



Global Expertise. Local Solutions.
Sustainable Democracy.

SECURING DEMOCRACY

2018 Annual Report





ABOUT IFES

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





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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kenneth Blackwell".

Amb. J. Kenneth Blackwell
Board Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald R. Sweitzer".

Donald R. Sweitzer
Board Co-Chairman

Dear Friends and Supporters of IFES,

Following a very thorough executive search that reached out to leaders around the globe, we welcomed Anthony “Tony” Banbury as IFES’ new president and CEO in November 2018. Tony brings nearly 30 years of experience in public service to IFES, with previous leadership roles in the United Nations and the United States government in diplomacy, crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, we bid farewell to Bill Sweeney, who served as IFES’ president and CEO for nearly a decade and previously served on the IFES Board of Directors. Bill’s dedication to the cause of democracy was demonstrated by his tireless efforts to promote the right to vote as a fundamental human right and establish the organization’s profile as a leader in the democracy and governance space.

True to its roots, IFES provided strategic and timely support to electoral processes in every region of the world in 2018, from Armenia to Zimbabwe. Of great importance, IFES responded to the growing threats to democracy, from disinformation to cybersecurity. Our sound research and thought leadership coupled with tailored, innovative programming laid the groundwork for IFES’ approach to safeguarding democratic values and addressing the challenges of tomorrow.

While we continue to build on IFES’ strengths and more than 30-year history in democracy promotion, we are also developing new tools to enable our growth and strengthen our responsiveness. IFES understands that the traditional assistance provided by democracy and governance organizations is rapidly changing in response to emerging trends that require real-time engagement and sustainable solutions.

As a bipartisan and international Board of Directors, we are unified in our commitment to advancing IFES’ vision of a world in which strong democratic institutions empower citizens to have a voice in the way they are governed. We thank IFES’ supporters and partners for their continued engagement and look forward to sharing our progress in the year ahead.

BOARD MESSAGE

CEO MESSAGE



I joined IFES in November 2018 and am grateful for the Board of Directors' confidence in my leadership, the warm welcome I have received from colleagues across the organization and former President and CEO Bill Sweeney's leadership. Throughout my career, I have been involved in democracy and elections from different perspectives, including field monitoring, policymaking and United Nations operational support. In fact, one aspect of my first job abroad was helping to organize commune-level elections in refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border, where I witnessed the injustices that result when citizens are excluded from political and democratic processes.

IFES has built a well-deserved reputation as a world-class technical assistance provider driven by its mission to support citizens' right to participate in free and fair elections. In its 32-year history, IFES has worked in more than 145 countries – from developing to mature democracies – guided by its belief that the right to vote is a fundamental political and human right. Through my work at IFES headquarters and travel to field offices, I have been incredibly impressed by the quality and impact of IFES programs and the passion and professionalism of our staff. I am committed to ensuring that IFES continues to be the global leader in democracy promotion and electoral integrity.

We are proud to partner with institutions and organizations around the world to advance good governance and democratic rights, including election management bodies, host and donor governments, and nongovernmental and civil society organizations. I have been meeting many of our partners through my travels and can attest to both the invaluable contribution they are making toward our shared goals and their appreciation for the caliber and impact of our programs. I look forward to deepening these relationships, as well as developing new partnerships with foundations and other donors to support our vital work.

In the face of serious threats to democracy around the world, including rising authoritarianism and the misuse of technology, IFES' mission is now more important than ever. I am privileged to take on the leadership of IFES at such a critical juncture. While some challenges remain the same, others will be substantively different than those we have faced in the past. Just as our partners and the wider public are increasingly recognizing these threats to democracy, our expertise and agility allow us to develop and deploy tools to help our partners counter these threats. We will continue to do everything we can, working with our partners, to promote thriving democracies and citizens' right to choose their leaders.

Sincerely,

Anthony N. Banbury
IFES President and CEO



SECURING DEMOCRACY

2018 saw the continuation of democratic backsliding and the further waning of global expansion of democratic freedoms and civil liberties.

After two decades of democratic growth, the last decade has been marked by increasing levels of antiliberal populism, shrinking public space, and a steady erosion of public trust in institutions.

Across the globe, democracy continued to be threatened by a constellation of new hostile forces intent on eroding the freedoms and values that are the fabric of democratic societies. Authoritarian leaders used sham elections to cling to power and interfere in and subvert democratic systems elsewhere. Technology was weaponized, and social media platforms and the hardware and software of elections were battlefields in the fight to promote democracy and freedom.

In response to this persistent threat, IFES sought to defend democracy with robust and targeted technical assistance and a research agenda aimed at addressing the critical challenges to democracy and elections. Working in partnership with electoral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and policymakers, IFES stepped up to provide critical assistance to protect elections from cyberthreats, blunt the impact of hate speech and disinformation, and bolster the rule of law in the pursuit of electoral justice. IFES also advanced efforts to end violence against women in elections and worked to expand democratic expression and inclusion.

As we worked to safeguard democracy and advocate for nonpartisan, technical election assistance, we also leaned into the next generation of challenges that continue to evolve and intensify. The manipulation of new media creates an information war in which democratic institutions struggle to ensure citizens' access to accurate information. Cybersecurity remains paramount as new challenges arise from artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Election management bodies and democratic institutions must continue working to meet the expectations of new generations of voters seeking the full promise of democracy.



Election assistance is not election interference

BY MICHAEL SVETLIK, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 03/02/18 01:00 PM EST
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL



C O U N T E R I N G DISINFORMATION

Defending electoral discourse from disinformation campaigns and amplification of hateful rhetoric

Malign actors are increasingly deploying polarizing, technology-fueled disinformation campaigns around the globe. These campaigns undermine public trust and confidence in democratic institutions by amplifying existing sources of tension in societies and their expression, such as hate speech.

Hate speech is a form of expression that promotes intolerance, hatred or violence toward an individual or group based on race, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Hate speech presents complex challenges for electoral institutions. Remedies involving restrictions on speech are controversial, as they may be seen as limiting freedom of expression. Regulatory responses are also fraught with definitional (*how to define hate speech in a way that is practical for adjudication*) and enforcement (*how to maintain neutrality and apply appropriate and proportionate penalties*) challenges.

The 2018 IFES white paper [*Countering Hate Speech in Elections: Strategies for Electoral Management Bodies*](#) draws from IFES' long programmatic history preventing incitement to communal violence to help election administrators ensure that elections are credible, inclusive and safe. These strategies require strong partnerships within government agencies and with other actors, including human rights commissions, civil society and the media.

In [*Indonesia*](#), for example, election campaigns are increasingly flashpoints for hate speech and incitement to violence. The *Countering Hate Speech in Elections* paper provided the basis for discussion at a 2018 roundtable in Jakarta, bringing together government, electoral management and civil society representatives and social media platforms to study strategies to minimize the effects of hate speech, disinformation and communal incitement in upcoming elections. In [*Fiji*](#), IFES organized a training to support journalists to provide balanced election coverage in an environment of polarized rhetoric. In Sri Lanka, IFES trained police officials on how to address hate speech. These trainings included an election crisis simulation focused on the role of electoral stakeholders in addressing hate speech.

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY

Applying holistic testing and training approaches to address unique cybersecurity vulnerabilities in elections

As the technology environment for elections changes, electoral actors must change how they conceive of security. Citizens are now increasingly aware of vulnerabilities such as phishing, watering holes and distributed denial of service attacks, yet election management bodies often lag far behind in their understanding, reactions and resilience to such increasing threats in elections. IFES is at the forefront of global thinking on this topic and has pioneered several responses that will be crucial to election management bodies staving off cyberthreats in their future planning.

In view of important elections in Ukraine and Indonesia, in 2018 IFES launched a new cybersecurity assessment approach in both countries to provide in-depth, nuanced analysis and recommendations on what vulnerabilities to focus on in the short and long term. Both programs have developed several tools, including technology training modules, a cyber-hygiene curriculum that has now been deployed in dozens of trainings throughout the two countries, and a tabletop exercise crisis simulation for election officials.

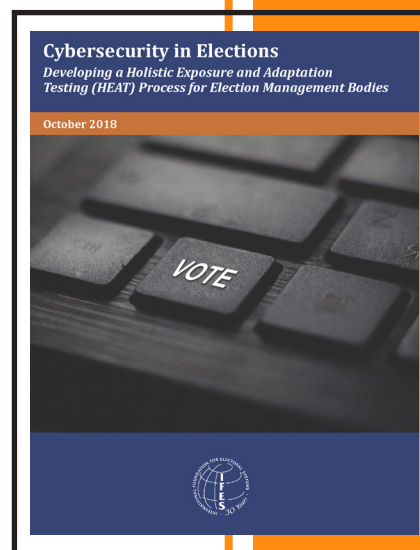
In [Ukraine](#), the cybersecurity assessment resulted in a number of recommendations and actions which IFES supported the Central Election Commission to implement ahead of the 2019 elections, including customized trainings and critical infrastructural updates.

In Indonesia, IFES has helped develop a series of creatively designed posters to reinforce the cyber-hygiene trainings by alerting election officials to the ways they may be targeted. Both the training guidebook and the posters remind officials of the precautions needed to limit vulnerabilities and ultimately reinforce the security of the election process.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Developing a Holistic Exposure and Adaptation Testing (HEAT) Process for Election Management Bodies

Based on decades of experience supporting election managers to steward credible elections and navigate emerging challenges, IFES has designed a strategy for election management bodies to strengthen their technology and procedures to resist vulnerabilities, by following a [Holistic Exposure and Adaptation Testing \(HEAT\) process](#). While no electoral process or technology is infallible, the HEAT process aims to secure automated or digitalized electoral processes – as far as possible – against unanticipated threats, illicit incursions, system failures, or unfounded legal challenges. As the name suggests, the HEAT process focuses on the types of exposure an election management body may face when implementing different types of technology systems (technology, human, political, legal and procedural exposure). This process encourages a more holistic assessment of what could go wrong in data and technology management and allows the election management body to identify strategies to reduce or eliminate different types of exposure in a systematic manner.





SEEKING ELECTORAL JUSTICE

Strengthening democracy by building trust in electoral outcomes and protecting the political rights of individuals

Trust in the electoral process, and democracy itself, rests on the acceptance of election results. Losing parties and candidates have realized that challenging election results through the official complaints adjudication system can be an effective tool to overturn unfavorable election results or, at a minimum, erode the mandate of winning rivals. With funding from the United States Agency for International Development, IFES produced [Elections on Trial: The Effective Management of Election Disputes and Violations](#). This publication provides comparative examples and the tools election adjudicators need to ensure procedural justice for individuals involved in a dispute, while also advancing open justice for the public at large, to ensure acceptance of election outcomes. This research is being applied in practice by IFES through the establishment of pilot regional electoral jurisprudence networks in Europe, Eurasia and Africa, providing judges with a forum to discuss complex election cases for the first time with regional peers.

All elections suffer from challenges and irregularities. To effectively address varying degrees of fraud and misfeasance, courts need to understand the range of remedies available to properly administer electoral justice, from fines to full annulment of election results. A decision to annul an election is one that can have significant implications, and the potential for bad actors to use annulment of results as a tool to thwart the will of voters must be guarded against. In [When Are Elections Good Enough? Validating or Annulling Election Results](#), IFES examines the following questions: When are elections considered good enough? And what is needed to determine whether to validate or annul an election? This analysis is complemented by IFES' chapter on "[Measuring Effective Remedies for Fraud and Administrative Malpractice](#)" in the American Bar Association's book, [International Election Remedies](#).

COMPONENTS OF PROCEDURAL JUSTICE AND OPEN JUSTICE

Fairness | The right to receive reasonable notice of a claim, reasonable opportunity to prepare a defense, and the right to a fair and impartial fact-finding process, hearing and decision.



Efficiency | The requirement for an expeditious process, with reasonable deadlines for filing and disposition of different types of electoral disputes and complaints.



Effectiveness | The right to a written, reasoned decision that is not capricious, unreasonable or arbitrary, the right to appeal or judicial review, and the right to an effective remedy.



Transparency | Access to case information (ideally in real time as an electoral dispute is being investigated and adjudicated), open hearings and decisions that are publicly available (subject to limited restrictions).





BUILDING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Identifying trust deficits and offering election stakeholders a blueprint for reform and resilience

IFES' [Electoral Integrity Assessment \(EIA\)](#) uses mixed methods to identify vulnerabilities to fraud, malpractice and systemic manipulation and determine what could go wrong in future elections if appropriate action is not taken. In 2018, IFES conducted four EIAs. Common to all is a pervasive mistrust of political and electoral actors and institutions, but each analysis also reveals the unique roots of this problem. The comprehensive reports are being used to provide key stakeholders with a targeted roadmap to reform: for example, supporting the international community to consider priority technical assistance investments, giving observer missions detailed analysis to inform their recommendations, or underpinning the development of updated rules by election managers.

In Afghanistan, mistrust in electoral institutions has been compounded by a problematic legal framework, weak rule of law, deep ethnic divides, and widespread insecurity. It is extremely challenging to mitigate fraud vulnerabilities in this context; Afghanistan is also plagued by a systemic lack of political will to play by or enforce the rules. However, many of the vulnerabilities can be reduced by strategic technical elections assistance and proactive diplomacy.

Strengthening public confidence in Ukraine's electoral administration is key for the country's continued democratic progress. However, election managers do not bear sole responsibility; a variety of stakeholders identified in the assessment must contribute to solving, rather than perpetuating, vulnerabilities.

In Tanzania, a politicized appointment process for election commissioners has contributed to long-standing public distrust, despite technically sound 2015 elections. Assessment interlocutors consistently identified systemic manipulation as the primary threat to electoral integrity, and the government continues to clamp down on freedoms of expression and association.

Finally, the Kenya assessment identified lack of trust as a defining feature of elections, despite technical achievements in election administration since the fraught 2007 elections. Strong electoral leadership, enhanced transparency and improved dispute resolution will be vital as Kenya looks ahead to a controversial census and electoral boundary delimitation process and works to rebuild trust and mitigate conflict.

MITIGATING THE ABUSE OF STATE RESOURCES

Breaking cycles of corruption that undermine electoral integrity

The abuse of state resources is a fundamental threat to the fairness, legitimacy and credibility of electoral processes globally. As part of an extensive research initiative, IFES developed a rigorous methodology for evaluating the effectiveness of legal frameworks in addressing abuse of state resources in elections. In 2018, IFES applied this methodology in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), and made targeted recommendations to strengthen the abuse of state resources framework.

Assessment participants were confident that public awareness of abuse of state resources is high. There was general agreement, however, that – more than two decades after the conclusion of a devastating war – Bosnians are largely resigned to accepting such misuses in exchange for peace.

As ethnic divisions in society are replicated in the political system, parties representing particular sets of ethnic interests cater only to their own constituencies. There is limited opposition willing to advocate against abuse of state resources, as essentially all political actors contribute to the abuse.

IFES made recommendations to strengthen the legal framework with an emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of civil servants, explicitly regulating the use of state funds and other resources, strengthening oversight and enforcement bodies, creating incentives for improved enforcement and strengthening weaknesses in the enabling environment that impact abuse of state resources. IFES designed programming in response to these findings, including efforts to enhance campaign finance transparency and strengthen the election commission's oversight of the abuse of state resources.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Abuse of State Resources Research and Assessment Framework

The abuse of state resources not only threatens a level playing field in elections but is also a central component in cycles of entrenched government corruption. Politicians who win elections by harnessing the power of the state have an incentive to “pay back” the services rendered – particularly through employment and favorable contracts – and prevent meaningful reform. Local civil society actors and advocates are best positioned to disrupt this cycle. The 2018 IFES publication, [Abuse of State Resources Research and Assessment Framework: Guidelines for the Democracy and Governance Community of Practice](#), supports these partners to analyze abuse and hone their approaches for monitoring and advocacy.

The publication gives domestic actors the tools needed to navigate their countries' complex legal frameworks while also considering other common areas of abuse, including government procurement, public works spending and vote buying.

The development of the publication was supported by the United States Agency for International Development under the Global Elections and Political Transitions mechanism.



ENDING POLITICAL FINANCE CORRUPTION

Encouraging transparency to end corruption,
bribery and impunity

IFES was active in the political finance space over the course of 2018. In [Ukraine](#), IFES adopted a multifaceted approach to increase transparency and awareness of money in politics, including support for legal reform and assistance to the Central Election Commission. The approach aimed to support oversight of fundraising and expenditures ahead of the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections – the first elections after major legal changes in 2015. IFES also supported the Centre UA in monitoring ongoing political party finances, including the use of public funds – the first such monitoring project of its kind. IFES administered the second module of the annual Election School initiative on political finance for civil society organizations and academia, and a series of trainings with investigative journalists was followed by a news investigation competition in which several winners exposed misuse of public funds for private purposes.

In [Guatemala](#), IFES support to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) includes ongoing collaboration to implement political finance reform, such as improving the TSE's oversight capabilities and training political parties on existing financial rules. IFES assistance to the TSE's Specialized Unit for Control and Oversight of Political Party Finances included trainings and joint development of a revised *Manual for Financial Reporting of Political Organizations*.

Together with the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative Institute, IFES is partnering with domestic stakeholders and influencers in Bulgaria, Montenegro and Romania to support the implementation of commitments and recommendations made by regional initiatives aimed at combating corruption in each country. The project aims to identify, prioritize and effectively implement anti-corruption reforms, focused in particular on political finance, judicial integrity and the criminalization of bribery.



“[iEXCEL] allowed me to test the Fijian Elections Office’s (FEO) practices in terms of election management with the electoral leaders from around the region [...] and to obtain peer reviews of various initiatives at the FEO.”

— Mohammed Saneem,
Supervisor of Elections,
Fijian Elections Office



PROMOTING **ELECTORAL LEADERSHIP**

Enhancing electoral leaders’ resilience to overcome crises and conduct credible elections

Strong electoral leadership is essential to resolving protracted challenges that prevent meaningful reforms, undermine election management bodies’ independence and subvert the electoral process. Electoral leadership is distinct from election management, as it involves planning for and confronting these external and internal challenges, above and beyond managing the technical, operational, and logistical aspects of an election. The [IFES Executive Curriculum in Electoral Leadership \(iEXCEL\)](#) is a new training curriculum designed to foster the leadership skills necessary to preserve independence even during a crisis. It contains four evidence-based, interactive modules that build the capacity of senior electoral leaders to exercise effective electoral leadership, address threats to election management body independence, demonstrate ethical leadership and foster ethical behavior in their organizations, and effectively plan for and manage electoral crises.

IFES [piloted iEXCEL](#) in August 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, following the fourth annual Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum. Senior electoral leaders from across the region took part in a condensed two-day training that covered elements of all four training modules and included discussions and interactive exercises. The electoral leaders spent the second day in a simulation working through an unfolding crisis on Election Day, in which they role-played commissioners and other election management body members and considered how to respond to different scenarios.

IMPROVING ELECTORAL OPERATIONS

Planning and implementing operational tasks through all phases of the electoral process

Properly planned and administered operations are critical to the credibility and legitimacy of an election. Each phase must be successful so all citizens can fully trust and legitimize the democratic process. IFES assists election management bodies to plan and responsibly implement their operational tasks through all phases of the electoral process, including voter registration, Election Day operations, counting and results transmission, and accreditation of observers.

After a series of protests in [Armenia](#) in spring 2018, the country's new leadership announced electoral framework reform and called for snap parliamentary elections. A key concern was the capacity of the Central Election Commission (CEC) to organize elections for both the Yerevan City Council of Elders and the National Assembly quickly and possibly under a revised election code. Despite the tight timeline, IFES mobilized its resources to provide critical technical assistance and capitalized on new opportunities for democratic advancement. IFES designed and conducted a training-of-trainers workshop, assisted the CEC in training 20,000 poll workers at 700 sessions, designed and printed a manual, and printed voter education posters for every polling station.

In [El Salvador](#), alleged irregularities in the electoral process and technical issues with results transmission decreased citizens' trust in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). Given these challenges, the February 2019 presidential election was crucial for restoring their trust. Over the three months leading up to the election, IFES electoral technology experts advised the TSE to help strengthen its results transmission process – testing the transmission system, identifying and addressing potential problems, and ensuring it would be able to release accurate results. On Election Day, results transmission occurred quickly and smoothly, and political parties and the press had access to the results as they were released live on screens at the capital's convention center.

Collaborating with election management bodies around the world to deliver transparent, credible elections is at the core of IFES' mission, and examples like Armenia and El Salvador show that sound electoral operations are vital to achieving these objectives.



“[IFES is] one of the most important partners by our side, supporting us realizing our goals and prompting us moving forward and advancing our electoral culture.”

— [Tamar Zhvania](#),
Chair, Georgia's Central
Election Commission,
2017 Joe C. Baxter Award recipient



BOLSTERING ELECTORAL SECURITY

Supporting safe elections through knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders

In 2018, IFES worked with election institutions and civil society partners to design and implement programming that was responsive to electoral security risks in both active conflict and at-risk environments, including Bangladesh, Georgia, Libya, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.

In Georgia, IFES brought together election administrators and police to institutionalize and formalize electoral security arrangements under IFES' flagship election security training program "Enabling a Peaceful Environment for Administering Credible Elections" (e-Peace). This collaboration led to the signing of the third memorandum of understanding between the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Central Election Commission, two key institutions responsible for election security. Building on e-Peace activities held in 2017, IFES also worked with police in Sri Lanka on responding to violence against women in elections and in Ukraine to develop handbooks of guidelines for Election Day security.

Teaching leaders and citizens how to manage conflict through democratic governance without resorting to violence is a cornerstone of IFES' work. "[People Against Violence in Elections](#)" (PAVE), a training and peacebuilding program for political and community leaders, has reached more than 40,000 people in Bangladesh. Given the enormous success of the program and recent student-led protests, IFES responded to requests from students and faculty at Dhaka University and other academic institutions to expand and adapt PAVE to reach students. In December, IFES facilitated a conflict analysis workshop for Libyan civil society representatives to identify local drivers of violence around elections and mechanisms for mitigating them in preparation for the implementation of PAVE in Libya in 2019.

MOBILIZING CIVIL SOCIETY

Empowering citizens to find their voice and participate in all aspects of democratic society

A robust, dynamic civil society is a fundamental pillar of any democracy. Using a variety of methodologies and tools, IFES empowers civil society around the world to represent a diversity of voices.

In 2018, IFES' Civic Education Center (CEC) in Syria focused on cross-community consensus building. Using an innovative methodology that departs from traditional civic engagement approaches, the CEC helped more than 1,100 Syrians identify and address challenges their communities face, build key advocacy skills and engage with local government officials to foster trust, transparency and accountability. The CEC brought together Kurds and Arabs, women and men, students, activists and journalists to understand common needs and concerns and effect change. The CEC's neutral approach toward community building earned the support of the region's governing body, which actively takes part in events to establish the often missing feedback loop between governing officials, civil society and marginalized groups. IFES has continued to build upon the CEC's successes by expanding the program across the region and connecting Syrians to the CEC and its resources and to their own diverse, local communities.

In Kenya, after three months of leadership workshops, 40 youth graduated from IFES' Changamka (Swahili for "take action") [Youth Mentorship initiative](#). The program built youth leaders' skills and empowered them to participate in political and governance processes. Grounded in three key pillars – discover, connect and impact – the initiative supported young men and women to identify and explore civic engagement opportunities through non-formal educational and practical learning experiences. The graduates have set out to serve as change agents within their communities across the country.



“It has transformed us to become voters. Not only me, we all wanted to elect our representative.”

— Kham Kay,
First-time youth voter,
Myanmar

PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION

IFES is nurturing the next generation of leaders through innovative civic education activities that highlight the importance of political participation and civic awareness.

The global university-level methodology, Strengthening Engagement through Education for Democracy (SEED), is an innovative course that is currently offered at various universities in Georgia and [Ukraine](#).

In August, IFES and the Libyan Ministry of Education signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a broad curriculum of civic education in public schools in [Libya](#).

“Accessibility to the polling station is not only our problem. It is a problem for the elderly, people with temporary injuries like a broken leg and pregnant women too. We should all advocate together.”

— Man with a physical disability, focus group discussion, Lebanon

A D V A N C I N G DISABILITY RIGHTS

Promoting leadership of people with disabilities and strengthening political inclusion

IFES, along with disabled people’s organization partners around the world, developed the [Election Access Observation Toolkit](#) to provide data on barriers to political access and demonstrate the leadership capabilities of people with disabilities. Citizens with disabilities are often underrepresented in political life as election observers and mainstream observer groups only include basic, if any, questions on access for people with disabilities in their checklists.

Drawing upon IFES’ experience conducting dozens of election access observations around the world and international and regional standards for inclusive elections, the toolkit provides disabled people’s organizations and election observer groups with the background and tools to effectively incorporate a disability rights perspective into domestic and international observation missions.

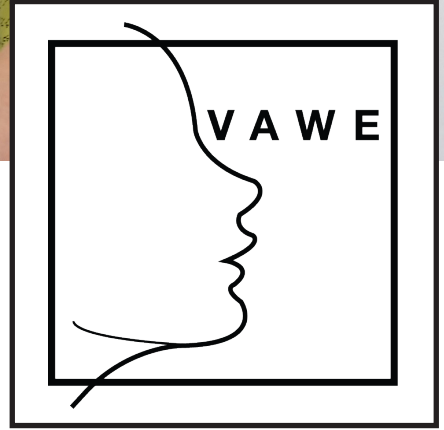
The toolkit, supported by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the United States Agency for International Development and Global Affairs Canada, gathers lessons learned from election access observations conducted by IFES and disabled people’s organizations in a wide range of country contexts, including Haiti, Indonesia and Kosovo.

In November, IFES launched the toolkit at the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation meeting in London, which convened representatives from leading election observation organizations to examine the current trends and issues faced by observers. The toolkit and IFES’ [Electoral Sign Language Lexicon](#), an accessible civic education tool for Deaf communities, were selected to receive Innovative Practice Awards from the [Zero Project](#) in 2019.



WHERE DOES
INTERSECTIONALITY
FIT IN?

Drawing on the collective expertise of IFES specialists on gender, disability, youth, LGBTQI+ and indigenous issues, IFES’ Intersectionality Assessment Framework identifies barriers and opportunities related to political participation of people with multiple social identities, such as gender, disability and age. In 2018, the framework was piloted in Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Lebanon and Tunisia.



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ELECTIONS

Eliminating barriers to women’s full participation in elections and political processes

For a decade, IFES has pioneered the movement to end violence against women in politics through cutting-edge research and programming on four continents. IFES broke new ground in 2018 through its programs to document, end impunity for, and engage in digital initiatives to end [violence against women in elections \(VAWE\)](#). IFES conducted field assessments in Bougainville, Haiti, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe and online assessments in Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. In addition to these reports, IFES also launched a new strategic approach to ending impunity for violence against women in elections as part of Zimbabwe’s historic elections in July, by helping victims access justice and bring their cases to the police for prosecution.

IFES has also worked to raise the profile of this important issue on the international stage. In October 2018, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women cited IFES’ research and expert advising in its report to the UN General Assembly, where violence against women in politics was recognized as a human rights violation for the first time and member states were called upon to act. Subsequently, in partnership with the Carter Center, IFES drafted a letter supporting the findings of the report. Seventy-eight organizations from 38 countries and regional organizations signed the letter, which was shared with UN representatives.



“Engaging a New Generation for Accessible Governance and Elections” (ENGAGE) strengthens the leadership skills of youth with disabilities in the Dominican Republic.



“Power to Persuade” empowers women with disabilities to advocate with policymakers and political parties for reform in Lebanon.

CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY

Fostering discussion and collaboration
and honoring contributions to freedom
and democracy



On November 6, Election Day in the United States, IFES hosted [“Elections Under Threat? A Global Comparative Analysis of Cybersecurity of Elections.”](#) a discussion about the state of cybersecurity of elections around the world.

“Every election has a story to tell. Sometimes we don’t know what that story is until long after the ballots are counted.”

— Tammy Patrick,
Senior Advisor for the Election Program,
Democracy Fund

2018 JOE C. BAXTER AWARD



“We cherish such an operation [elections] when it expresses with authenticity and veracity the will of the people.”

— [Dong Nguyen Huu](#),
Electoral Advisor, 2018 Joe C.
Baxter Award recipient

NINTH ANNUAL CHARLES T. MANATT DEMOCRACY AWARDS

On September 24, IFES held the [Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards](#) in Washington, D.C., to recognize the exceptional work of individuals who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy. The 2018 awardees included former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Ambassador Mark Green (R), Senator Christopher Coons (D-Del.) and former IFES President and CEO Bill Sweeney, who received a Legacy Award.

“Democracy is never given on a silver platter. It must be earned, defended, and nurtured — every day, everywhere, in Africa, in Europe, and in the United States.”

— Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,
Former Liberian President,
2018 Democracy Award recipient



Former IFES President and
CEO Bill Sweeney

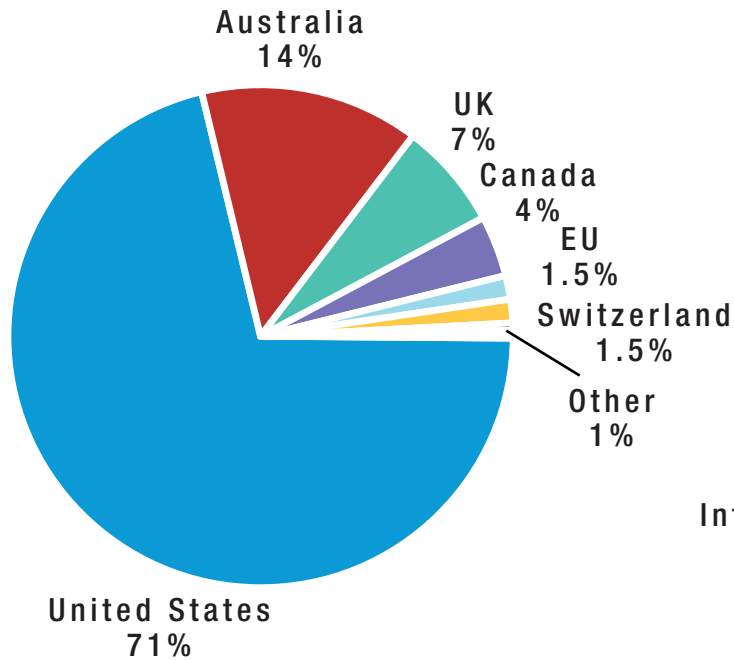


Former Liberian President Ellen
Johnson Sirleaf and Senator
Christopher Coons



USAID Administrator
Mark Green

F Y 2 0 1 8 * FINANCES



Revenue by Donor

United States	\$38,287,124
CEPPS** projects	\$25,758,986
Other	\$12,528,138
Australia	\$7,573,051
United Kingdom (UK)	\$3,695,565
Canada	\$2,116,669
European Union (EU)	\$822,612
Switzerland	\$811,228
Germany	\$138,358
Fiji	\$41,830
Mexico	\$37,787
Inter-American Institute of Human Rights	\$26,740
Netherlands	\$23,707
Norway	\$1,541
Other	\$252,133



U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome learns about IFES' Democratic Awakening Toolkit, a civic education project in Tunisia.



Ambassadors to Ukraine Isabelle Dumont, Judith Gough, Takashi Kurai, Davide La Cecilia, Hugues Mingarelli, Ernst Reichel, Roman Waschuk, and Marie Yovanovitch meet with members of the Central Election Commission, the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine and IFES staff.



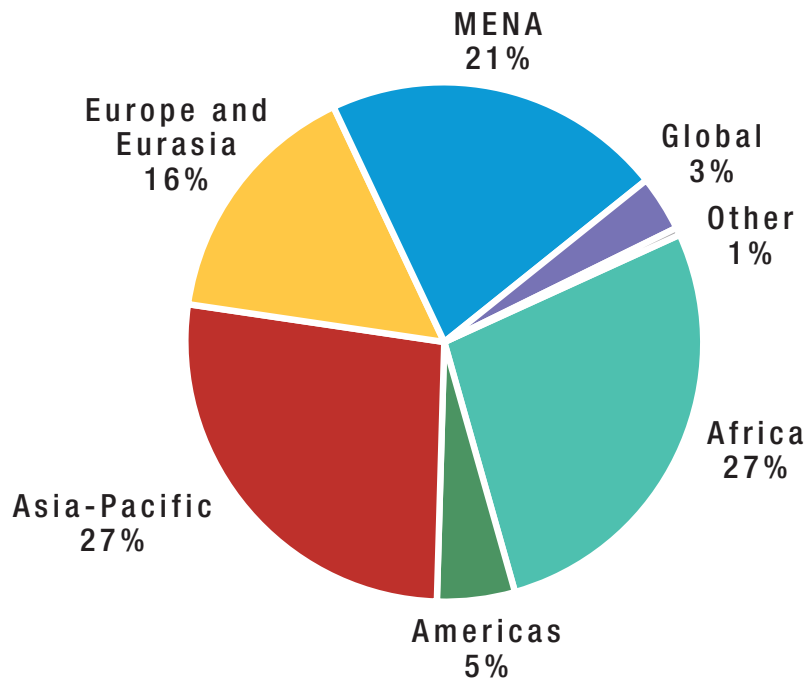
Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia Peter MacArthur on International Women's Day



Total \$53,828,346

**Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening

Revenue Distribution by Region



Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	7,883,019
Investments	1,987,247
Advances	560,454
Receivables	3,447,382
Prepaid expenses and deposits	647,766
Furniture and equipment (net)	2,699,697

Total Assets 17,225,566

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities and Net Assets	Liabilities
Accounts payable	1,848,829
Accrued payroll and leave	1,733,100
Other accrued expenses	5,169,609
Deferred revenue - See Note 1	4,626,629

Total Liabilities 13,378,167

Net Assets 3,847,399

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 17,225,566

*Notes:

The information on pages 24 and 25 represents unaudited financial statements of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems for the period ending September 30, 2018. Audited financials will be posted online at www.IFES.org when complete.

Deferred revenue represents the net of grant prepayments and advances against the federal reserve letter of credit.

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Note: The above information represents supporters from the 2018 calendar year, from January 1–December 31, 2018.

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IFES headquarters staff met with field leadership during the 2019 Country Director Conference.



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