

## **ECC Voter Registration Final Report**

The **Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC)** is a civil society platform, comprising 30 organizations that observes all aspects of the electoral process in Liberia, including the 2017 Presidential and Legislative elections. The ECC has a seven member steering committee with representatives from Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA); Center for Democratic Governance (CDG); Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP); Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD); National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections – Partners for Democratic Development (NAYMOTE-PADD); West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP), and the Women’s NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL). CDG currently serves as the chair of ECC.

### **Summary**

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC), a platform of civil society organizations that observes all aspect of elections in Liberia, deployed 89 trained observers across the 15 counties to witness the conduct of the voter registration process that took place from February 1 through March 14, 2017. The ECC issued four updates on the voter registration process. This final report summarizes the findings and recommendations for the entire exercise.

Overall, reports from ECC observers in all 15 counties showed that the process was generally well conducted across the country. The vast majority of registration centers at which ECC deployed observers opened on time, had the necessary materials and generally followed procedures. While there were recurring challenges with equipment including cameras and printers, late openings of centers or missing materials, this only effected a small number of centers observed by the ECC. In addition, the number of these incidents observed decreased as the process progressed. ECC observer reports did find that registration staff unevenly required applicants to provide proof of eligibility and where they ordinarily reside. Ensuring that only eligible voters register and register in the correct location remains a challenge that the NEC should further address in future elections. ECC observers reported few incidents of violence during the process. While overall the average turnout rates were encouraging throughout the process, the ECC would require access to the preliminary voters list in order to assess the comprehensiveness of the registration process.

### **Background**

The National Election Commission (NEC) conducted a full new voter registration exercise in advance of the 2017 Presidential and Legislative elections. The voter registration exercise commenced on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and was scheduled to run through March 7<sup>th</sup> with centers being open every day except Sundays (for a total of 30 days). On March 3, 2017 the NEC announced that voter registration would be extended for an additional week, thus ending on March 14<sup>th</sup>. All Liberians wanting to vote in the 2017 elections were required to register (even if they had registered previously).

A total of 2,080 registration centers were established (an increase of 300 over registration centers in 2011 and 2014). The NEC indicated that it would have liked to have increased the number of registration centers to 4,000, but it lacked the finances to do so. Each registration center was to be staffed by four registration officials: a registrar in charge of the center, a registration clerk, a shader for completing the registration form; and a photographer. Registration centers were scheduled to open at 8:00 am, but there was some confusion about when they were to close. Some NEC documents stated that registration centers were to remain open until 4pm, others until 5pm and still others until 6pm. Additionally, some confusion arose when registration centers closed due to reaching the established threshold of 3,000 registrants. The NEC lifted this threshold during the extension period to 4,500 registrants.

The registration procedures require all applicants to appear in person at registration centers (see Appendix A: 2017 Simplified Voter Registration Procedures). Applicants had to demonstrate that they were Liberian citizens and 18 years old or older at the time that they registered. Changes to the legal framework also required applicants to register where they ordinarily reside (to prevent the “trucking” of registered voters

between electoral districts for political gain). However, the corresponding regulations did not clarify how registration officials were to determine if an applicant ordinarily resides in a location making it difficult to determine if trucking indeed occurred. For each successful applicant an optical mark recognition (OMR) registration form would be completed by registration officials. These forms were periodically transferred to magistrate offices and then to Monrovia where they are scanned into a computer to create an electronic voters list. In addition, each successful applicant would receive a laminated voter registration card with his/her name, photograph, and location where he/she would vote on election day written on the card.

**Registration Age Requirement:** The NEC requires successful voter registration applicants to be 18 years or older on the day on which they present themselves at registration centers. This approach excludes Liberians who turn 18 after the end of registration, but before Election Day. In countries like Liberia that use periodic registration, it is more common to require successful applicants to be 18 years old or older on the date of the election. If registration had been done based on the applicant's age on the date of the election, then the NEC would register all Liberians born on or before October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999. This approach would have given more young people the opportunity to vote without extending the duration or increasing the cost of voter registration.

## Methodology

The ECC deployed 89 total observers – one county coordinator per county for each of the 15 counties (with an additional coordinator for Montserrado County) – and one electoral district observer for each of the 73 electoral districts. All ECC observers were carefully selected and thoroughly trained by the ECC.

All 89 observers were instructed to observe at a single registration center throughout the day on nine specified days during three phases throughout voter registration. Following the decision by the NEC to extend voter registration by a week, ECC observers were instructed to observe at a single registration center for an additional day during the extension.

The dates on which ECC observers were instructed to deploy to polling stations were:

- ▶ Phase 1 February 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> – Start of Voter Registration: Observations on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>;
- ▶ Phase 2 February 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> – Middle of Voter Registration: Observations on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>;
- ▶ Phase 3 March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> – End of Voter Registration: Observations on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>; and
- ▶ Extension – One Week Extension of Voter Registration: Observation on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

On each observation day, every observer sent in four observation reports based on a comprehensive checklist via coded text message using their mobile phones to the ECC's Information Center (ECC-IC).

## Review of List of Registration Centers (see Tables 1 and 2)

Starting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, the National Elections Commission (NEC) began publishing the list of registration centers for the 2017 voter registration exercise in local newspapers with 2,080 registration centers. In advance of deploying observer to monitor the voter registration process, the ECC conducted a review of the list of registration centers.

The ECC's review of the NEC's list showed a small number of potential errors – registration centers that appeared to have been removed from the list (21); registration centers that appeared to have moved electoral district (9); and registration centers that appeared to have wrong codes (4). These potential errors affected only 1.6% of the total registration centers. However, the ECC's review of the initial list also showed that out of the existing 1,780 registration centers from 2011/14, 1,048 (59.6%) had a different locality in 2017 and 1,118 (63.6%) had a different name in 2017. This suggested that nearly two-thirds of the existing centers had potentially been moved to a new location for 2017. The ECC shared these issues with the NEC who informed the ECC that they were aware of these concerns and were working to address them.

The NEC subsequently released a revised list of registration centers on Saturday January 28, 2017, just four days before voter registration was scheduled to commence. This revised list corrected the potential errors raised by the ECC about the initial list. Further, all of the existing 1,780 registration centers from 2011/14 list of registration centers had the same location and name in 2017 list as they did in 2011/14 list, suggesting they had not been moved after all. As with the initial list the revised list also had 2,080 registration centers of which 300 were new.

- ▶ The largest number of new centers were established in Nimba County (48);
- ▶ The fewest number of new centers were established in Maryland County (5);
- ▶ The largest percentage of new centers were established in River Gee County (80.6%); and
- ▶ The smallest percentage of new centers were established in Maryland County (6.4%).

### Observation Findings

Overall, the ECC received a total of 849 reports on the conduct of voter registration from its observers throughout voter registration with reports being sent in from all 15 counties (see Table 3).

#### Accreditation

While the ECC did not have difficulties being accredited by the NEC to observe the voter registration process, there were significant administrative challenges in obtaining the accreditation badges for observers. The ECC submitted its list of observers by the NEC's deadline of January 19 however, 25 observer badges were not received before the start of voter registration and 10 duplicate badges were also received.

As a result, six ECC observers on February 1 and one ECC Observer on February 3 were not permitted to observe as they lacked accreditation badges. Generally registration officials in Montserrado adhered to instructions and did not permit observers lacking accreditation badges to observe at registration centers. However, many ECC observers outside of Montserrado were permitted to observe even though they did not have accreditation badges.

#### Setup (see Table 4)

There were challenges with some centers not being able to open due to lack of materials (in particular working cameras).

ECC observers reported that only 16 registration centers never open as scheduled.

- ▶ 639 of 847 registration centers opened by 8:00 am;

ECC observers reported that generally registration centers had the required staff and nearly all registration centers had all the required materials.

- ▶ 694 of 831 registration centers had four registration staff at opening;
- ▶ 231 of 831 registration centers had a female registrar;
- ▶ 829 of 831 registration centers had optical mark recognition (OMR) registration forms; and
- ▶ 829 of 831 registration centers had indelible ink.

ECC observer reports show overall low presence of uniformed security personnel at registration centers:

- ▶ 137 of 831 registration centers had uniform security personnel; and
- ▶ 428 of 822 registration centers had representatives of any political party.

ECC observers reported that at 73 of 831 registration centers applicants were required to go upstairs to register – which potentially poses a problem for some persons with disabilities.

#### Registration Procedures (see Table 5)

Once centers opened, registration procedures were generally followed:

- ▶ At 761 of 823 registration centers, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women were allowed to register before other applicants;
- ▶ At 789 of 822 registration centers, an optical mark recognition (OMR) registration form was completed for every successful applicant; and
- ▶ At 793 of 821 registration centers, every successful applicant had his/her finger marked with indelible ink;

However, applicants were not systematically being asked to show proof of eligibility.

- ▶ At 371 of 822 registration centers, every applicant was asked to show proof of his/her eligibility; and
- ▶ At 477 of 821 registration center, applicants were asked to provide any evidence that they ordinarily resided in the locality.

ECC observers reported challenges with cameras at some registration centers:

- ▶ At 45 of 822 registration centers, the camera did NOT work throughout the day; and
- ▶ At 11 of 822 registration centers, the camera did NOT take good quality photographs.

At 43 of 821 registration centers, ECC observers reported that the center was closed for more than an hour for lunch and at 8 of 256 registration centers the center closed before 4:00 pm.

#### Registration Figures (see Table 6)

ECC observers witnessed a total of 37,235 applicants successfully register, an average of 46 successful registrants per center based on 817 reports.

A total of 16,598 women successfully registered at 818 centers for an average of 20 women successful registrants. Women represented 45% of successful registrants observed by the ECC.

Finally, there were 999 spoiled OMR registration forms at the 817 centers for an average of a little more than 1 spoiled forms per center.

While overall the average turnout rates were encouraging throughout the process, the ECC would require access to the preliminary voters list in order to assess the comprehensiveness of the registration process.

#### Critical Incidents

ECC observers were instructed to immediately report any serious problems that could compromise the conduct of the voter registration process. Critical incidents that were reported by ECC observers were related to the late opening of registration centers and the failure of camera's to work throughout the day resulting in the suspension of registration.

A total of only 52 critical incidents were reported by ECC observers throughout the entire voter registration period (from the start of voter registration on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 through the end of the extension on March 14<sup>th</sup>). Critical incidents of note that were directly observed by ECC observers include:

- ▶ Suspension of registration due to equipment failure such as mal-functioning cameras, dysfunction of solar panel,
- ▶ Refusal of NEC officials to share the Daily Accounting Sheet with ECC Observers,
- ▶ Late opening of some registration centers, while others never opened,
- ▶ Incident of potential trucking, apparent illegal registration of applicants, minor conflicts at registration centers, etc

While critical incidents are important and reflect serious issues that could significantly affect voter registration, they must also be understood within the overall context. As noted previously, the process was generally well conducted across the country and the number of registration centers effected by these incidents were small.

### **Trends by Reporting Period** (see Tables 7, 8, and 9)

While most aspects of the voter registration process were well conducted throughout the registration period, ECC observers reported some challenges early in the process that were improved over time. Between the beginnings of the process (Phase 1) through the end of the process (Extension), ECC observer reports indicated:

- ▶ A decrease in the number centers that opened late (Chart 3);
- ▶ An increase in the number of centers with political party agents present (Chart 4);
- ▶ An increase in the number of registration centers where applicants were asked to provide proof that he/she lives in the locality/community (Chart 5); and
- ▶ A decrease in the number of centers where the camera did not function (Chart 6).

ECC observers also noted that the number of average registrants at each registration center observed by the ECC declined as the process progressed (Chart 7). It is typical that registration rates start higher at the beginning of the process. However, there was not an increase towards the end of the process as had been expected. In addition, the average number of spoiled OMR forms decreased after the first reporting period and remained at an average of less than one spoiled form per registration center for the remainder of the process (Chart 8)

### **Trends by Geography** (see Tables 10, 11, and 12)

Generally, different aspects of the voter registration process were equally well-conducted across the country. However, in some aspects, ECC observers found difference in how the process was conducted in Montserrado County, in the South East region (the most rural parts of the country) and in the rest of the country. For example:

- ▶ Registration centers in Montserrado County were more likely to have a female registrar than in the South East and the rest of the country (Chart 9);
- ▶ Registration centers in Montserrado County were more likely to have uniformed security personnel than in the South East and the rest of the country (Chart 10);
- ▶ Registration centers in Montserrado County had a higher number of average registrants per registration center on the days observed than in the South East and the rest of the country (Chart 11). This is not unexpected given the higher population in Montserrado County. Registration rates were relatively consistent in the rest of the country.

ECC observers also reported that the percentage of women registrants was relatively consistent across the country.

## Recommendations

The 2017 voter registration exercise offers lessons for future voter registration efforts; the upcoming exhibition of the voters list, as well as for Election Day.

### Recommendations for Future Voter Registration Exercises

- ▶ The NEC should provide the final and accurate list of voter registration centers by the legal deadline to ensure citizens, political parties and observer groups have adequate time to plan and fully participate in the process;
- ▶ The NEC should enhance the training of voter registration staff to ensure they adequately understand the voter registration procedures, rules and regulations including the role of observers in the process;
- ▶ The NEC should recruit voter registration staff from the county, and if possible district, in which they serve;
- ▶ The NEC should print accreditation badges in a timely manner to ensure observer groups are fully able to observe the process from its inception;
- ▶ The NEC and civil society should conduct widespread voter information campaigns sufficiently ahead of the voter registration process to ensure that citizens are aware of the process and how to participate; and
- ▶ The Liberian National Police and other security agencies should increase the presence of uniformed security personnel across the country to help enforce the law, troubleshoot problems that arise and enhance confidence in the process.

### Recommendations for Upcoming Exhibition of the Voter List

- ▶ The NEC, political parties and civil society should conduct voter education campaigns on the exhibition process to give applicants prior information on procedures, rules and regulations relating to making changes on the list;
- ▶ Political parties should actively participate in the exhibition process including educating party agents on when and how to file complaints;
- ▶ The NEC should fairly and expeditiously respond to complaints filed;
- ▶ The NEC should provide information about the exhibition process to citizens, political parties and observers sufficiently ahead of the process, and avoid making changes during the process to avoid confusion; and
- ▶ The NEC should provide the full preliminary voters list in an electronic format to political parties and accredited observation groups to enhance the transparency and accountability of the process.

### Recommendation for Election Day

- ▶ The NEC, political parties and civil society should conduct wide spread voter information and voter education campaigns to prepare and encourage registered voters to vote on Election Day.
- ▶ The NEC should ensure that polling station staff adequately understand voting and counting procedures, rules and regulations including the role of observers in the process.
- ▶ The NEC should accredit observer groups and print accreditation badges in a timely manner;
- ▶ The NEC should provide information about the voting and counting process to citizens, political parties and observers sufficiently ahead of Election Day;

- ▶ Political parties should recruit, train and deploy party agents to monitor voting and counting processes on election day; and
- ▶ Security agents should ensure the adequate presence of uniformed security personnel at polling stations and tally centers on Election Day.

**Conclusion**

Overall, reports from ECC observers in all 15 counties showed that the process was generally well conducted across the country. The vast majority of registration centers at which ECC deployed observers opened on time, had the necessary materials and generally followed procedures. While there were recurring challenges with equipment including cameras and printers, late openings of centers or missing materials, this only effected a small number of centers observed by the ECC. In addition, the number of these incidents observed decreased as the process progressed. ECC observer reports did find that registration staff unevenly required applicants to provide proof of eligibility and where they ordinarily resides. Ensuring that only eligible voters register and register in the correct location remains a challenge that the NEC should further address in future elections. ECC observers reported few incidents of violence during the process.

**For More Information Contact:**

**Oscar Bloh**, ECC Steering Committee at 0886554109

**Barwudu J. Williams**, ECC Secretariat at 0886891850 or jbwatchie@gmail.com

**ECC Secretariat** at eccsecretariat2011@gmail.com

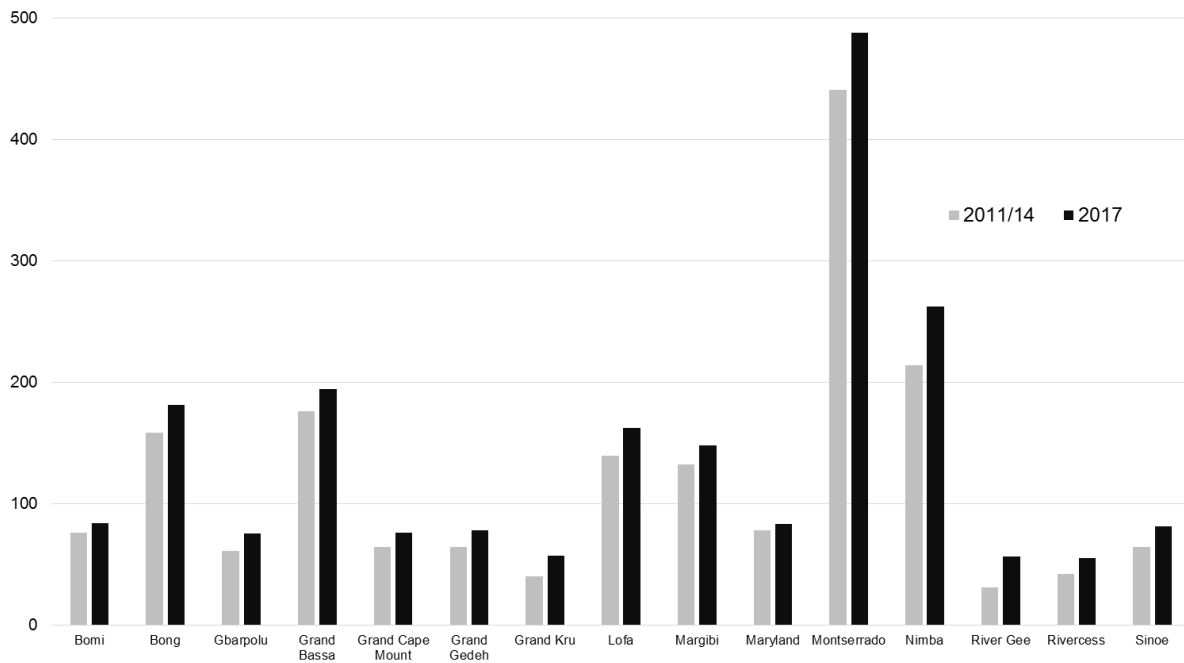
## Analysis of Registration Centers

County	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bomi	76	4.3%	84	4.0%	+8	+10.5%
Bong	158	8.9%	181	8.7%	+23	+14.6%
Gbarpolu	61	3.4%	75	3.6%	+14	+23.0%
Grand Bassa	176	9.9%	194	9.3%	+18	+10.2%
Grand Cape Mount	64	3.6%	76	3.7%	+12	+18.8%
Grand Gedeh	64	3.6%	78	3.8%	+14	+21.9%
Grand Kru	40	2.2%	57	2.7%	+17	+42.5%
Lofa	139	7.8%	162	7.8%	+23	+16.5%
Margibi	132	7.4%	148	7.1%	+16	+12.1%
Maryland	78	4.4%	83	4.0%	+5	+6.4%
Montserrado	441	24.8%	488	23.5%	+47	+10.7%
Nimba	214	12.0%	262	12.6%	+48	+22.4%
River Gee	31	1.7%	56	2.7%	+25	+80.6%
Rivercess	42	2.4%	55	2.6%	+13	+31.0%
Sinoe	64	3.6%	81	3.9%	+17	+26.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,780</b>		<b>2,080</b>		<b>+300</b>	<b>+16.9%</b>

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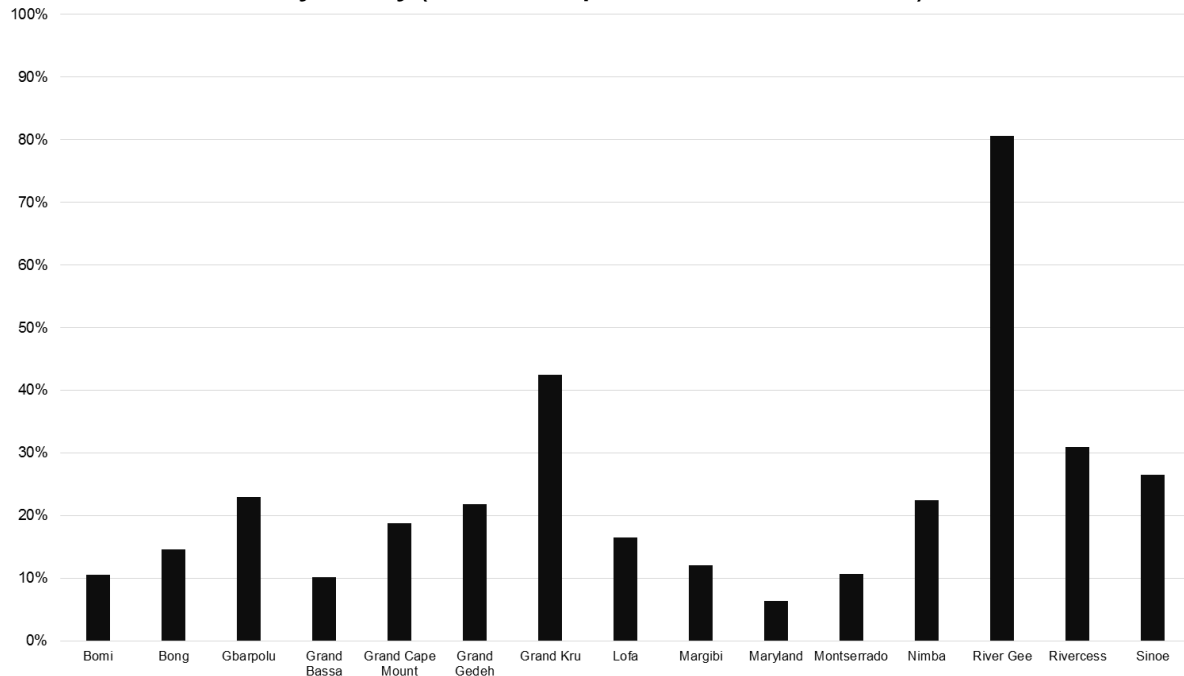


**Chart 1: Comparison of NEC Voter Registration Center by County (2011/14 and 2017 Revised List)**



Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) 2017

**Chart 2: Percentage Change in the Number of NEC Registration Centers by County (2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised List)**



Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) 2017

**Table 2: Distribution of NEC Registration Centers by Electoral District  
(2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised)**

Electoral District	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bomi 01	25	1.40%	29	1.39%	+4	+16.00%
Bomi 02	25	1.40%	27	1.30%	+2	+8.00%
Bomi 03	26	1.50%	28	1.35%	+2	+7.69%
Bong 01	25	1.40%	29	1.39%	+4	+16.00%
Bong 02	20	1.10%	22	1.06%	+2	+10.00%
Bong 03	17	1.00%	18	0.87%	+1	+5.88%
Bong 04	22	1.20%	24	1.15%	+2	+9.09%
Bong 05	23	1.30%	28	1.35%	+5	+21.74%
Bong 06	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Bong 07	27	1.50%	32	1.54%	+5	+18.52%
Gbarpolu 01	13	0.70%	16	0.77%	+3	+23.08%
Gbarpolu 02	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Gbarpolu 03	24	1.30%	31	1.49%	+7	+29.17%
Grand Bassa 01	43	2.40%	48	2.31%	+5	+11.63%
Grand Bassa 02	49	2.80%	52	2.50%	+3	+6.12%
Grand Bassa 03	20	1.10%	20	0.96%	0	0.00%
Grand Bassa 04	31	1.70%	35	1.68%	+4	+12.90%
Grand Bassa 05	33	1.90%	39	1.88%	+6	+18.18%
Grand Cape Mount 01	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Grand Cape Mount 02	21	1.20%	27	1.30%	+6	+28.57%
Grand Cape Mount 03	19	1.10%	21	1.01%	+2	+10.53%
Grand Gedeh 01	9	0.50%	11	0.53%	+2	+22.22%
Grand Gedeh 02	27	1.50%	33	1.59%	+6	+22.22%
Grand Gedeh 03	28	1.60%	34	1.63%	+6	+21.43%
Grand Kru 01	17	1.00%	25	1.20%	+8	+47.06%
Grand Kru 02	23	1.30%	32	1.54%	+9	+39.13%
Lofa 01	17	1.00%	19	0.91%	+2	+11.76%
Lofa 02	20	1.10%	24	1.15%	+4	+20.00%
Lofa 03	31	1.70%	33	1.59%	+2	+6.45%
Lofa 04	35	2.00%	45	2.16%	+10	+28.57%
Lofa 05	36	2.00%	41	1.97%	+5	+13.89%
Margibi 01	22	1.20%	23	1.11%	+1	+4.55%
Margibi 02	27	1.50%	29	1.39%	+2	+7.41%
Margibi 03	25	1.40%	28	1.35%	+3	+12.00%
Margibi 04	28	1.60%	34	1.63%	+6	+21.43%

**Table 2: Distribution of NEC Registration Centers by Electoral District  
(2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised)**

Electoral District	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Margibi 05	30	1.70%	34	1.63%	+4	+13.33%
Maryland 01	23	1.30%	25	1.20%	+2	+8.70%
Maryland 02	18	1.00%	19	0.91%	+1	+5.56%
Maryland 03	37	2.10%	39	1.88%	+2	+5.41%
Montserrado 01	43	2.40%	47	2.26%	+4	+9.30%
Montserrado 02	18	1.00%	19	0.91%	+1	+5.56%
Montserrado 03	16	0.90%	16	0.77%	+0	0.00%
Montserrado 04	22	1.20%	25	1.20%	+3	+13.64%
Montserrado 05	15	0.80%	17	0.82%	+2	+13.33%
Montserrado 06	14	0.80%	16	0.77%	+2	+14.29%
Montserrado 07	30	1.70%	32	1.54%	+2	+6.67%
Montserrado 08	27	1.50%	28	1.35%	+1	+3.70%
Montserrado 09	30	1.70%	32	1.54%	+2	+6.67%
Montserrado 10	27	1.50%	29	1.39%	+2	+7.41%
Montserrado 11	20	1.10%	22	1.06%	+2	+10.00%
Montserrado 12	22	1.20%	22	1.06%	0	0.00%
Montserrado 13	26	1.50%	27	1.30%	+1	+3.85%
Montserrado 14	26	1.50%	30	1.44%	+4	+15.38%
Montserrado 15	30	1.70%	31	1.49%	+1	+3.33%
Montserrado 16	36	2.00%	40	1.92%	+4	+11.11%
Montserrado 17	39	2.20%	55	2.64%	+16	+41.03%
Nimba 01	15	0.80%	18	0.87%	+3	+20.00%
Nimba 02	32	1.80%	35	1.68%	+3	+9.38%
Nimba 03	25	1.40%	31	1.49%	+6	+24.00%
Nimba 04	26	1.50%	30	1.44%	+4	+15.38%
Nimba 05	18	1.00%	21	1.01%	+3	+16.67%
Nimba 06	21	1.20%	29	1.39%	+8	+38.10%
Nimba 07	22	1.20%	28	1.35%	+6	+27.27%
Nimba 08	24	1.30%	30	1.44%	+6	+25.00%
Nimba 09	31	1.70%	40	1.92%	+9	+29.03%
River Gee 01	9	0.50%	17	0.82%	+8	+88.89%
River Gee 02	10	0.60%	15	0.72%	+5	+50.00%
River Gee 03	12	0.70%	24	1.15%	+12	+100.00%
Rivercess 01	23	1.30%	28	1.35%	+5	+21.74%
Rivercess 02	19	1.10%	27	1.30%	+8	+42.11%

**Table 2: Distribution of NEC Registration Centers by Electoral District (2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised)**

Electoral District	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sinoe 01	18	1.00%	20	0.96%	+2	+11.11%
Sinoe 02	19	1.10%	25	1.20%	+6	+31.58%
Sinoe 03	27	1.50%	36	1.73%	+9	+33.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,780</b>		<b>2,080</b>		<b>+300</b>	<b>+16.85%</b>

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**ECC Report Received****Table 3. Distribution of ECC Observer Reports by County and Reporting Period**

County	ECC Observers	Phase 1 Reports	Phase 2 Reports	Phase 3 Reports	Extension Reports	Total Reports
Bomi	4	12	12	12	4	40
Bong	8	24	24	23	8	79
Gbarpolu	4	8	12	12	4	36
Grand Bassa	6	18	18	18	6	60
Grand Cape Mount	4	12	12	12	4	40
Grand Gedeh	4	12	9	9	3	33
Grand Kru	3	9	9	9	3	30
Lofa	6	15	17	18	5	55
Margibi	6	18	18	17	6	59
Maryland	4	12	12	12	4	40
Montserrado	19	52	56	57	19	184
Nimba	10	29	28	29	10	96
River Gee	4	10	9	9	3	31
Rivercess	3	9	9	9	3	30
Sinoe	4	9	12	11	4	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>849</b>

Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) 2017

## ECC Overall Data

<b>Table 4: Setup of Registration Centers</b>	
	<b>Overall</b>
4.1 Registration centers that did <b>not</b> open	16 of 847
4.2 Registration centers open by 8:00 am	806 of 847
4.3 Registration centers with four registration officials	694 of 831
4.4 Registration centers with a female registrar	231 of 831
4.5 Registration centers with a voter registration kit (VRK)	830 of 831
4.6 Registration centers with optical mark recognition (OMR) registration forms	829 of 831
4.7 Registration centers with a working camera	817 of 831
4.8 Registration centers with indelible ink	829 of 831
4.9 Registration centers with laminates	822 of 831
4.10 Registration centers with uniformed security personnel	137 of 831
4.11 Registration centers with a representative of any political party present	428 of 822
4.12 Registration centers with political materials posted inside or near them	35 of 831
4.13 Registration centers that are not on the ground floor	73 of 831

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<b>Table 5: Registration Process</b>	
	<b>Overall</b>
5.1 Registration centers where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women were allowed to register before other applicants	761 of 822
5.2 Registration centers where every applicant was asked to show proof of his/her eligibility	371 of 822
5.3 Registration centers where applicants were asked to provide any evidence that they ordinarily resided in the locality	477 of 821
5.4 Registration centers where an optical mark recognition (OMR) registration form was completed for every successful applicant	789 of 822
5.5 Registration centers where the camera <b>did not function</b> throughout the day	45 of 822
5.6 Registration centers where the quality of photographs were <b>poor</b> (person cannot be easily recognized by his/her photo)	11 of 822
5.7 Registration centers where every successful applicant had his/her finger marked with indelible ink	793 of 821
5.8 Registration centers where people <b>were allowed</b> to register on behalf of someone else not present	11 of 822
5.9 Registration centers where uniformed security personnel <b>interfered</b> in the registration process without a request from the registration officials	12 of 822
5.10 Registration centers with <b>incidents</b> of intimidation, harassment or violence against, registration officials, applicants, political party representatives or observers	11 of 822
5.11 Registration centers that closed for more than just one hour for lunch	43 of 822
5.12 Registration centers that closed before 4:00 pm	34 of 822
5.13 Registration centers where all of the materials were stored in the voter registration kit (VRK) at the end of the day	815 of 822
5.14 Registration centers where ECC observers were obstructed or prevented from observing the entire registration process	4 of 821

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<b>Table 6: Registration Figures</b>	
	<b>Overall</b>
6.1 Successful registrants	Total ..... 37,235 Average..... 46
6.2 Women successful registrants	Total ..... 16,703 Average..... 20 Percent..... 45%
6.3 Spoiled registration forms	Total ..... 999 Average..... 1.2
6.4 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register because they were rejected by the registration officials	Total ..... 600 Average..... 0.7
6.5 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register even though they had proof of their eligibility	Total ..... 30 Average..... 0.0
6.6 Individuals <b>allowed</b> to register even though they appeared to be ineligible	Total ..... 161 Average..... 0.1
6.7 Number of complaints filed	Total ..... 24 Average..... 0.0

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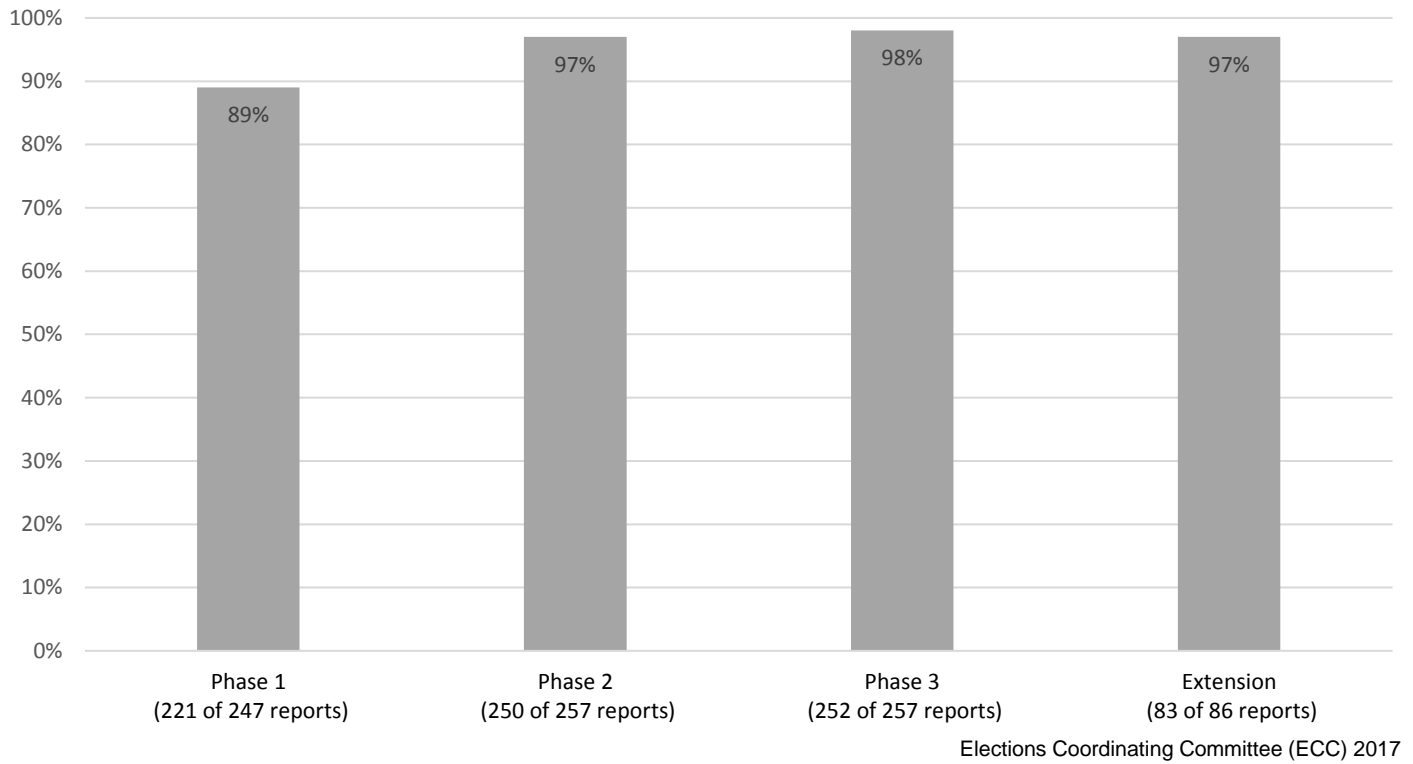
## ECC Data by Reporting Period

Table 7: Setup of Registration Centers by Reporting Period				
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Extension
7.1 Registration centers that did <b>not</b> open	4% 10 of 247	2% 4 of 257	0% 1 of 257	1% 1 of 86
7.2 Registration centers open by 8:00 am	89% 221 of 247	97% 250 of 257	98% 252 of 257	97% 83 of 86
7.3 Registration centers with four registration officials	89% 211 of 237	79% 201 of 253	85% 217 of 256	76% 65 of 85
7.4 Registration centers with a female registrar	27% 64 of 237	30% 76 of 253	28% 72 of 256	22% 19 of 85
7.5 Registration centers with a voter registration kit (VRK)	100% 236 of 237	100% 253 of 253	100% 256 of 256	100% 85 of 85
7.6 Registration centers with optical mark recognition (OMR) registration forms	100% 236 of 237	100% 253 of 253	100% 255 of 256	100% 85 of 85
7.7 Registration centers with a working camera	97% 230 of 237	100% 252 of 253	99% 253 of 256	96% 82 of 85
7.8 Registration centers with indelible ink	100% 236 of 237	100% 252 of 253	100% 256 of 256	100% 85 of 85
7.9 Registration centers with laminates	98% 232 of 237	100% 252 of 253	99% 254 of 256	99% 84 of 85
7.10 Registration centers with uniformed security personnel	16% 37 of 237	16% 41 of 253	18% 45 of 256	16% 14 of 85
7.11 Registration centers with a representative of any political party present	29% 68 of 231	59% 147 of 251	62% 159 of 256	64% 54 of 84
7.12 Registration centers with political materials posted inside or near them	8% 18 of 237	3% 8 of 253	3% 7 of 256	2% 2 of 85
7.13 Registration centers that are not on the ground floor	11% 27 of 237	8% 21 of 253	7% 19 of 256	7% 6 of 85

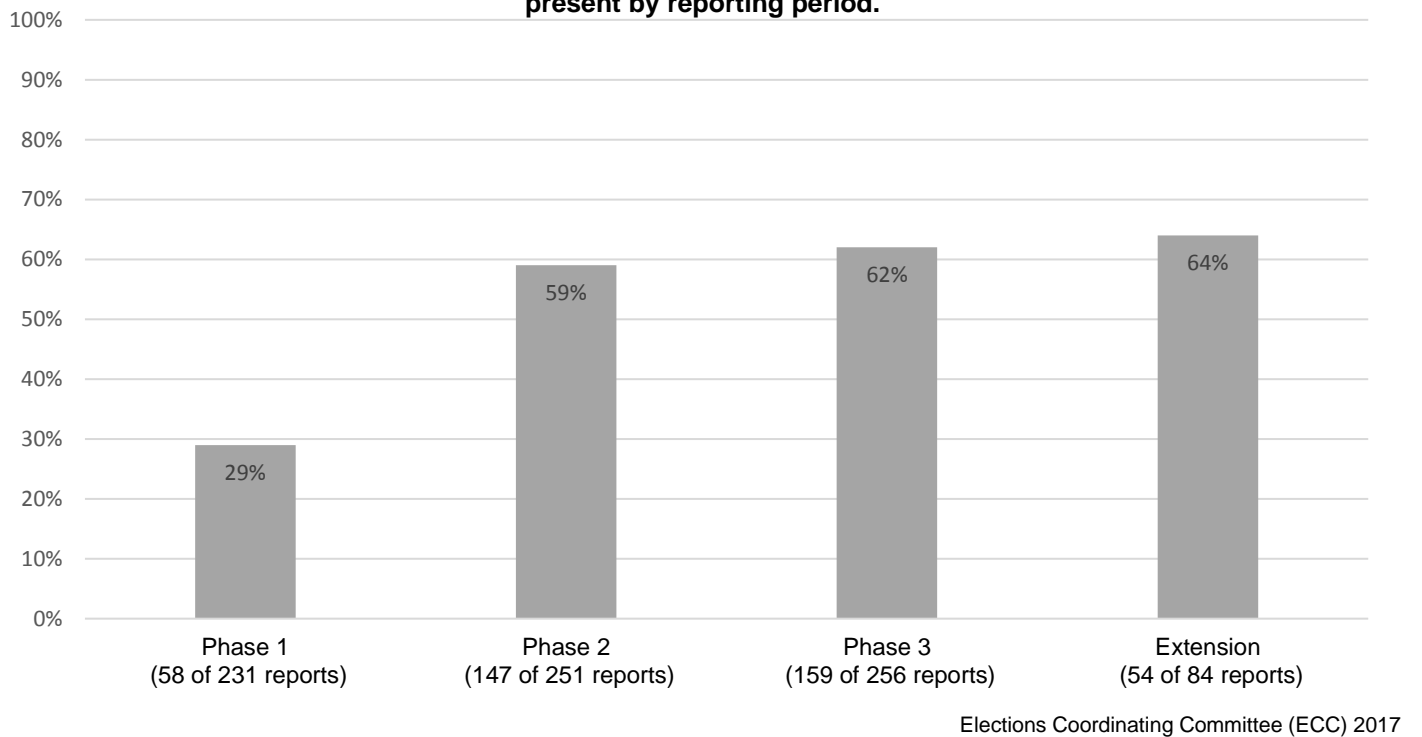
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**Chart 3: Percent of registration centers open by 8:00am by reporting period.**



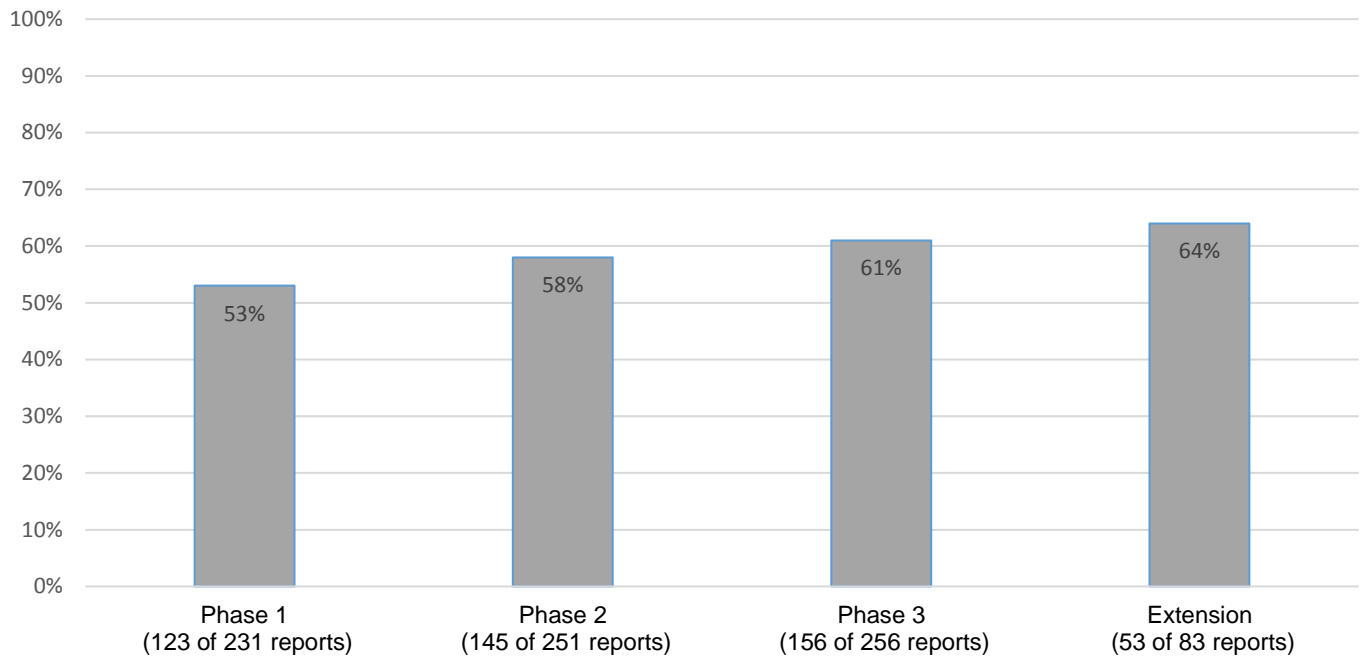
**Chart 4: Percent of registration centers with a representative of any political party present by reporting period.**



<b>Table 8: Registration Process by Reporting Period</b>				
	<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>	<b>Extension</b>
8.1 Registration centers where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women were allowed to register before other applicants	93% 214 of 231	93% 233 of 251	93% 238 of 256	90% 76 of 84
8.2 Registration centers where every applicant was asked to show proof of his/her eligibility	48% 111 of 231	41% 102 of 251	46% 119 of 256	46% 39 of 84
8.3 Registration centers where applicants were asked to provide any evidence that they ordinarily resided in the locality	53% 123 of 231	58% 145 of 251	61% 156 of 256	64% 53 of 83
8.4 Registration centers where an optical mark recognition (OMR) registration form was completed for every successful applicant	97% 223 of 231	96% 242 of 251	95% 244 of 256	95% 80 of 84
8.5 Registration centers where the camera <b>did not function</b> throughout the day	8% 19 of 231	4% 9 of 251	5% 14 of 256	4% 3 of 84
8.6 Registration centers where the quality of photographs were <b>poor</b> (person cannot be easily recognized by his/her photo)	2% 5 of 231	1% 3 of 251	1% 2 of 256	1% 1 of 84
8.7 Registration centers where every successful applicant had his/her finger marked with indelible ink	96% 221 of 231	97% 244 of 251	97% 248 of 256	96% 80 of 83
8.8 Registration centers where people <b>were allowed</b> to register on behalf of someone else not present	1% 3 of 231	2% 5 of 251	1% 3 of 256	0% 0 of 84
8.9 Registration centers where uniformed security personnel <b>interfered</b> in the registration process without a request from the registration officials	3% 6 of 231	1% 2 of 251	1% 3 of 256	1% 1 of 84
8.10 Registration centers with <b>incidents</b> of intimidation, harassment or violence against, registration officials, applicants, political party representatives or observers	3% 7 of 231	1% 2 of 251	1% 2 of 256	0% 0 of 84
8.11 Registration centers that closed for more than just one hour for lunch	10% 23 of 231	3% 7 of 251	4% 9 of 256	5% 4 of 84
8.12 Registration centers that closed before 4:00 pm	6% 13 of 231	3% 7 of 251	3% 8 of 256	7% 6 of 84
8.13 Registration centers where all of the materials were stored in the voter registration kit (VRK) at the end of the day	98% 226 of 231	100% 250 of 251	100% 255 of 256	100% 84 of 84
8.14 Registration centers where ECC observers were obstructed or prevented from observing the entire registration process	1% 3 of 231	0% 0 of 251	0% 0 of 256	1% 1 of 83

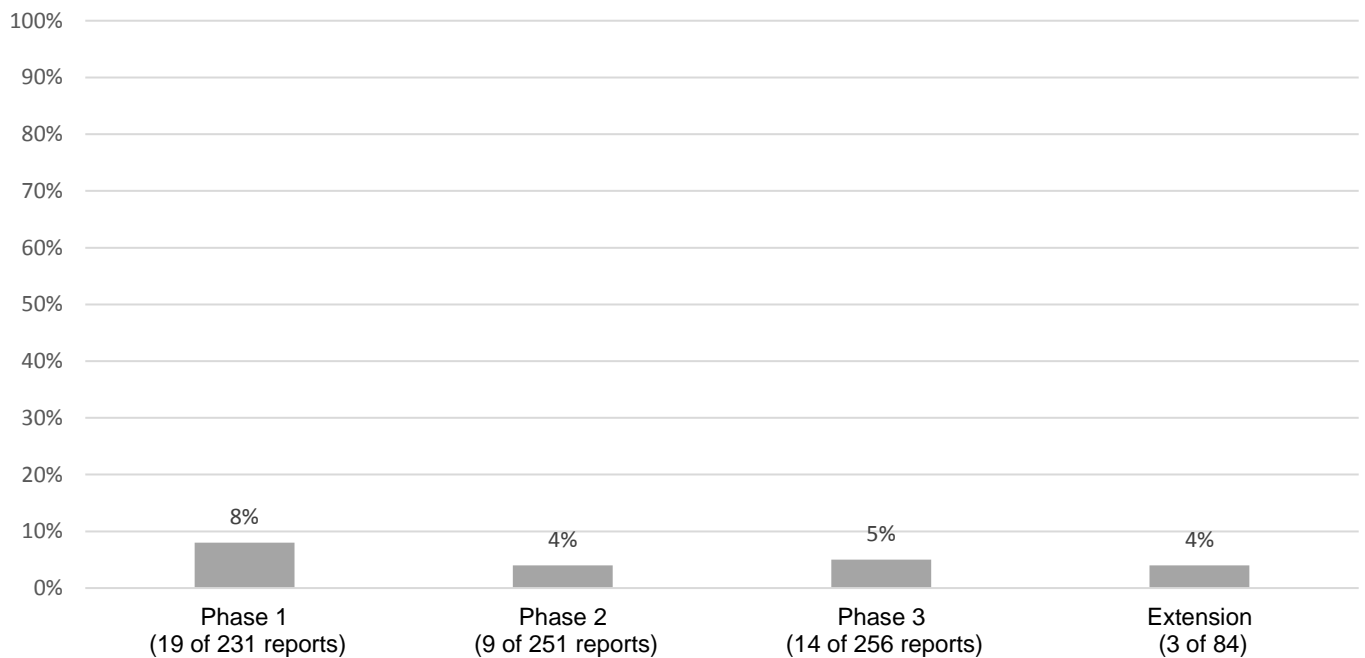
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**Chart 5: Percent of registration centers where applicants were asked to provide any evidence that they ordinarily reside in the locality by reporting period.**



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**Chart 6: Percent of registration centers where the camera did not function throughout the day by reporting period.**

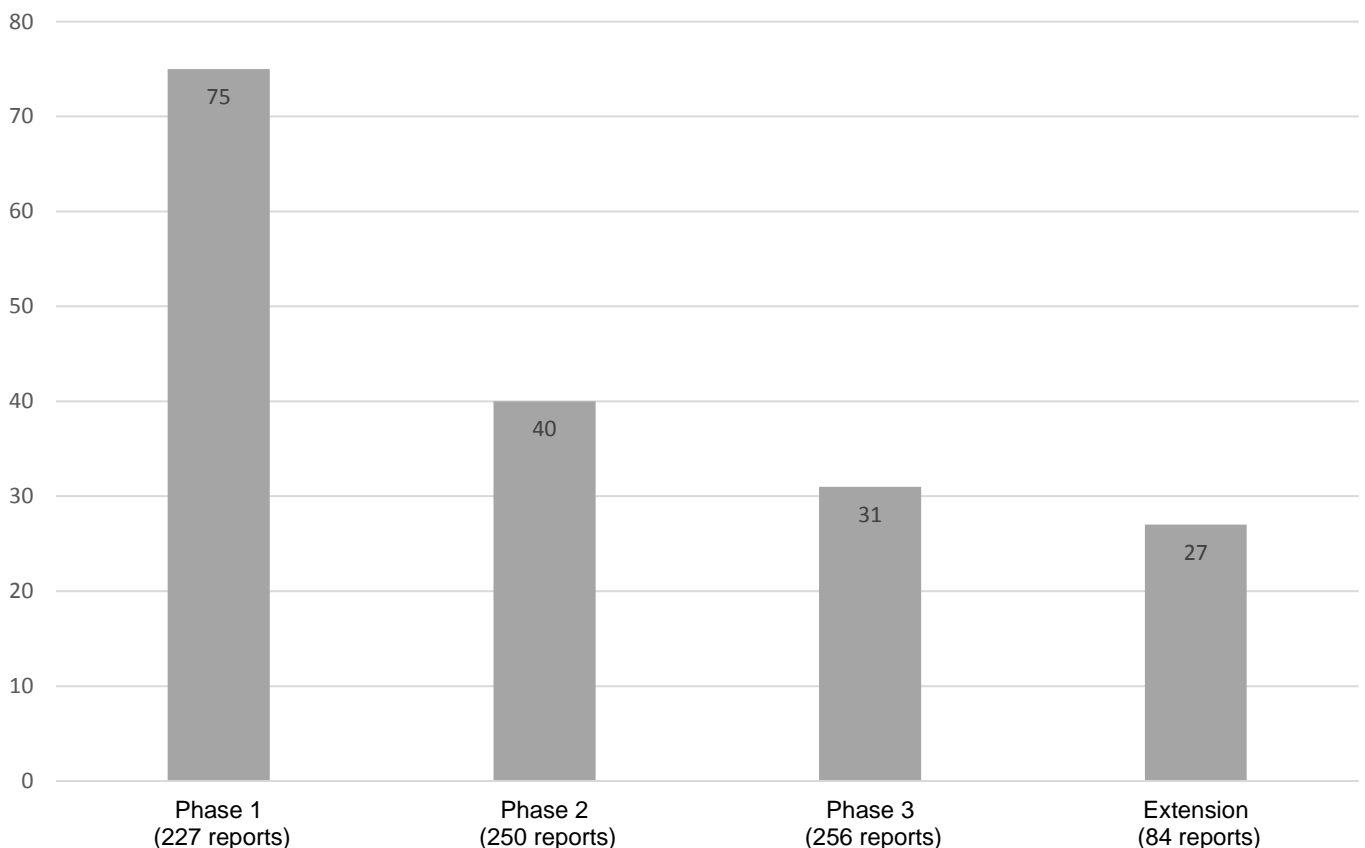


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Table 9: Registration Figures by Reporting Period				
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Extension
9.1 Successful registrants	Total..... 17,302 Average ..... 75	Total..... 10,015 Average ..... 40	Total ..... 7,935 Average..... 31	Total ..... 2,253 Average..... 27
9.2 Women successful registrants	Total..... 7,322 Average ..... 32 Percent ..... 43%	Total ..... 4,746 Average ..... 19 Percent ..... 47%	Total ..... 3,549 Average..... 14 Percent..... 45%	Total ..... 971 Average..... 12 Percent..... 43%
9.3 Spoiled registration forms	Total..... 690 Average ..... 3.1	Total ..... 160 Average ..... 0.6	Total ..... 109 Average..... 0.4	Total ..... 40 Average..... 0.5
9.4 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register because they were rejected by the registration officials	Total..... 183 Average ..... 0.8	Total ..... 209 Average ..... 0.8	Total ..... 140 Average..... 0.5	Total ..... 68 Average..... 0.8
9.5 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register even though they had proof of their eligibility	Total..... 26 Average ..... 0.1	Total ..... 2 Average ..... 0.0	Total ..... 2 Average..... 0.0	Total ..... 0 Average..... 0.0
9.6 Individuals <b>allowed</b> to register even though they appeared to be ineligible	Total..... 57 Average ..... 0.3	Total ..... 57 Average ..... 0.2	Total ..... 34 Average..... 0.1	Total ..... 13 Average..... 0.2
9.7 Number of complaints filed	Total..... 13 Average ..... 0.1	Total ..... 2 Average ..... 0.0	Total ..... 4 Average..... 0.0	Total ..... 5 Average..... 0.1

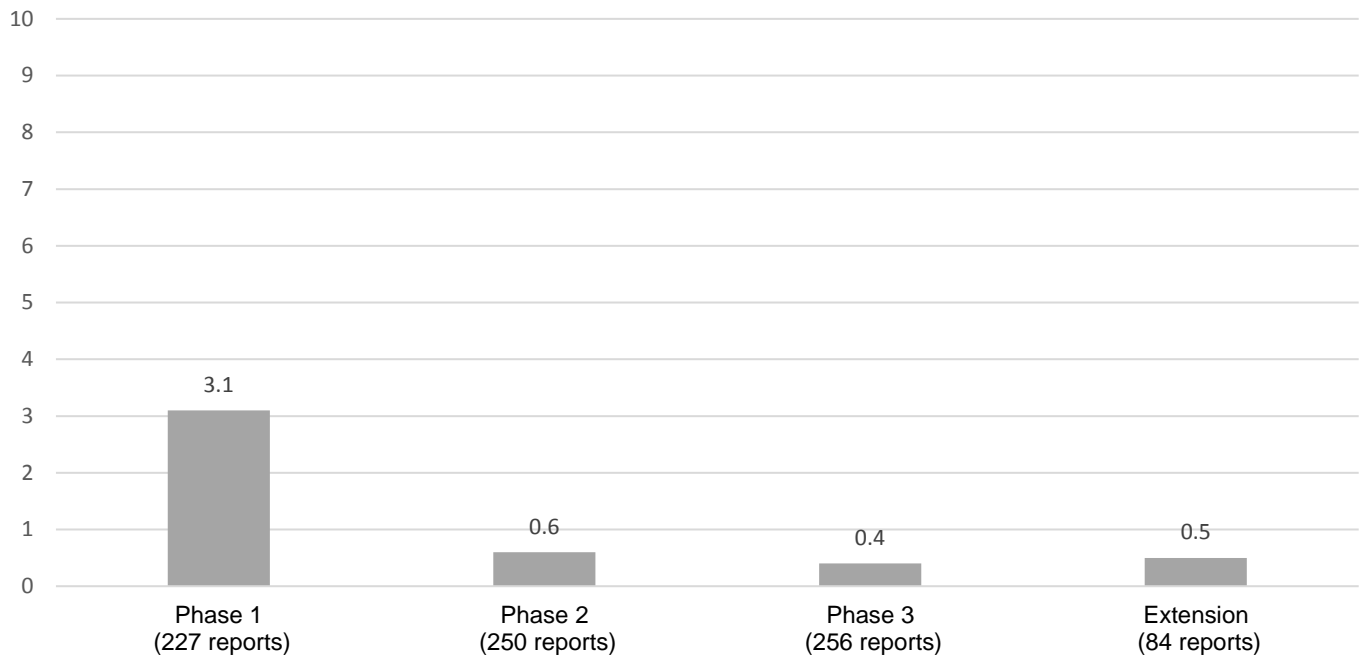
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**Chart 7: Average number of successful registrants per registration center per day by reporting period.**



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**Chart 8: Average number of spoilt registration forms per registration center per day by reporting period.**



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## ECC Data by Geography

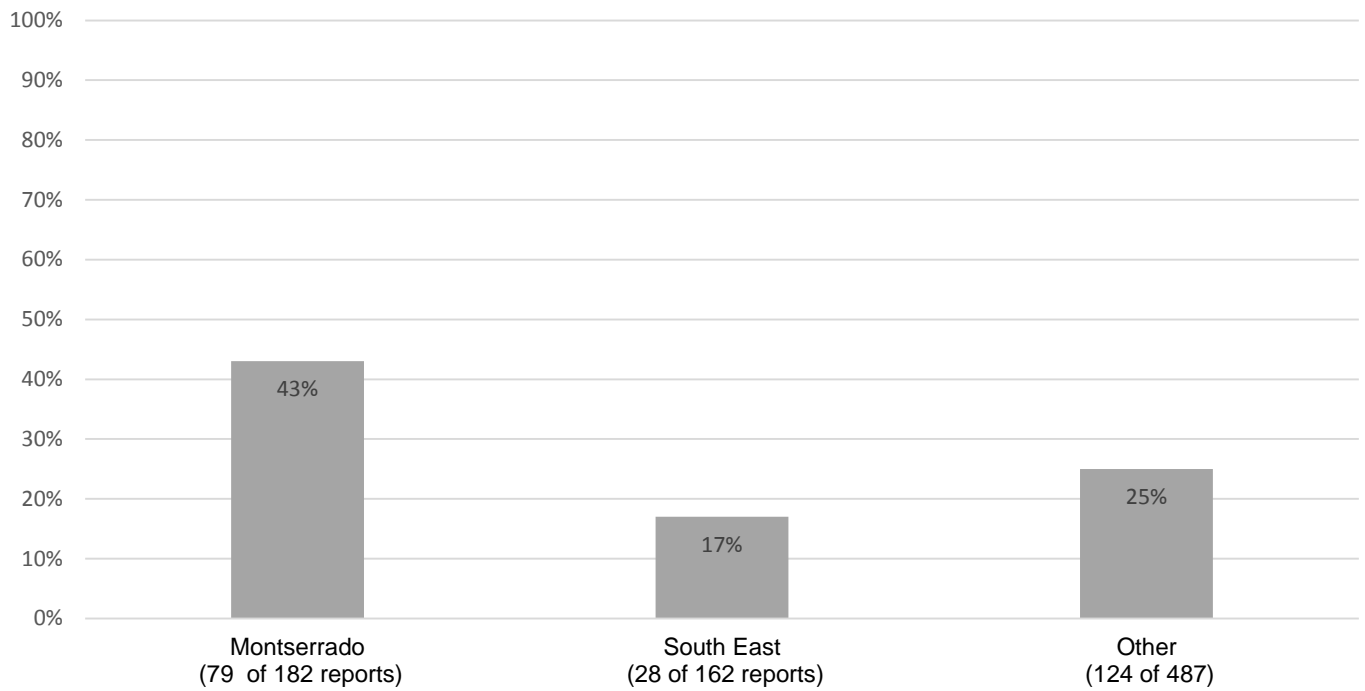
Table 10: Setup of Registration Centers by Geography			
	Montserratado	South East	Other
10.1 Registration centers that did <b>not</b> open	1% 1 of 183	4% 7 of 169	2% 8 of 495
10.2 Registration centers open by 8:00 am	91% 166 of 183	96% 162 of 169	97% 478 of 495
10.3 Registration centers with four registration officials	69% 125 of 182	92% 149 of 162	86% 420 of 487
10.4 Registration centers with a female registrar	43% 79 of 182	17% 28 of 162	25% 124 of 487
10.5 Registration centers with a voter registration kit (VRK)	99% 181 of 182	100% 162 of 162	100% 487 of 487
10.6 Registration centers with optical mark recognition (OMR) registration forms	100% 182 of 182	99% 161 of 162	100% 486 of 487
10.7 Registration centers with a working camera	97% 176 of 182	98% 158 of 162	99% 483 of 487
10.8 Registration centers with indelible ink	100% 182 of 182	100% 162 of 162	100% 485 of 487
10.9 Registration centers with laminates	99% 180 of 182	99% 160 of 162	99% 482 of 487
10.10 Registration centers with uniformed security personnel	25% 46 of 182	7% 12 of 162	16% 79 of 487
10.11 Registration centers with a representative of any political party present	55% 98 of 179	49% 79 of 160	52% 251 of 483
10.12 Registration centers with political materials posted inside or near them	3% 5 of 182	5% 8 of 162	5% 22 of 487
10.13 Registration centers that are not on the ground floor	4% 8 of 182	6% 9 of 162	11% 56 of 487

**Note:** South East includes Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe counties

**Note:** Other includes Bomi, Bong, Gbarpulu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Margibi, Nimba, and Rivercess

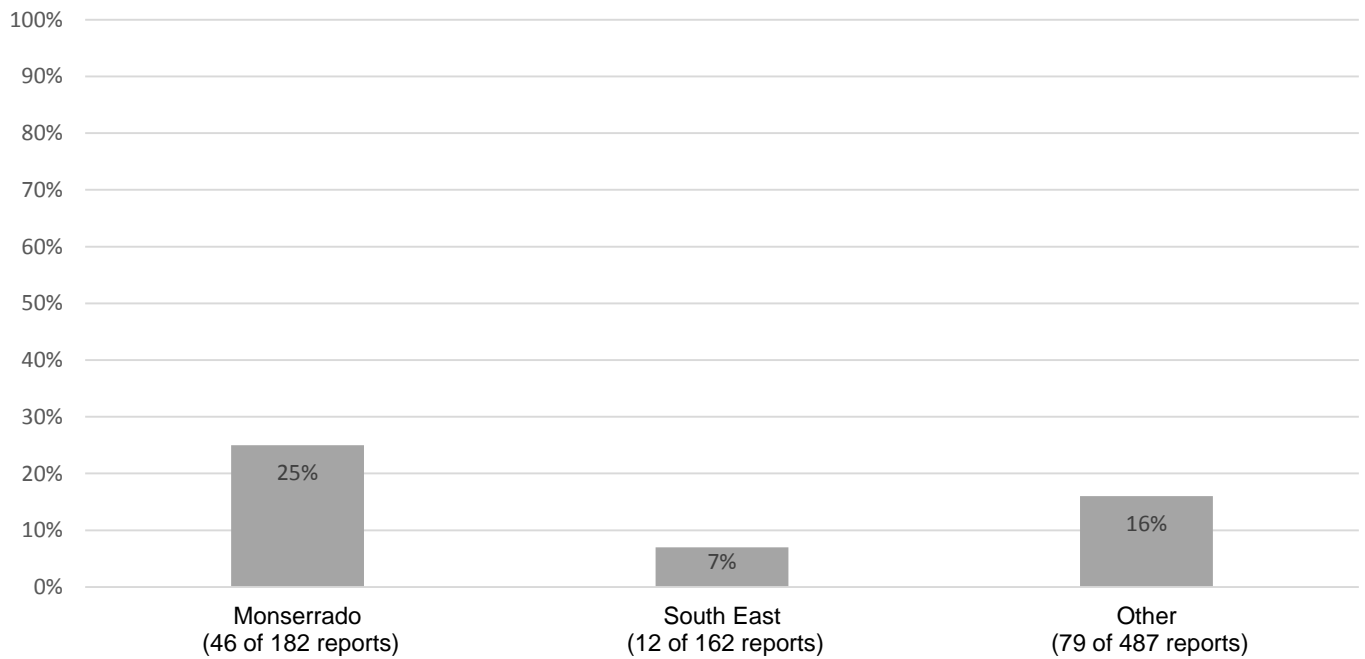
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**Chart 9: Percent of registration centers with female registrar by geography.**



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**Chart 10: Percent of registration centers with uniformed security personnel by geography.**



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<b>Table 11: Registration Process by Geography</b>			
	<b>Montserrat</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>Other</b>
11.1 Registration centers where persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women were allowed to register before other applicants	94% 168 of 179	90% 144 of 160	93% 449 of 483
11.2 Registration centers where every applicant was asked to show proof of his/her eligibility	32% 58 of 179	48% 77 of 160	49% 236 of 483
11.3 Registration centers where applicants were asked to provide any evidence that they ordinarily resided in the locality	51% 91 of 178	51% 82 of 160	63% 304 of 483
11.4 Registration centers where an optical mark recognition (OMR) registration form was completed for every successful applicant	98% 176 of 179	93% 149 of 160	96% 464 of 483
11.5 Registration centers where the camera <b>did not function</b> throughout the day	9% 16 of 179	11% 18 of 160	2% 11 of 483
11.6 Registration centers where the quality of photographs were <b>poor</b> (person cannot be easily recognized by his/her photo)	1% 2 of 179	2% 3 of 160	1% 6 of 483
11.7 Registration centers where every successful applicant had his/her finger marked with indelible ink	94% 168 of 178	97% 155 of 160	97% 470 of 483
11.8 Registration centers where people <b>were allowed</b> to register on behalf of someone else not present	2% 3 of 179	2% 3 of 160	1% 5 of 483
11.9 Registration centers where uniformed security personnel <b>interfered</b> in the registration process without a request from the registration officials	2% 3 of 179	3% 4 of 160	1% 5 of 483
11.10 Registration centers with <b>incidents</b> of intimidation, harassment or violence against, registration officials, applicants, political party representatives or observers	3% 5 of 179	0% 0 of 160	1% 6 of 483
11.11 Registration centers that closed for more than just one hour for lunch	10% 18 of 179	3% 4 of 160	4% 21 of 483
11.12 Registration centers that closed before 4:00 pm	4% 8 of 179	8% 13 of 160	3% 13 of 483
11.13 Registration centers where all of the materials were stored in the voter registration kit (VRK) at the end of the day	100% 179 of 179	100% 160 of 160	99% 476 of 483
11.14 Registration centers where ECC observers were obstructed or prevented from observing the entire registration process	1% 2 of 179	0% 0 of 160	0% 2 of 482

**Note:** South East includes Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe counties

**Note:** Other includes Bomi, Bong, Gbarpulu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Margibi, Nimba, and Rivercess

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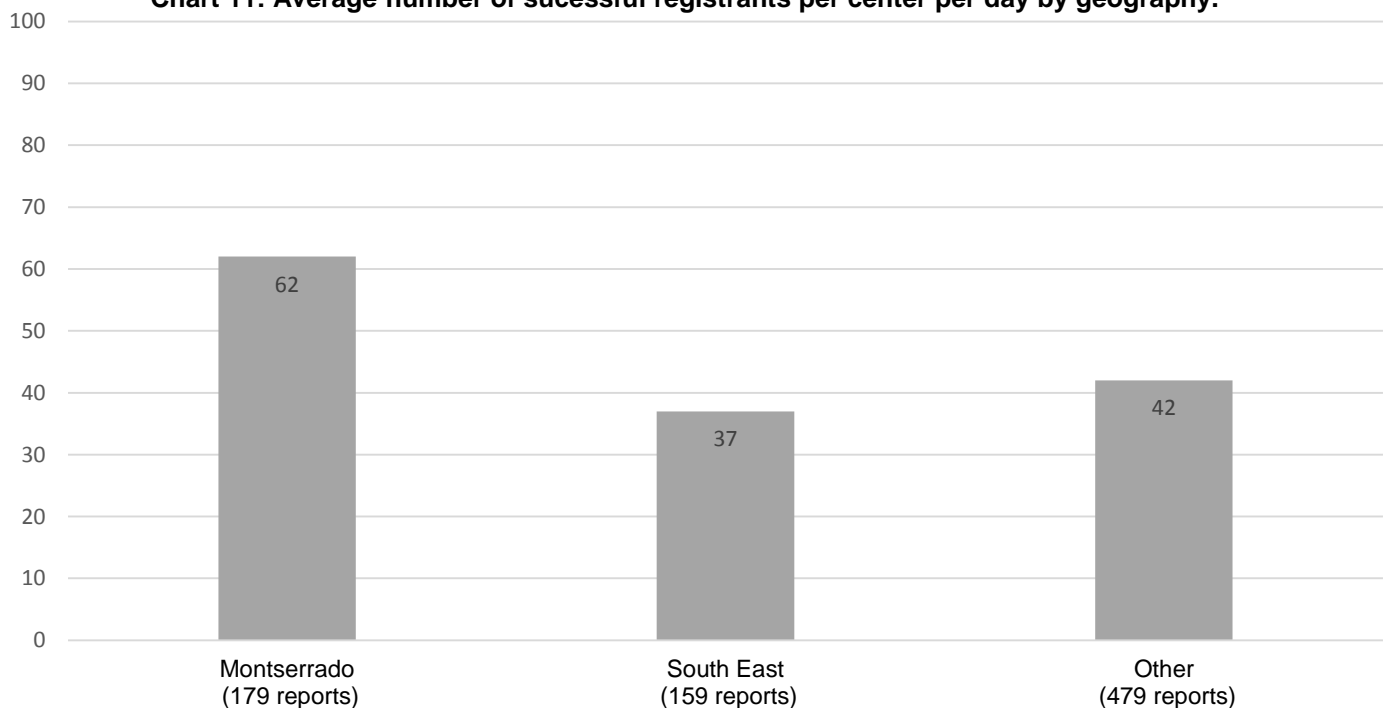
Table 12: Registration Figures by Geography			
	Montserratado	South East	Other
12.1 Successful registrants	Total.....11,131 Average .....62	Total.....5,847 Average .....37	Total.....20,257 Average .....42
12.2 Women successful registrants	Total.....4,797 Average .....27 Percent ..... 43%	Total.....2,517 Average ..... 16 Percent .....43%	Total.....9,284 Average ..... 19 Percent .....46%
12.3 Spoiled registration forms	Total.....273 Average .....1.5	Total.....274 Average ..... 1.7	Total.....452 Average .....0.9
12.4 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register because they were rejected by the registration officials	Total.....314 Average .....1.8	Total.....60 Average .....0.4	Total.....226 Average .....0.5
12.5 Individuals <b>not allowed</b> to register even though they had proof of their eligibility	Total.....16 Average .....0.1	Total.....4 Average .....0.0	Total.....10 Average .....0.0
12.6 Individuals <b>allowed</b> to register even though they appeared to be ineligible	Total.....61 Average .....0.3	Total.....26 Average .....0.2	Total.....74 Average .....0.2
12.7 Number of complaints filed	Total.....14 Average .....0.1	Total.....4 Average .....0.0	Total.....6 Average .....0.0

**Note:** South East includes Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe counties

**Note:** Other includes Bomi, Bong, Gbarpulu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Margibi, Nimba, and Rivercess

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**Chart 11: Average number of sucessful registrants per center per day by geography.**



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## Appendix A: 2017 Simplified Voter Registration Procedures

**2017 Simplified Voter Registration Procedures**

(Adapted by the ECC based on the NEC Voter Registration **Manual for Staff and Other Users**)

Every successful applicant should go through ALL 12 of the voter registration steps (as adapted by the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) from the National Elections Commission's (NEC) "Voter Registration Manual for Staff and Other Users").

- 1) Applicant arrives at the Voter Registration Center and joins queue of people registering to vote (if any).
- 2) When the Applicant arrives at the front of the queue he/she proceeds to the Registration Clerk who:
  - 2.1) Determines if the Applicant is eligible to register;

For an Applicant to be Eligible to Register he/she must be a Citizen of the Republic of Liberia and 18 years or older on the day he/she Registers. An Applicant should also be of good moral standing and of sound mind.

An Applicant must use one of the following to prove his/her Eligibility: a valid Liberian Passport; a Liberian Birth Certificate with a Photo ID; an old NEC Voter Registration Card for either the 2011 or 2014 elections; a Certificate of Naturalization with a Photo ID; Sworn Statements by two other Registered Voters who appear in person; or confirmation by a Liberian Traditional Leader who appears in person.

An Applicant should register at the Registration Center nearest to where he/she normally resides as this is where he/she will Vote on Election Day.

Applicants must register for themselves. No one can register on behalf of someone else (such as a family member)

If an Applicant is Ineligible or cannot demonstrate his/her Eligibility then the Applicant should NOT be Registered and a Registration Rejection Form (RRF) should be completed.

- 2.2) Checks the Applicant's fingers for indelible ink;

If an Applicant already has Indelible Ink on the Cuticle of his/her Left Index Finger it indicates that he/she has already Registered and the Applicant should NOT be Registered and a Registration Rejection Form (RRF) should be completed.

- 2.3) Completes written portions of the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Registration Form (including the Counterfoil and Voter Registration Card portions), but does NOT shade the "circles"; and
- 2.4) Has the Applicant sign the OMR Registration Form

If the Applicant is illiterate he/she can make a thumbprint instead of a signature.

- 3) The Registration Clerk then gives the Applicant the Counterfoil from the OMR Registration Form.
- 4) The Registration Clerk then gives the rest of the OMR Registration Form (including the Voter Registration Card portion) to the Shader.
- 5) The Shader checks to make sure the Registration Clerk correctly and completely completed his/her sections of the OMR Registration Form and completes the "circle" sections of the OMR Voter Registration Form by shading in the appropriate circles.

If the Shader finds a mistake then Spoilt will be written across the OMR Voter Registration Form and the Counterfoil and the Applicant will start over with a new OMR Voter Registration Form.

- 6) The Applicant goes to the Photographer who takes two Photographs of the Applicant.

If the Photographs do not clearly show the face of the Applicant then new Photographs should be taken

- 7) The Photographer also applies Indelible Ink to the Cuticle of the Index Finger of the Applicant's left hand.
- 8) The Shader gives the OMR Registration Form (including the Voter Registration Card portion) to the Registrar.
- 9) The Applicant goes to the Registrar and gives him/her the Counterfoil and the two Photographs, and the Registrar:
- 9.1) Checks to ensure the entire OMR Registration Form has been correctly completed (both the written and shaded sections);

If the Registrar finds a mistake then Spoilt will be written across the OMR Voter Registration Form and the Counterfoil and the Applicant will start over with a new OMR Voter Registration Form.

- 9.2) Signs the OMR Registration Form;
- 9.3) Makes sure the Counterfoil and the Photographs are for the same person as on the OMR Registration Form;
- 9.4) Attaches one Photograph to the main OMR Registration Form using the photo fix and attaches the other Photograph to the Voter Registration Card section using glue;

If the wrong Photograph has been attached then Spoilt will be written across the OMR Voter Registration Form and the Counterfoil and the Applicant will start over with a new OMR Voter Registration Form.

- 10) The Registrar detaches Voter Registration Card portion from the OMR Registration Form and has the Applicant place his/her thumbprint on the card.
- 11) The Registrar laminates the Voter Registration Card.

If there is a problem applying the laminate then the Voter Registration Card will be cut up, Spoilt will be written across the OMR Voter Registration Form and the Counterfoil and the Applicant will start over with a new OMR Voter Registration Form.

- 12) The Registrar give the Voter Registration Card to the applicant, puts the OMR Registration Form and the Counterfoil in their respective envelopes, and the Applicant leaves the Registration Center.