



USAID Assistance Overview for Sudan National Elections

USAID has planned a holistic, nationwide assistance program designed to contribute to the democratic transformation mapped out in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement focused in four assistance areas, listed below. The USAID budget for support to the Sudan national elections is currently \$95 million.

Election Administration

USAID offers election administration support, including technical assistance, capacity building, logistics, equipment and supplies, and provision of electoral commodities, to the National Elections Commission (NEC), the Southern Sudan Elections High Committee and State Elections High Committees. Assistance covers all phases of the electoral process, e.g., constituency delimitation, voter registration, ballot design, polling, and dispute resolution.

Civic Participation

Extensive public outreach is necessary to increase citizen awareness and understanding of elections, as well as to promote broad-based participation. Civic participation assistance encompasses civic and voter education, political party capacity building, media assistance, and domestic observation support.

- Civic and voter education – USAID supports the design and production of civic and voter education materials; civic dialogues and other civic education events on elections, electoral processes, and avenues for citizen participation; and voter education activities covering each step in the electoral process.
- Political party capacity building – Activities include training on the National Election Law and electoral regulations, as well as training for political party poll watchers.
- Media assistance – USAID supports the expansion of news coverage and broadcast air time for the shortwave station Sudan Radio Service; training for the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and journalists on reporting on the electoral process; and election-related discussion forums on USAID-supported community radio stations.
- Domestic observation support – USAID supports technical assistance and capacity building for domestic observation groups.

International Observation

USAID supports holistic international observation of the electoral process, from the formation of NEC through resolution of electoral disputes and including observation of all aspects of the electoral environment, such as: the role of media; election-related violence; freedoms of movement and assembly during the electoral process; participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups; and impact of security/insecurity on the electoral process.

Census Administration

USAID supported one of the key first steps of the electoral process, the design and implementation of the census in Southern Sudan.