



September 17, 2024

Report to Congress on Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Participation

This report is submitted pursuant to Section 7019(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (Div. F, P.L. 118-47) and House Report 118-146, which states:

“Women’s and girls’ civic and political participation.—The Committee notes the value of ensuring the equal participation of women and girls in democracy, human rights, and governance programs and consulting with women and girls in the design and implementation of such foreign assistance programs that directly impact their lives. The Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID are directed to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act on a strategy to increase the engagement of women and girls in democracy, human rights, and governance programs, efforts made to achieve such objectives, and mechanisms to assess the impact of women’s full participation in these programs.”

Introduction

With more than half the world’s population under the age of 30, empowering and inspiring girls and young women to serve as civic and political leaders is an important vehicle for positive change in all countries. Worldwide, however, only 26.9 percent¹ of parliamentarians are women, and only 2.97 percent² of political representatives are under the age of 30, showing significant gaps in the representation of girls and young women’s voices in civic and political spheres. The obstacles that women and girls face when taking on leadership roles are numerous, interlinked, compounding, and rooted in gender inequality.

As early as age six³, girls’ levels of ambition and self-confidence in their abilities are impacted by gender discrimination and harmful stereotypes. Adolescent girls commonly face gender-based violence (GBV), including but not limited to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) and child, early, and forced marriage and unions (CEFM/U); lack of access to quality education; and lack of established career or leadership pathways, mentors, or role models. These and other barriers collectively limit their ability to participate in civic and political life or take on leadership roles. At the current rate of progress, it would take 169 years⁴ to achieve gender parity in positions of political leadership worldwide.

Research shows that countries that provide a safe and enabling environment for women and girls to participate equitably in politics and public life have more inclusive and effective policy

¹ U.N. Women, “Leadership and Political Participation: Facts and Figures” Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures#>

² Available at: <https://data.ipu.org/age-brackets-aggregate/>

³ “Data on Age: Global and Regional Averages.” Available at: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aah6524>

⁴ Pal et al, “Global Gender Gap 2024: Insight Report.” Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2024/digest/>

outcomes, are more peaceful and stable, and have higher economic growth.⁵ The ability of women and girls to participate safely, freely, and equally in political life and society is a prerequisite for democracy and a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. Consistent with the strategy outlined in the 2023 Report to Congress on Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Participation (see Appendix), this report reflects U.S. initiatives and foreign assistance programs related to the engagement of women and girls in civic and political processes.

One such initiative that delivers on the strategy outlined in the 2023 Report to Congress on Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Participation (Appendix 1) is **Women Leading Effective and Accountable Democracy in the Digital Age Initiative (Women LEAD)**. Launched in 2024, Women LEAD is a U.S. government initiative that convenes governments, philanthropies, civil society, and multilateral organizations to advance democracy and gender equality and women’s empowerment by supporting women’s participation and leadership in politics and public life, both on and offline. Initiative partners pledged contributions to further align efforts towards this goal, including \$150 million in planned contributions through 2025 from across USAID and the U.S. Department of State. This initiative builds on and harnesses shared commitments and priorities, including those laid out in the U.S. Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, the Summit for Democracy Cohort on Gender Equality as a Prerequisite for Democracy, and the Network for Gender Inclusive Democracy. Many of the projects comprising the USG’s contributions to Women LEAD are described in greater detail below.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Programming Examples

USAID-Funded Programs

Advancing Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Leadership Initiative. Through the Advancing Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Leadership initiative, USAID is working to dismantle barriers to the political empowerment of women and girls by building and sustaining the pipeline of women leaders and facilitating their safe and meaningful participation in political, peacebuilding, and transition processes. USAID is implementing this initiative in 10 focus countries, which are Côte d’Ivoire, Colombia, Fiji, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Yemen. This includes activities that are working to train women political aspirants and elected officials at the local and national levels and to support the passage and implementation of legislation to address constraints to women’s political leadership, including violence against women in politics and public life in its online and offline manifestations. For example, in Côte d’Ivoire, training for women political aspirants and support for voter education contributed to an increase in women’s political representation at the local level. Today, women in Côte d’Ivoire hold over 30 percent of all local council seats, up from 15 percent prior to the 2023 elections. In Tanzania, USAID supported civil society

⁵ U.S. Strategy and National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2021. Available at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/U.S.-Strategy-and-National-Action-Plan-on-Women-Peace-and-Security.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery; ; Ahmad and Tank, 2020. “Gender and Mediation Backgrounder 1: Women’s Participation in Peace Processes.” Available at: https://cdn.cloud.prio.org/files/caa7a270-2f7a-46b7-8ecf-db366ad4def4/Backgrounder%201%20Ahmad%20and%20Tank%202020%20%20Womens%20Participation%20in%20Peace%20Processes.pdf?inline=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery; and others

organizations advocating for reform in advance of upcoming local and national elections, which culminated in a new law, ratified in March 2024, that criminalized acts of violence against women in elections and politics. This made Tanzania the first country in Africa to recognize this crime.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Assistance to Citizens in the Fight Against Corruption Activity. USAID is supporting women-led civil society groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to report the abuse of power through blackmail and sexual harassment (also known as “sextortion”)⁶ and maltreatment in maternity wards, as well as advocate for legislative improvements. A public campaign, which included storytelling, billboard campaigns, and street actions, was organized to familiarize the public with the concept of sextortion, its harmful consequences, and methods of reporting. USAID also supported women activists to introduce an anti-corruption mechanism in maternity wards by enabling women to report their own experiences of corruption anonymously. Based on the experience of 81 women in the Zenica-Doboj Canton who faced verbal humiliation and the expectation of bribes in exchange for acceptable medical treatment, the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office initiated proceedings against doctors and medical staff on suspicion of inhumane, illegal, corrupt, and unethical behavior towards women in labor.

The Civil Society Organizations and Community Collectives for Democratic Governance (CCCGD). Two hundred years ago, during the British colonial period, members of the Malaiyaha Thamil Community (MTC), were brought from India to work in tea and coffee plantations in Sri Lanka. Today, they constitute approximately 4.2 percent of the total population and remain one of the most economically, socially, historically, politically, and structurally marginalized communities in the country. USAID’s CCCDG activity supports MTC to address legal, policy reforms, land, and housing rights; political, economic, and public service deliveries; women and youth empowerment; and governance issues that affect people in the plantations through collective action and advocacy. In 2024, CCCDG conducted two awareness and training workshops on political literacy and electoral democracy for 27 prospective local political candidates. The activity also conducted 30 community awareness sessions on political representation and women's leadership. These efforts will increase decision-making powers for women in the plantation community on their rights.

CREDIBLE. USAID’s CREDIBLE activity works in partnership with youth-serving and youth-led local organizations in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Peru to transform how young people engage with their information environment. CREDIBLE aims to build the digital and media capacity of young women and men and build their resilience to information manipulation by energizing local media and the broader information space with youth and women’s voices. CREDIBLE ensures diverse and gender-balanced youth leadership in media, digital literacy, AI literacy, and content production initiatives. In FY 2024, 61 percent of CREDIBLE participants were women. The program's curricula, adapted for diverse contexts, tackles how information manipulation exploits gender vulnerabilities while fostering resilience, critical thinking, and leadership among youth. By incorporating varied

⁶ For more, see [Stopping the Abuse of Power Through Sexual Exploitation: Naming, Shaming, and Ending Sextortion](#).

practical media content examples and empowering young women as leaders, CREDIBLE strengthens their roles in guiding community efforts to enhance youth resilience against information manipulation.

Inclusive Participatory Processes (IPP). USAID's IPP activity provides technical assistance to improve women's political and civic participation to the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the election commission, and community groups. In Parliament, IPP supported the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus (WPC) to visit the Parliament of New Zealand to learn about women's political representation in New Zealand. As a follow-up to this visit, the WPC reached out to all political parties in Sri Lanka to discuss introducing a women's quota at the nomination stage to promote opportunities for more women to enter politics and commenced discussions with think tanks on conducting research on the gender pay gap in Sri Lanka and expanding women's deliberation in Parliament on issues beyond gender. Furthermore, in coordination with the WPC, Parliament launched a documentary highlighting the work of the caucus and the journey into politics for women parliamentarians. The documentary is used as part of Parliament's public outreach efforts to promote women's political leadership and representation.

Powered by the People. In October 2023, USAID launched Powered by the People (PxP), a global response mechanism that provides direct and accessible support that addresses the needs, opportunities, and challenges identified by activists and other civic actors engaged in nonviolent collective action. Through this support, PxP seeks to strengthen the agency, resiliency, and efficacy of activists and people-powered social movements that advance human rights, social justice, democracy, and inclusive development. A number of core implementing partners are women-led and focus on women, including the FSC-Indigenous Foundation, which is advocating, promoting, and implementing the Mesoamerican Indigenous Women Agenda and Work Plan, and the Manushya Foundation in Thailand. Additional PxP impacts on women includes flexible core support to Keri Caring for Activists, a women-led psychosocial support organization of activists caring for activists, and the urgent relocation of a woman Sudanese human rights defender within her home country, so she could safely continue human rights documentation. Through local partners, PxP has provided rapid response support in under 24 hours and non-urgent support in under 72 hours.

Transform Digital Spaces (Transform). Through Transform, USAID is supporting local partners to pilot practical approaches to preventing, mitigating, and responding to TFGBV in Georgia, Guatemala, and Kenya, with a focus on violence experienced by women in politics and public life. Data collected through this activity will improve our understanding of how TFGBV targeting women in politics and public life manifests in a wide variety of local contexts and what strategies can successfully address this global problem. Transform is applying a whole-of-system approach with the understanding that this issue not only impacts individual survivors but is also a tool for repression and political control by anti-democratic actors. Through research and learning events, Transform is creating opportunities for groups working in the civic technology, GBV, democracy, and human rights, and women's rights sectors to create bridges among their disciplines and work effectively together to advocate for changes to laws,

policies, and norms governing technology and digital spaces. Transform fulfills a U.S. programming commitment under the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.

Women’s Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) Assessments. In 2023, USAID completed WPPL Assessments in eight countries - Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, and Tanzania. Two additional assessments are currently in process in Fiji and Georgia. These assessments provide an in-depth mapping of the socio-cultural, institutional, and individual factors that influence women’s civic and political participation and leadership at the country level. The assessments map obstacles and opportunities, identify key stakeholders, and propose specific tailored recommendations for programming in each country. USAID Missions are using recommendations from the assessments to better integrate WPPL into their current and future DRG programming, including programming under the **Advancing Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Leadership Initiative**, and in some cases, to design stand-alone activities that address sociocultural, institutional, and individual factors that inhibit women’s full and equal access to public life.

Reducing Conflict through Indigenous Women and Youth Activity. Honduras is beset by multiple, overlapping forms of conflict, primarily around natural resource management (NRM), marginalization, human rights abuses and violations, and violence against Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous women, girls, and boys are disproportionately affected because they often lack full participation in, recognition, protection, or enjoyment of their collective rights to ancestral lands or environmental protection as Indigenous Peoples. They also face heightened impacts of conflict around NRM, stemming from patriarchal gender norms, discrimination, harassment, and stigmatization. To address these issues and support a safe and secure environment, USAID is leveraging the role of Indigenous women and youth to establish and support new and existing Community Indigenous Women and Youth Councils and women-led initiatives; address impunity for human rights abuses and violations committed against Indigenous individuals; build technical expertise and institutional resilience of Indigenous councils; mobilize indigenous women and youth to influence decision-making processes, particularly in relation to conflict and natural resources; build their capacity in conflict resolution and early warning to more effectively mitigate NRM related and other types of conflicts; and bolster women’s and youths’ leadership to support holistic and inclusive policy responses.

Department of State-Funded Programs

Gender Equality Considerations in DRL’s Global Foreign Assistance Programs. The Department of State’s Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) requires a detailed gender and inclusion analysis for each program considered for funding. This analysis helps assess and plan for the different ways in which every DRL foreign assistance program may engage with and impact women and girls in the community, country, and region where activities take place. Once potential challenges, gaps, and opportunities related to gender norms, equity and equality for underserved and marginalized populations, power relations, and conflict dynamics are analyzed with regard to the target location and topic, DRL uses this information as a factor

in determining whether a proposal might be eligible and competitive for award, and then tailors and strengthens program design and implementation to incorporate the unique perspectives of women and girls. Importantly, amongst other factors, gender and inclusion analyses help ensure that DRL programs meaningfully take into account whether men and women are treated equally in legislation, and by official policies and institutions in the country; whether men, women, girls and boys have equal control over and the capacity to use resources (e.g., assets, income, education, social benefits, services, and technology) and information necessary to be an active and productive participant in society; and whether youth, particularly girls, are able to safely and actively engage in civic life and political processes and to what extent fears of online and physical risk may preclude their full participation.

Promoting Accountability, Inclusivity, and Resiliency Support (PAIRS). Through its PAIRS program, DRL supports women’s participation and leadership in local and national government institutions, including by increasing the diversity and representation of women candidates from marginalized communities in elections and political processes. PAIRS programs also support women parliamentarians through policymaking trainings that leverage skills to develop and advocate for inclusive policies. Recently, the Ecuadorian National Assembly unanimously passed the landmark Organic Law for Equal Pay Between Men and Women. This legislation mandates equal remuneration for the same job or work of equal value between men and women, aiming to eradicate sex or gender-based discrimination in wages. Several women parliamentarians who participated in PAIRS-funded trainings successfully advocated for the bill’s passage, exercising their political influence among colleagues to effectively articulate the bill’s benefits.

Support Her Empowerment: Political Engagement, Rights, Safety, and Inclusion Strategies to Succeed (SHE PERSISTS). DRL launched SHE PERSISTS during the first Summit for Democracy to support women’s political participation and empowerment to build and sustain good governance and lasting democracy globally. The multi-year program provides funding for technical assistance in advancing women’s safety, political participation and empowerment, and initiatives for inclusive democracy. This initiative bolsters women’s political participation with a focus on the inclusion of diverse groups and marginalized populations. SHE PERSISTS seeks to deepen ongoing efforts to support women’s leadership at all levels of governance through programs that support women’s and girls’ roles and participation in issues such as land governance; tackling structural barriers – both legal and norms-based, including political violence – and engaging locally- and women-led processes that accelerate women’s meaningful political participation.

Global LGBTQI+ Inclusive Democracy and Empowerment (GLIDE) Initiative. DRL’s GLIDE Initiative is a program launched during the first Summit for Democracy and funded by the Global Equality Fund that is designed to improve the lives of LGBTQI+ people around the world through increased access to and participation and leadership in inclusive democratic movements and institutions. In addition to providing funding support to civil society organizations, the GLIDE Initiative also produces an annual landscape analysis that shows, as autocrats undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens, they often do so

by targeting gender equality and LGBTQI+ persons in the name of protecting national identity, enforcing traditional gender roles, ‘protecting’ children, and upholding ‘family values’.⁷ This, in turn, has a negative impact on the ability of all individuals, including women and girls, to participate freely and safely in democratic processes.

Preventing and Responding to TFGBV. Since 2022, the Department of State has invested over \$13 million in programs to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the growing scourge of TFGBV and its negative impact on women’s and girls’ civic and political participation globally. DRL has funded more than \$8 million in projects across every region that build upon existing civil society-led initiatives to prevent, document, and address the harmful social norms and drivers of TFGBV, and to cultivate safe online use and innovative strategies that respond to survivors’ needs. The Department of State’s Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues (S/GWI) manages an additional \$5 million in programs that enhance the TFGBV-related capacities and networks of civil society and digital community stewards to make online spaces safer, amplify multi-sectoral engagement and collaborative outreach, provide rapid and flexible response to survivors of TFGBV to address their specific and immediate needs, and foster survivor-centered and evidence-based learning amongst TFGBV survivors and organizations combating TFGBV. Collectively, these programs strengthen democracy by enabling women and girls to engage safely online, build their political knowledge and ability to advance human rights, foster new networks, and hold positions of influence in which they can express themselves freely, online and offline.

Global Girls Creating Change (G2C2). Through the G2C2 project, S/GWI is working to foster and elevate girls leading, shaping, and informing equitable and inclusive policies and actions. As one of S/GWI’s flagship youth-focused project, G2C2 will help secure young women’s economic future by supporting the empowerment of girls and leverage their potential to build economic resilience and respond to climate crises and environmental challenges by helping them pursue relevant skill sets, especially in science and technology (e.g., related to environmental science, biodiversity, and food systems). The project will deliver tailored environmental education, advocacy training, and mentoring in Brazil, Indonesia, Nepal, and Uganda while also establishing a global network to engage 900 girls in at least 25 countries to identify climate solutions and innovations and support them to engage in policy and decision-making at the local, regional, and global levels.

Support Her Empowerment – Girls’ Resilience, Enterprise, and Technology Initiative (SHE’S GREAT!). Through SHE’S GREAT!, S/GWI supports adolescent youth, and girls in particular, as well as their families, schools, and communities, to facilitate positive behavior change around gender equality and challenge harmful norms that contribute to gender-based violence while also promoting girls’ increased economic skills and opportunities. The project focuses on supporting science, technology, engineering, and math education; youth leadership skill development; and community and family engagement.

⁷ Outright International, “Glide 2024 Landscape Analysis.” Available at: <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/human-rights-research/global-lgbtqi-inclusive-democracy-and-empowerment-glide-initiatives>

Support Her Empowerment – Women’s Inclusion in New Security (SHE WINS). The meaningful participation of women – including access to and influence over decision-making, peace, and political processes related to conflict, crisis, and security – leads to better and more sustainable security and economic growth outcomes, not only for women, but for entire communities and countries. As announced during the first Summit for Democracy and managed by S/GWI, SHE WINS supports women-led organizations to address peace and security challenges in their communities, including through peacebuilding initiatives and localization of WPS National Action Plans. To enable the flexible resourcing of women peacebuilders, SHE WINS includes a Rapid Response Fund (RRF), which supports emerging women-led organizations to advance initiatives that address and prevent local conflict in their communities, including on themes of building the capacity of women leaders, providing psychosocial support and economic empowerment, and advancing the role of women in democratic processes and civil society. For example, in Guatemala, the SHE WINS RRF supported a women-led organization to mobilize 90 indigenous women to participate in local and national elections by serving as election observers and addressing the barriers in their communities, including violence, that obstructed their opportunity to vote.

APPENDIX: Strategy Outlined in the 2023 Report to Congress on Women’s and Girls’ Civic and Political Participation

Coordination: As directed by the U.S. Congress, this strategy report has been developed by key stakeholders from offices and bureaus across the Department of State and USAID.

Policy Alignment: The promotion of democracy, human rights, and good governance is deeply integrated into U.S. foreign policy and national security. To empower adolescent girls specifically, and to encourage their safe, full, equal, and meaningful civic and political participation, the United States has integrated cross-cutting democracy and governance, youth, and gender equality priorities into several landmark strategies, policies, and initiatives:

- The **U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality** commits to advancing women and girls’ meaningful participation and inclusion in bilateral and multilateral dialogues and processes, with a goal of achieving gender equality.
- The **U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls** tackles barriers that keep adolescent girls from engaging in civic and political life through education, economic activities, skills building, and addressing harmful norms.
- The **U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally** identifies “girls and young women” as an at-risk group that will be prioritized in U.S. efforts to address GBV, including child, early, and forced marriage; and acknowledges GBV as a barrier to girls’ and women’s participation in civic, social, and economic life.
- The **U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security** seeks to promote women and girls’ safety in conflict and crisis, and their meaningful participation in political and security decision-making processes at all levels.
- The **U.S. Government Strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity** is a whole-of-government strategy that outlines the U.S. government’s approach to investing in the development, care, dignity, and safety of the world’s most vulnerable children and their families.
- **The USAID Policy Framework (2023)** calls for advancing equitable societies, increasing economic security for women and girls, and empowering women in the political arena.
- **USAID’s Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy** seeks to expand the pipeline of civic-minded and/or politically interested women and girls and create a favorable environment for girls’ representation, leadership, and agency.
- **USAID’s Youth in Development Policy** aims to increase the collective voice and meaningful participation of youth in local and national systems, including for often marginalized and underserved groups such as adolescent girls and young women ages 10-29.
- **USAID’s Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Policy (2024)** emphasizes gender equity, women’s empowerment, and inclusion of underrepresented communities as a core pillar of the approach to accelerating democratic

development and bolstering open, just, peaceful, and resilient societies.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) **Increase** girls' and young women's access to quality, safe, inclusive, and participatory civic education, mentorship, leadership, and skills development opportunities.
- 2) **Address** the unique barriers that prevent girls and young women from participating in civic and political life by promoting an enabling environment where they can safely exercise their rights, representation, and leadership.
- 3) **Elevate** the voices of girls and young women as agents of change and leaders in their communities, countries, and on the global stage.

Guiding Principles

The Department of State and USAID commit to the following approaches:

Intersectional: Address how aspects of an individual's identity intersect to create different experiences of discrimination and privilege. Consider the historic, sociocultural, and systemic disadvantages and power imbalances members of different groups face; and recognize their strength, resilience, and leadership in developing tailored solutions.

Locally Led/Informed: Build partnerships with local stakeholders, including individuals, communities, networks, organizations, private entities, and governments, and enable them to set their own agendas and co-create solutions. This includes prioritizing meaningful engagement with women and girls themselves; as well as women-led, youth-led, and women's rights organizations, activists, and community influencers; marginalized and underserved communities; and men and boys to achieve lasting change in addressing democratic and peace and security challenges, and advancing gender equality for all.

Safeguarding and Do No Harm Assessments: Commit to principles of safety, respect, confidentiality, and non-discrimination in all our work and regularly assess efforts to not put GBV survivors, program participants, staff, and community members, including those from underserved communities at physical or emotional risk.

Participatory: Partner with girls and young women in a way that is respectful, inclusive, and intentional, whereby power is shared, their respective contributions are valued, and the ideas, perspectives, skills, and strengths of all girls and young women are integrated into the design and delivery of programs, strategies, policies, funding mechanisms, and organizations that affect their lives and their communities, countries, and the world.

Priority Actions

Policy, Diplomacy, and Outreach (PDO):

PDO1: Promote the rights and empowerment of girls and young women in multilateral fora — including the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly and its committees, Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women, and other multilateral

institutions at the global and regional levels. Advance political commitments that promote the health, well-being, and human rights of girls and young women.

PDO2: Prioritize high-level, sustained bilateral and regional diplomatic engagement on barriers to the civic and political participation of women and girls, including discriminatory laws and judicial systems, lack of access to or availability of services, and the prevalence of GBV, including CEFMU and TFGBV.

PDO3: Create opportunities for safe, inclusive, ongoing, and meaningful dialogue with girls and young women on democracy, peace and security, human rights, and governance to inform U.S. foreign policy and programming.

PDO4: Continue robust reporting on girls and young women's civic engagement and leadership in social movements, and the issues that limit the civic and political participation of women and girls, including through the Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (Human Rights Reports), Trafficking in Persons Reports, and cables.

Programming (PRG):

PRG1: Invest in comprehensive, multi-sectoral programming that addresses harmful gender norms, and the unique vulnerabilities of girls and young women which prevent them from participating in civic and political life, including investments in prevention and response to GBV, such as school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV), CEFMU, and TFGBV; and investments in the care economy, and tackling related issues such as discrimination in the workforce.

PRG2: Prioritize the ethical and systematic collection of age-, disability and sex-disaggregated data in U.S. foreign assistance programs, including data collection on violence and exploitation of girls and young women in politics and public life, including in its online manifestations, and efforts to center the lived experiences of all girls and young women.

PRG3: Promote civic education, engagement, and skills building opportunities for girls and young women as part of the cross-sectoral, holistic positive youth development (PYD) approach.

PRG4: Integrate rights awareness, confidence building, networking, safe spaces for girls and young women, media literacy, political knowledge building, and other foundations for civic engagement into new and existing democracy and governance programming.

PRG5: Train girls and young women in core leadership competencies and introduce them to diverse examples of democratic principles through multicultural leadership training and exchanges.

PRG6: Increase intergenerational support and mentorship opportunities for girls and young women interested in engaging in public service and political processes.

PRG7: Work to challenge harmful norms and dynamics that underpin the gap in political empowerment of girls and young women through efforts to help men and boys understand power and privilege, and the impact inequality has on themselves, their families and their communities.

Implementation and Accountability

Implementation and accountability for this *United States Strategy on Women's and Girls' Civic and Political Participation* will be achieved through two reporting channels, coordinated by the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues and counterparts at the U.S. Department of State: (1) Formal updates will be provided through established reporting processes for relevant U.S. government strategies noted above; and (2) Regular interagency meetings will be established to ensure coordination between USAID and the Department of State.