How is IFES working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and its partners worldwide build democracies that deliver for all. We do our part to fulfill the SDGs for a better and more sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

By delivering civic and voter education that promotes human rights, gender equality and a culture of peace

IFES expands the potential for all youth to peacefully shape their democracies. Since 2011, IFES' Strengthening Engagement through Education for Democracy (SEED) methodology has introduced modern, interactive learning to thousands of youth at over 50 universities in Georgia and Ukraine. SEED's student-centered approach fosters democratic values and attitudes, while strengthening essential skills, including digital literacy, critical thinking, fact-based argumentation, teamwork, consensus building and conflict resolution.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

By ensuring women's full and meaningful participation at all levels of political and electoral decision-making

To achieve truly representative governance, substantive and equal participation of women, men and gender diverse individuals must be realized. In Nepal, IFES worked closely with the election commission to establish a Gender and Social Inclusion Unit, as well as a Gender and Inclusion Strategic Plan and Action Plan, to strengthen gender mainstreaming mechanisms; increase women's representation; systematize gender training and capacity building; and weave gender-sensitive perspectives throughout Nepal's electoral process.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

By empowering the social and political inclusion of all by breaking down individual and structural barriers

IFES promotes political participation, justice and equal rights for all people, including women; persons with disabilities; youth; ethnic and religious minorities; internally displaced persons; and indigenous communities. Our Intersectionality Assessment Framework - piloted in Armenia, the Dominican Republic and Tunisia - allows people with multiple social identities to share ways they currently participate civically and politically; prioritize identified solutions to barriers; and share their opinions in a targeted survey.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

By promoting rule of law; anticorruption; and effective, accountable and transparent institutions

The credibility of elections increasingly hinges on the effective resolution of disputes and violations throughout the electoral cycle. However, most election judges and arbiters lack peer support. To address this gap, IFES is working to establish regional peer networks. In 2019, IFES launched an African Network for Electoral Jurisprudence; high-level judges from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights attended the inaugural event.

For more information, visit www.IFES.org, contact us at info@ifes.org and follow us at @IFES1987.

#DemocracyForABetterFuture

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How does IFES realize Sustainable Development Goal 16?

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) promotes peaceful, inclusive and democratic societies through trusted electoral institutions; effective, accountable and inclusive governance; justice and equal rights for all people; and technology that positively serves elections and democracy.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

16.1 By building local capacity to mitigate election violence, reduce tensions and maximize conditions for peaceful elections

IFES' Electoral Violence Education and Resolution (EVER) program offers a tested methodology for gathering, verifying and documenting community tensions, peace events and electoral violence, and has been used in a range of countries, including Burundi, Guinea, Iraq and Timor-Leste.

16.3 By ensuring the rule of law and equal access to justice for all, including the effective resolution of electoral complaints and violations

In Zimbabwe, IFES worked with three women-led civil society organizations, the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the National Prosecuting Authority to increase access to justice for women victims of electoral and political violence, resulting in increased investigation and prosecution.

16.5 By reducing corruption and bribery in electoral and political processes

IFES is an accredited observer to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption Conference of the States Parties, and is working both regionally and globally with domestic stakeholders and influencers to strengthen national implementation of anticorruption commitments and recommendations.

16.6 By developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions

In Guatemala, IFES supported the cocreation and implementation of the Open Government National Action Plan (2016-2018), consisting of 22 commitments that cover topics related to access to public information, technological innovation, citizen participation, accountability and fiscal transparency.

16.7 By ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

In Southeast Asia, the IFES-supported ASEAN General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) brings together election monitoring organizations and disabled persons organizations from 10 countries to ensure that disability rights are included as part of the developing human rights agenda of ASEAN.

16.10 By promoting public access to voter information, as well as effective and responsible election reporting

For Deaf Libyans, language barriers are a profound challenge to full participation in political life. To address this, IFES partnered with Libyan experts to develop a lexicon of more than 300 political and electoral terms in sign language. The lexicon was subsequently shared with Deaf schools, communities, and networks across the country. language, including all public service announcemens during the recent voter registration update.

16.B By promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

In India, IFES played a major role in forming a national coalition of women's organizations that was instrumental in the passage of the Domestic Violence Act. In Ukraine, IFES partners with local advocacy groups to promote legislation to secure voting rights for internally displaced people.