

# Building Democracy



*Global Expertise.  
Local Solutions.  
Sustainable Democracy.*

**IFES envisions a world in which strong democratic institutions empower citizens to have a voice in the way they are governed.**

As the global leader in democracy promotion, we advance good governance and democratic rights by providing technical assistance to election officials; applying field-based research to improve the electoral cycle; and empowering the under-represented to participate in the political process.

We provide technical assistance to election officials and have an established track record of success with more than 1,500 democracy and governance experts. Our areas of expertise include pre-election assessment, election law development, voter registration, voter education, electoral integrity and technology in line with the international standards of electoral administration.

Through the Applied Research Center, IFES applies innovative field-based research to improve the electoral cycle, bridging theory and practice. Our thought leadership, field initiatives and surveys inform key stakeholders and donors on public attitudes, effectiveness of democracy assistance and potential areas of intervention.

IFES empowers the under-represented to participate in political life by promoting equal rights, justice and inclusion for women, youth, the disabled and ethnic minorities. We educate and encourage all individuals to add their voice to the democratic process as voters, candidates, election officials and civil society leaders.

**IFES believes a true democracy allows each citizen to fully participate in the political and democratic processes of their country.**



# Technical Assistance

IFES provides technical assistance to election officials. We have an established track record of success with more than 1,500 democracy and governance experts. Our areas of expertise include pre-election assessment, election law development, voter registration, voter education, electoral integrity and technology in line with the international standards of electoral administration.

As one of the five partners of the modular professional development program Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE), IFES routinely organizes BRIDGE training workshops across the globe. These sessions use a comprehensive curriculum on capacity-building for electoral administrators. IFES organized two BRIDGE training workshops in South Sudan during the post-independence period to support domestic decision making and build capacity to manage electoral processes moving forward.

Notable efforts in technical assistance also include a recent undertaking in Georgia to improve the accuracy of the voter list. The project began with a pilot initiative to improve Georgia's addressing system and grew into legislation that will improve and regulate the process of updating of voters' addresses.

IFES' technical expertise is further exemplified through the most recent publication of the 2nd edition of the Strategic Planning Guide for Effective Electoral Management. It details eight steps in developing a strategic plan and links to existing plans from countries around the world.

*“The great benefit in adopting this innovative tool is that, with time, this process will be absorbed and institutionalized, becoming the EMB's ordinary way of planning and operating.”*

— **Antonio Spinelli**

Author, IFES Chief of Party in Egypt



# Research

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IFES' F. Clinton White Applied Research Center for Democracy and Elections (ARC) applies innovative field-based research to improve the electoral cycle, bridging theory and practice. Our thought leadership, field initiatives and more than 100 public opinion research surveys inform key stakeholders and donors on public attitudes, effectiveness of democracy assistance and potential areas of intervention.

Our series of publications on technology in the electoral process focus on critical issues vital to understanding the role of technology in election administration. The technology series uses expert knowledge and case studies to provide recommendations on implementing new technologies in areas such as the electoral process for electronic voting and counting, voter registration and voter education.

IFES' Election Violence Education and Resolution (EVER) methodology offers insights into the systemic and structural characteristics that electoral agencies and other stakeholders should address for effective monitoring and mitigation of electoral conflict. The methodology uses a grassroots monitoring approach that identifies the conditions and causes of electoral violence, and recommends programs and practices to mitigate this type of violence.

IFES' public opinion research provides reliable data to guide programs of support for democracy development. IFES has conducted opinion research in more than 40 countries around the world and data from this research provides policymakers, development professionals, governmental institutions, and others with critical insights into the development process.



# Inclusion

IFES empowers the under-represented to participate in political life by promoting equal rights, justice and inclusion for women, youth, the disabled and ethnic minorities. We educate and encourage all individuals to add their voice to the democratic process.

The Status of Women in the Middle East and North Africa (SWMENA) project surveyed women and men in Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco on perceptions of political, civic and economic participation, and access to health care and independence. IFES trained women's advocates on ways to use this data to monitor the status of women, create advocacy campaigns and make policy recommendations. This project also produced a website ([www.SWMENA.org](http://www.SWMENA.org)) which allows the user to interact with collected data and perform various comparisons.

IFES' youth-focused activities span from debate clubs in Afghan universities to creating civic education curriculum in Georgia and Yemen, promoting voter awareness and education in Indonesia and holding democracy camps to inspire critical thinking in Kyrgyzstan.

Projects focused on persons with disabilities included some firsts for IFES; from helping the commission install wheelchair ramps in Guatemala City polling stations to organizing the first conference in Southeast Asia on the political rights of persons with disabilities. IFES was the recipient of InterAction's 2011 Disability Inclusion Award, honored by the Indonesia Disabled People's Association (PPCI) and received an award from the National Council for People with Disabilities (CONADI) in Guatemala.

*“IFES deserves great credit for increasing voter participation among people with disabilities in some 30 countries around the world. It has set a standard for all those in the sector, and well beyond.”*

— **Don Steinberg**

Deputy Administrator of the United States  
Agency for International Development



# IFES by the Numbers

Over the last quarter century, IFES has been involved in projects around the globe that support citizen's right to free and fair elections. Key accomplishments over the last decade include:

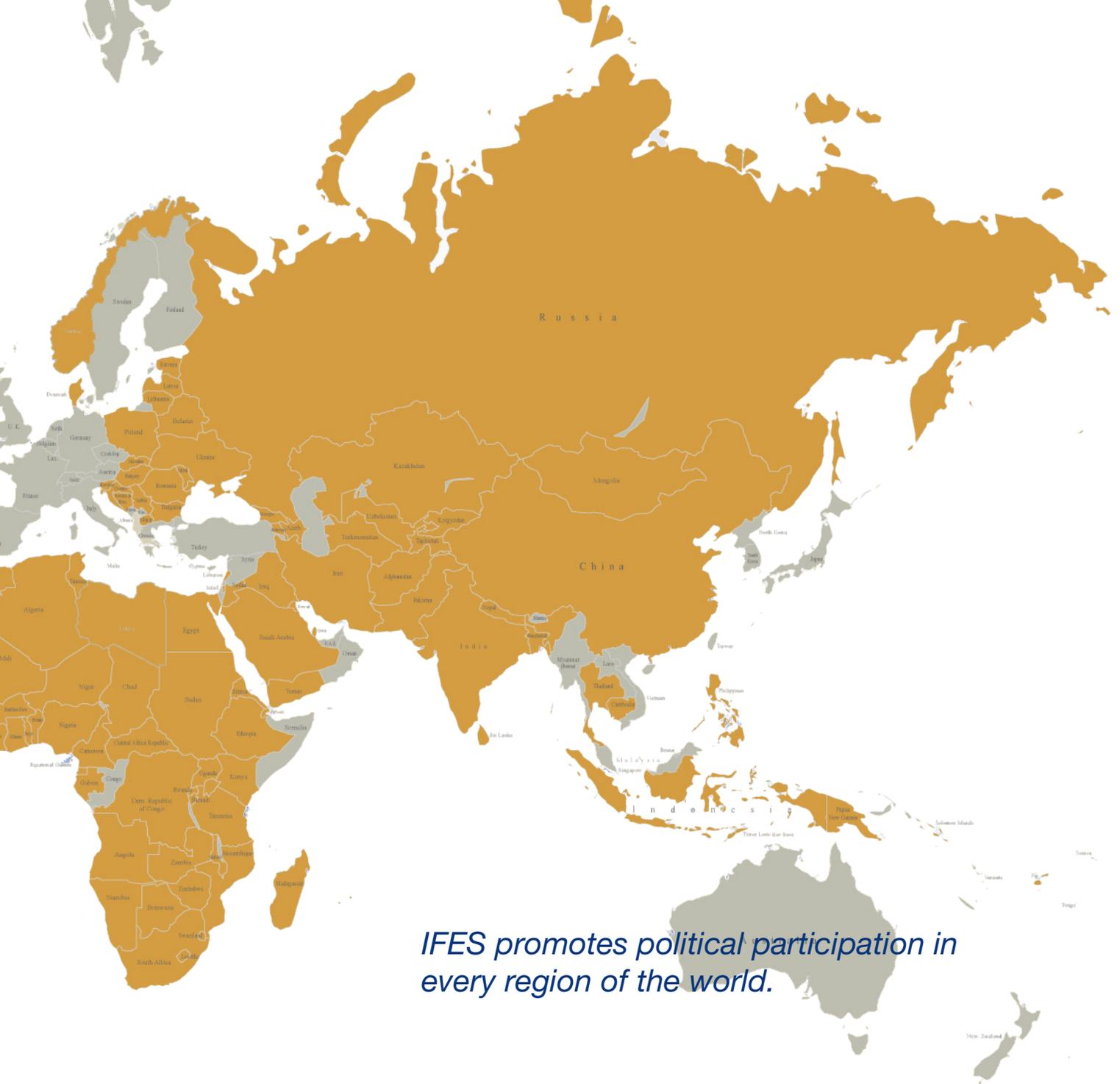
- 207 electoral and political process projects
  - 148 projects involving technical assistance and training of election commissions
  - 1.2 million poll worker trainings
  - 65 million voters reached through voter and civic education campaigns
  - 72 projects with a survey and/or focus group element to inform program design, implementation and evaluation, as well as electoral decision making and public participation strategies
- 485 publications created on election integrity; election dispute resolution; money and politics; election technologies; civil and voter registries; and strategic planning for electoral management bodies

*“IFES listened to what the Ghanaians wanted, designed a program which took Ghanaian concerns into account and executed it while maintaining a commitment to public education to ensure its acceptance. Democracy is indeed alive and well in Ghana, and IFES was critical in making it so.”*

— **Edward Brynn**

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana





*IFES promotes political participation in every region of the world.*

# About IFES

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) supports citizens' right to participate in free and fair elections. Our independent expertise strengthens electoral systems and builds local capacity to deliver sustainable solutions.

As the global leader in democracy promotion, we advance good governance and democratic rights by:

- Providing technical assistance to election officials
- Empowering the under-represented to participate in the political process
- Applying field-based research to improve the electoral cycle

Since 1987, IFES has worked in 135 countries – from developing democracies, to mature democracies.

For more information, visit [www.IFES.org](http://www.IFES.org).

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