







### **About IFES**

IFES advances democracy for a better future. We collaborate with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector to build resilient democracies that deliver for everyone. As a global leader in the promotion and protection of democracy, our technical assistance and applied research develops trusted electoral bodies capable of conducting credible elections; effective and accountable governing institutions; civic and political processes in which all people can safely and equally participate; and innovative ways in which technology and data can positively serve elections and democracy. Since 1987, IFES has worked in more than 145 countries, from developing to mature democracies. IFES is a global, nonpartisan organization based in Arlington, Virginia, USA, and registered as a nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] under the United States tax code.





Together we build resilient democracies that deliver for all.

#### **VISION**

Democracy for a better future.



#### **President's Letter:**

# A Stress Test for Democracy



This year is a historic one not just for elections, but in all likelihood for democracy. Voters will cast ballots in countries representing almost half the human population.

By one measure, this is a triumph for democracy and freedom: today there is a global consensus that political legitimacy comes from the people through the ballot box. At the same time, elections are also being used as a tool by dictators; a charade in authoritarian countries. The votes don't matter and the results are pre-determined—but the dictators feel obliged to create the pretense of democracy. "Elections" this year in countries such as Russia and Iran are actually another affirmation of democracy's victory over authoritarianism in the hearts and minds of people around the world.

And yet the critical elements of democracy—free and fair elections, opposition political parties, independent judiciary, free press, robust civil society—are under attack in democracies across the globe. In every region of the world, countries that had once been seen as democratic success stories have now become autocracies, robbing their people of their rights and freedoms. Even strong democracies are facing attacks and experiencing backsliding.

Why is this happening and how do we reverse this autocratizing trend? For many years, democracy assistance focused on building democratic infrastructure – parliaments, judiciaries, election commissions etc. – without adequate attention paid to the ability of democratic

governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. Institutions that were strong on paper were weak in practice.

Countering democratic backsliding requires a multi-faceted approach that draws on strategic perspectives tailored to each national context. Priorities include seeing democracy assistance not as a pillar of development assistance but rather as a necessary foundation on which the success of all other development assistance depends; having a long-term perspective with a focus on building resilience within democratic institutions and societies; and ensuring democratic governments are meeting the basic needs of their people.

This challenge is at the heart of IFES's mission: together we build resilient democracies that deliver for all.

This is the work we are advancing at IFES, and in these pages you will find examples of how we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Anthony Banbury
President and CEO

# Strategies for Resilience





In a time when threats to democracy proliferate, what gives us hope as democracy champions?

One reason for optimism in 2024: the historic number of people casting ballots. This simple fact is a testament to the enduring appeal of democracy.

But with threats to free societies proliferating faster than ever before, it is not enough to have faith in democracy. We need strategies to protect it.

For nearly forty years, IFES has set the standard for technical democracy support, contributing to democratic resilience in more than 140 countries worldwide.

The IFES strategy centers on supporting strong election institutions capable of facilitating credible elections. IFES also helps in the fight against political corruption, works to empower all people to participate safely and equally in their political process, and innovates to ensure that technology is a force for rather than against democracy.

This has proven to be an impactful formula. IFES has been successful in identifying the challenges facing democracy as they emerge, and with their local partners has taken action to meet them. Pairing strong global analysis with a hands-on approach enables IFES to deliver real results for democracy.

The IFES strategy offers a formula for building democratic resilience in the places where it is most urgent. The dedication, professionalism, and resolve of the IFES team worldwide illustrate how that strategy can be transformed into impact. This impact, which you will read about in these pages, gives us grounding in our hope that 2024 will be a turning point in the story of democracy's resurgence.

Sincerely,

Amb. William C. Eacho
Chair, IFES Board of Directors

Hon. M. Peter McPherson Co-chair, IFES Board of Directors

## **IFES Strategic Outcomes**



### Trusted Electoral Stakeholders Deliver Credible Elections

IFES elevates the trust and credibility of electoral officials and institutions. Election officials need to protect democratic norms and deliver elections that are technically sound, inclusive, safe, and secure. Electoral stakeholders must be responsive to and mitigate corruption, disinformation, and other threats to election integrity. Without credible elections, other democratic institutions and processes are called into question.



### **Effective Governing Institutions Are Accountable to the People They Serve**

IFES amplifies the efforts of public officials and civil society to promote good governance and rule of law. IFES empowers civic groups to fight corruption and the abuse of state resources, and to reform political finance systems. We also contribute to public transparency and accountability mechanisms and global and regional peer networks of judges and election commissioners. IFES innovates approaches to preserving electoral integrity, security, and rule of law in conflict situations.



#### All People Safely Participate in Civic and Political Life on an Equal Basis

When all groups of society are represented, democracy thrives. Throughout its work, IFES promotes an informed and empowered citizenry by mainstreaming an intersectional approach to traditionally underrepresented groups and promoting peaceful participation through conflict mediation and mitigation activities, while developing culturally tailored civic education and leadership programs.





#### **Technology, Information and Data Positively Serve Elections and Democracy**

IFES develops technology and information integrity solutions for civic engagement and electoral management. We work with electoral stakeholders to counter hate speech and use social media to promote tolerance, accessibility, and inclusivity. Our research focuses on the evolving relationship between elections and technology and developing cybersecurity and disinformation toolkits. Our growing networks connect government, civil society, and private sector actors to adapt technology to advance not degrade—democracy and elections.

# by the Numbers

34 countries with IFES



**78** countries with IFES programming



**58** projects worldwide



regional programs





## • • • • • **()** • **()**

# **IFES**by the Numbers



#### 2.8 million

people reached through civic education initiatives



20,500

election officials



107

judges and judicial staff trained



#### 50.8 million

people reached through voter education initiatives

### **Key Elections** in 2023

 $\bigcirc$  population  $\bigcirc$  average turnout

In 2023, over 500 million people around the world voted in elections.

Free and fair elections are the bedrock of democracy. Threats to elections come from all angles—barriers to universal suffrage, insufficient government transparency and

accountability, vulnerable technology puts building resilient democracies to the forefront of our mission. This year's elections shined as a bright example of how IFES's local partners cover all facets of creating inclusive and resilient democracies for all.



### **Key Elections** in 2024

2024 is a historical, massive year for global democracy. 72 countries will hold 97 elections for executive and legislative officials, representing nearly 4 billion people. This unprecedented year offers cause for celebration—the most fundamental right for citizens in a

democracy is to vote—but it also comes at a time when democracy is under mounting pressure.

IFES is supporting institutions and civil society groups in 20 of those countries in preparation for this monumental year.

#### **FEBRUARY 4 El Salvador**

- Q 6.3 million
- ♦ 51% average turnout

#### **FEBRUARY 14**

#### Indonesia

- Q 273 million
- **♦** 75% average turnout

#### **MAY 29**

#### South Africa

- Q 57.5 million
- turnout

#### JUNE 2

#### Mexico

- Q 126.7 million
- **♦** 54% average turnout

#### **OCTOBER 31**

#### **Tunisia**

- Q 12.3 million
- ♦ 60% average turnout

#### **NOVEMBER 5**

#### **United States**

- Q 329 million
- turnout



























#### **FEBRUARY 8**

#### **Pakistan**

- Q 231 million
- turnout

#### **APRIL AND MAY**

#### India

- Q 1.4 billion
- ♦ 60% average turnout

#### **MAY 8**

#### North Macedonia

- 2.1 million
- turnout

#### **JUNE 6**

#### European Union

- Q 448 million
- turnout

#### **OCTOBER 31**

#### Georgia

- Q 3.7 million
- **♦** 54% average turnout

#### **NOVEMBER 30**

#### Moldova

- Q 4 million
- turnout







## **Supporting More Secure Elections in Ecuador**

Just 10 days before Ecuador's general elections, candidate Fernando Villavicencio was assassinated, sending shock waves through the country. But that didn't stop people from voting. Over 11 million people voted, electing the country's youngest president ever.

The day after the election, Gabriela Ortiz went to work at the National Electoral Council (CNE), shocked to not see any protesters. "There were people protesting outside every single day before the election, waiting for the system to fail," she said. "There's a way to decrease all the pressure before the election, and it wasn't easy, but having all the support and citizen participation, it helps a lot."

Ecuador is very vulnerable to malware and cyberattacks. To ensure a secure and credible election, IFES and the CNE identified and addressed critical cybersecurity vulnerabilities to prepare for the 2023 elections. This included updates to the digital interface for electronic voting, direct contracted personnel support for the electronic voting system, and an in-depth assessment of the CNE's systems after the August elections for the runoff elections in October.

[In 2021] everyone was thinking that the system is not trustable, it's always turning off, something always happens," Ortiz said. "This election, you can see all the changes and the learned lessons."



**82**%

turnout in final round of presidential election



21 million

total votes casted in presidential election



137 members

of the National
Assembly elected





## Blazing the Way for more Inclusive Elections in Guyana

At 6 a.m. on the day of the 2023 local elections in Guyana, Holly observed election workers opening what would be the first of over a dozen polling stations she would go to throughout the day.

This was the first election day that Holly stayed out from open to close to observe elections as part of Guyana's first-ever election access observation, supported by USAID through the Youth Advocacy, Linkages, and Leadership in Elections and Society (Youth ALLIES) program. In 2019, Holly became a wheelchair user, and in 2020, when she went to vote, she couldn't cast her ballot independently.

I had to get assistance for people to help me vote, the path was broken, and the staff didn't know how to help a person with limited mobility," Holly said.

Holly's experience is like thousands of other persons with disabilities in Guyana. Ganesh Singh, the head of the Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (GCOPD), said the reason why he organized an election observation mission to assess accessibility is rooted in barriers that have become normalized.

The mission, led in partnership by GCOPD and IFES, deployed 42 observers to more than 560 polling stations. They found that 55 percent of polling stations and 80 percent of registration sites had stairs, with only 12.3 percent and 28 percent, respectively, equipped with ramps. Only about half of polling stations had obstacle-free paths to the voting booths. People who are blind are not able to vote independently since there were no tactile guides or other assistive devices.

The information we gathered here will help us reinforce our argument that the process doesn't promote independent voting because if you've got to depend on someone, that's not secret, and it's a violation of the rights of people with disabilities," Ganesh said.







**2,440** unique visitors



**13,758** page visits

## Using Technology for more Transparency in Nigeria

In Nigeria, voters headed to the polls in what was considered one of the year's most important elections, casting ballots in February to elect a new president and vice president and members of the National Assembly. This election followed a significant growth in Nigeria's voting population, making it one of the biggest democracies in the world.

The electoral process rarely ends on Election Day. The judiciary plays a pivotal role in verifying election results and resolving disputes, but this process is not well understood by the public. In the five general elections between 2003 to 2019, over 4,000 electoral petitions were filed. Given the impact of judicial decisions on election outcomes, IFES supported



56,197

page hits from over 25 countries

Kimpact Youth Development Initiative (KDI) in developing a live public dashboard to monitor election petition tribunals (EPTs), the judicial benches established to adjudicate electoral complaints.

The idea for the public to have easy access to this information came from one of the public perception surveys conducted by KDI: 45.3% of the respondents "disclosed that judgement and explanation about the EPT are expressed in a way not comprehensible to the public" and 40% of the respondents who did not know the function of the EPT indicated a lack of understanding of legal terminology.

to me in doing comparative analysis and discussions on elections," one researcher said. "It has been helpful in reaching conclusions on the level of acceptance of the outcome of successive general elections in Nigeria."

## **Building Support for Election Reform in Ukraine**





Before Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine was on the verge of advancing historic electoral reforms. Long fought for, these reforms aimed to bolster free and fair elections. The war has halted these efforts and created new vulnerabilities for future elections. Since the beginning of the war, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to strengthening Ukrainian democracy so it can emerge resilient when it wins not only the war, but peace.

Acknowledging that holding elections during the war of this intensity is improbable, IFES and its national partners recognize that by prioritizing electoral reform now, Ukraine can lay the groundwork for a postwar era that renews its commitment to democratic values.

The stakes could not be higher for getting postwar elections right in Ukraine," IFES Ukraine senior country director Peter Erben and deputy

country director Gio Kobakhidze write for the Atlantic Council. "A failed election can jeopardize all other areas of reform, from combating corruption to advancing the rule of law and beyond."

To strengthen the call for resuming electoral reform. IFES Ukraine and Civil Network OPORA developed a Joint Roadmap for Electoral Reform in Ukraine to guide legislators and election management bodies on how to steer the process of electoral law reform in the right direction while considering the urgent priorities stemming from reality of war and other more long-term electoral reform priorities, some of which have already been highlighted in the recommendations of international election observers. This roadmap is key to addressing electoral challenges and safeguarding the political rights of all voters and candidates in postwar Ukraine.





## Campers Learn About Democracy

Meaningful civic engagement goes far beyond the ballot box. In 1999, participants eager to learn about principles of democracy and civil rights gathered in Kyrgyzstan for IFES's first-ever Democracy Camp. Since then, the program has been held 46 times in the country, and a total of 80 across the world, including in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, the Maldives, and Tunisia.

#### **Tunisia**

Jasser enrolled in the Democracy Camps in Tunisia with enthusiasm to meet new friends and learn about democracy in action, but what he will remember the most—and is sticking with him—is his newfound, creative talents.

Slam poetry, a form of performance poetry, never caught Jasser's attention before the camp. But when he was exploring new ways to express himself through writing, his slam poetry captured the audience of his peers and mentors, who encouraged him to follow his newly discovered passion.

In Tunisia, this type of poetry has gained momentum in the democratization efforts of young people.

Since the camp, Jasser created a dedicated social media page where he regularly shares his poems and other creations, providing a platform for his unique voice to resonate with a wider audience.

These are things that I only heard of and never practiced or tried them,"

Jasser said. "I found my passion, which I am currently developing and improving."

#### Kyrgyzstan

When Ainazik Irisbekova went home to the Jalal-Abad region after she participated in the Democracy Camp in Kyrgyzstan, she became a beacon of inspiration for many others intrigued by democracy.

Fueled by newfound passion and knowledge from the theoretical sessions at the camp, she organized her school elections. Typically a non-transparent process, her leadership marked a shift to a fair and rule-abiding electoral process, garnering support from the school administration.

Under her leadership, the school parliament established a Cabinet of Ministers, in which she served as the Minister of Education.

She's now charting her own academic path toward international relations and is laying down the foundation for others who did not participate in the Democracy Camps by initiating a training program about electoral and political participation for young students.













# Fostering Constructive Civic Engagement in Bangladesh

When Nusrat attended her first Students
Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
Youth meeting at the University of
Dhaka, she wasn't expecting to be fully
accepted by her peers. Wearing a niqab,
a veil that fully covers her face, she often
receives demeaning comments and harsh
judgements.

But to her surprise, what she found was a diverse group of students, men and women, some of whom were unveiled while others wore hijabs or niqabs.

I was not someone different," Nusrat said. "There were so many people who were different and if they can accept diversity, they can accept me."

Tahmina, a student who took off her hijab when she began university, is usually prepared for people to make comments about her disloyalty to her religion and immodesty. When she attended her first meeting, she immediately noticed the president looked like her, not veiled.

I got a chance to give a presentation to 500 people and when I removed my hijab, I still got a chance to talk in front of 500 people," Tahmina said. "Nothing changed due to my appearance."

Tahmina and Nusrat quickly became friends with each other and the rest of their SAVE peers. Engaging in constructive dialogue about conflict and violence, they developed and implemented projects to promote peace and mindful conversations.

Whether you're a ruling party supporter, you are anti-ruling party supporter, you are conservative, you are liberal, it is okay," Nusrat said.







- 93 election commission officials.
- 59 members of the Deaf community, and
- 26 sign language interpreters trained

## **Expanding Accessibility** in Sri Lanka's Elections

Pubodha, a young woman who is a member of the Deaf community, didn't enjoy going to the polls to vote despite being excited to do her civic duty. When she went, she and her husband, who is also a member of the Deaf community, had to separate into two different lines. She brought her mother with her because there was nobody at the polls to communicate in sign language with her.

Most polling stations lack resources for members of the Deaf community.

Throughout the electoral process, people face challenges due to a lack of access to assistive technologies to understand electoral terms and reliable election-related information.



**300,000** members of the Deaf community

IFES partnered with the Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf and the Election Commission of Sri Lanka to teach election-related sign language to election officers, sign-language interpreters and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing across the country. The trainings covered electoral terms, basic conversations, and fundamental signs.

Some of these participants then became trainers of sign language, spreading the teachings into their communities across the country in preparation for the next elections, planned for 2024. This initiative, believed to be the first of its kind globally, will ensure inclusive elections and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities in the political and public sphere.

## 25 Years of Democracy Support in Indonesia

1998-2004

Following the resignation of Suharto in 1998 amid widespread economic crisis and student protests, IFES supported Indonesia's democratic transition. Emerging from over three decades of "New Order" authoritarian rule. Indonesia entered an era of reform characterized by democratic institution-building and decentralization. During this time, IFES supported electoral reforms in Indonesia, including the General Election Commission's (KPU) work on institutionalizing and hosting the first presidential debates. IFES also worked with local civil society ahead of the 2004 elections with partners such as PPUA Penca to create tactile ballots for low vision voters.

IFES worked to create greater transparency in political processes by establishing SWARA, the equivalent of C-SPAN. IFES and the KPU also worked to developing the KPU's website, which became a key source of information for the media and public alike.

**2005-2009** 

Following the 2004 elections, IFES and the KPU assessed the voter registry to identify weaknesses. This assessment was later confirmed by the National Commission on Human Rights who found 1 million voters were missing from the registry. This work demonstrated a clear need to improve the data systems to support future elections.

Ahead of the 2009 elections, IFES and the KPU found that the regulation for identifying valid marks for voting would have led to a high rate of invalid votes. This finding led to a timely change in procedure which may have saved millions of votes from being invalidated.



2010-2014

IFES provided tools and mentorship to local partners to support the KPU and contribute to a robust democratic environment – such as supporting local partner Perludem to establish Indonesia's first comprehensive public election information portal.

IFES also supported the KPU to integrate and computerize the country's voter registry by ensuring the participation of national experts, civil society organizations, and other electoral stakeholders. As a result, the KPU developed the world's largest centralized online voter registration system with over 190 million eligible voters.



In 2011 in partnership with three Indonesian organizations of persons with disabilities, IFES established the General Elections Network on Disability Access (AGENDA) network, which regionally pursues enhanced political and electoral access for persons with disabilities.

IFES and the KPU also conceptualized an initial electronic result system. The KPU then developed a system that publishes polling station result forms from over half a million polling stations nationwide. The online system makes it possible for the public to crowdsource election results and provide an independent validation of the official tally.

#### **2015-2019**

Ahead of the 2019 elections IFES and local partner Perludem supported Indonesian civil society to create the largest civic electoral reform coalition. With support from IFES and endorsement from 45 civil society organizations, the coalition submitted a revised draft General Elections Law to the national legislature for consideration, becoming the first civil society coalition in Indonesia to successfully submit an omnibus law. The law was passed in 2017, providing a workable legal framework for the first Indonesian simultaneous elections.

In 2017, IFES launched the She Leads women's leadership program in collaboration with research institution PUSKAPOL to address the limited participation of women in Indonesian election management bodies.

In 2018, IFES supported civil society organizations such as PUSAD and Mafindo to address new challenges to elections, namely election-related online hoaxes, incitement and hate speech. The national partners worked with the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu) and the KPU to better define, regulate, and address this issue in internal policies and programs.

#### **2020-2023**

To address information integrity and hate speech ahead of the 2024 elections, IFES and its civil society partners initiated a multistakeholder forum to discuss and address information environment challenges.

IFES continues working with young people with disabilities to serve as leaders, advocacy champions and role models for other youth in their communities – enabling youth with disabilities to collaborate with election bodies through community projects and an internship program.





## **Summit for Democracy**

During a time of rising authoritarianism, rapidly evolving technology and polarization, global democracy faces extraordinary challenges. But it is through the strength of our partnerships and networks that we can ensure democracies are resilient and can deliver for all people.

At the 2023 Summit for Democracy, which brought together leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector, we led and participated in conversations to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle the greatest threats to democracy.



### The only NGO to co-lead two cohorts

IFES co-led the Election Integrity cohort with the Government of Greece, the Government of India, and the Government of Mauritius. IFES focused discussions on technology, building the capacity of election management bodies, and advancing inclusion and accessibility in elections.

India will hold the world's largest election in 2024, readying itself against cyberattacks and threats to information integrity. After discussing the threats, IFES focused on the positive ways technology impacts elections and can serve as solutions to these issues.

IFES committed to developing election integrity guidelines for technology companies, launched at the third Summit for Democracy in South Korea in March 2024.

IFES also co-led a cohort on disability rights with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, promoting access to political participation and meaningful engagement and representation of people with disabilities.

Too often in the countries where we work, and also here in the U.S., disability rights are quite siloed, and in some places, it is treated as more of a health or charity-based issue," global inclusion adviser Virginia Atkinson said. "Disability rights are human rights, and we hope that message comes out loud and clear."

The cohort produced model commitments that states can make to promote disability rights.







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member countries

## **Networking for Justice**

With more than 1 billion people casting their votes in more than 100 elections across 70 countries in 2024, we are under no illusion that there will be significant challenges to free and fair elections. Hate speech, disinformation, illicit financial flows and conspiracy theories on social media platforms will become even more consequential to democracy.

Judges in Indonesia, Senegal, and the United States are already on the frontline to hear politically sensitive election cases to resolve pre-election disputes or to interpret election law provisions. This mega election year represents a significant litmus test for global democracy.

How do democracies withstand the storm? For one, by ensuring their independent judiciaries continue to be an effective means against attempts to undermine electoral processes and be resilient to any form of backsliding.

It is not enough for a judge to be free from any inappropriate relations, bias or influence, but must also appear so before a reasonable observer, otherwise trust in justice may be undermined," Judge George Bogdan Florescu of the Romania High Court of Cassation and Justice, said.

### **Spotlight on Justice Mata Tuatagaloa from Samoa**

Chief Justice Mata Tuatagaloa is the first woman judge in Samoa, appointed to the District Court in 2011 and to the Supreme Court in 2015. She's one of the few women in the Pacific region who have broken through the glass ceiling to achieve a judicial appointment. In February 2023, she gathered with other judges from the Pacific Islands in Auckland, New Zealand, as part of the Pacific Electoral Justice Network.

We [as judges] have very similar issues that we experience and similar approaches that we use. If there's any different approach by any country, it's good as a learning experience," she said. "It's another way to learn how to handle an electoral issue. There's also a wider perspective because of the experiences IFES has with other countries [outside of the region]. It gives us more knowledge and ideas of how to approach a new issue if it comes up in our jurisdictions."



Chief Justice Mata Tuatagaloa is pictured first from the left

### Global **Convenings**

Each year, IFES honors inspirational leaders with an unwavering commitment to building resilient and inclusive democracies. Judy Heumann, known as the mother of the

received the 2023 Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award, for her life and career she devoted to advancing the rights of people with disabilities in government, philanthropy, international development, culture, and business. Her husband, Jorge Pineda, accepted on her behalf.

disability rights movement, posthumously



- The work that I. as an advocate, and that my organization will continue to do will continue [Judy's] legacy and shine a bright light of Judy's legacy because if we don't, a lot of what she fought for will go by the wayside." Ganesh Singh
- With my team, I continue to fight for every person with a disability in Ukraine to be heard and be included and can fight for our rights—integral for Judy's disability revolution." Yuliia Sachuk
- When I met Judy, I realized that we are not alone in the movement. We have a global connection and support which we are providing all over the world, and that strength has given us more strength from the human rights perspective."
  - Abia Akram





#### Regional Europe Network for Empowering Women in Elections

Over the course of 2023, the Regional Europe Network for Empowering Women in Elections (RENEWE) held multiple convenings for women who work in electoral administration around Europe. The goal of the network is to promote women's empowerment through experience-sharing and strengthen women's leadership skills.

For the Central Election Commission in Armenia, a RENEWE workshop led to a successful draft policy for gender equality. In Kosovo, members of the election commission incorporated learned lessons into their 2023-2026 strategic plan. And in North Macedonia, the State Election Commission (SEC) adopted a new sexual harassment prevention policy, designed because of RENEWE's workshop/activities.



### Global Workshop on Indigenous Peoples in Elections

Indigenous Peoples encounter numerous barriers to their meaningful participation in elections, such as lack of information in their languages and difficult terrain. The Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Elections global workshop, held in September 2023, was the first of its kind to bring together election management bodies (EMBs), Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPOs), and civil society organizations from around the world to discuss pertinent issues and

themes regarding the political and electoral participation of Indigenous Peoples. For some EMBs, it was also the first time they met with IPOs, initiating fundamental relationship-building.

The workshop highlighted a draft research report by IFES and IPO partners from Guatemala, Kenya, and Nepal. It is hoped that a collaborative community of practice will form to enhance the engagement of Indigenous Peoples throughout all stages of the electoral cycle.

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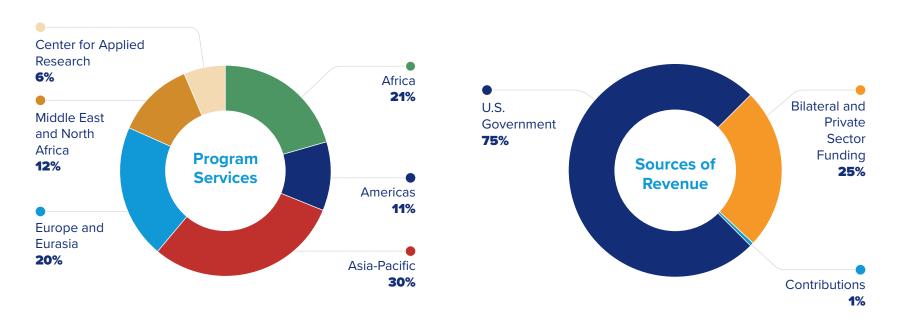
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#### **Revenue Change**



