OVERVIEW

The Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) program supports the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) goals and objectives, under the “Governing Justly and Democratically” area of the Foreign Assistance Framework. The program is administered by USAID’s Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, and is implemented by the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS).

The DEPP program builds on more than 25 years of partnership between USAID and CEPPS and supports results-driven interventions which promote inclusive, accountable, representative governance that delivers for all people.

Under DEPP, CEPPS pools the resources of seven premier international organizations dedicated to democratic development:

- The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- The International Republican Institute (IRI)
- The National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)
- The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)
- Democracy Arch (D-Arch)
- Internews

PROGRAM GOAL
Strengthen democratic development by supporting credible and competitive political processes and transitions

AWARD TYPE
Cooperative Agreement – Leader with Associates Award

PERFORMANCE PERIOD
October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2026

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CEPPS CORE PARTNERS

DEPP SENIOR TECHNICAL PARTNERS (STP)
CEPPS’s unique approach to programming under DEPP is:

- **QUICK AND EASY TO PROCURE:**
  The DEPP LWA features a convenient, pre-competed mechanism through which USAID can choose to work with any combination of CEPPS partners collectively, or individually, as needed.

- **HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE:**
  CEPPS’s global theory of change recognizes inclusive and accountable democracies as the linchpin for protecting human rights and achieving global development goals. In response, CEPPS offers sustainable whole-of-society approaches that reinforce links across sectors and build resilience to internal and external challenges.

- **CONTEXT SPECIFIC AND FLEXIBLE:**
  CEPPS practices and exemplifies USAID’s thinking and working politically approach. CEPPS prioritizes political analysis to identify appropriate entry points within local systems and maximizes flexibility and learning throughout associate award programming using a continuous, four-step process: 1) assess 2) design 3) implement and 4) adapt.

- **LOCALLY FOCUSED:**
  Bolstered by an emphasis on local engagement, CEPPS programs are designed to be highly dynamic and built around the needs and inputs of local stakeholders and beneficiaries. We take an inclusive approach to engaging more diverse local, regional, and international partners to build sustainability, support networking and peer learning, and provide specialized technical support to increase global reach and scalability as needed.

- **EVIDENCE BASED AND RESULTS ORIENTED:**
  CEPPS relies on robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) processes to link associate award interventions with leader award activities. At the leader level, CEPPS pilots, learns, and scales across associate-level interventions. At the associate award level, CEPPS tracks outputs and outcomes to flow up to leader-wide learning which is shared with USAID and the wider Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) community.

- **RESPONSIVE CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT:**
  CEPPS has enhanced its management system to represent a single team through which USAID can easily and quickly access practical solutions which meet the full array of DRG challenges.
Democratic Elections and Political Processes Program

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**
Encourage participation by all citizens and social groups in electoral and political processes by identifying and addressing social, economic, legal, and political barriers to participation.

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT**
Facilitate the development of accountability and oversight mechanisms for responsive and democratic governance, both within the state and by citizens and civil society.

**INFORMATION INTEGRITY**
Facilitate citizen access to accurate information about policy and political processes.

**CONSENSUS BUILDING**
Facilitate the development and implementation of consensus-building processes and legal frameworks, including peace processes, constitutional reform and support during political transitions, and democratic breakthroughs.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**
Build capacity of stakeholders including citizens, media, civil society, political parties, and government to advance political freedoms and establish democratic political processes.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE**
Improve democratic governance and the quality of representation throughout the political system, including by supporting country efforts to build representative multiparty systems and legislative bodies, and improving the responsiveness of governing institutions to citizens.

**TECHNOLOGY**
Promote the appropriate use of technology in political processes while mitigating its negative consequences.

**ELECTORAL INTEGRITY**
Promote electoral integrity and sound election administration in the pursuit of free, fair, and competitive electoral processes.

**POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE MITIGATION**
Encourage peaceful political processes and prevent and mitigate electoral violence.

**CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES**

- Gender and Youth
- Marginalized Groups
- Local Partners
- Anti-Corruption
- Sustainability

For more information visit [www.cepps.org](http://www.cepps.org)