



USAID | NIGERIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Since 2014, the U.S. government has invested approximately \$100 million to support democracy and peace building in Nigeria.



OVERVIEW

Nigeria has seen many democratic successes recently, including one of the most credible and peaceful presidential elections in the nation's history in 2015. Newly-enacted legislation has improved transparency and access to government information. Still, improving democratic governance, addressing corruption, and reducing conflict remain major challenges. Conflict – including ethnic, religious, resource-driven, and communal – poses an ongoing threat to democracy. Additionally, civil society organizations often lack the capacity and resources to engage with government and advocate for positive change.

To support good governance, USAID partners with the Government of Nigeria, civil society and private sector institutions to improve the quality of the electoral process, strengthen civil society advocacy, and mitigate conflict to build a safer, more peaceful society. USAID helps Nigeria build more responsive governance through support for increased capacity in civic engagement and improved administration of basic services such as elementary education, primary healthcare, and access to water and sanitation.

ACTIVITIES

GOOD GOVERNANCE

USAID partners with key state and local government agencies to support their efforts to plan, budget, manage and evaluate their fiscal and administrative responsibilities. The goal of these efforts is a more responsive government with increased capacity for civic engagement, more robust electoral processes, and improved basic services. USAID reinforces policies and systems that improve transparency and mobilize civil society and the private sector to participate in planning, budgeting, monitoring and assessment of services. Sustained advocacy by local civil society organizations has resulted in increases in state budget allocations to education and health, as well as better state government strategic planning in those critical sectors.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Democracy in Nigeria has advanced through engagement of civil society in constitutional and electoral processes, progress on an anti-corruption agenda, and improvement of the rights of women and other marginalized groups. USAID supports more than 200 civil society organizations to strengthen their ability to network, develop policy positions, and collaborate with government and the private sector. USAID programs work with Nigerians to increase citizen oversight of public service delivery and support advocacy campaigns to promote good governance and increase public awareness regarding key

issues. A civil society partner's advocacy campaign resulted in one state government releasing four years of annual audits and completing 49 previously abandoned capital projects.

POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

Even with the recent success of the 2015 elections, Nigeria efforts to consolidate democracy since its return to civilian rule in 1999 continue. USAID supports the organizational development of political parties, independent electoral commissions, and increased civil society input into the electoral and constitutional reform dialogue. Civil society-led parallel vote tabulations have reinforced official election results, and occasionally revealed fraud and manipulation.



CONFLICT MITIGATION AND RECONCILIATION



USAID promotes stronger and broader collaboration between government and civil society, and supporting Nigerians to build robust early warning systems to identify and reduce sources of communal tension and violence in selected states. To address the root causes of conflict, USAID supports a community-based approach that draws on the expertise of religious and traditional leaders, women and youth groups, as well as government officials and civil society.

These groups develop systems, protocols and reference materials to improve responses to threats and outbreaks of violence. In several northern states,

USAID activities support public information campaigns to promote peaceful resolution of conflict. Since the 2015 election cycle, USAID has partnered with local music celebrity Innocent “2face” Idibia to promote the “Vote Not Fight: Election No Be War” campaign.

About USAID: USAID partners to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. In its partnership with Nigeria, the United States strengthens social stability through social services, supports transparent and accountable governance, promotes a more market led economy, and enhances Nigeria's capacity as a responsible regional and trade partner.

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