



## THE KENYA GOVERNANCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

# ENSURING A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN KENYA

Kenya has experienced significant progress both politically and economically during the last decade. The first democratic election was held in 2002 and a process of writing a new constitution has been underway. The post-election violence after the disputed 2007 election, when about 1,100 people were killed and more than 600,000 displaced, underlines the fragility of the Kenyan democracy and its young institutions.

Through mediation and dialogue in 2008 the two disputing parties, led respectively by Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga, ended their quarrel by signing a power sharing agreement in a new coalition government, pledging to reform the electoral, constitutional, judicial and security sectors. The new constitution (adopted through a referendum and supported by 69% of Kenyans in August 2010) is the cornerstone of this reform agenda, enabling Kenyans to challenge the problems of impunity, corruption and ethnic divisions that have troubled the country for so long. The focus is now on the implementation of the Constitution and ensuring that the 2012 general elections will be free, fair and peaceful.

Although Kenya is urbanising quickly, the majority of Kenyans live in rural areas in abject poverty. It is a highly unequal society with the richest 10% of households controlling 36% of the wealth. Inequality has gender, geographic, ethnic, religious and age dimensions and ethnic differences have been exploited by politicians in a political system drawn up on largely ethnic lines. In addition, a skewed colonial inheritance of unequal land tenure has been compounded by failings of governance and corruption. 70% of



*South Mugirango by-elections. Photo: Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)*

the population are under 30 and at least 500,000 enter the job market each year chasing 50,000 jobs in the formal sector. Women are underrepresented in leadership, and discriminated against in legislation.

## WORKING FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Kenya Governance Support Programme covers the period from 2010 to 2015 and aims to support the establishment of an open and healthy political environment that will benefit all Kenyans regardless of ethnicity, gender or status. The programme contributes to all three pillars of Kenya's Vision 2030: economic, social and political. However, emphasis is on the political pillar, by supporting the Kenyan government to create and implement a democratic political system that is issue-based, people-centred, result-oriented and accountable to the public, while safeguarding the 2012 elections.

Danida is pursuing a dual strategy involving both the Government of Kenya and civil society organisations (CSOs). These efforts range from supporting the newly established Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in its work of creating new constituency boundaries and preparing the 2012 election, to funding and helping the Kenyan Ministry of Finance in its reform of public financial management and decentralising the budget. However, this must go hand in hand with an engaged, skilled and informed civilian population. To that end, endowing the population with skills to affect their own communities in a positive way through cooperation with CSOs, is still the backbone of Danida's Kenya Governance Support Programme.

The programme has three components:

### 1. Supporting drivers of accountability

In a joint effort with the British Department for International Development and the Canadian International Development Agency the drivers of accountability programme aims to uphold institutions and organisations that promote accountability, advocate for progress and endeavour to implement key reforms aligned with Kenya's National Accord Agenda 4. A main focus is to support a peaceful and fair election in

2012. Drivers of Accountability Programme concentrates on achieving reduced impunity for elected representatives, officials and public institutions; implementation of key constitutional and electoral reforms by the next general election and the majority of legal provisions by 2014; and better service delivery through citizen participation in decision-making. In addition, Danida is actively involved in strengthening the capacity and independence of the Kenyan media by supporting the Kenya Media Programme, which offers stipends to freelance journalists enabling them to preserve their independence.

### 2. Public financial management

The public financial management component aims to reform the public financial management system to maintain macro-economic stability, accelerate growth and develop transparent, accountable, ethical and result-oriented government institutions. The programme collaborates with the Ministry of Finance and other development partners.

### 3. Ensuring peace and security for development

The Peace and Security for Development component is a network of five community-based civil society organisations on the Kenyan coast: the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics, the Council of Imams and Preachers in Kenya, the Kenya Youth Muslim Alliance, the Likoni Development

Programme, and Muslims for Human Rights. The component aims to strengthen local security and secure long lasting peace in the coastal region by addressing the root causes of conflict including ethnicity, religion and resources, as well as the radicalization of youth. It also seeks to help the CSOs to work with government agencies and other stakeholders to address issues of peace and security. The PSD network focuses on: educating community leaders on conflict management and resolution; mobilising communities to participate in peace committees; advocacy at regional and national level on peace and security issues; engaging with government ministries, agencies, provincial administration and police; and intervention in areas where conflict threatens to break out. The PSD network is supported by technical assistance.

By funding CSOs, Danida has built strong organisations that can influence pro-poor legislation and create unity and cohesion in the communities where they work. Through the inclusion of all aspects and groups in the governmental process the Kenya Governance Support Programme aims not only to secure a transparent and accountable government and constitutional implementation process, but also to facilitate a more unified Kenya. This will improve the conditions for development and for a business partnership with Denmark, to the benefit of Kenya and Kenyans.

Budget	DKK Million
1. Drivers of accountability programme	80
2. Public financial management	40
3. Peace and security for development	30.6
4. Technical assistance and reviews	4.4
5. Unallocated funds	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>