



Democracy and Governance

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Civil Society, Civic Engagement, and Independent Media

Since 1975, Chemonics has partnered with civil society organizations (CSOs) in all sectors as key actors to achieve our shared goal of reducing poverty and improving people's lives. We provide support through education, capacity building, technology, and grant funding to strengthen our civil society partners. Our programs assist CSOs on issues such as advocacy and effective networking, monitoring and evaluation, public awareness, gender empowerment, youth involvement, and legal aid. We also foster community awareness and dialogue around important democratic issues and empower journalists to strengthen independent media.

Below we describe programs that illustrate our experience and expertise supporting CSOs and boosting engagement in democracy and governance programs around the world.

Project Examples

Azerbaijan Building Local Capacity for Development (BLCD)

This project works with CSOs so they may serve as relevant, effective, and sustainable partners in initiatives that strengthen democratic and governance processes, improve health, and promote economic growth. BLCD uses human and institutional capacity development (HICD) tools and grants mechanisms to support CSOs, resource centers, and local NGOs. Combining HICD tools and grants has helped us more tailor action plans to address gaps identified in baseline organizational capacity assessments. This support is building CSOs' potential to assume leadership on community interests and reform initiatives.

Indonesia Program Representasi (ProRep)

The ProRep project increased the effectiveness of representative groups and institutions in Indonesia and strengthened democracy. ProRep implemented a policy community program that builds on its experience strengthening CSOs, research institutions, and policy-makers. By bringing key stakeholders together in support of specific policy reforms, the policy communities facilitated an inclusive and evidence-based approach to policy-making. In this way, the policy communities served as a platform through which to nurture relationships, exchange knowledge, and develop blueprints to improve public policies, particularly in health, education, and the environment. Following these activities, the Ministry of Education adopted several of the education policy community's proposals as part of its 2015–2019 strategic plan. Similarly, the environmental policy community helped structure the newly combined Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

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Nicaragua Capacity Building for Civil Society Advocacy

This project, on which we are a subcontractor to Dexis Consulting, aligns with USAID Forward and provides capacity building support to CSOs so they can better advocate for citizens' needs. The program works with and has developed customized training implementation plans for 10 CSOs that currently receive or aspire to receive direct USAID funding. Capacity building focuses on "1.0" level skills such as management, human resources, and finances, and on advanced skills to ensure the organizations' ability to provide genuine advocacy and thought leadership for citizens and leave behind sustainable models.

Nigeria Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE)



The USAID-funded SACE project strengthens the capacity of CSOs to engage and influence policy on transparency, accountability, and good governance issues. Working with subcontractor Root Change, we deploy innovative approaches, including the System for Transformation and Results, with a focus on strengthening advanced CSO capacities through social network analysis. The project moves beyond the traditional focus on internal systems and management practices to build advanced technical capabilities needed to enact change. We have identified credible, well-connected CSOs to serve as the anchors for collective action in their clusters. The project is also strengthening CSOs and business

membership organizations in the resource-rich but conflict-prone Niger Delta to promote inclusive economic growth in partnership with the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Delta.

Tanzania Capacity Development for Partners of Accountability (Pamoja Twajenga)

Pamoja Twajenga ("Together We Build") delivers technical support to Tanzanian CSOs and government institutions of accountability to enable them to achieve sustainable and significant impact as advocates on issues such as agriculture and food security, health, natural resource management, and HIV/AIDS. Our Tanzanian partners also receive direct support from USAID, and our collaboration with them enhances their ability to benefit from and directly implement USAID's efforts. Tanzanian entities including the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team and the National Council for People Living with HIV/AIDS are being equipped to more effectively monitor and hold the government accountable.