalist's Creed, which reminds individual journalists to always uphold professional standards in the execution of their duties (*The J-School Legacy*, 2023). Members of the Press Union of Liberia subscribe to the principles of the Journalist's Creed, which is a set of commitments to the principles, values, and standards of journalism, to which journalists around the world oblige.



Some of the fundamental principles promoted by the Journalist’s Creed are fairness in reporting and giving ‘every man a chance’.

**In summary**

Friendship with journalists translates to favorable media coverage for certain politicians, sometimes at the detriment of politicians who do not have any friendship ties with a journalist or a media entity. This friendship tendency contradicts ethical journalism as enshrined in the Journalist’s Creed, to which Liberian journalists commit themselves.

## 7. Gender Balance in Media Coverage of Elections

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The number of female journalists that covered the 2023 elections appear incomparable. Statistics provided by the FeJAL show that there are more than 400 female media personnel in Liberia and around 200 of these females are into active mainstream journalism. FeJAL also trained female journalists across the country to cover the 2023 elections. The association told EISA-IEOM that three resident female journalists were assigned in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, and Nimba counties respectively to cover the elections. There were five in Montserrado and two in each of the remaining counties, excluding Gbarpolu County. However, these activities did not transcend into the desired media coverage for females in the elections to a larger extent. Male candidates dominated the media space throughout the pre-election period and their dominance continued through post-election. FeJAL told EISA-IEOM that their data show that 24 of 77 female candidates trained to engage the media did so at some point post-training. This indicates that only 24 of the 153 female candidates in the 2023 elections got media engagements and the media engagements were done mostly in urban areas.

One reason that accounts for this media storming block for females is the absence of female-focused programs on most radio stations and a lack of female-dedicated columns in newspapers. To the knowledge of EISA-IEOM, only the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Radio dedicated programs to women issues during the elections. Additionally, there is no framework or commitment that obligates media institutions in Liberia to integrate women’s issues or dedicate space to women in their broadcast.

**In summary**

Despite the huge number of female journalists covering the 2023 elections, only 24 of 153 female candidates got much media coverage – mostly in urban areas. This low media coverage could be due to the lack of female-focused programs on radio stations and

female-focused columns in newspapers. Also, there is no regulatory framework that compels media institutions to dedicate a media space to women and women issues.

## 8. Ethics of the Media in Its Coverage of the Elections

The lack of ethical guidelines at most media houses makes adherence to ethics difficult. The PUL and Women in Media Development (WIMDeV) told EISA-IEOM that they are aware of the lack of ethical guidelines at most media entities across the country. So, they are working with media institutions to create ethical guidelines at individual media entities. For instance, engagements with journalists at six radio stations in Monrovia revealed either the lack of editorial policy or in-house ethical guideline or the ongoing creation of one, confirming the PUL and WIMDeV.

Additionally, ethical reporting becomes problematic when media ownership creates a room for ethical breach or double standard. In Liberia, media ownership spreads among businesspeople, politicians, faith-based institutions, the government, and institutions of higher learning. Although this ownership tread may create media leverage for specific sectors, they sometimes leave behind ethical implications that injure good journalism. For instance, a Representative candidate in Montserrado County District Number four told EISA-IEOM that a radio station in the district (Truth FM) belongs to the father of a candidate for the district seat. The station owner was a candidate in Nimba County while his son was a candidate in Montserrado district four where the station is located. The engaged Montserrado district number four Representative candidate alleged that this ownership nature made media coverage on the station skewed toward the ‘father-son’ candidates. Truth FM also has a sister station (also called Truth FM) in Nimba County with the same candidate as owner.

Furthermore, the PUL also told EISA-IEOM that economic factors negatively affect ethics in the Liberian media. The union noted that on average most Liberian journalists receive 100 United States dollars or less as monthly salary. This poor economic condition sometimes makes the press to be what the PUL calls “indirect voices” of influential individuals, and media coverage becomes the opportunity of the highest bidder.

Station	Location	Status with editorial guideline
ECOWAS Radio	Monrovia	Editorial policy exists
OK FM	Monrovia	Creation of editorial policy in progress
ELBC	Monrovia	No editorial policy besides commitment to not broadcast affront on government’s reputation

Prime FM	Monrovia	No editorial policy
Truth FM	Monrovia	No editorial policy
Spoon FM	Monrovia	No editorial policy

**Media ethics: The Monrovia case**

**In summary**

Political ownership of the media, poor salary structure for journalists, and lack of in-house ethical guidelines at most media houses leaves room for ethical transgression. There is no framework that outlines implications for ethical transgression.

## 9. Media Knowledge about Elections Issues

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EISA-IEOM media monitoring revealed that most of the discussions around election related issues that were held on radio stations were emulated from politicians and their activities and not the journalists. The PUL and WIMDeV confirmed this point of view when they told EISA-IEOM that the media in Liberia based its discussion of the elections on current trends due to lack of research. For instance, the media did not compare previous campaigns (in this context, 2005, 2011 and 2017) against the 2023 political campaign in their analyses.

Also, there were not sufficient trainings done with the media to empower them to efficiently cover the elections. The PUL believes that most journalists in Liberia do not specialize in elections reporting and this lack of specialty training has impacted the media ability to ably assist the NEC with CVE. The inability to research compounded by the lack of specialty training in elections reporting make the media unable to reference key elections instruments such as the election law in their discussion of the elections. It also makes the media unable to efficiently interview elections experts or the NEC during media engagements.

**In summary**

Discussions around election issues were largely raised by politicians or the behavior of politicians and not the media. Most journalists in Liberia do not specialize in election reporting. The media inability to conduct research and/or make contrastive analysis could be the reason behind their failure to stimulate election dialogue.

## 10. Conflict Sensitivity

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Although there were pockets of violent incidents in Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado Counties, the 2023 elections have been largely peaceful. These violent incidents in Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado Counties did not originate from media reports. Similarly, the media was efficient to report statements and behaviors of political parties or candidates in the elections that could stir up conflict. For instance, the following statements by politicians were discussed on various radio stations and in newspapers: “If the elections are rigged, it

will be the end of Liberia.” Unity Party candidate, Joseph N. Boakai in Grand Bassa County. “If I am convinced that I won the elections and they say I did not win, I will go for my result with force.” Montserrado County District number 10 representative, Yekeh Kolubah. “Don’t try it!” Nimba County Senator, Prince Y. Johnson and ex-rebel commander Joshua M. Blahyee, all in support of the Unity Party in Nimba County. The media discussed these statements and their implications on peace. However, this scenario points to the fact that the media discussion of conflict triggers during elections is incidental rather than intentional.

Furthermore, the media coverage of the election results from various polling places separates from the media from conflict that may have arisen from the result announcement process. The media committed to reporting only election results sanctioned by the NEC, and this means any confusion arising from the public interpretation of the election result cannot be attributed to media reports.

The media performance on this conflict sensitivity indicator is in alignment with Article 10 of the PUL code of ethics: *The journalist should not publish or broadcast incitement to violence, crime, revolt and war* (PUL, 2009).

**In summary**

Although there were pockets of electoral violence in three counties, none of these violent incidents could be traced to media reports. Whenever the behavior of political parties or candidates in the elections create space for conflict, the media efficiently reports these behaviors or statements. The media reportage of only official elections results meant that different interpretations of the elections results could not be attributed to the media.

## 11. Misinformation and Disinformation

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Recently, the media in Liberia has been undergoing fact-checking trainings to debunk misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. The Liberia Election Support (LESP) project, supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and by the European Union and EU Member States (Sweden, Ireland), for instance, strengthened the capacity of journalists by supporting infrastructure and tools to improve the quality of reporting election-related news and to combat misinformation at a national level. Additionally, the Internews’ Media Activity project which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), strengthened journalists’ capacity to produce reliable, relevant, and accurate information. The Media Activity project also empowered journalists with the ability to separate facts from misinformation and disinformation.

Under these projects, Local Voice Liberia, a network of Liberian journalists has been conducting trainings with journalists at the grassroot level while also implementing the iVerify platform, supported by the LESP project, that committed to fact-checking news and information surrounding the 2023 elections. With these trainings, journalists are expected to

not engage in spreading misinformation and disinformation and to also debunk misinformation and disinformation.

To this end, EISA-IEOM did not discover any cases of the media intentionally engaging in misinformation and disinformation. Additionally, there was no widespread misinformation or disinformation in the public that could be traced to media reports. However, despite these capacity building efforts, the media inability to research opinions from news sources makes it prone to spreading misinformation and disinformation. For instance, three of Liberia’s leading daily newspapers published untrue information about the incumbent presidential candidate’s campaign trip to Lofa County. The story was cued from a photo posted on Facebook by a journalist based outside Liberia. The posted photo shows a car stuck in the mud on the unpaved road. The journalist claimed that the car stuck in the mud was one of the cars carrying the incumbent presidential candidate for political campaign to Lofa County. However, a fact-check by Local Voices Liberia revealed that the photo was taken in Grand Kru County during a trip by the Senate Pro Tempore.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, an October 4, 2023 media report by an online news channel concerning the violent incident in Foya, Lofa County misrepresented or misquoted EISA along with the European Union Election Observation Mission and the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission. The news article wrote that the three missions expressed disappointment in the police handling of the Foya election violence, to which the three missions objected in a joint press statement. These instances indicate that the media is to some extent prone to spreading misinformation and disinformation despite fact-checking trainings due to lack of research, and failure to follow up issues.

**In summary**

The media in Liberia has undergone trainings to combat the spread of misinformation and disinformation about the 2023 elections. There were no misinformation and disinformation around the elections that could be traced to media reports. However, the media failure to research facts and opinion, follow up on issues makes it prone to spreading misinformation and disinformation. EISA-IEOM and other IEOMs were misrepresented in the press once for the journalist’s failure to follow up on their engagements with the police.

## 12. Recommendations

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EISA-IEOM proposes the following recommendations to the media based on the gaps identified in this assessment report:

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<sup>3</sup> [Image Check: Photo Shared by Journalist James Goodday Flomo Is Not Lofa Road - Local Voices Liberia](#)

- Develop election-specific programs and election-specific columns that the NEC, elections experts, political candidates and other election stakeholders can leverage during the election period.
- Create programs that provide women and persons with disabilities in the elections the space to avail themselves during elections. Such a program should be publicized among the relevant stakeholders.
- Train the media practitioners to adequately cover all aspects of the election before and during the elections period. The media should partner with media development organizations and institutions of higher learning where election reporting is taught to build its capacity to adequately cover elections.
- Create a regulatory framework that compels media institutions and media practitioners to always maintain professional standards during the elections.
- Establish ethical guidelines that guide the behaviors of media institutions and individual journalists.

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# Appendices

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## Consulted political and media stakeholders

### 1. Media and related stakeholders at national level

- a. Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON)
- b. ELBC
- c. OK FM
- d. Prime FM
- e. Press Union of Liberia
- f. Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL)
- g. Women in Media Development (WiMDeV)
- h. A Student of communications and media studies, University of Liberia
- i. A Student with disability at the University of Liberia

### 2. Consulted Radio stations at the county level

- a. Trust Radio, Bomi County
- b. Radio Tambatiko, Lofa County
- c. Smile FM, Grand Gedeh County
- d. Top FM, Grand Gedeh County
- e. Voice of Gedeh, Grand Gedeh County

### 3. Political and election stakeholders at county level

- a. A Representative Candidate, Montserrado County District # 4
- b. A Representative candidate in Grand Gedeh District one
- c. National Elections Commission, Grand Cape Mount County

### 4. Consulted online media

- a. **Local Voices Liberia.** ([Image Check: Photo Shared by Journalist James Goodday Flomo Is Not Lofa Road - Local Voices Liberia](#))
- b. **New Dawn newspaper.** ([Weah in Lofa trenches for votes - Liberia news The New Dawn Liberia, premier resource for latest news](#))
- c. **New Republic Newspaper.** ([Bad Road Hinders Weah's Campaign In Lofa - NewRepublicLiberia- News on Liberia](#))

- d. **The Analyst newspaper.** (['I have Seen Your Roads' -Weah To Treat Ongoing Lofa Road Network With Urgency in 2nd Term - Analyst Liberia \(analystliberiaonline.com\)](http://analystliberiaonline.com))

## DATA COLLECTION TOOL

### EISA INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION MEDIA ANALYSIS FOR THE 2023 PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN LIBERIA

Indicator	Assessment questions
Inclusivity	<p>Do the media include all issues (e.g., legal, gender, elections timeline, CVE, etc.) regarding the elections in their broadcast?</p> <p>Do the media include all elections stakeholders (e.g., security, youth groupings, persons with disabilities, local and international elections observers, political parties, women, NEC, etc.) in their coverage of the elections?</p> <p>Do the media bring content in the language (e.g., simple Liberian English, dialects) understood by everyone?</p>
Impartiality	<p>Do the media separate fact from comment?</p> <p>Do journalists hold prominent office in any political party?</p> <p>Do journalists accept any form of inducement in exchange for writing favorable reports of politicians or prominent individuals?</p>
Ethics	<p>Do the media make reference to the law when discussing elections issues?</p> <p>Do individual media houses have ethical framework that guides their reportage and the behaviors of their staff?</p>
Objectivity	<p>Do the media stick to the issues during their engagements with politicians and other stakeholders in the elections?</p> <p>Do you see the absence of bias in the way the media operate during this election period?</p>
Gender balance	<p>Do the media provide the space for women candidates to sell their agenda to voters as they do with male candidates?</p> <p>Do the media provide the space for women’s groups to share their perspectives about the elections as they do for other groups?</p> <p>What stories do the media share about women in this election?</p>

<p>Knowledge about the issue</p>	<p>Do media have the capacity to understand and communicate every aspect of the elections?</p> <p>Do the media share informative and educative content about the elections? By this I mean information regarding the election law, accurate timeline about the stages of the elections, and parties' agendas, etc.</p>
<p>Conflict sensitivity</p>	<p>Do the media report behaviors of political parties that could stir conflict?</p> <p>Do the media report behaviors of party members that could bring out conflict?</p> <p>Do the media discuss behavior of the electoral body (NEC) that could lead to potential conflict?</p> <p>Do the media invite the security sector to explain their roles in the 2023 elections?</p>

**About EISA:** The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is a continental not-for-profit organization located in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire with field offices in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, Liberia Chad, and Sudan. EISA has continental and sub-regional programs in the field of elections and democracy throughout Africa. EISA strives for excellence in the promotion of credible elections, citizen participation, and the strengthening of political institutions for sustainable democracy in Africa.

**About USAID Support to EISA-IEOM to Liberia:** The USAID-funded EISA International Election Observation Mission (EISA-IEOM) Activity seeks to enhance the integrity of the 2023 Liberia Presidential and Legislative elections through the deployment of an independent international election observer mission (EOM) to monitor, assess and report on all phases of the electoral process in accordance with international and regional benchmarks. The IEOM is implemented in close coordination with and the financial support of USAID/Liberia and will complement the efforts of other electoral stakeholders. EISA-IEOM has deployed international LTOs across Liberia to observe BVR Phase 2 of the registration and will compile a Phase 2 and comprehensive BVR report at the conclusion of the inspection process.

**Please find the preliminary statement here:** [EISA-IEOM preliminary statement 16 November 2023FINAL 15 November](#)

**EISA-IEOM pre-election media report:** [lib2023mediapam.pdf \(eisa.org\)](#)

**For all resources, including EISA statements and reports from the 2017 Liberia Elections**  
<https://eisa.org/epp-liberia.php>