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A citizen registers to vote in Nairobi County. USAID supports the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in their efforts to promote voter education and registration throughout Kenya. Photo: Jeffrey Karang'ae/USAID

KENYA

KENYA ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Kenya's 2017 general election is critical to the country's future growth and stability. Citizens will not only cast their votes for national positions, they will also elect county government officials such as governors and county assembly members for the second time since the introduction of devolution in 2013.

All Kenyans, no matter their gender, age, ethnicity, or geographic affiliation, have a responsibility, through their own actions, to help ensure Kenya's elections are free, fair and peaceful. Through the Kenya Electoral Assistance Program (KEAP), USAID is working with Kenyan government institutions, as well as a nationwide network of civil society organizations (CSOs), academic institutions, local groups and community leaders to strengthen the credibility of electoral processes and promote peaceful, inclusive political participation throughout the 2017 electoral process.

OUR WORK

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has an important responsibility to ensure that every vote will count and will be secured. KEAP is providing direct technical assistance and support to the IEBC that is focused on strengthening internal governance systems and process; developing election regulations; promoting voter education and registration and enhancing the ability of elections officials to apply technology in election management.

With devolution as a centerpiece, greater opportunities exist for including and advancing women and the issues that affect them in all levels of decision-making. Political parties are the primary and most direct vehicle through which women can access elected office. KEAP helps political parties improve their nomination rules to enhance the participation of women candidates. Under KEAP, approximately 5,000 women leaders went through a training and mentorship program to prepare them as voter and candidates for the August 2017 election.

Kenyan CSOs play a critical role in the country's democratic development and in upcoming elections. USAID connects diverse Kenyan organizations so that they can use their networks to mitigate conflict, promote community participation, and manage early-warning and response mechanisms to defuse tensions and prevent violence. To strengthen citizen engagement, KEAP is providing up to \$2 million in innovation grants to Kenyan CSOs working with disadvantaged group, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, to improve their participation in the electoral process. A rapid response fund has been set up to enable response to potential conflict as well as urgent, unanticipated needs within the fluid Kenyan political landscape.

Other areas of support include: domestic and international election observation, media monitoring, strengthening election dispute resolution and training on effective approaches to address electoral violence.

BUDGET

\$18.68 million

DURATION

2016 – 2018

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Several leading Kenyan civil society organizations

KEY PARTNERS

International Boundaries and Electoral Commission (IEBC)

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