



Parliament Strengthening Program II

USAID/Kenya



Deputy Speaker of the Senate meets the Senate Minority Leader at the Senate Leadership Retreat. The Parliament Strengthening Program facilitated the retreat to mitigate tension between the National Assembly and Senate and encourage dialogue.

Funding Level:
US \$9.85 million

Duration:
April 2010 – March 2014

Activity Goals:

- Strengthen the Kenyan Parliament's capacity for lawmaking, oversight, and representation

Activity Accomplishments:

- Parliament passed a total of 55 pieces of legislation in 2013, 14 of which were considered transitional bills or bills required under the 2010 constitution
- Approximately 800 legislators and members of staff have participated in trainings and educational events
- Standing orders now guide how the Parliament operates in compliance with the new constitution, including processes that make the body more accountable and effective
- Committees have annual work plans and tracking tools to assist them with workflow
- Key reforms at the Speaker's Office, oversight committees, the Parliamentary Service Commission, and strengthening of Parliamentary Caucuses such as Kenya Women Parliamentary Caucus

Activity Location:
Nationwide

Key Partners:
Constitution Implementation Commission, Attorney

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Kenya Parliamentary Strengthening Program strengthens the Kenyan Parliament's capacity for lawmaking, oversight, and representation in a democratic, effective, and transparent manner.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Parliament Strengthening Program II provides technical assistance and legislative, legal and policy analysis while strengthening the Parliament's institutional capacity through collaborative planning, and implementation and support for the parliamentary service departments.

Activities fall into six main areas: support to committees; support to the Parliamentary Service Committee and Departments; support to the Office of the Speaker; support to selected caucuses such as the Kenya Women Parliamentary Caucus, the Inter-Party Reform Caucus the Caucus on the Fight Against Corruption, and the Constituency Development Fund Caucus; support for parliamentary engagement with civil society organizations through a small grants program; and support for Parliament's representational function and oversight of service delivery.

ACTIVITY IMPACT

Kenya's new Constitution endows Parliament with strong budget making powers. The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association's efforts are helping to ensure that Parliament has the instruments it needs to allocate budget resources in accordance with the new Constitution's vision for gender equity. The Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines is just one of four mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use that has been supported with U.S. Government assistance.

Kenya Women Parliamentary Association has developed Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines to assist Members of Parliament to analyze the potential impact of national budget allocations in ways that affect men and women's quality of life. The analysis of Kenya's 2012/13 budget identified the need to fund cancer screenings to prevent diseases severely affecting women's health. As a

General's Office, the Judiciary, Kenya Law Reform Commission, State University of New York , Center for International Development and the Kenya National Assembly

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result, Parliament allocated an additional \$3.5 million to the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to procure cancer-screening equipment.

