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DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

TANZANIA

The Government of Tanzania has made a commitment, both to its people and to the international community, to improve democratic governance. Even though Tanzania still ranks above neighboring countries in terms of transparency, accountability, and civil rights, rapid democratic declines in recent years pose an ongoing concern. USAID responds to this reality with programs that build on previous work to counter closing civic and political space, bolster freedom of expression, improve the advocacy and communication capabilities of local organizations, promote transparent and accountable systems free from corruption, and strengthen human rights among vulnerable populations.

These activities aim to achieve four sub-purposes: 1) improving the ability of targeted media and civil society organizations (CSOs) to provide more accurate and impartial information; 2) strengthening partner CSO capacities in targeted issue areas; 3) promoting inclusive civic participation and the empowerment of women and youth ; and 4) improving citizen participation and oversight of elections and political processes. Additionally, USAID activities promote greater participation in and transparency of electoral processes.

Together, these efforts encourage citizen engagement while increasing public awareness of the roles, responsibilities, and actions of government. Furthermore, these activities advance partnerships with USAID efforts across sectors based on complementary skills and resources, common objectives, and geographic focus to maximize impact. This integrated approach is further strengthened by cross-sectoral collaboration to improve gender equality and empower women and youth.

DRG OVERVIEW

FUNDING LEVEL

- \$7.5 million in FY 2019.
\$2.5m in FY 2020

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Freedom House/PACT
- UN Women
- The Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)
- FHI 360/Internews
- Tanzania Education and Research for Democracy (REDET/TEMCO)
- Tanzania Women's Lawyer Association

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Kigoma, Manyara, Morogoro, Mbeya, Mtwara, Mwanza, Njombe, Tanga, and Zanzibar, as well as support to political processes at the national level

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CHALLENGES

Improving democratic governance in Tanzania is constrained by historic and dramatic backsliding in respect for human rights and the rule of law, failure to uphold the constitution, increasing restrictions on civil society, and crackdowns and intimidation of the press. While Tanzania has seen improvements in anti-corruption efforts, this has seemingly come at the cost of civic and political freedoms. Challenges include:

- Closure of democratic space stemming from uncertain legal frameworks, and abuse of state authority; impacting civil society, political parties, and media.
- New moves to restrict and censor access to information, online activities, and freedom of expression.
- Increases in infringements of rights, particularly for women and marginalized populations.

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IMPACT

- CSO partners worked with various stakeholders and employed a variety of mechanisms to advance rights issues, including strategic litigation, productive engagement of government decision-makers, and participation in public consultation processes.
- Coalition member CSOs participated in review processes for several high-profile bills (including the Political Parties Act, NGO Act, Statistics Act, and Elections Regulations) in Parliament. Coalition members coordinated efforts and used their comparative advantages. Several of their recommendations were incorporated into the resulting laws, improving inclusivity.

- Over 200 professional journalists in nine regions have received basic intermediate training on how to produce high-quality local coverage, improve websites and social media channels, increase women and youth voices in their programming as well as improve the quality and impartiality of their reports.
- Established partnerships with the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam, the Saint Augustin University of Tanzania in Mwanza, and the Zanzibar Mass Media and Journalism College to

support the training of over 600 journalism students through intensive six-week-long, hands-on radio training to equip them with practical skills for future careers in the media.

- Professional domestic citizen election observation efforts will field 160 long-term and 3,100 short-term observers during Tanzania's 2020 General Elections.
- A new partnership with the Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association will support the empowerment of women and youth; bolstering leadership in areas related to access to justice, economic participation, and community decision-making.