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STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES PROGRAM (SP3)

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The Strengthening Political Parties Program (SP3) is a five-year initiative to strengthen the ability of political parties to effectively participate in Liberia's electoral and political processes. The goal of SP3 is to enhance the internal democracy and accountability of political parties and increase the accountability of political parties and elected officials to relevant constituencies and stakeholders

The program has three phases that are aligned with the country's electoral calendar. Poll-watching, debate preparation and other election-related interventions were conducted in the 2017 election phase through inauguration; internal democracy, party strengthening and policy development constitute phase two and will lead to the 2020 senatorial polls; and party consolidation and long-term strategic development make up phase three.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Increase political parties' ability to build competencies in key areas of party administration and political organization;
- Increase number of parties that comply with National Elections Commission financial reporting requirements;

- Enhance the capacity of women, youth, and persons with disabilities who participate in SP3's Advance Campaign Election School program who demonstrate an increase in knowledge in campaign and political organizing skills;
- Increase women and youth skills to contribute to party development and party campaigns; and
- Build young political actors' competencies to develop and advocate for public policy proposals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Debate preparation for party communication staff
- Party agent poll watcher training for master trainers who then trained party agents to observe 2017 elections. Total of 75,031 party agent poll watchers training, lending legitimacy to the hotly contested electoral process and to the results
- Held new Member Orientation for Legislators
- Monitored political party platform monitoring
- Launched of the Visionary Young Women Leadership report
- Post-election electoral reform forums and working group;
- National Conference on electoral reform held;
- Formation of Political Parties Youth League representing youth from all political parties through meetings and retreat

PLANNED OUTCOMES

- Parties develop Party Modernization Plans
- More party candidates contesting 2020 senatorial elections run issue-based platforms
- Political parties and National Elections Commission jointly draft a handbook to assist parties in complying with NEC financial reporting requirements
- Women and youth increase leadership roles within political parties