



Youth practice advocacy skills to continually remind Kenya's leaders why the reforms outlined in the 2010 Constitution are so important. The USAID Civic Education program is part of a broader US Government effort to help Kenyans move beyond the violence of past elections and to become actively engaged in realizing the reforms in the historic 2010 Constitution.

KENYA

DEVOLUTION

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya is a turning point in country's history as it reconfigured balance of power by devolving power and responsibilities from the national government to 47 elected county governments. It also recalibrated the powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches.

The first five years (2013-2018) under the new devolved system of governance have witnessed progressive democratization and expansion of political space especially for the historically marginalized communities in Kenya. The 2nd election in 2017 brought 25 new Governors including three female Governors for the first time in country's history. Some counties have demonstrable unique strengths and resources that offer a potentially useful peer to peer learning and self-reliance.

Strategic Focus

USAID's Kenya Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) articulates Kenya's own Vision 2030, and hence fosters self-reliance per Clear Choice Framework. In Kenya, devolution is a clear choice, and given its primacy, USAID's strategic focus is to support effective implementation of devolution. The CDCS is premised on the theory of change that if devolution is implemented in the right earnest, it will transform Kenya's governance and accelerate socioeconomic development.

Strategy to Support Devolution

The Fourth Schedule of the constitution has devolved most of the basic services to county governments. Accordingly, USAID's assistance to devolution is cross-sectoral. Its main devolution program – AHADI is focused not only on governance reforms but also assist other devolved sectors such as health, Early Childhood Development, agriculture (including arid and semi-arid regions), trade development, water and sanitation; and resilience and environment.

Highlights

- Three new female Governors elected in 2017
- Institutions in place and functional – e.g. Council of Governors, Commission for Revenue Allocation, etc.
- Fiscal transfers from national to county governments under constitutionally mandated 'Equitable Share' consistently increasing (about KES 250 Billion, US\$ 2.5 Billion¹). However, a major portion of resources is spent on recurrent expenses such as salaries, etc.
- Corresponding increase in sector budgets: For example, county budget allocation to health as a % of total county budget increased to 26.5 percent across 26 USAID focus counties in 2017-18. Wajir County on its own allocated \$10 million for water during the drought season.
- The proximity and quality of devolved services, including health, agriculture, roads, etc., by county governments improving. The health workforce has increased significantly from about 46,000 in 2014 to 65,000 in 2018.
- Revolving fund for expanding health workforce in resource poor/high disease burden areas has grown from USD 1.1 - 9.8M, mostly GoK funded now.
- The proportion of counties' budget allocated to health also increased gradually from 23.4 percent in 2015 to 27 percent in 2018. This trend indicates continued commitment by counties in prioritizing health in aggregated budgets.
- Regional economic blocs are coming up to bolster local economic development and intercounty cooperation.

OUR WORK

In governance, USAID's AHADI program works at three interrelated levels. It supports creating enabling environment for devolution, including strengthening intergovernmental relations, public financial management, development of legislation and policies, etc. In counties, AHADI aims to harness leadership, knowledge and skills of county officials, improve counties' law making and oversight functions and promoting public participation in development planning. At the grass-roots, AHADI works with civil society to build its capacity of collective action and effective oversight of government functionaries and resources, and contribute in the planning, budgeting, delivery and monitoring of devolved services.

USAID's Investment and Key Achievements in Devolution

USAID has implemented about \$106 million in devolution since start of its country strategy. Its AHADI program alone is budgeted at \$49.4 million for the period 2014-2020. With this investment, briefly, more than 25,000 county and more than 5,000 national officials have been trained or mentored, about 80 critical regulations and policies (including model laws, ASAL Strategy, etc.) were developed and legislated, in addition to about 50 sector policies in livestock, water and sanitation, climate change and education sectors.

Deepening Devolution

Five years into devolution, Kenya is deepening constitutional reforms, consolidating accrued gains and tackling consequential effects of devolution such as corruption. In accordance with Kenya's priorities, USAID will continue to support anti-corruption efforts including through enhanced citizens' engagement in oversight, strengthen nascent regional economic blocs and support Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) in water, livestock sectors and climate vulnerability. USAID will continue to work with the Commission on Revenue Allocation on allocation of the Equalization Fund meant for the marginalized areas.

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Devolution and ASALs (MODA)
- Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC)
- Kenya Law Reform Commission
- Kenya School of Government
- Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training
- Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)

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