



OVERVIEW: UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO KENYA ELECTIONS 2017

Free, fair, credible and peaceful Kenyan elections in 2017 is one of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi's highest foreign policy priorities. To that end, the U.S. Government has established the following programs to support the government and people of Kenya in realizing this goal.

USAID KENYA ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (KEAP)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: MAY 2016 – FEBRUARY 2018

FUNDING: \$18.68 MILLION

USAID KEAP supports Kenyan efforts to strengthen the credibility of electoral processes and encourage peaceful, inclusive political participation during the 2017 General Elections. Implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), KEAP addresses the most pressing vulnerabilities of the electoral system in Kenya during the full electoral process. KEAP has four programmatic objectives:

1. Strengthen key electoral institutions to implement legislative reforms, expand voter registration and voter education, and effectively administer the 2017 elections;
2. Enhance the participation of women and youth and traditionally marginalized groups as voters, competitive candidates for elected office and effective advocates for positive change;
3. Ensure transparency and accountability of political processes through domestic and international observation; and
4. Mitigate electoral conflict and violence through dialogue, consensus-building and strengthening conflict early-warning /early-response mechanisms.

Specifically, KEAP provides direct technical assistance and support to the International Boundaries and Electoral Commission (IEBC) to strengthen its internal governance systems and process, develop and draft election regulations, promote voter education and registration, and enhance the application of technology for election management.

STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA (SEPK)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: SEPTEMBER 2015 – DECEMBER 2018

FUNDING: \$3.8 MILLION

USAID is contributing to the UNDP-managed multi-donor fund to support the preparations for the 2017 elections. The goal of the project is to promote consolidated, strengthened and sustainable electoral institutions, systems and processes in Kenya. Project activities and results focus on four main areas:

- i) strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the electoral processes; ii) expand the participation of voters, parties and candidates in the electoral process with emphasis on women, youth and persons with disabilities; iii) support the administration of more efficient, transparent and peaceful elections; and iv) improve electoral justice and increase compliance with the electoral framework.

#NISHOWPOWER

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: MAY 2016 – AUGUST 2017

FUNDING: \$155,000

The United States is supporting #niShowPower, a non-partisan “Rock the Vote” effort, to harness the dynamism of Kenya's musical and artistic talent to encourage youth to register to vote and peacefully exercise their right to voice their political preferences in Kenya's 2017 elections.

KENYA ELECTION VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM (KEVP)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: SEPTEMBER 2016 – MARCH 2018

FUNDING: \$2.1 MILLION

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations Kenya Election Violence Prevention and Response Program (KEVP), implemented by Mercy Corps in partnership with local community based organization Champions of Peace-Kenya, aims to mitigate the risk of violence in the lead up to, during and immediately after the 2017 Kenyan elections. Program objectives include: building the capacity of grassroots and county level peacebuilders and peace structures; supporting dialogue and collaboration between communities, local administration, electoral institutions, youth, security services and other key actors; and facilitating electoral security planning and early warning early response mechanisms. The program is currently implemented in Kisumu, Nakuru, Nairobi, Uasin Gishu and Nandi counties, with the possibility of expanding to additional counties based on the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) risk assessments and the IEBC electoral risk mapping.

SUPPORTING THE KENYA CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: FEBRUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2018

FUNDING: \$900,000

USAID has funded the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to provide technical assistance and support to the Judiciary Committee on Election (JCE) to reinforce jurisprudence on election petitions, enhance institutional capacity and boost case management by judicial officers. This support has contributed to the efficient and effective dispensation of the more than 188 election petition cases arising from the 2013 election, and the development of the Judiciary's Strategic Plan for the 2017 election. Continued support for the 2017 election cycle will concentrate on fortifying the capacity of the judiciary to resolve electoral disputes.

INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS OBSERVATION MISSION TO KENYA'S AUGUST 8, 2017 ELECTION

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: APRIL 2017 - NOVEMBER 2017

FUNDING: \$1.43 MILLION

USAID is supporting the Carter Center to deploy a long-term comprehensive observation mission to assess the electoral and political processes surrounding the August 2017 elections. Technical experts and long-term observers will undertake an assessment of the political/electoral dynamics, legal framework and administrative aspects of the elections vis-à-vis international standards and Kenya's national legal framework for elections. A high-level leadership delegation and additional complement of short-term observers will join the mission during the immediate election period to assess voting, counting and transmission of results. A comprehensive report will be issued following the polls summarizing the mission's key findings and recommendations for improvements to Kenya's future electoral processes.

PROMOTING THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN KENYA

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: APRIL 2017- OCTOBER 2018

FUNDING: \$1 MILLION

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, in partnership with the Life & Peace Institute (LPI) and Handicap International (HI), is supporting Saferworld to implement a program to empower youth to facilitate dialogues in their communities, reach out to fellow youth, and capitalize on their skills and potential. The program partners will work with civil society organizations to strengthen peace at the local level as well as empower journalists and editors to undertake factual reporting around the election. The program is currently implemented in Homa Bay, Kisii and Nairobi counties.

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