



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

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Electoral Reform and Civic Advocacy (AERCA)

Through this project USAID is facilitating Afghan-led dialogue on electoral reform. The Electoral Reform Network supports Afghan civil society's engagement with government and other political stakeholders. The project supports informed reform of the Afghan electoral system, enhancing public confidence in the electoral process by improving transparency and enabling dialogue on political events and the performance of election institutions.

OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to strengthen Afghan democracy through genuine electoral reform and to foster innovations in governance through electoral reform.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Developing comprehensive electoral reform agenda with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that will be used to promote effective advocacy.
- Conducting advocacy skills-building workshops for civil society activists.
- Developing civic education and outreach materials on electoral reform with civil society activists.
- Providing assistance to government officials, political party leaders, and civil society representatives with legal drafting and analysis of regulatory framework.
- Conducting research that explores individual public attitudes toward political parties, politicians, other social and ethnic groups, research model also probes into individual preferences toward different electoral systems.
- Building Afghan capacity to conduct research on electoral reform.

RESULTS TO DATE

- Led fact-finding missions on electoral systems to India, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Establishment of the Electoral Reform Network of Afghanistan to coordinate efforts on electoral reform within a wide network of CSOs.
- Conducted extensive workshops on gender participation in electoral reform in Kabul and Herat.
- Conducted the largest-ever nationwide public opinion survey in all 34 provinces on electoral issues.
- Established partnership with National Center for Policy Research at Kabul University to create the first-ever nationwide electoral survey network in Afghanistan.
- Conducted three workshops on trainings on research methods for participants from 11 different CSOs.
- Conducted first ever survey of sitting MPs to gauge opinions on current electoral law. Through this activity, DI pioneered the use of iPads as a data collection medium.