



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES PROGRAM (SP3)

JUNE 2017- JUNE 2022 | IMPLEMENTER: NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI)

The Strengthening Political Parties Program (SP3) is a five-year initiative to enhance the democratic efficacy of political parties to participate in Liberia's electoral and political processes.

Specific objectives include the following:

- Objective 1: Enhanced internal democracy and accountability of political parties
- Objective 2: Increased peaceful external engagement by political parties
- Objective 3: Increased accountability by political parties and elected officials to relevant constituencies and stakeholders

The program is conducted in three phases, aligned with the country's electoral calendar. In Phase 1, poll-watching, debate preparation, and other election-related interventions were conducted during the 2017 election and inauguration; In Phase 2, internal democracy, party strengthening, and policy development were conducted leading up to the 2020 senatorial election; and Phase 3 consists of party consolidation and long-term strategic development.

Current Activities:

- Increase political parties' ability to build competencies in party administration and political organization
- Increase number of parties that comply with the National Elections Commission campaign finance reporting requirements
- Enhance the capacity of women, youth, and people with disabilities who participate in SP3's Advanced Campaign Election School program through increased knowledge of how to organize/run a campaign and political organizing skills
- Increase women and youth skills to contribute to party development and party campaigns
- Build young political actors' competencies to develop and advocate for public policy proposals
- Advance electoral reform priorities
- Developing Party Modernization Plans
- Formation of Political Parties Youth League through meetings and retreats
- Establishing an Advanced Campaign Election School
- Visionary Young Women Leadership career day

Accomplishments to Date

- NDI trained 17 political party caucus members from three of the five most significant political parties, and 28 women from four parties on crisis management and communication skills to better communicate with citizens in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 44 young people developed research papers on education, unemployment, and drug abuse and addiction, which were summarized on a one-pager for each group and shared with stakeholders. Each group hosted a Facebook Live to encourage political parties to include the findings in their platforms ahead of the December 8 senatorial elections
- Supported the independent monitoring of 19 sittings in the House of Representatives and 13 sittings in the Senate, including the legislature's approval of a state of emergency in response to COVID-19
- Organized four briefings for up to 30 CSOs focusing on the legislature's response to COVID-19 and the government's financial allocations for health emergencies. One significant result is the petition from CSOs to the legislature to authorize them to audit and review all the loans available to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Supported the airing of nine editions of its hour-long radio talk show, the Voice of IREDD (Institute for Research and Democratic Development), highlighting legislative efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and amplify messages from health officials on citizens' responsibility to respect safety and health guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus
- Distributed 1,200 copies of a cartoon depicting the legislature's response to COVID-19 in large marketplaces, and parking stations, and with CSOs
- Debate preparation for parties' communication staff
- Party agent poll-watcher training for master trainers.
- New member orientation for the House of Representatives following the 2017 general elections

Planned Outcomes

- Parties develop and implement Party Modernization Plans
- Political parties and National Elections Commission jointly draft a handbook to assist parties in complying with NEC financial reporting requirements
- Women and youth increase leadership roles within political parties