



FACT SHEET

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Democracy, Human Rights and Governance



A woman observes the voting process

PHOTO: D. Hakes

A relatively stable nation in the restive West Africa region, Burkina Faso recently realized the country’s first-ever democratic transition. After 27 years of single-party rule, former president Blaise Compaore’s departure opened the door to a competitive electoral process, and peaceful elections were held November 2015. USAID promotes a civic-minded civil society and effective and credible electoral processes in Burkina Faso. USAID will follow its election support with a program to build a stronger oversight institution in the new national assembly.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

USAID’s elections assistance applies a comprehensive approach supporting political parties, the electoral commission and civil society organizations to ensure full and adequate participation from all stakeholders throughout the electoral process. USAID broadens its impact by serving as coordinator for all donor support to elections and governance.

USAID’s political party activities focus on developing a responsive and accountable party system. Through USAID-funded needs assessment surveys, parties have gained the necessary information to develop campaign platforms and messaging strategies to adequately respond to citizens’ needs. USAID’s training of poll watchers ensured that political parties had the capacity to monitor Election Day events.

USAID is also supporting the national electoral commission by assisting in the design and installation of a results transmission system in all 368 municipalities and provision of tamper-proof security measures to validate tally sheets. Through nationwide peace messaging activities, USAID is promoting positive youth participation and peaceful engagement in the country before, during and after elections.

USAID supports the country’s vibrant civil society organizations (CSO) to play a fundamental role by advocating on behalf of marginalized populations and promoting active and responsible participation in the electoral process. Thirty local, youth-driven CSOs are raising awareness on the importance of participation in elections and educating their peers on the roles and responsibilities of citizens during the electoral process. In addition, with USAID’s support, a network of CSOs monitors the risk of election-related conflicts and provides regular analysis to stakeholders working to mitigate and resolve conflict.

USAID’s assistance does not limit itself to election support. Using a holistic, community-led approach, USAID builds economic opportunities, promotes moderate voices, fosters civic participation and promotes government responsiveness in communities at risk of violent extremist recruitment that are often marginalized from the political process. Post-elections, USAID will partner with other donors to help establish a genuine legislative branch.

USAID BURKINA FASO
Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Goals

- **Increased political party responsiveness through platform development and party monitoring of the electoral process**
- **Increased effectiveness of the electoral process through streamlined and efficient electoral administration**
- **Improved CSO engagement and conflict resolution around the electoral period**