



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FACT SHEET



USAID SUPPORT TO THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

Background

The House Democracy Partnership (HDP), formerly known as the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), was established on March 14, 2005, by the U.S. House of Representatives (H. Res. 135) to strengthen democratic institutions by assisting parliaments in emerging democracies. Central to the Partnership's work is the provision of technical expertise enhancing accountability, transparency, legislative independence, and government oversight in foreign parliaments. In addition, the Partnership makes recommendations to USAID regarding the provision of material assistance to such parliaments to improve their efficiency and transparency. The Partnership currently has partnerships with 14 legislatures around the world: Afghanistan, Colombia, East Timor, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Peru and Ukraine. The Partnership's assistance programs have centered largely on congressional visits to partner parliaments for two-day Member and staff programs; U.S. visitor programs for delegations from partner parliaments comprised of both MPs and staff; a two-week parliamentary staff training institute on Capitol Hill; and material assistance to several parliaments, focused on libraries, research services, and computer hardware. In addition, the Library of Congress sent staff delegations to East Timor, Lebanon and Afghanistan as part of HDP efforts to assist those parliamentary libraries. The HDP has worked closely with USAID Missions in a number of these countries and its activities are intended to complement existing USAID-funded legislative strengthening programs.

USAID Assistance to the HDP

USAID manages the HDP's annual appropriation. In FY06 and FY07, a combined \$2 million was appropriated to fund HDP programs and activities. In FY 08 and FY09, a total of \$4 million was appropriated. USAID assists HDP in organizing and implementing numerous legislative strengthening activities. For example:

- USAID Missions and implementing partners work closely with the HDP to help facilitate the visits of HDP delegations to partner parliaments.
- USAID/DCHA/DG procured and manages CEPPS awards to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) to organize Washington-based parliamentary staff training programs. The first program was held in December 2007 and involved 28 legislative staffers from HDP partner parliaments. Two more programs were held in 2008 and one in 2009.
- USAID staff participated in HDP congressional and staff delegations to Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Liberia, Kenya, Macedonia, and Peru.
- USAID/DCHA/DG detailed its legislative strengthening advisor to HDP on a part-time basis for six months.
- At the request of the HDP, USAID facilitated the purchase of material assistance for parliaments in Afghanistan, Georgia, Macedonia, East Timor, Liberia and Lebanon.
- USAID/DCHA/DG procured and managed grants to the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), NDI, and IRI to organize Washington-based visitors program for parliamentarians from HDP partner parliaments.

HDP Support for USAID-Funded Legislative Strengthening Programs

- HDP provided two congressional staffers for a workshop for the Kenya Parliament on legislative rules and procedures organized by USAID implementing partner Center for International Development of the State University of New York (SUNY/CID).
- HDP provided three congressional staffers for an in-country technical consultation with the Georgia Parliament in support of work being conducted by USAID implementing partner National Democratic Institute.
- HDP provided one congressional staffer for a workshop on legislative ethics for the Haiti National Assembly organized by USAID implementing partners SUNY/CID and ARD.

Potential Future HDP Activities

- Organize additional parliamentary staff training institutes for key staff of partner parliaments, divided into multiple tracks or specialties such as legislative drafting, research, budget, and committee staffing.
- Increase the number of specialized congressional staffers conducting one to two week hands-on technical consultancies and training with partner parliaments.

For more information, contact Keith Schulz, Legislative Strengthening Advisor, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID, 202-712-4219, KeSchulz@usaid.gov