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DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

TANZANIA

The Government of Tanzania has made a commitment, both to its people and to the international community, to improve democratic governance. While Tanzania has a number of government accountability structures, their use by citizens to ensure greater transparency and accountability has been limited. Public resource oversight by citizens at both national and local levels remains a gap in the fight against corruption and improved service delivery. Along with government oversight, performance gaps were also highlighted during the 2015 general elections. The election saw increased voter turnout among citizens, yet confidence in election management bodies and the electoral processes were greatly tested.

USAID/Tanzania's democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) strategy responds to these needs by promoting citizen engagement with the government to ensure proper oversight and accountability of public resources. Current activities include support to government institutions of accountability, capacity-building for civil society organizations in advocacy and government oversight, and increasing citizen engagement in the electoral process. Support to the 2015 general elections targeted domestic election observation, civic and voter education, and greater participation of women, youth, and people with disabilities. Together these efforts helped result in high voter turnout (approximately 62 percent of eligible voters) while also creating a cadre of citizens more knowledgeable about the roles, responsibilities, and actions of government in the election process.

DRG OVERVIEW

FUNDING LEVEL

- \$3.5 million in FY 2015

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
- National Audit Office
- Ethics Secretariat
- Tanzania Community Civic Initiatives
- Women in Law and Development in Africa
- Chemonics International
- UN Women
- Research and Education for Democracy in Tanzania (REDET)
- Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)
- The U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Dodoma, Morogoro, Iringa, Mtwara, and Zanzibar

Election-related activities supported nationwide.

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CHALLENGES

Improving governance in Tanzania is constrained by a lack of political competition, a still-emerging civil society, weak government capacity, low public accountability, and limited access to information. Women and youth are particularly disadvantaged in these areas. Challenges include:

- Low quality of public services including health, education, and water, in addition to a lack of institutional capacity.
- Weak government accountability and a lack of public demand for improvement.
- Widespread corruption and public sector inefficiencies.
- Limited improvement to public service delivery in most regions in spite of ongoing decentralization.
- Power is concentrated in the executive branch, while civil servants and elected officials are overly tied to central government patronage rather than citizen constituents.
- Calls for greater autonomy and even secession in Zanzibar have increased tensions with the mainland. There are also concerns about conflict related to resources and land use on the mainland.

IMPACT

- Election observation assistance in 2015 led to more than 10,000 citizens being deployed to monitor the general elections.
- Training public servants on the Public Leadership Code of Ethics has increased compliance with government rules and regulations. Furthermore, members of government submitted 11,762 asset declaration forms, which serve as a key anti-corruption measure.
- Actions taken by the Ethics Secretariat on unethical practices reported by citizens have risen from 50 in 2013 to 117 in 2015.
- Support to the National Audit Office has improved timely submission of the annual government audit, while the creation of a simplified version of the report has improved accessibility and parliamentary attention to the findings.
- From 2010 to 2015, the number of women running for Parliament rose from 193 to 239, while women elected as members of Parliament on the mainland increased from 18 to 25.
- 2,000 women and youth from low income and marginalized communities have received legal aid and gender-based violence assistance.
- Support to the Tanzania Bora initiative led to greater numbers of youth voting, participating in, and observing the 2015 elections by raising awareness through performance art.
- Assistance to empower citizens resulted in the construction of a women's health ward in Kibaigwa Community, which to date has provided important services to more than 15,000 women.