

25 Years Supporting Democracy

IFES 2012 ANNUAL REPORT





Women in Côte d'Ivoire wait outside a polling station. IFES works with women-led civil society organizations in the West African nation to ensure gender mainstreaming in law, policy making and electoral and national reconciliation processes.
Cover: Egyptians hoist their nation's flag as they gather in Tahrir Square in January 2012 to commemorate the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, a movement that helped launch the Arab Spring.

About Us

Look inside IFES' work across the globe.

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 underrepresented to participate in the political process
- Applying field-based research to improve the electoral cycle

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

For more information, visit www.IFES.org.

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A voter in northeast India holds up a finger marked by indelible ink. The ink is intended to stem electoral fraud, by preventing voters from casting their ballots more than once.

Executive Message

Dear Friends:

The excitement and hope that marked the Arab Spring in 2011 gave way, in 2012, to the real difficulties that lie in building inclusive democracy and organizing free and fair elections. Nations faced the challenge of establishing institutions and mechanisms that, in some cases, citizens had never seen or experienced firsthand. Helping develop sustainable, local capacity to navigate these waters has marked IFES' quarter century of work in democracy promotion and will continue to shape our focus as we move into 2013. Election management; electoral integrity and transparency; citizen participation; and inclusion and empowerment – these are key elements of democracy and central to the IFES mission. A transparent, clear and open electoral process engages people by giving them a voice in the way they are governed and serves as a conduit to broader participation of citizens in their community and its economic and societal development.

Building the capacity of election management bodies to administer democratic elections and to sustain that ability into the future goes to the heart of what we do. In Nigeria, IFES worked to strengthen the skills and facilities of national and local election authorities, training officials and developing an in-house design center that will enable the commission to produce election materials. IFES' support for an ambitious voter registration program in Pakistan assisted local officials as they pursued their commitment to increasing the accuracy of voter lists and broadening the electorate. Strengthening the capacity of Guatemala's election management body involved deploying technology that would enable and support transparent and credible processes. These efforts in election management lay the foundation for free and fair elections.

Electoral integrity and transparency complement the efficient functioning of election management bodies, ensuring the legitimacy of elections and promoting public confidence in the process. The importance of these elements was particularly apparent in the nascent democracies of the Middle East and North Africa as they established critical structures and mechanisms. IFES worked to promote integrity and transparency across the region, hosting a political finance workshop to help nations confront the challenges that arise around money in politics. In Yemen, IFES' technical assistance supported the development of a security strategy to mitigate the threat of violence; while in Egypt, the focus on electoral integrity led to measures that increased ballot security. IFES' accomplishments in the field of electoral integrity help build coherent and transparent processes.

Credible elections are meaningful only as long as citizens participate in the process as informed voters. IFES' civic education efforts supported the development of engaged electorates across the globe. A series of live, televised debates organized in Georgia with IFES support drew citizens into the process as never before, giving them a clear look at the issues and candidates ahead of the 2012 polls. Programs in Papua New Guinea grew citizens' ability to participate not only as voters but also as advocates for themselves. In particular, we saw members of marginalized and disempowered groups successfully lobbying for greater representation and giving voice to the issues that matter to them. Our citizen participation work ensures the electoral process is understood and embraced by all, opening society to fuller engagement in their economic and societal development.

Over the last quarter century, IFES has worked in over 135 countries worldwide.

IFES' commitment to inclusion and empowerment reflects our belief that civic participation must extend to all sectors of the electorate – including those most likely to be left out of the process. In Southeast Asia, this has been the driving force behind the General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA), IFES' largest disability-inclusion project to date. The impact of the resulting dialogue, research and partnerships is being felt throughout the region. In Cambodia, IFES workshops empowered women by delivering key electoral information and leadership training. Many women went on to secure positions as poll workers and election officials, enabling them to participate in the effective administration of elections that are at the core of democracy's foundations. Including and empowering underrepresented and disenfranchised segments of the population increases their chances for a better future.

We celebrated two major milestones in 2012 – our 25th anniversary and the largest and best-attended U.S. Election Program in IFES history. The Democracy Awards Dinner offered the opportunity to look back on 25 years of success and celebrate the impact of individuals like Democracy Award winner Maimuna Mwidau, a remarkable advocate for gender equality in Kenya. In November, the

U.S. Election Program brought participants from across the globe to Washington, D.C. – over 400 from 70 countries at the peak of the program. The size of the 2012 program and the enthusiasm of the attendees were testaments to IFES' reach and reputation. Both events underscored yet again the value that has arisen from 25 years of partnership and supporting local stakeholders as they work to advance good governance and democratic rights in their own countries.

Even as the past year offered us the opportunity to look back at a quarter century of best practices and success stories, 2013 will demonstrate our continued commitment to looking forward. In the year ahead, IFES will field-test a new electoral integrity assessment, utilizing an innovative methodology based on our experience combating fraud in the electoral process. Our programs, research and partnerships with local leaders and advocates will continue to inform and direct us as we pursue our mission.

We look forward to your continued support.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter G. Kelly'.

Peter G. Kelly,
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Hybl'.

William J. Hybl,
Vice Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Sweeney Jr.'.

William R. Sweeney Jr.,
President and CEO

IFES Themes

In 2012, IFES adopted a set of four themes to mark 25 years of work in democracy promotion and guide future endeavors. These core elements of IFES' mission – election management; electoral integrity and transparency; citizen participation; and inclusion and empowerment – will continue to shape IFES' efforts globally.

Election Management

Election management encompasses work with election management bodies (EMBs) on all aspects of election administration across all phases of the electoral cycle. IFES provides support within this realm in a number of critical ways, such as drafting electoral laws and regulations; advising on voter registration initiatives and establishment of electoral boundaries; developing and managing election technology; procuring electoral equipment; training election officials and poll workers; and assisting with implementation of Election Day procedures.

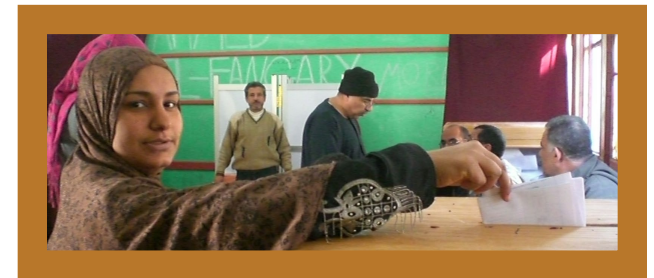


Electoral Integrity and Transparency

Legitimacy of an election – and, by extension, public confidence in democratic governance – largely depends on the actual and perceived integrity of the electoral process. If citizens believe the electoral process is less than free and fair, they may not accept the outcome. IFES programs increase integrity in electoral processes by developing, improving and enforcing political finance regulations; assisting nations in creating appropriate legal structures and effective election complaint adjudication systems; and strengthening the ability of EMBs to proactively combat electoral fraud through risk assessments and strategic, practical and operational fraud-control plans.

Citizen Participation

An informed citizenry is a crucial component of a healthy and resilient democracy. IFES engages in a variety of civic education activities to inform voters of their rights and responsibilities and empower them to have a voice in the way they are governed. IFES uses a variety of innovative methods to reach these groups in both rural and urban areas and raise understanding and awareness of voting; elections; government; the constitution and other legislation; and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

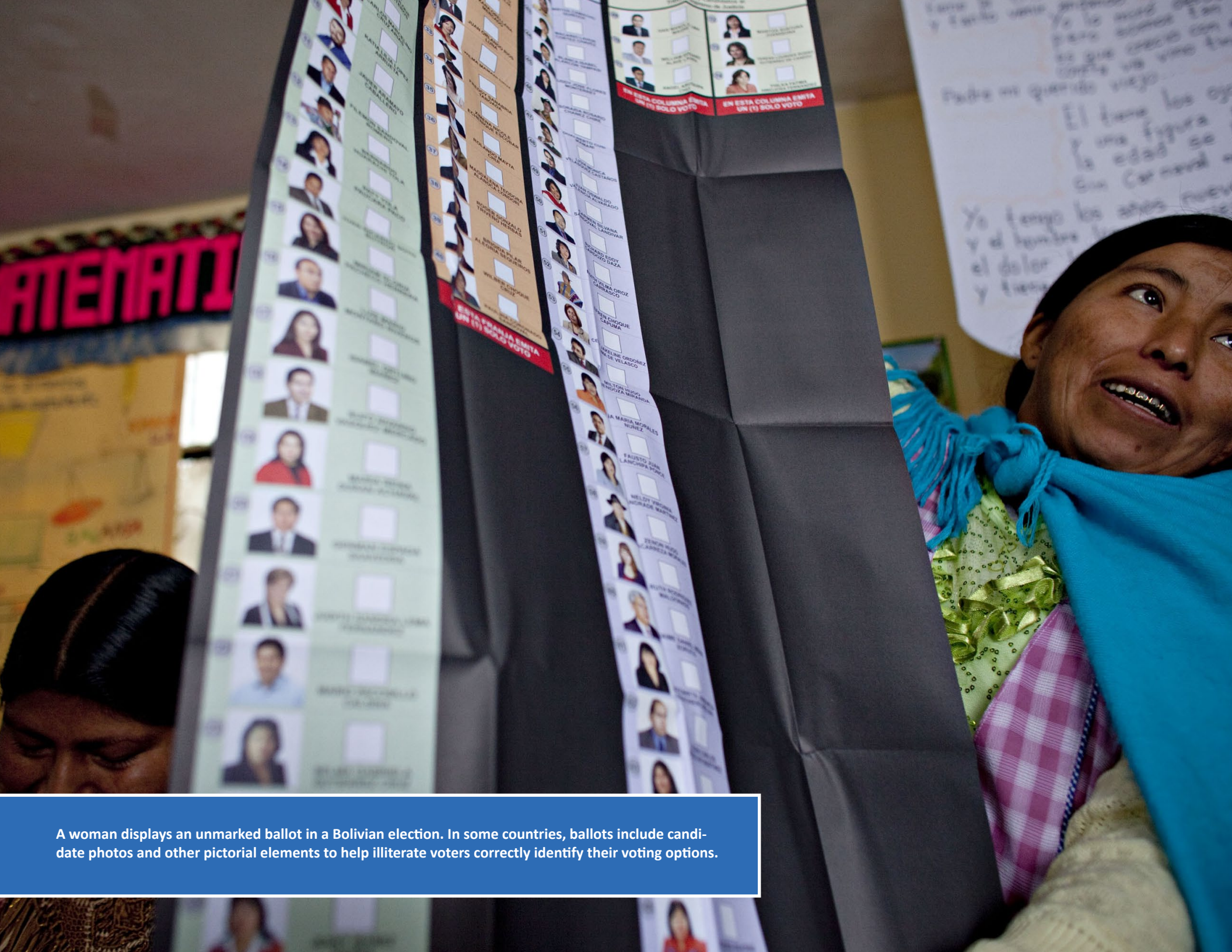


Inclusion and Empowerment

Democratic institutions flourish when all groups in society are represented. IFES initiatives around the world seek to increase the participation, influence and representation of traditionally underrepresented groups in political processes and governance structures. This includes cutting-edge programming focused on promoting full political and civic participation of women, persons with disabilities and youth as well as marginalized and underserved populations, including minorities, indigenous populations and the poor.

Youth participate in Democracy Camp activities in the Philippines. Through group discussions, simulations, games and other interactive exercises, Democracy Camps help middle and high school students develop tools to advocate for change in their societies.





A woman displays an unmarked ballot in a Bolivian election. In some countries, ballots include candidate photos and other pictorial elements to help illiterate voters correctly identify their voting options.



Election Management



Legal Framework

Over a year after South Sudan became an independent nation through the ballot, IFES continues to assist Africa's 54th country as it establishes an electoral law.

In early February 2012, a draft of the National Elections Bill was finalized and presented to South Sudan's National Legislative Assembly (SSNLA). IFES printed and submitted 400 copies of the bill to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for deliberation and subsequently organized a two-day workshop for SSNLA to facilitate debate on the bill.

IFES then shepherded the bill through a four-step review process at SSNLA; the National Elections Act (NEA) 2012 was enacted on July 6, 2012, and released publicly on July 31, 2012.

To help stakeholders in South Sudan design an effective, appropriate electoral framework, IFES presented examples of systems used around the world and offered guidance on the advantages and disadvantages of each. Additionally, IFES conducted consultative meetings with electoral stakeholders during the design process to ensure all perspectives were considered.

Beyond support in developing the electoral framework, IFES also advised on mechanisms for selecting members of the National Elections Commission and organizing the body. Various organizational models for electoral management bodies were analyzed, and IFES assessed policies for nominating electoral commissioners.

In June 2012, IFES began advising the National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) on its organizational structure, staffing terms of reference, review committee themes, rules of procedures and constitutional text framework.

IFES continues to provide critical technical and material assistance as South Sudan embraces the democratic processes necessary to elect leaders and establish laws to form a credible, effective electoral system.



Read more about South Sudan's Anniversary.



Learn more about South Sudan's electoral system.

Voter Registration



Pakistanis gather to verify their voter registration in October 2012 for National Voter's Day.

Efficient and credible voter registration processes are integral to managing free and fair elections. With Pakistan's highly anticipated 2013 general elections on the horizon, voters, electoral stakeholders, local organizations and political parties across the country gathered in October 2012 to celebrate the country's first annual National Voter's Day.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) established the day to emphasize the importance of electoral participation and encourage every eligible Pakistani to get a computerized national identity card (CNIC) and vote. By using the country's civil registry database, the ECP produced Pakistan's first fully electronic voter registration list, which will be used in the general elec-

tions scheduled in 2013. This registration database draws on the voters' CNIC numbers and biometric data from the civil registry, significantly reducing the possibility of duplicate registrations. IFES provided technical assistance to the ECP during the entire process.

IFES also supported the ECP in hosting over 120 events at the national, provincial and district levels across Pakistan to celebrate National Voter's Day. Banners, speeches and event materials guided registered voters on how to check their registration status via SMS, and event speakers urged all electoral stakeholders to help ensure the final electoral roll is made as up to date and accurate as possible.

"[Today] is Future Day – rather, Voter's Day – which reminds us of our responsibilities to start the future with change."

– Professor Waqar Ashraf, Director of Education, Federal Directorate of Education, Pakistan

Election Technology



Explore IFES' work in election technology here.

Before IFES supported the creation of an intranet system for the Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), the TSE was unable to automate its recruitment and hiring process for short-term and long-term electoral staff. Today, this automation is a reality for the election management body.

Lawmakers and election officials face growing pressure to embrace new technology, but finding suitable solutions often proves challenging. By employing forward-looking tools, IFES has become a leader in the use of technology that enhances the efficiency and transparency of election administration around the world.

In Guatemala, this technical assistance helped improve the accuracy and reliability of the voter registration lists. The use of new technologies has increased transparency of the electoral process. The new way of transmitting electoral results allowed the general public access to the results in real time as vote tallies were submitted from voting centers across the country.



With these advances, including the creation of an intranet portal, the electoral management body has been able to optimize its administrative and operations processes, which will help improve the oversight of elections. The TSE will also be able to mainstream the flow of information and communications not only within its headquarters in the capital, but across the organization nationwide.

In February 2012, the TSE and IFES released the audio version of the Electoral and Political Parties Law and the political campaign finance regulations. This undertaking addressed the need for accessible information for persons with visual impairments. The audio material promotes informed political participation among this population, as well as among Guatemalans with limited literacy skills.

Institutional Development



Learn about Nigeria's blooming democracy.

In past years, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Nigeria typically outsourced the design and production of ballots and other sensitive election materials to vendors. In a country where electoral fraud is a real concern, this created the potential for manipulation and limited INEC's control over the process. To address this challenge, IFES supported INEC in the creation of an in-house graphic design center.

Now, with the addition of the design center, complete with top-of-the-line graphic design software, professional-grade printers and a trained staff, INEC can design future ballots and other sensitive materials securely in-house.

Current IFES activities in Nigeria, such as support for the graphic design center, aim to develop the capacity and sustainability of INEC as an institution, and increase the ability of civil society to analyze, monitor and advocate against election violence. IFES' activities throughout 2012 helped strengthen both government and civil society institutions striving to build foundations for sustainable democracy.

Prior to the 2011 general elections, which were widely considered the most credible carried out by a civilian government in Nigeria, IFES worked closely with the commission to provide logistical and material support that contributed to this success. Since then, INEC has built on these gains, conducting several successful gubernatorial elections in 2012, and is currently preparing for the 2015 general elections.

IFES also extended support to Nigeria's State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs), which are responsible for organizing elections at the local government level in Nigeria. IFES has been implementing capacity-building initiatives for the SIECs, aimed specifically at enhancing the credibility of local elections in local government areas across the country.

A child in Bangladesh wears his country's flag as a headband during a mass demonstration. IFES programming seeks to engage youth and build their capacity to participate in the democratic process.





Integrity and Transparency

Fraud and Malpractice

Addressing electoral transparency and legitimacy through strengthening measures to mitigate electoral fraud is an important component of IFES' work.

For the 2011-12 People's Assembly and Shura Council elections in Egypt, IFES procured indelible ink used to mark voters' fingers in an effort to deter fraud and ensure credible elections. IFES also procured securable ballot boxes and uniquely numbered, auditable ballot box seals for the parliamentary and presidential elections. This measure served to improve the credibility of the electoral process by increasing ballot security.

Additionally, IFES developed and introduced informational leaflets for poll workers on the correct use of indelible ink and how to properly seal the ballot boxes. These guides contributed to more consistent sequencing of the various steps in the polling process and subsequently enhanced the integrity of the elections. IFES also partnered with the Supreme Presidential Election Commission to carry out procedural and administrative trainings for judges charged with supervising the elections. These trainings sought to standardize the way elections were administered at the various polling stations, including the use of ballot boxes and seals, as well as how to check in voters, ensure voter secrecy and handle ballots to ensure integrity of the process.

IFES has been at the forefront of the electoral framework reform dialogue in Egypt since 2005, working toward increased transparency and good governance in the country. Under current programming, IFES aids Egypt's electoral reform process and capacity-building efforts to enhance the transparency, integrity and effective management of the nation's electoral processes.



Read more about Egypt's presidential run-off elections.

Political Finance

In 2012, IFES and its regional partner, the Arab Region Parliamentarians Against Corruption (ARPAC), hosted the first-ever regional training workshop on political finance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The event exposed participants to core concepts of political finance and enabled them to share experiences and test their understanding of issues through group exercises. The group, which gathered in Beirut, included regional representatives of civil society organizations, as well as current and former members of parliament.

Challenges in political finance exist across the MENA region. These include the huge personal wealth of many political leaders, funding from foreign sources, the use of state resources to benefit incumbents, the charitable role of political benefactors, media ownership by political entities and the presence of banking secrecy legislation.

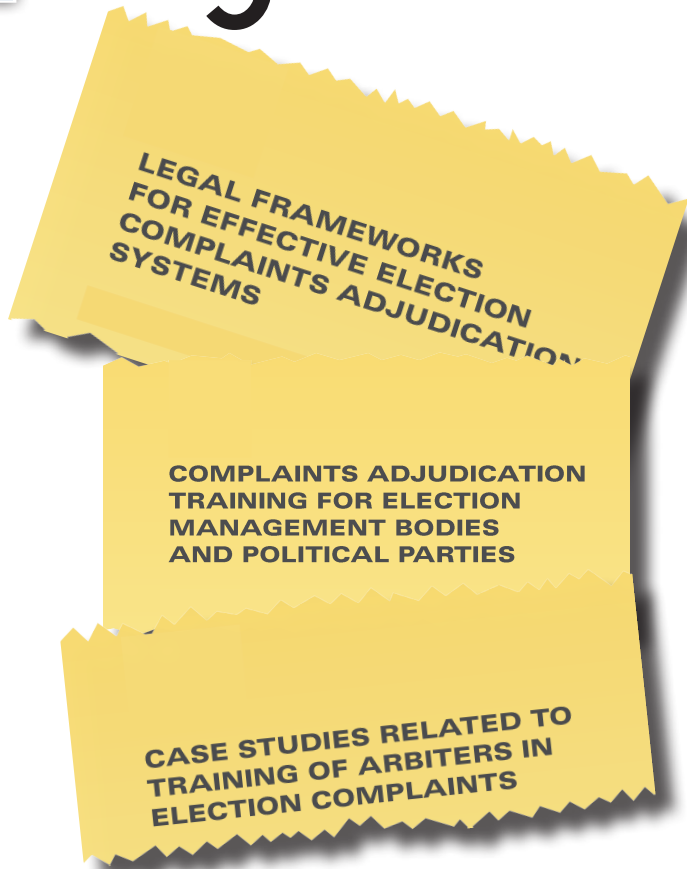
IFES' Enhancing Political Finance Transparency in the Arab Region project built awareness and capacity in political finance among stakeholders from eight countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen). In addition to activities like the regional workshop, IFES' efforts throughout 2012 enabled dialogue between parliamentarians and civil society on electoral fundraising and spending. IFES also worked with local stakeholders and experts to create country reports that capture the status of political finance and guidelines, enabling local organizations to better monitor political finance and take action when needed.

After the success of the regional training workshop, which began the discussion on many of these challenges, IFES and ARPAC held national-level gatherings in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia to continue the conversation between parliamentarians and local transparency organizations. Among the issues discussed were vote buying; weak regulations and enforcement mechanisms; and the abuse of state resources.



Audience members, including Noble Peace Prize winner and Yemeni activist Tawakul Karman (second from right), listen to a presentation on elections in Kuwait.

Dispute Resolution and Adjudication



IFES' publication *Guidelines for Understanding, Adjudicating and Resolving Disputes in Elections* (GUARDE) identifies seven standards that continue to serve as a foundation for election dispute resolution globally.

When Ukraine was debating changes to its parliamentary election law in 2011, IFES offered a number of recommendations to the Ministry of Justice for strengthening the country's election dispute resolution (EDR) systems.

Specifically, IFES recommended clarifying the division of jurisdiction over election disputes between courts and election commissions, and specifying who had a right to file a complaint as well as which electoral participants a complaint could be filed against. IFES also expressed concern about the timeline for filing and resolving certain matters, indicating that extending some deadlines would afford a more realistic chance of effective legal remedy. Several of these recommendations were reflected in the final law – including an extension of some deadlines and clarification on the rights of observers to file complaints.

Recognizing that EDR represented a potential weak point in the 2012 elections, IFES prioritized training on the complicated process of resolving electoral disputes. In partnership with the High Administrative Court, IFES designed an intensive training seminar to give judges the knowledge of election law and procedure needed to adjudicate cases quickly and effectively. IFES also worked to equip candidates with an understanding of how to effectively use the EDR system to redress violations. Participants were given materials and practical exercises on how to complete complaint forms and gather the evidence needed to support a complaint to an election commission or a lawsuit before the court.

As a result of improvements to the law and a significant training program emphasizing the intricacies of EDR in Ukraine, participants in the 2012 parliamentary elections were able to navigate this complicated framework, whether as claimants or judges. Nevertheless, the performance of EDR systems still proved less than ideal: Confusion over jurisdiction and overly restrictive formal requirements resulted in many cases being dismissed or simply ignored. In the post-election period, IFES is prioritizing the strengthening of provisions in the law related to election disputes, lest they continue to be a weak point in the legal framework for elections in Ukraine.

Explore GUARDE, the resource behind IFES' election dispute resolution and adjudication work.

Election Security



Listen to the experts discuss Yemen's democratic transition.

The risk of violence is present in nearly every election. It can inhibit voter turnout, limit political campaign movements and push candidates to drop out – all of which calls into question the credibility of an electoral process. This is particularly true of emerging democracies, including Yemen, as they navigate new processes and challenges.

Despite these potential pitfalls, however, a post-election survey conducted by IFES in Yemen indicated that nearly two-thirds of voters felt secure at their polling stations during the February 2012 presidential elections. Furthermore, only a small number of voters reported witnessing major problems at their polling centers, and just 15 percent of respondents thought better security measures needed to be in place. IFES' work in Yemen, ahead of the country's presidential elections, helped to deliver these promising results.

Over the last 25 years, IFES has developed context-specific electoral assistance strategies that enable election management bodies to better manage

the threat of electoral violence and deliver on their commitment to administer elections free of conflict or intimidation. IFES provided technical assistance to Yemen's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to develop and implement a nationwide election security strategy. Additionally, provision of critical equipment and identification materials enabled the SCER to improve the efficiency of its communications between headquarters and field offices, increasing the visibility and accountability of security personnel posted at polling stations.

While the overall success of the extensive security measures put in place during the election was promising, many instances of violence were reported, primarily concentrated in the southern port city of Aden. The lessons learned from these incidents will inform IFES' ongoing work with the SCER, security agencies and nongovernmental actors to identify, plan for and mitigate sources of conflict during future electoral events.



Women take to the streets in Nairobi, Kenya, to fight for representation in parliament. IFES 2012 Democracy Award recipient Maimuna Mwidau is pictured at center, in pink.





Voter in Maharashtra, India. IFES works to build skills of democratic citizenship around the world, and places special emphasis on encouraging full participation of all citizens, including traditionally underrepresented groups.



Citizen Participation

Civic Education



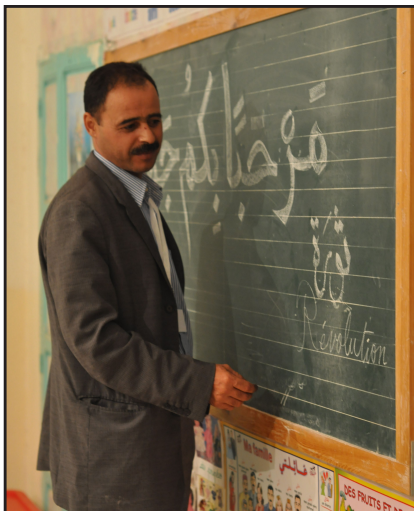
According to Tunisia's National Institute of Statistics, the country has an estimated 1.6 million illiterate citizens, 40 percent of whom are women living in rural or sparsely populated areas. The Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA) Department of Adult Learning reports that 18.6 percent of the voting-age population is illiterate. Since June 2012, IFES and the MSA have implemented a civic education project that targets these illiterate voters.

IFES and the MSA organized several workshops to train teachers in the Department of Adult Learning to incorporate voter education into their curriculum and develop an election module. The project has also supported the conceptualization, design, development and production of three tools that will be used by MSA teachers to teach the module and enable illiterate voters to access information about the electoral process.

In addition, IFES' civic education efforts in the North African nation included collaboration with Tunisia's electoral commission, *Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Élections* (ISIE). The ISIE faced a critical challenge leading up to National Constituent Assembly elections in late 2011: how to meet the public demand for information about voting.

IFES addressed this challenge by helping the ISIE create and print civic education materials, including 10,000 posters and 1 million flyers. These items illustrated the different steps citizens needed to take during the voting process and played a critical role in the ISIE's civic education efforts.

In IFES projects around the world, the education of the public is crucial to preserving the spirit of democracy and ensuring the success of self-government.



Read more about IFES' civic education support in Tunisia.

Voter Information

When four party list leaders running in Georgia's contested parliamentary elections and three nominees for prime minister stepped in front of their podiums for a series of live, televised debates in October 2012, they were all making history. Drawing on the success of Georgia's first-ever live mayoral debates in 2010, IFES once again teamed up with Georgian Public Broadcasting (GPB) to host two separate issue-based debates with Georgia's key political actors.

In accordance with Georgia's election code, three parties and one coalition were eligible and invited to participate: the United National Movement, Georgian Dream Coalition, Christian Democratic Party and Labor Party. IFES designed the debate format, consulted with political parties prior to the debates and worked with GPB's moderator and production crew on debate preparation.

IFES selected questions based on public input received through GPB's Facebook page and a designated e-mail address. Participants received questions 48 hours before the debates, which were broadcast live and streamed online.

The debates served as a key opportunity for the electorate to better understand the positions of candidates and parties on topics such as unemployment, taxation, foreign policy, territorial integrity and budgetary priorities.

According to IFES' preliminary focus group findings, Georgian voters across the political spectrum support regular, structured political debates in Georgia. This series of issue-based debates was a welcome change from the rhetoric, sharp polarization and personal attacks that have typically characterized Georgia's pre-election period.

Keeping voters informed of their rights, the rules that govern elections and the candidates and policies for which they are voting remains a focus for IFES in every region of the globe.



Televised debates in Georgia.

Learn about Georgia's historic televised debates.



Advocacy



Women participate in IFES-sponsored advocacy training programs.



In one of the most culturally diverse – and poorest – countries on the planet, women and other marginalized groups are seeing progress toward greater representation. With the help of IFES' national lobby training program and provincial lobby trainings in Papua New Guinea (PNG), 150 program participants have gained a greater understanding of the political process, lobbying and strategic planning.

After going through an IFES training program, a woman from a disabled persons organization lobbied her minister to push for the speedy ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following the provincial lobby workshop in Kwikila, a group of women organized themselves and formed a ward-level Council of Women.

These activities have been part of the Women Advocating for Voices in Government (WAVIG) project, which strengthens local efforts to improve the representation of women in government. A major milestone was the passage of the Equality and Participation Bill to establish reserved seats for women in national parliament in late 2011. Although the amendment required to implement the bill failed to pass in 2012, this did not deter women from running in record numbers. In all, 135 women contested the open seats, and three candidates were successfully elected.

IFES' impact in advocacy included a project to examine the role of money in politics ahead of the 2012 parliamentary elections. In March 2012, discussions with campaign finance stakeholders in PNG on the role of money in politics were held. A follow-up report was produced that focused on how the campaign finance laws functioned in practice. IFES campaign finance workshops and partnerships with local organizations have increased public awareness of political finance.

IFES local partner Caritas carried out campaign finance observation activities in pilot localities in Enga and Western Provinces during the June 2012 national elections. IFES' local partner produced a campaign finance monitoring report based on observations, interviews and a review of campaign advertisements in newspapers. Election stakeholders welcomed the report for its conclusions and recommendations. Dr. Alphonse Gelu, head of PNG's Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission – the body responsible for enforcing campaign finance laws – recognized IFES' local partner as the commission's civil society partner.

Watch women advocate for equality in Papua New Guinea.

Capacity Building



To support citizens' participation in the political and electoral processes in Guinea, IFES and local partners established seven regional civic and voter education centers that have reached more than 3.5 million citizens since opening in February 2012. At least 1.3 million of these people have been women.

In December 2012, IFES' civic and voter education center in Boké, Guinea, held an event on the negative consequences of violence against women and the importance of participating in upcoming legislative elections. Organized by local partners, the sessions introduced participants, including a group of local high school girls interested in women's rights, to the role of parliamentarians and the importance of voting in the upcoming legislative elections.

These sessions and others are meaningful examples of community development regularly undertaken by IFES.

Capacity building has always been a major element of IFES' two decades of work in the West African nation. IFES provides daily in-house technical assistance to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and its members throughout the country. Over 80 technical assistants have been trained and made available to help the central CENI and 33 prefectural electoral commissions, improving financial and administrative procedures and overall operations.

IFES' regional civic and voter education centers have also been instrumental in training prefect and subprefect staff and local security forces about key aspects of the electoral process, further strengthening local capacity to uphold democratic best practices.


The education centers have hosted over 700 activities since opening, including media roundtables, conferences, town hall meetings and outreach activities in military camps, schools and political party headquarters, as well as informational meetings with trade associations, disabled persons organizations and youth and women's groups.




Citizens participate in sessions at an IFES civic and voter education center.



Women review copies of Kenya's constitution. The new constitution envisions a much broader democratic process that increases representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented or marginalized groups.



Inclusion and Empowerment



Women's Empowerment



Cambodian women participate in a leadership exercise.



Sotheary Ly wants to be secretary of her polling station commission for the 2013 elections.

Find stories about overcoming gender discrimination around the globe.

Sotheary Ly, 25, is an administrative and finance officer at a Cambodian NGO, who believes it is important for women to be involved in elections. She wants to be a community leader and role model for other women, especially those who, like her, live with disabilities. But Ly did not always see herself this way. Participating in IFES' Women's Leadership Program helped her recognize the role she can play in her country.

In Cambodia, IFES helps women like Ly enhance their electoral knowledge and leadership skills to increase the representation of women in political life. In 2012, 280 women participated in the Women's Leadership Program, which increased the number of women in leadership positions in election administration in Cambodia: 173 participants became election officials, candidates and observers in the 2012 commune council elections.

Ly worked as an assistant during these elections, inking fingers, checking ballots and making sure the ballot box at her polling station was sealed. She credits the Women's Leadership Program with motivating her to seek a role in politics.

Provincial election commissions have stressed how valuable the Women's Leadership Program has been and the important role it is playing in increasing the number of women participating as electoral officials in Cambodia.

In January 2012, IFES conducted a national survey of voting-age adults in the country, which covered a number of topics including the participation of women. Although, Cambodian women lag behind men in a number of key development indicators and in political participation, survey findings showed that over six in 10 Cambodians strongly support women's involvement in political roles. Gaining insight into the Cambodian context and how women are viewed in society has been critical in the design and implementation of gender-inclusive programs.

In real terms, this means more women like Ly will bridge the gender gap, finding their place in politics, government and elections management. As a result of her IFES training and positive experience as a poll worker, she has set a goal of becoming secretary of the polling station commission in the 2013 elections. As IFES continues to focus on gender equality work, women and men will grow as true partners in the political process and in society.

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

IFES' commitment to disability-inclusive programs in every region of the world reflects the belief that a true democratic process sees each citizen, voter and candidate participate.

The approximately 90 million persons with disabilities living in Southeast Asia are underrepresented due to physical, informational, attitudinal and systemic barriers. The General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA), an IFES-led consortium spearheaded by our Indonesia office, aims to improve access in this region. The project brings together 11 local organizations from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand to conduct research and share best practices in inclusion.

AGENDA developed the first-ever checklist designed to monitor election accessibility for persons with disabilities. Organizations are able to use the monitoring reports produced using this tool to advocate for specific reforms that will make future elections more accessible.

In 2012, efforts to influence human rights mechanisms like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) have been a key aspect of AGENDA's work. AGENDA provided recommendations to AICHR that were endorsed by 65 civil society organizations from across the region and resulted in disability being listed as a protected status in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

In November 2012, AGENDA held the Second Regional Dialogue on Access to Elections for Persons with Disabilities. At this two-day event in Bali, information was shared on improving election access. New topics such as the unique barriers encountered by persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and the pursuit of political candidacy by persons with disabilities were discussed.



A member of AGENDA writes notes during an electoral observation in Indonesia.

“Major breakthroughs to promote the right of persons with disabilities to effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others are being achieved.”

– Rene V. Sarmiento, Election Commissioner, Commission on Elections, Philippines

Youth Engagement

At IFES, every project involves local partners, as credible elections cannot be implemented or sustained without insight from those who live and work in a community. Many of these partners are youth, who bring to the table not only local perspective, but also fresh ideas and energy.

The impact young people can have on the political process was apparent in the Dominican Republic during the May 2012 presidential election. Through IFES' current programming, youth with disabilities participated as facilitators in a grassroots awareness-raising campaign launched across the country.

Young people received training on the rights of persons with disabilities. In turn, they went back to their communities and conducted town hall-style meetings to empower persons with disabilities and their families to lay claim to their rights, encouraging them to actively participate in the electoral process. Further, through a joint effort with the Central Electoral Board (JCE), a group of young women with disabilities volunteered in the *Verificate* campaign launched by the JCE to encourage voters to verify their polling places and voter information prior to Election Day.

A group of young volunteers under the direction of IFES subgrantee *La Red Iberoamericana de Entidades de Personas con Discapacidad Física* observed polling stations on Election Day to ensure the rights of voters with disabilities were respected. In many cases, this was the first time these youth had participated in any election-related activity, and many of the young volunteers reported that they felt empowered by actively engaging in the process.

“I think to motivate young people to participate, you must be creative.”

– Maria del Carmen Guerrero German, Student,
Dominican Republic



A group of young volunteers observed polling stations on Election Day to ensure the rights of voters with disabilities were respected.

Participation of Vulnerable Groups

IFES has been working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 1998 and is currently implementing the Voter Opinion and Involvement through Civic Education (VOICE) project to improve the capacity of citizens to participate in decentralization and electoral processes. The project reaches underrepresented populations to encourage engagement with broader society, particularly in political participation. IFES initiatives include projects in voter registration, public awareness campaigns, capacity building for local organizations and efforts to motivate vulnerable and marginalized populations to be actively involved in their governance.

The VOICE project empowers indigenous populations from outlying regions to implement civic and voter education campaigns. Initiatives have included a contest that led to the production and broadcast of three popular songs promoting political participation; production of a multilingual comic book and media programming on decentralization; electoral caravans that built excitement prior to elections; and civic education outreach through nontraditional civic education actors, such as schoolteachers and community leaders.

Through 2012, IFES issued 330 grants to more than 200 local organizations to conduct civic education projects in some of the most remote regions of the country and with the most isolated populations. In 2013, the final year of VOICE, IFES will issue 81 additional grants focusing on decentralization and the upcoming local elections, including 10 small grants to local organizations focused on promoting the rights of marginalized Pygmy populations.



A voter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo reviews typical campaign posters. IFES' Voter Opinion and Involvement through Civic Education project uses nontraditional civic and voter education elements, such as songs, media programming and electoral caravans, to engage underrepresented, marginalized and illiterate citizens in the country.



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UDEMBO

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LEZ
 « SISI NUTE TU MU GASHYamba »
DESIRE KASHEMWA ZIRHAYANIBIRHI
 Candidate Député National de la ville de Bujumbura
 « Umuguzi Ayahe Shamba »

N° 79
 CANDIDAT DÉPUTÉ NATIONAL
 MUGOMBEZI WETU MU BURUNDI

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VOTEZ UDPS = VOTEZ UTILE
Etienne TSHISEKEDI WA MULUMBA
 "Le Candidat du Peuple"
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AJAIN N'AMBUKA Nyanjira
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AJAIN N'AMBUKA Nyanjira
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 EVITONS POUR LY

25 Years of IFES

Read Maimuna Mwidau's 2012 Democracy Awards Dinner remarks.

For the last quarter century, IFES has remained committed to promoting sustainable democracy around the globe. In celebration of this anniversary and the many milestones that have occurred along the way, IFES paid tribute throughout the year with special events, publications and multimedia.

Annual Democracy Awards Dinner

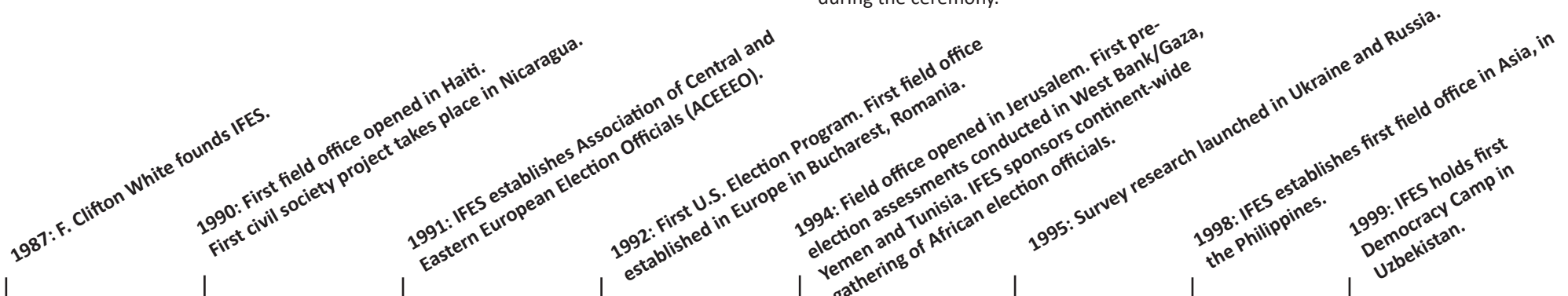
The annual Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards Dinner held special significance, taking place during IFES' anniversary month of September. Women's advocate Maimuna Mwidau of Kenya and Representatives David Dreier (R-Calif.) and Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) were honored for advancing democracy. Speakers at the event reflected on IFES' roots in democracy promotion and how democratic principles around the world have flourished over the past 25 years.

Mwidau's work to encourage active participation in the political process among women in her country demonstrates an unflinching commitment to ensuring Kenyan women's place at the table. The impact of Mwidau's efforts on the lives and prospects of her countrywomen underscores the extensive change that becomes possible when people are empowered to advocate on their own behalf in the democratic context.

Three Democracy Awards are presented yearly to a member of the international community, a Democrat and a Republican who demonstrate the dedication to democracy and human rights embodied by the award's namesake, former IFES Board of Directors Chairman Charles T. Manatt.



IFES 2012 Democracy Award recipients Maimuna Mwidau and David Dreier (R-Calif.) during the ceremony.



25th Anniversary Video

A video tribute to IFES' work, which premiered at the 2012 Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards Dinner, offered a glimpse of President Ronald Reagan's Westminster Speech on June 8, 1982. In that speech, Reagan underscored the importance of fostering democracy to safeguard human dignity. In keeping with this conviction, IFES was founded to help election management bodies conduct credible elections and empower citizens to be active participants in their countries' affairs.

The video also highlighted three stories that illustrated the impact IFES has had on the ground. This included a look at a civic education course in Georgia for which IFES helped develop the curriculum. Next, the video highlighted the Future Leaders Club of Afghanistan, telling the story of the young women who have built confidence through the IFES program and taken an active role in their communities. Finally, IFES' partnership in the Dominican Republic was showcased, demonstrating the impact IFES has made in improving access to the political process for persons with disabilities.



IFES' 25th anniversary video featured Sheela Shams' story of meeting other young women through IFES' Future Leaders Club in Afghanistan.



John Kerry's Letter

John McCain's Letter

Letters from Senators John Kerry and John McCain

Congratulations poured in throughout IFES' anniversary year. This included kind words from Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.).

In his letter, Kerry commended IFES' efforts in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. "The work of democracy is never done," he said. "Countless people have benefited from your work, and countless more will draw inspiration from your example."

Also applauding IFES' work in the Middle East and North Africa, McCain said, "IFES represents the highest aspirations of our common humanity and the best qualities of those who serve them. You have dedicated your talents and your time to the noblest of causes – that all people, both men and women, deserve to be free."

- 2002: IFES supports development of Africa's first tactile ballot guide for blind voters in Ghana.
- 2003: IFES trains over 140,000 poll workers for Afghanistan's historic 2004 elections.
- 2004: Women's Legal Rights Initiative launched in India and Electoral Violence, Education and Resolution (EVER) project established.
- 2005: IFES provides robust technical assistance prior to historic 2005 Iraq elections.
- 2006: ACE Electoral Knowledge Network launched.
- 2007: IFES hosts Global Electoral Organization Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2011: IFES responds to Arab Spring, mobilizing teams in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya.
- 2012: IFES' 25th anniversary; holds largest U.S. Election Program to date.

U.S. Election Program

The 2012 U.S. Election Program (USEP), held November 4-7, brought together election management officials, elected representatives, diplomats and members of the international development community from 70 countries to witness U.S. elections and learn about the electoral process in America.

The 11th and largest program since 1992, this year's USEP saw more than 200 professionals participate in the full four-day conference, and more than 400 from 70 countries attend a breakfast panel discussion and take part in a tour of Washington-area polling stations on Election Day.

The USEP kicked off with plenary sessions on the U.S. election system that explored relevant legislation, the Electoral College and voter registration. The following three days included discussions with experts on prominent electoral issues, including campaign finance, inclusion of persons with disabilities, the participation of women and the use of technology in elections and out-of-country voting.

Participants traveled to many D.C. landmarks during the conference, beginning Election Day at the National Press Club, visiting polling centers across the D.C./Md./Va. region, touring the broadcasting institution Voice of America, enjoying an election night reception at the House of Sweden, attending panel discussions in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building and closing out the program with a tour of the U.S. Capitol.

The event confirmed IFES' standing at the forefront of the election information sphere and facilitated a vibrant exchange among delegations from all corners of the world.

At the conclusion of the event, IFES President and CEO Bill Sweeney said the USEP had fulfilled its purpose – to expand understanding of electoral practices in the U.S. and, most importantly, foster meaningful connections among participants.



A USEP attendee experiences a polling place as a blind voter during a disabilities simulation.



Participants toured polling centers on Election Day to observe the U.S. process firsthand.

“[The USEP] was a well thought out, balanced mix that allowed us an in-depth insight of the whole process and made a complicated system easier to understand.”

– Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission, Bangladesh

“The acquired knowledge and experience will be useful for carrying out election administration in the Republic of Armenia during the upcoming presidential elections.”

– Tigran Mukuchyan, Chairman, Central Election Commission, Armenia

“I commend...the level of performance of your organization in promoting electoral democracy globally.”

– Professor Attahiru M. Jega, Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria

Events and Awards

IFES hosted 17 events covering a variety of topics, including elections in Mexico; using technology in electoral assistance; defining electoral fraud; and empowering women in Kenya.

Highlighting IFES' core competencies, these events also facilitated the unveiling of more than 50 new publications produced throughout the year.

Annual Photo Contest

IFES called on photographers around the globe to document democracy in action in what has become a much anticipated event on the IFES calendar. The annual photography contest profiled citizens taking part in various aspects of the electoral process, and winners were selected from two divisions: a public category and another open exclusively to current and former IFES employees.

The 2012 public category winner, titled "Green Revolution," depicts Trinamool Congress supporters in India dabbing their faces with green powder to celebrate their party's historic win in 2011.



2012 Baxter Award recipient Christian S. Monsod delivers his remarks.

Background photo: Trinamool Congress supporters in India dab their faces with green powder to celebrate their party's historic win in 2011.

Joe C. Baxter Award

The annual Joe C. Baxter Award was presented to Christian S. Monsod of the Philippines. The former chairman of the Philippine Commission on Elections, founder and honorary chairman of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections and pioneer of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections received the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., during IFES' U.S. Election Program.

Sarah Mendelson, deputy assistant administrator at the United States Agency for International Development, presented the award to Monsod following an introduction by IFES President and CEO Bill Sweeney.

Monsod asserted that free and fair elections are truly about social justice, calling the ballot the aspect of democracy "where everyone can be truly equal." He also provided insight into the reform process in the Philippines and what democracy means to the developing nation.

Dedication Ceremonies

With the passing of both former IFES Board of Directors Chairman Charles T. Manatt and longtime Board Director Leon J. Weil in 2011, IFES commemorated their contributions to the organization through two dedication ceremonies.

Friends and family of Charles T. Manatt gathered in June to dedicate a plaque and boardroom to preserve Manatt's legacy at IFES. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter also wrote a letter to commemorate the occasion.

In September, IFES' large conference room – now the Leon J. Weil Conference Room – was officially dedicated to the board director and World War II Navy veteran. Friends and family gathered to celebrate Weil's life, and a bronze plaque was unveiled in his honor.

[Read more about IFES' dedication ceremonies.](#)

Research

The F. Clifton White Applied Research Center (ARC) supports programming through innovative studies in democratic development. ARC's surveys, focus groups and other research methodologies provide practical information on the political landscape and citizens' views and experiences in democracies around the world. ARC supports the need for information and research through publications, searchable databases (Election Resource Center) and online portals (www.electionguide.org) that provide resources on electoral processes world-wide.

Public Opinion Research

In 2012, IFES again relied on ARC to gauge public opinion in countries where data can play a critical role in political and electoral development. IFES' 2012 surveys captured data on the effectiveness of voter education activities in the DRC and the views and experiences of voting-age adults, including traditionally marginalized voters, in Yemen. Findings from IFES' 20th public opinion survey in Ukraine offered a view of the country's political landscape ahead of parliamentary elections. Focus group discussions in Libya examined citizens' assessment of July 2012's legislative elections, and a first-of-its-kind survey on the status of women in the country gathered data and information that will equip and support women's organizations and women activists in their advocacy efforts. In Georgia, findings from focus groups were used to inform public service announcements encouraging the public to support female candidates. Study findings in Guatemala generated recommendations for improving election accessibility for voters with disabilities.

Money and Politics in the Middle East and North Africa

In 2012, IFES launched combined research and programming efforts on political finance in eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen and Tunisia).

An e-questionnaire and country reports are providing insight into the status of transparency in political finance; and going forward, research on the links between gender and political finance will be conducted in the MENA region. Working groups established in Lebanon and Tunisia will supplement these efforts.



Voters look for their names on the voter registry in Cambodia. In 2012, IFES conducted a survey of voting-age adults in Cambodia on registration and elections.

Election Security

Recognizing the need for further research and data collection on how women are impacted by election violence, IFES began a program to address the issue in September 2012. "Bridging the Gaps: A New Framework for Gender and Electoral Violence" will identify holes in current knowledge in this area; determine how these gaps affect women's participation in the electoral process; and develop a framework that reflects these gender differences.

In 2012, IFES also focused on cross-sector cooperation and conflict sensitivity in understanding and reducing violence around elections, publishing a white paper on the topic, *An Integrated Approach to Elections and Conflict*, and organizing a workshop panel at the 2012 InterAction Forum.

Discover IFES' latest research projects.

Fellowships



Geoffrey Macdonald presents on multiethnic political processes.



Askat Dukenbaev discusses voting in Kyrgyzstan.

Based at IFES' F. Clifton White Applied Research Center for Democracy and Elections, fellows conduct independent research, with IFES experts acting as mentors for six to eight weeks. In 2012, these fellows delved into new subject matter, exploring the connection between electoral systems and ethnic divides; youth in Azerbaijan; and Kyrgyzstanis' trust in their electoral system.

IFES' 2012 Hybl Fellow Geoffrey Macdonald, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Denver, examined how electoral system design and party rules incentivize ethnic groups to form political associations. His dissertation is based on field research conducted in Indonesia and South Africa. While in each country, he interviewed party officials, journalists and academics; examined survey data and election results; and analyzed campaign rhetoric.

Focusing on the conditions in which multiethnic political parties form and win elections in deeply divided societies, Macdonald examined the differing roles ethnicity plays in political processes across the globe and considered what institutional structures could best support the formation of consensual parties in deeply divided societies.

IFES' 2012 Humphrey Fellow Vugar Salamli is co-founder and executive director of OL! Azerbaijan, a social youth movement that fosters independent thinking and personal responsibility. He started the organization to spread democratic ideas and civic activism among young people in Azerbaijan.

For the last six years, Salamli has taken on projects that educate youth and adults on the importance of democracy, understanding rights and remaining active in Azerbaijani political life.

Askat Dukenbaev, IFES' 2012 Charles and Kathleen Manatt fellow, examined factors that influence citizens in Kyrgyzstan to vote. A native of the Central Asian republic and a Ph.D. candidate at Kent State University, he aimed to shed light on why turnout at the polls is high in his home country despite low levels of confidence in state institutions.

His research has shown that most Kyrgyzstanis consider the "right to choose" the most important reason for voting. Other findings demonstrate that individual voting turnout is positively linked to sociodemographic factors such as age, education, rural residence, employment and attitudes toward life.

Final research papers from all IFES fellows can be found at www.IFES.org.

Learn more about research fellowships.



Ukrainians gather to celebrate Unification Day in Lviv. IFES has conducted 20 public opinion surveys in Ukraine to explore the public's attitude toward democracy, rights and freedoms.



Finances FY 2011-2012

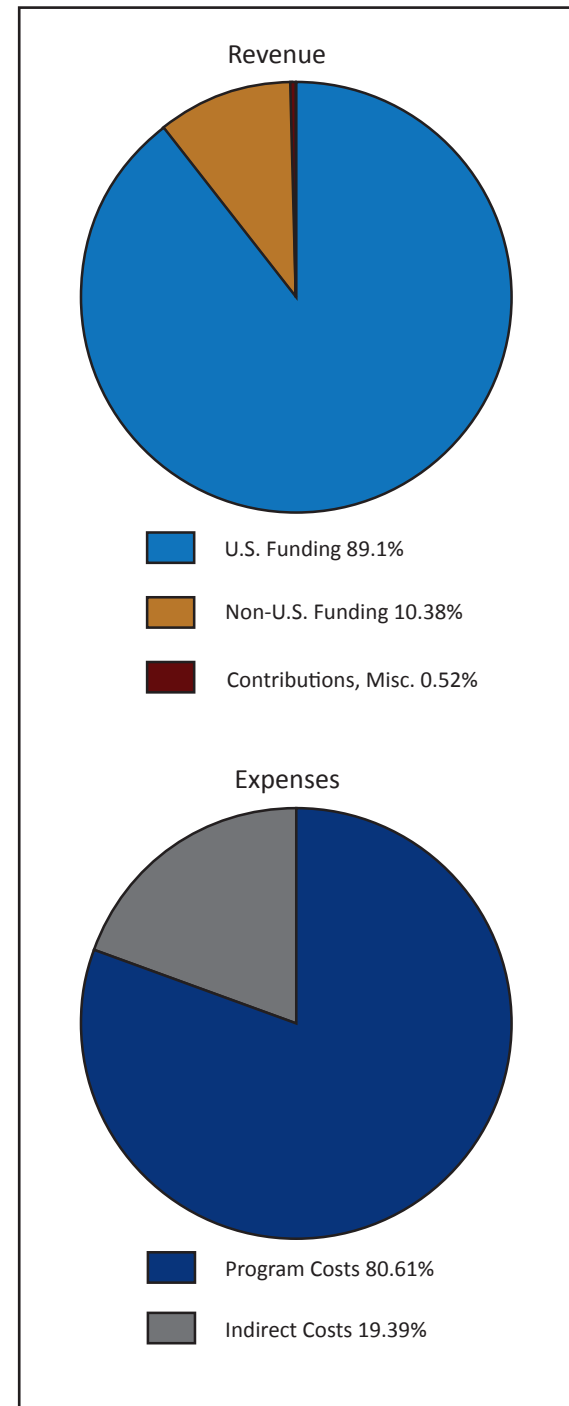
ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	10,254,624.00
Investments	2,816,290.00
Subrecipient advances	799,331.00
Unbilled and other receivables	1,804,859.00
Billed receivables	1,408,803.00
Travel advances	296,776.00
Prepaid expenses and deposit	899,560.00
	<hr/>
Furniture and equipment (net)	12,322.00
	<hr/>
Total assets	<u>\$18,292,565.00</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable	1,735,406.00
Accrued payroll and leave	1,679,117.00
Other accrued expenses	2,900,455.00
Bank lines of credit	2,250,000.00
Deferred revenue	2,200,532.00
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	\$10,765,510.00
	<hr/>
Net assets	<u>7,527,055.00</u>
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$18,292,565.00</u>

Disclaimer: The above information represents unaudited financial statements of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems for the period ending September 30, 2012. Audited financials will be posted and available online at www.IFES.org when complete.



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