



USAID
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GHANA

SUPPORTING FREE, FAIR & PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

As Ghana approaches the December 7, 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, USAID is providing more than \$6.7 million in non-partisan technical assistance to civil society groups, governmental and non-governmental institutions, and independent constitutional bodies including the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC), to increase electoral accountability and to facilitate free, fair, peaceful, and inclusive elections.

MOBILIZING CIVIL SOCIETY

USAID is mobilizing civil society through a \$2 million grant to the Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Activities include:

- Mobilizing a wide network of civil society groups to engage in pre-election observation, research, and voter and civic education;
- Completed a country-wide survey to assess the pre-election environment, which indicated a high level of civic engagement; 93% of eligible Ghanaians said they were registered to vote, compared with 76% before the 2012 election.
- Initiated voter education campaigns through training, radio, and social media throughout Ghana.

DEPLOYING ELECTION OBSERVERS

Through its support to CDD, USAID is working with the CDD's elections observation wing, the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), to support a robust election observation program.

- CODEO is training and will deploy 7,000 observers (4,000 supported by USAID) from more than 30 different civil society, religious, and academic institutions throughout the country;
- CODEO will undertake parallel vote tabulation using data gathered from 1,500 observers to effectively and independently verify official results.

SUPPORTING THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

USAID is providing \$2.37 million to help the EC manage a credible electoral process, including:

- Supporting the development and implementation of a communication strategy to promote increased transparency, and training more than 600 EC and National Commission on Civic Education staff on its implementation;
- Training 600 media practitioners on responsible election reporting and peace messaging;
- Training women and people with disabilities to enhance electoral participation;
- Launching a manual on electoral rules and procedures for candidates and party agents, and training 150,000 political party polling agents nationwide to improve the transparency and accountability of the electoral process on Election Day.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

USAID is partnering with the UNDP (\$1.2M), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (\$0.5M), and a number of civil society organizations (\$0.7M) to mitigate potential election-related conflicts.

- Training National and Regional Peace Council members on conflict resolution and peace promotion;
- Implementing a nationwide television, radio and social media campaign to promote peaceful and fair elections;
- Establishing early warning reporting mechanisms and launching national and regional early warning and response groups composed of influential community members to respond to potential threats of electoral violence before they escalate;
- Providing grants to civil society organizations to undertake anti-violence programs, promote peace through radio and TV, and to engage youth, women, and religious communities.