NDI
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

Working for Democracy and Making Democracy Work

WWW.NDI.ORG
When NDI opened its doors in 1983, programs to support democratic development essentially did not exist. Given a mission but not a roadmap, the Institute built its practice from scratch, creating a unique international network of political practitioners dedicated to sharing their democratic experiences and ideas with others in nascent democracies.

NDI has become a leader in the democracy field by prioritizing creativity and innovation, and crafting programs that account for the unique context of each country. NDI promoted democratic reform in the Philippines and Chile in the 1980s; in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall; and across Africa, Asia and Latin America in the 1990s following the end of the Cold War. We began programming on the inclusion of traditionally marginalized populations such as women from the start, and youth, LGBTI and individuals with disabilities in the 2000s.

Today, street protests across the world demonstrate that citizens do not want less democracy, but instead want democracy to work better. In over seventy countries today and more than 150 since our founding, NDI has helped democracy deliver for citizens through inclusive, transparent and accountable governance.

We have found over nearly four decades that, whatever its shortfalls, democracy works. While democracy’s success is neither inevitable nor irreversible, NDI has witnessed first-hand that free people in every corner of the world continue to yearn for democracy. We are privileged to work with exceptional individuals whose tireless efforts on behalf of human dignity in their countries – and beyond – seek to make the world a more just, secure and prosperous place.

A century ago, leaders called for a world that would be safe for democracy. Today, we strive for democracy to keep our world safe.

**Tom Daschle**

“The defining issue of the 21st century is the fight between democracy and authoritarianism. The work NDI does has never been more important or in demand than at this moment in time.”

**Derek Mitchell**

“The siren song of autocrats will always find an audience, particularly during times of fear and insecurity…But democracy remains the only viable path to true peace and security.”
Harnessing Digital Technology
New digital technologies and platforms create both challenges and opportunities for democracy. NDI created DemTools, a suite of technology software, to help democracy activists collect and analyze election data, track constituent concerns, manage citizen contacts and organize petition drives. The Design 4 Democracy Coalition facilitates collaboration among organizations dedicated to countering disinformation, improving cybersecurity and promoting democracy-friendly technology platforms. Through its office in Silicon Valley, NDI has developed partnerships with technology companies in an effort to incorporate democratic values into new software as a design principle and mitigate the harm their digital platforms can cause.

Promoting Women’s Participation
When women participate in politics, the results can be socially and economically transformative. NDI helps women overcome barriers to political involvement through the Win With Women assessment, Women Mayors’ Network and ready-to-run campaign schools. The #NotTheCost initiative collects data on threats women face from violence, and the groundbreaking think10 safety planning tool helps women identify their personal and professional vulnerabilities. Together with the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, NDI is helping women political leaders report instances of violence and build the case for greater global action. NDI is also part of the DISRUPThER initiative to deepen the pool of adolescent girls with the political skills and aspirations to become political leaders.

Inspiring Youth Leadership
Despite making up more than half the population in many countries, young people are often shut out of mainstream politics and decision-making. NDI helps young people become political leaders and activists by breaking down barriers, developing technical skills and building intergenerational relationships. Through the Change My Community Toolbox, NDI helps young people run grassroots advocacy campaigns. The Youth Leading Debate program hones skills on the art of policy debate. The Ana Usharek (I Engage) program has helped infuse tens of thousands of Jordanian students from universities and public schools with democratic values of civic responsibility and activism so they can become more fully invested in their country’s future.

Ensuring Electoral Integrity
A pioneer in advancing electoral integrity, NDI:
- Co-led the development of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation endorsed by over 50 international organizations.
- Helped found the Global Network for Domestic Election Monitors.
- Supported non-partisan citizen election monitoring in more than 75 countries.
- Developed new election monitoring methodologies, including the parallel vote tabulation, a proven statistically-based method for verifying the quality of election-day procedures and the credibility of election results.
Including Marginalized Communities
A democracy can thrive only when it represents all citizens equally. Yet in new and emerging democracies, large portions of the population are often excluded from politics based on their ethnicity, religion, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation. To ensure no citizen’s voice is silenced or democratic rights stifled, NDI helps representatives from these communities run for political office, advocate for legal reforms and pressure governments to implement international agreements protecting their rights, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Renewing Political Parties
Political parties are an essential building block of democracy, providing a forum for citizens to organize around common interests, choose political leaders and influence policy. Yet, in many developing countries, political parties are unable to deliver every day results for their citizens and fail to build trust. NDI’s 21st Century Party Renewal Initiative helps parties modernize internal operations, be responsive to voters and foster greater inclusion of women and youth. The Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook provides simple, actionable ways for political parties to address online threats.

Improving Governance and Accountability
Transparent government builds citizen trust and reduces corruption. NDI collaborates on innovative governance programming through the Open Government Partnership to promote global norms of transparency, and Living Cities to deepen citizen engagement in urban government. The Executive Transitions program promotes smooth, peaceful transfers of power in the wake of democratic elections. NDI, together with the International Republican Institute (IRI), supports the House Democracy Partnership, a bipartisan commission of the U.S. House of Representatives that facilitates parliamentary exchanges in emerging democracies.

Encouraging Citizen Participation
NDI helps citizens organize and engage through civic and voter education, advocacy campaigns and oversight of government activities. NDI fosters cross-border dialogue and learning among citizen activists through Civic Forum and Civic Update. By engaging in collective action, democracy is deepened and citizens learn to hold government accountable as watchdogs and advocates.
Lessons Learned

NDI is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization that works in partnership around the world to strengthen and safeguard democratic institutions, processes, norms and values to secure a better quality of life for all. NDI envisions a world where democracy and freedom prevail, with dignity for all.

Our Mission

Democratic development is cost-effective
Whether measured in terms of averting war, humanitarian crises, refugee flows or violent extremism, democratic development pays for itself many times over.

International networks are vital
While there is no single democratic model, certain core principles are shared by all democracies. When democracy activists share their experiences with those undergoing similar challenges, it helps nations in transition recognize they are not alone and that obstacles can be overcome.

Inclusion is essential
Democracy thrives when all segments of society participate equally without bias or reprisal. Dialogue, compromise, inclusion and respect for the rule of law are the foundations for sustainable development, national security and internal stability.

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Democracy must deliver
Democratic governments must show results - particularly in improving living standards for the people - if democracy is to be successful.
**NDI by the Numbers**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supported the efforts of:</th>
<th>Field Offices in over:</th>
<th>Helped over:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16,000 civic organizations</td>
<td>50 countries</td>
<td>300 citizen election monitoring organizations train and deploy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>925 political parties</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,000,000 election observers in</td>
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<tr>
<td>10,000 legislators</td>
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<td>350 elections and referenda in over 85 countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,300 women’s organizations</td>
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**Helped partner groups organize more than:**

- 415 candidate debates in over 45 countries
- 250 international election observer delegations in more than 67 countries
- 600,000 party poll-watchers in over 50 countries

**Worked in more than:**

- 156 countries and territories around the world

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**Join in Support of Democracy**

- Check out the DemWorks video and podcast series.
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter.

Please donate at [WWW.NDI.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.NDI.ORG/DONATE)