SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRATIC SPACE IN KENYA

Safeguarding Democratic Space in Kenya (SADES-K) aims to support government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen Kenya’s governance reform agenda and secure democratic gains enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. The project seeks to enhance Kenya’s national dialogue and governance architecture.

SADES-K has three main objectives: To strengthen social and ethnic cohesion; to protect civic and democratic space; and to conduct regular monitoring of the Building Bridges to Unity Initiative’s (BBI) national dialogue implementation process and outcomes, as well as facilitate data collection and tracking of citizen’s views through public opinion polling. Such monitoring is important to identify and provide feedback on the progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the national dialogue process. The findings will inform decisions on subsequent activities undertaken by the BBI, as well as to assist civil society in engaging with the government-led initiative.
OUR WORK

The SADES-K program is grounded in a locally-driven co-creation process with Kenyan stakeholders to further the national dialogue process under the Building Bridges to Unity Initiative, promote social and ethnic cohesion, protect civic and democratic space and monitor the national conversation’s implementation. The project is anchored around four fundamental design elements, namely, co-creation, local ownership, adaptive programming and sustainability.

SADES-K’s four Result Areas are:

1. Kenya’s Governance Architecture Revisited and Strengthened: the SADES-K project will provide a range of technical assistance, grant support, and rapid response funding for the BBI and local CSOs to advance national dialogue and governance reforms.

2. Social and Ethnic Cohesion Strengthened: the project will provide grants to support civil society initiatives to promote social and ethnic cohesion across Kenya.

3. Civic and Democratic Space Protected: the project will provide grants to support civil society initiatives to promote independent media, Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act implementation and protect civic space. SADES-K has allocated additional resources to build the capacity of local CSOs and media to ensure they efficiently deliver the projects supported by SADES-K, as well as prudently manage the resources allocated through the grants.

4. National Conversation and Implementation of Outcome Monitored for Accountability, Learning and Scale-up: the SADES-K project will support a monitoring and feedback mechanism for the BBI process. Specifically, this activity will seek to regularly demonstrate progress, or lack thereof, toward achieving BBI goals and intended outcomes. The findings of the monitoring and public opinion polling will be invaluable in informing decisions on subsequent BBI activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the program launch in mid-August 2018, the SADES-K program has:

- Conducted four regional consultations covering 45 of the 47 Counties in Kenya.

- Made significant progress in advancing the grants program for strengthening social and ethnic cohesion. Following a Request for Applications issued on November 2, 2018, four bidders conferences were held, attended by 274 participants (204 men and 70 women) representing 190 organizations from 37 counties.