



# Kenya Elections and Political Processes Strengthening Program



USAID/Riccardo Gangale

*Franliska Cheburet is a member of the Baringo Women's Network, a group of civic educators that empowers citizens to hold their government accountable and ensure its equitable distribution of county resources.*

**Funding Level:**

US \$23.26 million

**Duration:**

April 2011 – April 2015

**Activity Goal:**

- Increasing civic understanding and helping Kenyans actively engage in devolution reform efforts
- Strengthen women's participation in electoral and political processes

**Activity Accomplishments (FY2014):**

- 5,692 Kenyans engaged with county officials on priority issues for women
- Representatives of 222 civil society organizations attended civic education activities
- 1,569 individuals increased their understanding of gender responsive budgeting
- Over 500 women political leaders trained on negotiation, advocacy, research, political party organization, media and effective training techniques
- 74 percent of youth who attended civic education activities indicated an increased understanding of devolution

**ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

The Kenya Election and Political Process Strengthening Program actively supports Kenyan efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and advance democratic reforms by working with key democracy and governance institutions and elected and nominated officials, and the county governments to enhance their ability to act as more responsive institutions in line with the 2010 Constitution.

The program provided training and technical assistance to Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, political parties, civil society and the media to help Kenyans conduct free, fair and peaceful elections during the 2013 general election.

Currently, the country is in the midst of transferring governance to 47 newly created counties. Citizen engagement is a key pillar of the devolution process. During this crucial transition period, the program is encouraging a culture of citizen engagement in the newly devolved structures of Kenya, especially among marginalized groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities.

**ACTIVITY AREAS**

The Kenya Election and Political Process Strengthening Program worked hand-in-hand with the International Boundaries and Electoral Commission to implement the progressive electoral reforms envisioned in the 2010 Kenya Constitution. This included election-related regulations, voter education, dispute resolution and the use of technology systems. The program also worked with political parties to recruit and promote women, youth, and other marginalized groups into the party decision-making processes and develop issue-based platforms and promote electoral accountability through domestic observation and empowers citizens through civic education.

Among other programmatic activities included Women's Leadership and Mentoring Training (LMT) program jointly implemented by NDI and the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA). The programs equipped approximately 3,000 women from across Kenya, at all levels with leadership, resource mobilization and campaign skills needed for elections, and took them through strategies of creating linkages/networks with key leaders within their political parties so as to boost their awareness of their parties' mechanisms.

The Gender Responsive Budgeting and Policy Making component implemented by IRI contributed in enhancing women's participation in

**Key Partners:**

Independent Boundaries and Electoral Commission, Registrar of Political Parties, Political Parties Disputes Tribunal, Kenya Law Reform Commission

A consortium of American non-governmental organizations - the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI)

**Activity Location:**

Nationwide

**USAID Contacts:**

John Smith-Sreen, Director  
Office of Democracy, Governance and Conflict

Tel: +254 (0)20 862 2000

E-mail: [jsmith-sreen@usaid.gov](mailto:jsmith-sreen@usaid.gov)

Zephaniah Aura, Activity Manager  
Office of Democracy, Governance and Conflict

Tel: +254 (0)20 862 2000

E-mail: [zaura@usaid.gov](mailto:zaura@usaid.gov)

**Kenya Election and Political Process Strengthening Program Contact:**

Michael Yard, Chief of Party, International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Tel: +254 (0) 716 867 605

Email: [myard@ifes.org](mailto:myard@ifes.org)

Dickson Omondi, Acting Chief of Party,  
National Democratic Institute

Tel: +254 20 387 7051

Email: [Domondi@ndi.org](mailto:Domondi@ndi.org)

John Tomaszewski, Chief of Party,  
International Republican Institute

Tel: +254 727 588 050

Email: [jtomaszewski@iri.org](mailto:jtomaszewski@iri.org)

devolved government structures. Women in the counties engaged elected leaders to improve the gender responsiveness of county budgeting, policymaking and oversight processes. Specifically, the program supported the participation of Kenyan women in the county-level budgeting processes and gender-sensitive policy development in some selected counties.

**ACTIVITY IMPACT**

Susan Lanet is a member of The National Alliance (TNA), a political



party in Kenya. She lives in Kajjido County, a rural part of the country with a large Maasai population along the border of Tanzania.

Susan participated in a political party training program, supported by USAID. The leadership training gave her the confidence to engage with the community and build a reputation across her

constituency, Kajjido South.

*Susan Lanet, ward representative in Kajjido County*

"The training gave me confidence which I did not have before. This confidence has enabled me to engage the community and train more than 200 groups on how to access Uwezo funds," she said.

The Uwezo Fund is a Government of Kenya lending mechanism for women and youth to spur business enterprise growth. It was launched in 2013 by Kenya's President Kenyatta. Applicants must attend a training program before applying for a loan, and the application must include a recommendation letter from authorities in Kenya such as political figures, chiefs, or church leaders. Susan has been able to help women through the steps to apply for and receive a government-backed business loan.

The TNA party recognized Susan's ability to engage women in her constituency, and appointed her as a member of the TNA's working committee to establish a women's caucus.

Susan applied for, and won, the position of ward administrator in her constituency. She attributes her success to the political party training and support.

"NDI has trained us on how to strategize and position ourselves. I work very well with all leaders, including elected ones, by putting my ego and pride aside," Susan said.