

LOCAL ELECTION 2022

An Overview of Electoral Contestation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an overview of the local elections-2022 with specific focus on the patterns of electoral contestations observed during different phases of the election cycle. Nepal Monitor collected data on incidents of electoral contestations throughout the election cycle, from most widely available public sources including national and local online news portals, national dailies, COCAP's focal persons and network in provinces. To ensure the reliability of collected data, each reported incident was triangulated with reports of the same incident from at least two other sources.

On May 13, 2022, Nepal held its second local level elections, after the promulgation of the constitution in 2015 which established fundamental changes in Nepal, including federalism, secularism, and inclusion. The local elections were conducted in a single phase in all the 753 local levels, including the 460 Rural Municipalities, 276 Municipalities, 11 Sub-Metropolitan Cities, and 6 Metropolitan Cities.

A total of 1,45,013 candidates from 66 parties and independent candidates contested for different posts in each of the 753 local levels including the position of Head/Deputy Head, and five members in the ward committee comprising of a Ward Chairperson, a Female Member, a Dalit Female Member, and two other members. The voter turnout stood at 64% according to the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN).

The elections were cancelled in 85 polling centers due to disputes, clashes and disruptions on the election day, of which the elections in 10 polling centers of Budhiganga municipality of Bajura remain to be held. Instances of election related contestations were evident in all phases of the election including pre-candidacy,

candidacy registration, campaigning period, silence period, election day and post-election phase.

Election-related contestations were seen across all phases of the election cycle but remained mostly skewed towards the campaign period and the polling day in most provinces. 55% of the incidents of electoral contestations occurred during these two periods. These periods were found to be the most sensitive phases of the election cycle in terms of occurrence of electoral violence, suggesting the need for phase wise security provision to maintain electoral decorum.

The contestations during pre-candidacy and candidacy registration phases were mostly intra-party in nature marked by disputes over candidacy in executive positions by aspirants. The number of violent contestations increased particularly those between cadres of competing or rival parties, candidates and their supporters as the election cycle progressed into the campaign period.

The silence period saw a temporal shift in the dynamics of electoral contestations. **Almost 60% of the electoral violence that were recorded in this period took place during the night hours.** Though there was restriction on conducting any kind of election related activities, many incidents of candidates and their supporters actively engaging in influencing voters were reported during the silence period.

The Election Day on May 13 was the most violent day of the local election 2022 and saw a steep rise in violent confrontations compared to other phases of election. Nepal Monitor recorded incidents of violence at polling centers across 33 districts on the election day.

There were also reports of electoral violence in the aftermath of the polling day, particularly due to disputes related to counting of votes and during victory rallies in some instances. The incidence of post-election violence demonstrates that the risk of electoral violence does not end at polling booths.

Compared to local elections in 2017, the current local level elections saw negligible or very less anti election activities. Actors opposing elections resorted to arson,

vandalism, and use of IEDs targeting electoral activities throughout all three phases of local elections in 2017. The current local elections saw a colossal drop in such anti election activities that helped to boost electoral security and make a conducive environment for election. However, the contestations between competing parties, candidates and their supporters over different election-related disputes triggered fractious violence in many instances.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: LOCAL ELECTIONS 2022



Elections for all three levels of government - the Local, Provincial, and Federal levels - are constitutionally mandated to be held in 2022, making it a crucial year for Nepal's future. In line with this, **the local elections were recently held on 13 May in a single phase in all the 753 local levels, including the 460 Rural municipalities, 276 Municipalities, 11 Sub-Metropolitan Cities, and 6 Metropolitan Cities.**

The elections for local bodies were conducted for the second time since the promulgation of the Constitution in 2015. Previously, local government elections were held for the first time in 2017 in three different phases across the country.

According to the Election Commission Nepal (ECN), 64% of the total 17,733,723 registered voters voted in the local elections in which about 18.4% of the total votes were deemed invalid. The final results of 752 local levels have already been announced, with the exception of Bajura's Budhiganga municipality. **A total of 66 political parties took part in the election.** The Nepali Congress swept the local elections with the ruling party winning the post of Head (officially called Mayor in municipalities and Chairperson in rural municipalities) in 329 local levels. The main opposition CPN-UML secured second position by winning the Head posts in 205 (rural) municipalities. While the CPN-Maoist Center managed to secure 121 posts, the Janata Samajwadi Party 30, the CPN (Unified Socialists) 20, the Democratic Socialist Party 16, and other parties and independents have won 31 head posts respectively.

While contesting the local level election, Nepali Congress, CPN-Maoist Center, CPN-Unified Socialist, Janata Samajwadi

Party and Rastriya Janamorcha forged an electoral alliance. Of the six metropolitan cities, Nepali Congress won in Lalitpur and Biratnagar; CPN-Maoist Center emerged victorious in Bharatpur, CPN-Unified Socialist in Pokhara, and Janata Samajwadi Party in Birgunj metropolitan cities. In the capital, an independent candidate, Balendra Shah, became the Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, defeating both the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML in the race.

For the first time, a substantial number of independent candidates secured victory in the local election. Many of these were those who had filed independent candidacy after being denied candidacy by political parties. **According to the ECN, 386 independent candidates won various positions (Head - 13, Deputy Head - 4, Ward Chairperson - 137, Ward Member - 232) in local elections of which 267 were males and 119 females. Also, seven independent candidates were elected mayor of municipalities and six were elected chairperson of rural municipalities.**

Women made 41.22% of the total representatives elected in the local level election. This represents only a minimal increase in the share of elected women in local governments compared to the election in 2017¹. Although at first sight women's representation in local level looks promising, electoral provisions requiring political parties to nominate a woman candidate in either of Head or Deputy Head's position and reservation for

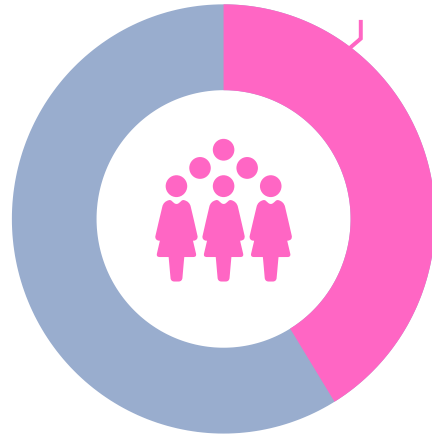
a Female and Dalit Female ward members have largely contributed to women's representation in the local levels.

The figure of women's candidacy in executive positions of local levels and more so the results of the election shows that women were woefully underrepresented in the Head post. The vast majority of those elected to these posts were male.

Of the 293 candidates elected in the position of Mayor only 13 are women. That means **only 4.4% of Mayors of municipalities are women**. Similarly, of the **460 Chairpersons of rural municipalities elected only 12 (2.6%) are women**. This gender gap is even more pronounced in the case of Ward Chairperson in which **only 1.02% of those elected to the post are women**.

The successful completion of local elections on May 13 overcoming initial speculations and doubts mark an important achievement towards implementing the constitution and strengthening local governance through periodic elections.

41.22% of the total elected representatives were female



Proportion of elected women representatives in the Local level election 2022



4.4% of elected Mayors of municipalities are women

2.6% of elected Chairperson of rural municipalities are women



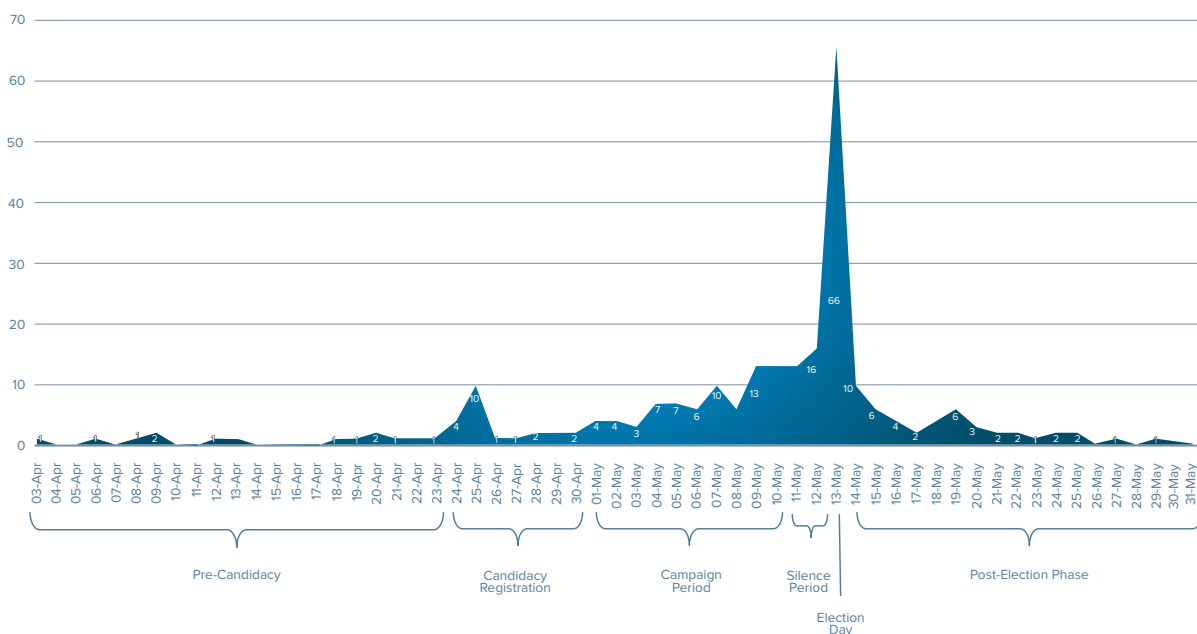
1.02% of elected Ward Chairperson are women

TRENDS OF VIOLENT CONTESTATIONS DURING LOCAL ELECTION 2022



The local level election 2022 was peaceful in general but pockets of fractious violence were observed during different phases of the election. Nepal Monitor recorded 250 incidents of election-related contestation throughout the entire election cycle (April 3 to May 31).² The nature of these incidents ranged from peaceful protests

Figure 1: Trend of electoral contestation during local election 2022



like demonstration, sit-in, padlocking to violent incidents like threats, intimidations, attacks against candidates and their supporters, and clashes between cadres of political parties.³

The dynamics of election-related contestation varied during different stages of the electoral cycle showing a clear trend of rise in number of incidents from the Candidacy Registration phase up to the

Election Day and then subsiding during the Post-election period (see Figure 1).

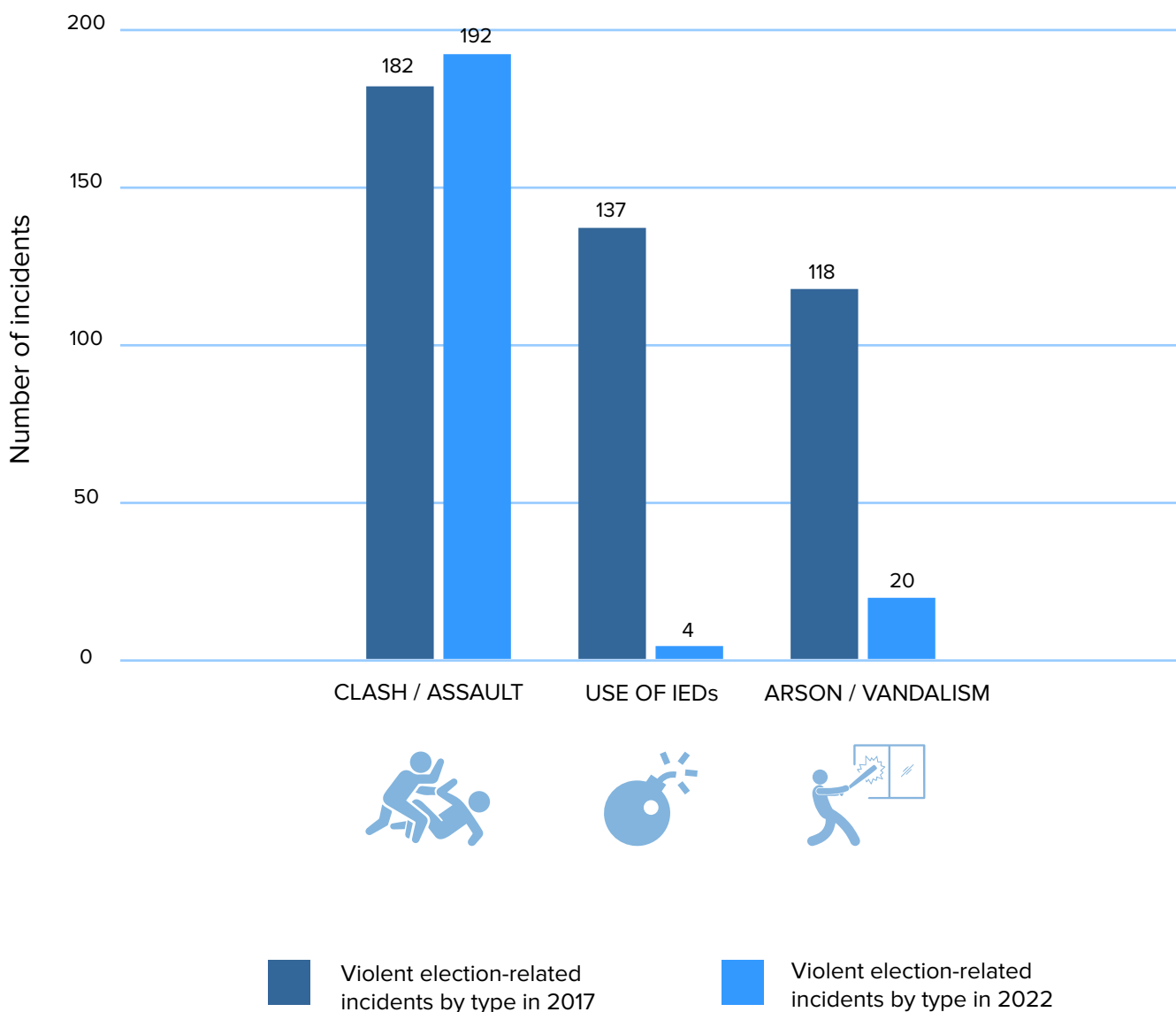
Of the election-related incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor, there were 192 clashes/assaults, four incidents involving use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and 20 incidents of arson or vandalism. **Around 39% incidents of electoral violence took place during the evening or night time.** Two persons were killed while

459 sustained injuries in violent incidents caused by election-related disputes.

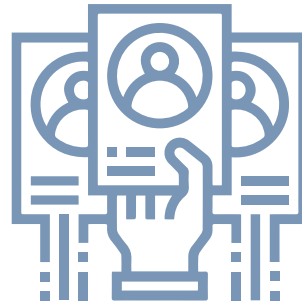
The above figures represent a slight increase by about 5% in incidents of election-related clashes/assaults but huge drop in violent incidents involving the use of IEDs and cases of arson and vandalism compared to the 2017 local level election which faced threat of obstruction and disruption from the Netra Bikram Chand led Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) and Madhes-based regional parties initially.

During 2017 local elections - which were held in three phases for security reasons⁴ - Nepal Monitor recorded 182 clashes/assaults, 137 incidents involving the use of IEDs either directly targeting campaign events, candidates or election infrastructure or detonating at a distance in order to create terror and 118 incidents of arson and vandalism. 13 people were killed in violent incidents surrounding the election. (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Comparison of recorded cases of violent election-related incidents by type in 2017 and 2022



PRE-CANDIDACY REGISTRATION (APRIL 3 TO APRIL 23, 2022):



The time period from April 3 to the date of candidacy registration on April 24 has been considered the pre-candidacy registration phase of the election for the purpose of analysis.

This phase provided an initial ground for the local level elections by finalizing the political parties and incepting the process of candidate selection within the parties. In terms of electoral contestation, 6% of total incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor were from this phase. Of these incidents 40% were violent. **The phase presents the most peaceful period among all the cycles of the local level elections - 2022.**⁵

The electoral contests that did occur during this period were of intra-party nature, arising mainly due to disputes between cadres of political parties competing to secure electoral candidacy for themselves or their preferred person. In some instances, fierce competition and infighting for candidacy resulted in bitter rivalry within different factions in political parties sometimes escalating to fight and clash. Nepal Monitor recorded 13 such incidents.

Disputes over selection of candidates led to cadres of political parties padlocking and vandalizing their own party offices in a few cases. **The reluctance of local level party cadres to comply with the electoral alliances between the parties as directed by the party's central leadership also triggered contestation in some local constituencies.**

In Kaski, the decision of Nepali Congress to forfeit the mayoral candidacy of Pokhara metropolitan and support CPN-

*Unified Socialist candidate as a part of electoral coalition triggered prolonged protests from the local congress cadres. They padlocked the district party office on April 20, stating that the party's decision taken without consulting rank and file cadres hurt their self-esteem.*⁶

*Later on April 24, the local cadres of Congress locked 35-36 district level party members inside the meeting hall while they were in a meeting related to elections. The conflict at the metropolis level also trickled down to the ward level after the party gave instructions to the candidates for the posts of ward chairperson in wards 18 and 24 to withdraw their candidacy and support the candidates of CPN-Maoist Center as per the agreement of the alliance. The cadres then vandalized the party office in Tersapatti, Pokhara on April 28, condemning the same.*⁷

Concerns from general public and civil society members regarding the logistical management of the election and the electoral process also sparked protests in some places. In Baitadi, youths of Gotri, in ward no. 6 of Jagannath Municipality staged a sit-in protest at the district headquarter Martadi on April 3, demanding separate polling station for their ward as it required them 4 hours of walk to reach the combined polling station set with ward nos. 5 and 6. Likewise, women's rights activists staged demonstrations in many places including Birgunj on April 23, raising the issue of women's representation in elections and claiming that the alliances will affect the candidacy of women in the executive posts.⁸

CANDIDACY REGISTRATION (APRIL 24 TO 30, 2022):



This period includes the election timeline from the registration of candidates on April 24 to the distribution of election symbols to candidates on April 30.

Like the pre-candidacy registration phase, this period was also marked by intra-party disputes over candidacy in executive positions by aspirants. However, this period saw an increase in the frequency of electoral contestation. The period comprised nearly one-tenth of the total electoral contests recorded by Nepal Monitor - all within one week - out of which 70% were violent demonstrations, protests, and clashes including assault on the candidates.⁹

As political parties found it difficult to manage the aspirations of many leaders and cadres who were vying for candidacy in the local election, switching to other parties that award electoral candidacieship became common among contenders. In many instances, contenders who were denied electoral tickets by their party, filed independent candidacy in the local elections. Bitterness created by fierce competition over candidacy for local election resulted in physical confrontation between cadres of political parties in some instances.

In Dolpa, the cadres of CPN-UML in the opposite block to the party's official Deputy Mayor candidate for Thulibheri municipality tore the candidate registration form, which resulted in clash between supporters of the two competing factions during candidature registration on April 25. The two groups pelted stones at each

other, injuring a DSP who was trying to take the situation under control.¹⁰

Similarly, citizens representing civil society and different local pressure groups also staged demonstrations protesting the decision of political parties to award candidacy to people with charges of financial and other irregularities in the court.

Account holders in 'Sahakari Bittiya Bikas Sanstha Limited' a Co-operative in Banke, staged a demonstration in front of the Chief Election Commissioner's Office in Nepalgunj condemning the candidacy of the cooperative's chairperson, in the position of ward chairperson of Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan city-14. The cooperative was accused of squandering 43 crore rupees. The struggle committee had filed a case against 41 people including the chairperson, though the chairperson was later released on bail.¹¹

CAMPAIGN PERIOD (MAY 1 TO 10, 2022):

As per the election timeline, candidates had around 10 days from May 1 to May 10, to campaign for elections.

The electoral activities that were more subtle and peaceful during the initial phases turned more violent as the candidates and political parties stepped on the ground to drive electoral campaigns increasing chances of face-off between rival candidates and their supporters. **The campaign period comprised nearly 30% of the total electoral contestations. More than 90% of them were violent incidents.**

¹²

The contestations during the campaign period were mostly of inter-party nature.

The incidents of violence ranged from arson and vandalism of vehicles used by rival parties for election campaigning, to issuing death threats, pelting stones as well as assaulting the candidates physically. In some cases, not only the candidates but also their family members were assaulted by the cadres of competing parties.¹³

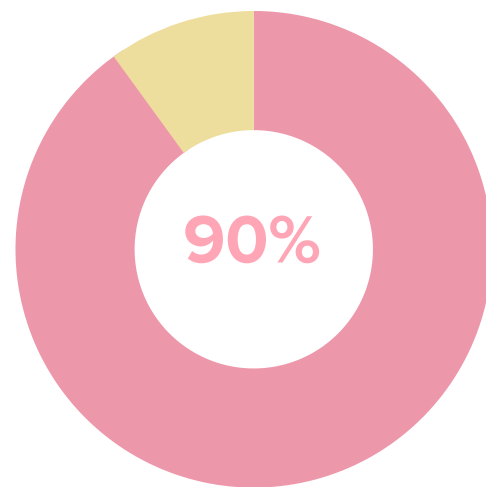
*Police arrested a local cadre of Nepali Congress on May 6, on the charge of torching a vehicle used for electoral campaign by the mayoral candidate of Belbari Municipality from Rastriya Prajatantra Party. CCTV footage showed that the accused set fire to the vehicle parked at the courtyard of the candidate's house around 2 AM in the morning on May 6.*¹⁴

*In Aathbiskot municipality -3 of Rukum West, Seven including 2 policemen and a candidate of ward chairperson were injured during a clash between cadres of CPN-Maoist Center and Nepali Congress on May 7.*¹⁵

Likewise, cadres of parties were also involved in vandalizing the house



90% of the electoral contestation recorded during the campaign period were of violent nature



of candidates and opposition's local party offices. The parties also staged demonstrations and obstructed highways condemning the violence against them by competing parties.

*The Cadres of CPN-Maoist Center obstructed the East-West Highway on May 8 at Hariwan of Sarlahi accusing the rival party cadres of feeding its candidate poison laced sweets during the door-to-door election campaign.*¹⁶

Domestic weapons like Khukuri, sticks, rods, and stones were found to be the most common weapons used during violent clashes. Review of incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor showed that there were no incidents involving the use of small arms or other fire-arms during the campaign or in other phases of the local elections.

SILENCE PERIOD (MAY 11 TO 12, 2022):

In the context of Nepal, the 48 hours period before the polling day is called the silence period. The candidates and parties are required to stop all forms of campaigning during this period. The silence period also aims to prevent any kind of inappropriate activities that affect the elections, and provide a cooling period prior to the polling day so as to create a safe and secure environment for voters.

The silence period of the local election during which political parties and candidates were supposed to refrain from engaging in any electoral activity was not free from election-related altercations and disputes. These disputes, as recorded by Nepal Monitor, often escalated into violent incidents including assaults and group clashes. Of the total 29 electoral contestations recorded by Nepal Monitor during this phase, 26 were violent.¹⁷

*In Tulsipur, an unidentified group hurled two petrol bombs into the premises of the residence of a Mayoral candidate at Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city on the night of May 12. The bombs however, didn't cause any loss and damage to lives and property.*¹⁸

Though the candidates and parties refrained from organizing rallies and public gatherings during the silence period, they continued to engage in canvassing voters through local influencers. This tendency of indirect campaigning became the source of contestations and hence the major trigger of violence.

In many places across the country, cadres of parties and supporters of candidates sentried their supposed influence areas especially during the night time, to prevent the campaigners belonging to other parties from entering their area and influencing voters. This led to disputes between the

cadres of different parties, requiring police to intervene with warning shots in many instances to control the situation.

*The cadres of Nepali Congress and CPN UML clashed as they came face to face in a settlement near Daleli Bazar of Kanepokhari rural municipality-2 in Morang while campaigning during the silence period on May 11. Police seized a motorcycle during the clash.*¹⁹

Allegations of candidates and their supporters engaging in trading votes through their trusted ones; mostly local influencers and sometimes national personalities were also reported during the silence period. In a few instances violence was triggered as the competing candidates and their supporters claimed to have caught them red-handed in the process.

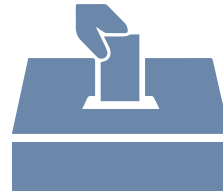
Despite the code of conducts' restrictions, candidates and their supporters were found making last minute efforts to influence voters during the silence period. Candidates and their supporters fearful of their supposed voters being influenced by rival candidates engaged in vigilantism which sometimes resulted in violent confrontations.

*In West Rukum, the cadres of CPN Maoist (Center) and Nepali Congress clashed with each other during the night of May 12 at Kholagaun of Chaurjahari municipality-10 as the cadres of Nepali Congress blamed the candidate and the cadres of CPN-Maoist Center for distributing money to the voters. The clash injured 5 persons.*²⁰

Few anti-election activities, limited to small areas, were also observed during the silence period. These incidents were mostly symbolic and didn't affect the electoral process.

*The student wing of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN Vaidya) staged a torch rally at Durbarmarg in Kathmandu on May 12 condemning the local elections.*²¹

ELECTION DAY (MAY 13, 2022)



The Election Day on May 13 was the most violent day of the local election 2022 and saw a steep rise in violent confrontations compared to other phases of election. Nepal Monitor recorded 66 incidents of violence at polling centers across 33 districts on the election day, constituting one fourth of the total violent electoral contestation recorded by Nepal Monitor²².

Major triggers of these incidents were disputes between cadres of political parties at polling centers, alleged attempts to capture polling booths and rig voting. Alleged attempts to exploit and influence votes of elderly citizens and persons with disabilities by party representatives also triggered disputes and clashes in some polling centers.

Likewise, alleged voting misconduct by polling officers also resulted in tension in some polling centers. In Kavrepalanchowk district, representatives of political parties vandalized furniture and election materials at the polling center of Shree Ram Secondary School in Panchkhal municipality-13, accusing the polling officer of giving multiple ballot papers to the same person.²³ In Balara municipality-3 a polling officer was arrested for allegedly trying to influence voters in favor of a particular party.²⁴

As recorded by Nepal Monitor, 61 persons sustained injuries in the violent incidents. A single incident of clash between parties in Gadhimai rural municipality of Rautahat resulted in 15 injuries. Likewise, incidents of clashes in Kharpunath rural municipality of Humla and Baiteshor rural municipality of Dolkaha resulted in 10 injuries each.

Election security personnel fired warning shots in 67 polling centers of 18 districts where the situation turned tense due to clashes and rioting. The warning shot fired

by police at the polling center in Bhimsen Thapa rural municipality-2 in Gorkha injured an election volunteer.²⁵ Similarly, a person died while another sustained injury when police fired warning shots to control tension following a clash at a polling center in Katari municipality-10 of Udayapur.²⁶

After clashes broke out between cadres of the People's Socialist Party, Nepali Congress, and CPN-UML in Yamunamai Rural Municipality in Rautahat, a former police constable ran away with the ballot box in the ensuing chaos, and the voting process was suspended. He was later arrested.²⁷

Incidents involving use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) purportedly targeting the local election were recorded in 3 districts on polling day. A cylinder bomb was detonated near the parliament at Kathmandu on the morning of election while an IED went off near polling center in Sankhuwasabha. No damage or human casualty were reported in both incidents. IEDs were also found near two polling centers in Bajhang.

Despite the instances of violence, elections were completed smoothly in more than 99.6% of 21,955 total polling centers across the country. Elections were canceled to be held at a later date in only 85 centers across 28 local levels in 17 districts of six provinces due to disputes and clashes between cadres of political parties at the polling centers. As of the date of publication of this report, **the local elections of Budhiganga municipality in Bajura which were cancelled on the election days remain to be held.** In Lumbini Province, elections were held peacefully in all polling centers of the province on Election Day.

POST ELECTIONS (MAY 14 TO 30, 2022):



Contestations during the counting of votes and after the declaration of election results accounted for one-fifth of the total violent incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor during the election cycle.

The votes of the local elections were counted manually throughout the country in a lengthy and tiring process. The large size of the ballot papers and the larger candidate pool further delayed the counting process. In many instances the inefficiency in counting the votes became the seeds of disputes leading to demonstrations, clashes, and suspension of vote counting.

Disputes over validation of unsigned ballot papers, improperly sealed ballot boxes, and discrepancy in the record of votes cast versus number of votes counted, also resulted in clashes and demonstrations. In some cases, deliberate or accidental mistakes by the staff employed in vote counting centers also triggered violence.

A violent clash took place between supporters of candidates at a vote counting site of Deumai municipality in Ilam after a voting stamp was found in the pocket of a counting staff. Police fired 3 rounds of warning shots to take the situation under control.²⁸

The vote counting was halted temporarily at Gujara municipality and Ishanath municipality in Rautahat as the election officers mistakenly announced wrong results.²⁹

Likewise, many incidents of clashes were observed during the post-election phase as winning sides took out victory rallies and frustrated losing sides took umbrage at the celebration.

In Bara, the supporters of Democratic Socialist Party and Nepali Congress clashed with each other at Simraugarh Municipality-10, during the victory rally of the former party. A total of 7 people were injured from both sides and vandalized six vehicles.³⁰

The prevalence of violence during the post-election phase shows that the probability of electoral violence doesn't end with the conclusion of voting at polling booths. Thus, there should be the same level of caution and restraint like in other phases from all stakeholders concerned with elections.

PROVINCE WISE ANALYSIS OF ELECTORAL CONTESTATION

Analysis of election-related incidents shows that the largest share of contestations, that is 22.40% of the total 250 incidents, were recorded in Madhesh province. Incidents were recorded in all eight districts in the province but Sarlahi and Dhanusha (10 each) saw higher number of contestations during the local level election.

Incidents of violent contestations in Bagmati province(21.2%) were mostly concentrated in remote districts like Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap, and Dolakha, where relatively higher cases of confrontations were observed on the polling day.

Karnali province accounted for 18.40% of the total reported incidents during the local election. The election-related incidents in Humla and Rukum West districts comprised the bulk of the contestations in Karnali province. A total

of 16 incidents were recorded in Rukum West alone, during the campaign period. There were reports of repeated clashes between cadres of CPN- Maoist Center and other political parties that had formed an electoral alliance in the district considered a stronghold of CPN-Maoist Center.

Election-related incidents in Province 1 comprised one tenth of total electoral contestations recorded by Nepal Monitor. The candidature registration, campaign and silence period in this province were largely peaceful compared to the post elections period. Though there were only three violent incidents on the polling day, two persons were killed in different incidents in Udayapur and Solukhumbu districts.

Gandaki and Sudurpaschim province fared the same proportion of electoral contestations, with each accounting for 23 incidents throughout the election cycle. Lumbini province saw the lowest count of electoral contestations among all provinces. Lumbini was the only province where elections were held successfully on the polling day at all polling centers.

Figure 3: Province wise distribution of electoral contestation in different phases during local level election-2022

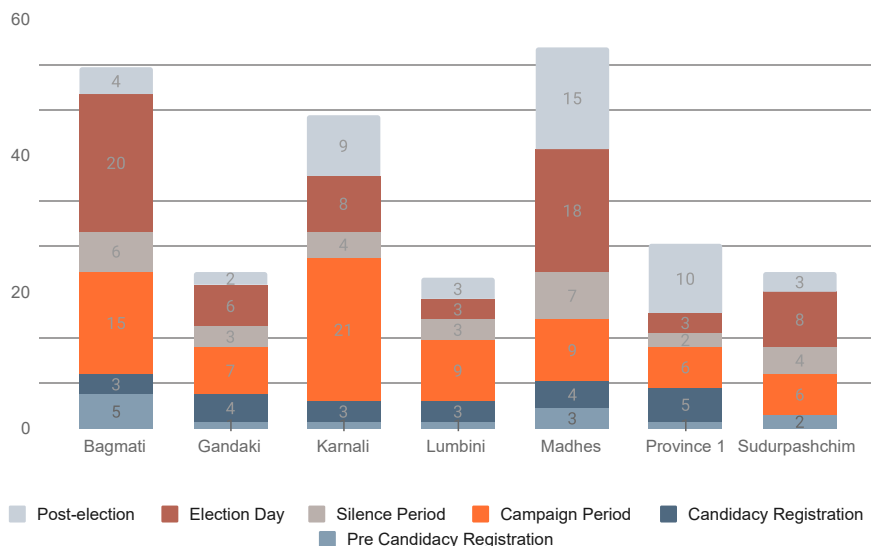
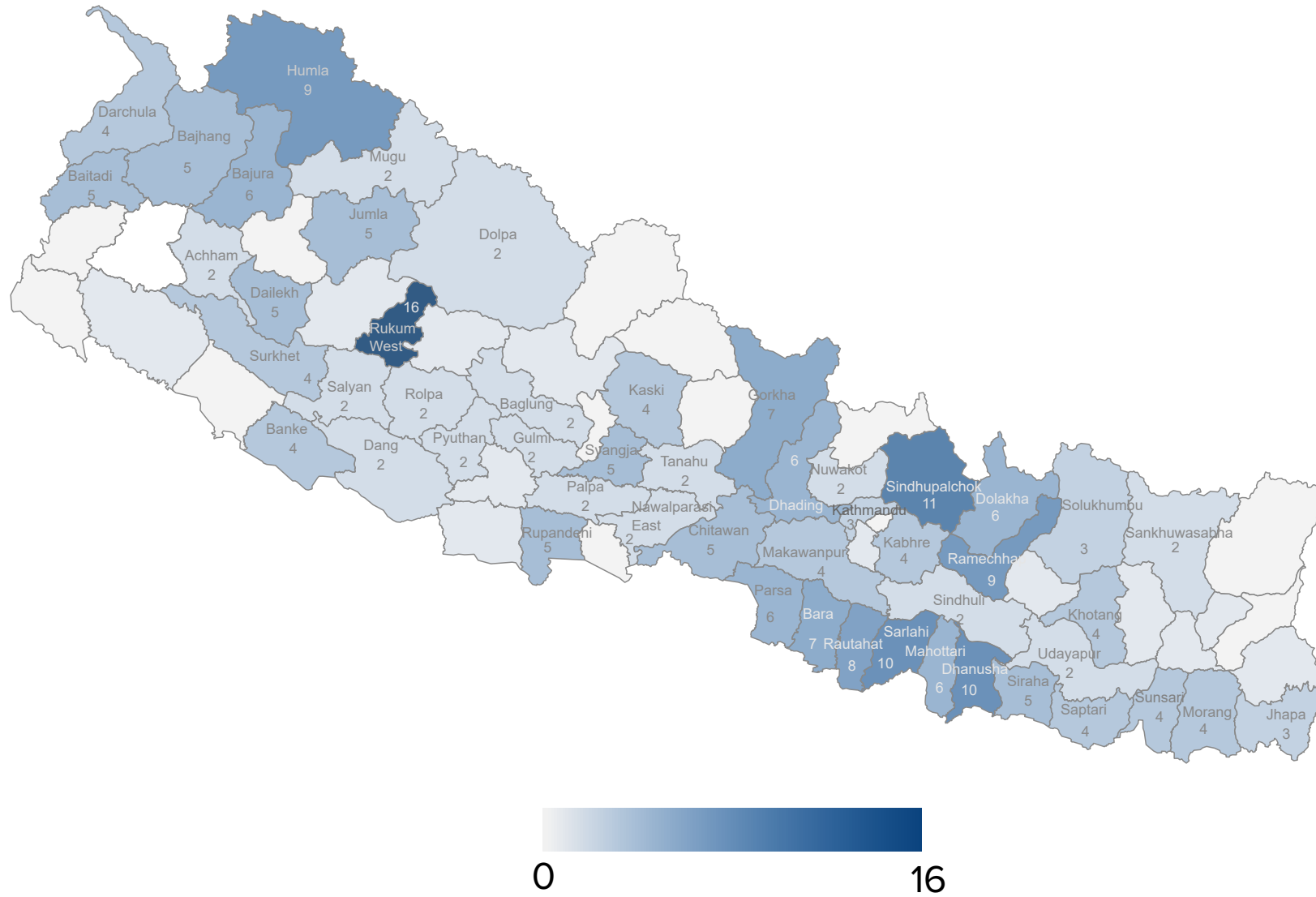


Figure 4: District wise distribution of electoral contestations during local level election-2022



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Electoral violence delegitimizes the process of elections and undermines the democratic institutions of the country, thereby weakening the very fabric of democracy. Prevalence of electoral violence throughout different phases of the local elections 2022 shows that despite Nepal's proven commitment to democratic principles a lot remains to be done in terms of eradicating electoral violence and ensuring a free and fair election environment.

The government should also continue to educate voters on the importance of peaceful elections and the consequences of violence. All stakeholders including political parties should promote a culture of peaceful politics where all citizens can exercise their right to choose their representatives without fear of violence. Electoral staff must exercise utmost care to ensure that their actions do not exhibit any bias or preference for a particular candidate or a party to ensure the trust in the electoral process.

Evidence based analysis of electoral contestations during the local election suggests that consolidated efforts in the following areas would help to ensure a peaceful election where all citizens can exercise their right to choose their representatives without fear of violence.

- The frequency, sensitivity, nature, as well as the causes of electoral violence varied in different phases of elections, suggesting the need for phase wise security provision to maintain electoral decorum.
- Almost half of the reported instances of electoral violence happened during the evening or night time which shows that night hours are equally sensitive like the daylight.
- Political Parties, and candidates need to demonstrate democratic political culture, shunning unhealthy political competition and violence.
- Electoral staff must be careful to ensure that they do not exhibit any kind of political bias while they are engaged in electoral duties.
- While setting-up polling centers consultation should be held with local voters to ensure that the designated polling center is easily accessible and voters feel free and safe to vote.
- Process of counting votes should be made efficient so that election results could be announced as soon as possible.
- The election code of conduct should also address the issue of how winning candidates celebrate victory ensuring that celebrations are not too flashy.

ENDNOTES

1. 40.96% of elected representatives were women in 2017
2. List of incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor throughout the election cycle
3. An incident in the context of this report represents a single event while violent incident represents an event in which there is use of or an intention to use physical force to harm or cause damage to person or property
4. The 2017 local elections were held in three phases on May 14 (first phase), June 28 (second phase), and. September 18 (third phase)
5. List of incidents recorded during pre-candidacy registration period
6. <https://annapurnapost.com/news/congress-locks-kaski-office-against-decision-to-give-mayor-of-pokhara-to-unified-socialists-201256>
7. <https://chakrapath.com/newsdetails/40143>
8. <http://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/802581-1650723429.html>
9. List of reported election-related incidents during candidacy registration phase
10. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38093>
11. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38089>
12. List of incidents recorded during campaign period
13. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38182>
14. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38191>
15. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38219>
16. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38230>
17. Recorded incidents during silence period of the election
18. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38328>
19. <http://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/819001-1652342047.html>
20. <https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/view/38302>
21. <https://deshsanchar.com/2022/05/12/648918/>
22. list of incidents recorded on election day
23. <https://pahilopost.com/content/20220513140415.html>
24. <https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/820181-1652432930.html>
25. <https://ekantipur.com/local-elections-2022/2022/05/13/165244258272154984.html>
26. <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2022/05/1125596>
27. <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2022/05/1125609>
28. <https://www.news24nepal.tv/2022/05/14/876229>
29. <https://ekantipur.com/local-elections-2022/2022/05/21/165313794401212594.html>
30. List of incidents recorded post-election phase

This report is prepared as a part of Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)'s electoral violence monitoring initiative that aims to monitor, analyze, and report trends of electoral contestation during the local, provincial and federal elections in Nepal in 2022 with the objective of understanding and informing different stakeholders about the dynamics of electoral violence.

COCAP is a national network of 43 Peace and Human Rights based non-governmental organizations working in Nepal. COCAP aims to contribute to the peace process in Nepal by promoting the social security system, strengthening democratic practices, and developing a culture of human rights in collaboration with socially committed and transparent civil society actors throughout the country.

