

National Democratic Institute

Strengthening Political Parties Program

The 2017 presidential and legislative elections represented a milestone for Liberia, marking the first peaceful democratic transfer of executive power since 1944. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is implementing a five-year initiative to strengthen the capacity of political parties to participate in Liberia's electoral and political processes. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), NDI is providing technical assistance to all registered political parties in Liberia in a variety of capacities.

Enhancing Internal Democracy & Accountability

Following the 2017 elections, NDI and its international party experts are working with the leadership of selected political parties to conduct comprehensive party assessments and design five-year party modernization plans. NDI will design targeted assistance including a political party academy to train party leaders and staff in strategic planning, platform development, constituency outreach, membership recruitment and party operations.

To increase the participation of women and youth in politics, NDI will conduct a campaign workshop to help youth and women leaders to develop the organizational skills valuable to political parties. NDI also plans to build parties' capacities to incorporate citizen perspectives by introducing the benefits of public opinion research and other citizen outreach strategies.

Increasing Peaceful External Engagement

Prior to the 2017 elections, NDI introduced party pollwatching training workshops as an opportunity for political parties to engage their constituents and improve party structures at the national and grassroots levels. NDI conducted 10 party pollwatching workshops and trained 169 pollwatching Master Trainers representing 23 political parties. NDI will continue to work with parties in advance of the 2020 Senatorial Elections to help parties to expand their membership recruitment, identify and develop additional party leaders and foster improved intra-party communication, information sharing and data management.



Lawmakers at the House of Representative's member orientation

Increasing Accountability to Constituents

NDI is working with legislators and political parties to build their capacity to respond to the needs of constituents. In February 2018, NDI facilitated a legislative orientation for all elected members of the House of Representatives and their staff aimed at enhancing their understanding of legislative processes and structures, the roles and responsibilities of legislators, and the importance of building relationships with constituents and civil society organizations. Following the orientation, NDI will continue to work with lawmakers and party leadership to build stronger party caucuses to translate party platforms, policy priorities and citizen interests into a legislative agenda.

NDI is supporting civil society partner Liberian Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) to monitor the activities of political parties and their elected officials. IREDD is developing profiles of each elected representative and will publicly post their campaign promises and platforms in order to track whether their actions in office reflect their promises and to increase their accountability to their constituents. IREDD also developed a website to track attendance, participation and initiatives created by each lawmaker. (www.liberialawmakerswatch.org).

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