



## **Report to Congress on Annual Report on Advancing Freedom and Democracy 22 USC 8221: Strategies, Priorities and Annual Report**

Consistent with section 2121 of the Advance Democratic Values, Address Nondemocratic Countries, and Enhance Democracy Act of 2007 (22 U.S.C. 8221), the Department of State submits this annual report on U.S. priorities for the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights for each nondemocratic country and democratic transition country. The report describes diplomacy and programs that U.S. missions and agencies use to promote democracy and protect human rights in each such country. This information illustrates how the United States uses bilateral and multilateral channels and platforms for diplomatic advocacy, foreign assistance programs, educational and cultural exchanges, and an array of other diplomatic tools to advance these goals. The endnotes are illustrative of countries where such efforts are active. This report covers the period from May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022.

### **Democracy and Human Rights**

The Biden-Harris Administration has committed to supporting democracy and human rights as a critical aspect of U.S. foreign policy. To implement this pledge, the Department of State – specifically its regional bureaus as well as the Bureaus of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL); International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL); International Organizations (IO); the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP); the Office of International Religious Freedom; the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism; the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues (S/GWI); the Office of Global Criminal Justice; the Global Engagement Center, the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI); and U.S. embassies – undertakes extensive diplomatic and programmatic activities to support democracy and human rights as central tenets of U.S. foreign policy.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) addresses these goals through evidence-based development assistance through its Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation’s Center for Democracy, Human Rights,

and Governance (DRG); the Inclusive Development Hub; the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub; the Local, Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub; the Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub; the Anticorruption Task Force; and the Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization, as well as through USAID's regional bureaus and overseas missions. Democracy, human rights, and governance programs build countries' capacity to advance and sustain their own development objectives through support for the rule of law; anticorruption efforts; political competition and consensus-building; civil society; independent media; and other areas that advance transparency, accountability, participation, inclusion, peaceful resolution of conflict, and improved security. USAID aggregates decades of knowledge to determine what works best, where, and when, within the various DRG sectors and practices.

The U.S. Department of Labor further supports diplomatic efforts and provides assistance related to labor rights.

Core democracy programs are funded by various appropriation accounts, including Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia; Democracy Fund; Development Assistance; Economic Support Fund; International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement; and International Organizations and Programs.

### **Summit for Democracy**

In December 2021, the United States held the first Summit for Democracy, which brought together leaders from government, civil society, the private sector, and the philanthropic community to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle through collective action the greatest threats faced by democracies today. The Summit reinforced other multilateral engagements, including U.S. participation in the Open Government Partnership.

During the summit, President Biden announced a series of U.S. commitments under the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal (PIDR). Activities both built on previous actions and started new initiatives across five main lines of effort: supporting free and independent media; fighting corruption; bolstering democratic reformers; advancing technology for democracy; and defending free and fair elections and political processes.

After the Summit, the U.S. launched a Year of Action in the lead-up to the second Summit in early 2023. This includes regular meetings of countries in what is known as the Focal Group, the creation of 'democracy cohorts' to bring together civil society, governments and other stakeholders on key issues, and regular check-

ins on commitments made during the Summit. The United States is leading two cohorts, one on financial transparency and the other on labor rights. The U.S. continues to make progress on our commitments and follows closely other countries' efforts to meet their own Summit commitments.

## **Elections and the Political Process**

The Department of State and USAID fund and conduct programs that train election officials on holding genuinely free and fair elections,<sup>1</sup> support improved political processes,<sup>2</sup> increase awareness of civic responsibilities, encourage governments and NGOs to provide civic and voter education and citizen advocacy,<sup>3</sup> and encourage citizen participation in governance.<sup>4</sup>

U.S. government programming promotes independent media coverage of elections and elections legislation and encourages legislation to provide access to official information.<sup>5</sup> The United States supports domestic and international election observation, including election observation efforts by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and encourages participation by women as well as by members of marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. government supports free and independent media reporting to increase understanding of election processes.<sup>7</sup> The U.S. government through the Department of State's Global Engagement Center supports independent foreign media in identifying and countering disinformation circulating in their media markets. The U.S. government supports programs to promote reconciliation and prevent violence prior to, during, and after elections.<sup>8</sup> Such programs work with political, religious, and ethnic leaders to promote peace, tolerance, respect, and democratic reform.

The Department of State and USAID manage the Interagency Election Toolkit, a resource for posts to cover and report on elections. The toolkit provides guidance on indicators related to free and fair elections, suggestions on how to promote and support international and domestic election observation efforts, as well as guidance on the political participation of marginalized populations. The U.S. government funds programs that encourage official statements to note election irregularities as well as successful democratic elections.

USAID's global programs to support elections and political processes include the Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) Leader with Associate Award. DEPP develops the capacity and expertise of local and regional institutions and CSOs to carry out programs of technical assistance, training, civic education, election management, election observation, and related services to

strengthen electoral and political processes. USAID manages the Elections and Political Process Fund, supports unique and innovative elections programming, and responds to unanticipated needs and opportunities. USAID supports the use of an evidence base for these programs by supporting an Elections and Political Process Evidence Gap Map and related knowledge products to support application of evidence. As part of the PIDR announced in December 2021, USAID is helping to advance electoral integrity globally by launching the Coalition for Securing Electoral Integrity and the Defending Democratic Elections Fund.

### **Fighting Corruption and Supporting Good Governance**

Recognizing corruption's threat to national security and its ability to corrode democracy, President Biden has elevated the fight against corruption to a core U.S. national security interest, and in December 2021 the United States released the first-ever U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption. The strategy outlines a whole-of-government approach, with a particular emphasis on better understanding and responding to the threat's transnational dimensions.

In support of the strategy, the administration announced a suite of new programs as part of the PIDR, including initiatives to protect anticorruption activists and journalists, build the capacity of partner governments, close loopholes in the financial and regulatory system that corrupt actors exploit, develop innovative approaches with new partners, and expand flexibility to respond to political openings.

Departments and agencies are also evolving how they resource and organize their programs and workforce to tackle international corruption. In December 2021 the Secretary of State established a new position of Global Anticorruption Coordinator, who will promote the integration of anticorruption into all facets of foreign policy, increase capacity at the Department of State to engage effectively, and strengthen partnerships. USAID's Anticorruption Task Force, established in June 2021, is taking concrete actions to elevate, strengthen, and integrate anticorruption work at USAID, and partner more closely with other parts of the U.S. government and the development community.

The U.S. government helps countries implement anticorruption measures consistent with agreed-upon international standards, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). U.S.-funded programs aim to strengthen the transparency, accountability, and integrity of public institutions and processes across all branches of government and at national and local levels. Programs are aimed at bolstering the effectiveness of institutions that oversee

public spending and investment, improving public financial management systems, strengthening asset declaration protocols, enhancing anticorruption agencies and legislative oversight commissions, and supporting specialized anticorruption courts<sup>9</sup>. Programs also strengthen the integrity of justice-sector institutions and their capacity to hold the corrupt criminally accountable.

U.S.-funded programs support transparency and accountability through assistance to NGOs and media organizations that expose corruption and advocate reform. Programs can include supporting broad coalitions to reveal cases of corruption; aligning policy goals between corruption, governance, and human rights issues; and advocating for substantive public policy reforms to strengthen governmental controls and accountability. Additionally, USAID programs support the implementation of country-level commitments under reform platforms such as UNCAC, the Open Government Partnership, and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Programs include building the capabilities of NGOs, universities, media, private sector associations, and watchdog organizations to demand greater governmental openness.

U.S.-funded programs help citizens monitor public spending and report on bribery by using new communications technologies, as well as supporting public access to information through open data portals and the implementation of freedom-of-information laws and practices. The U.S. government uses e-governance programming in its anticorruption efforts. U.S. programs provide fiscal and budget management support for community participation in policy discussions and through associations of governors and mayors.

The Department of State supports the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium (GACC), a multi-partner initiative and PIDR effort which supports coordination, communication, and data-sharing between investigative journalists and anticorruption advocates. The GACC helps uncover large-scale money laundering and pay-for-influence schemes. The Department also launched an anticorruption Rapid Response Fund, in cooperation with the Department of Justice.

The Department of State supports the Open Governance Program to promote transparency, integrity, and accountability, and to integrate citizen views into decision making. The projects facilitate government dialogue with CSOs through coordinating, prioritizing areas of interest, and developing strategies for government consultation. In capitalizing on the use of new technologies, the department assists governments in developing and improving their use of innovations for transparency, accountability, and anticorruption, e-government, and new media tools. The Department also supports parliaments and CSOs using a

bottom-up approach and focusing on building broad-based coalitions - including elected decisionmakers, civil servants, and a wide range of civil society activists - to exert influence and maintain pressure to engage and stay engaged when governments change<sup>10</sup>.

In 2021, the Department of State launched the Global Anticorruption Champions Award to recognize and bolster the work and security of leading reformers and activists around the world.

### **Countering Malign Foreign Influence and Information Manipulation**

The Department of State's Global Engagement Center (GEC) works to counter the foreign disinformation and propaganda of the governments of Russia, China, and Iran, and of violent extremist organizations, all of whom leverage information manipulation to negatively impact U.S. national security and that of our allies and partners. As one aspect of this mission, the GEC exposes Kremlin-funded media disinformation campaigns. Recent GEC reporting, for example, has informed efforts by major social media companies to address false content, ensure platform accounts are appropriately identified, and suspend accounts that violate their terms of service. The GEC also actively exposes information that authoritarian regimes seek to hide. The GEC's support for the development of the largest online repository of open-source data on the People's Republic of China's (PRC) atrocities in the Xinjiang region of China has provided people around the world with access to the truth.

USAID implements activities to counter efforts by the governments of the PRC, the Russian Federation, and other autocratic states to expand their influence and promote the adoption of authoritarian practices. These USAID activities include a set of global and regional strategies that respond to critical threats as they manifest in each region. These activities include the Countering Malign Kremlin Influence Framework, the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the South Asia Strategy, the U.S. Strategy for Central Asia, Power Africa, Prosper Africa, and the National Strategy to Secure 5G. USAID supports these strategies through incorporation of objectives for countering authoritarian influence into Country Development Cooperation Strategies and by working with the interagency on initiatives such as the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership.

### **Civil Society**

U.S. support enables local organizations to further their countries' democratic development and encourages civil society organizations (CSOs) to develop new

ideas to solve social, economic, and political problems. Through support from the U.S. government, civil society actors promote human rights and foster democratic institutions<sup>11</sup>. These programs strengthen the ability of CSOs to advocate to governments on behalf of citizens, increase accountability, call for political reform, and promote tolerance.

U.S. assistance supports organizations working on issues such as freedom of expression; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; freedom of religion or belief; advancing the status of women and girls in all their diversity; promoting and protecting the rights of persons from marginalized groups (including racial and ethnic minorities, religious minorities, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex [LGBTQI+] persons, and persons with disabilities); democratic governance and political participation; preventing human trafficking, protecting trafficking victims; and prosecuting traffickers. U.S. assistance also supports gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response<sup>12</sup>; the rule of law; and the protection of local independent media. Countries that effectively safeguard human rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous, and reliable partners of the United States than those that do not. Nations cannot achieve their fullest potential when some citizens are excluded from education, healthcare, and jobs.

USAID's global programs to strengthen civil society include the Civil Society Innovation Initiative; Enabling and Protecting Civil Society INSPIRES Project; Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index; Human Rights Grant Program; Strengthening Civil Society Globally; Global Labor Program; and Youth Power Program. U.S. government activities also support the training of civil society activists. USAID also contributes to U.S. efforts to strengthen civil society through the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Initiative. The main objective for ASHA's programming is to promote a better understanding of the United States in other countries, and to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries (Sec. 2, Smith-Mundt Act of 1948). The ASHA program currently works in 43 countries.

The Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) focuses on strengthening CSOs throughout the Middle East with its Open Governance Program, which seeks to promote the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability, and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth. Its Middle Eastern Regional Civic Initiative works with Assistance Coordination offices and posts to use an Arabic-language curriculum to assist CSOs to ensure their organizational viability, competency, and sustainability.

In 2020, ECA launched the Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) program to expand the thematic, generational, and demographic reach of existing civil society programs. The CEE equips emerging civil society leaders with the expertise, resources, and skills to support resilient communities around the world. ECA's Professional Fellows Program advances our focus on governance, including the development of strong, resilient communities, through two-way global exchanges for midlevel emerging leaders and their U.S. counterparts.

The U.S. government supports, through diplomatic engagement as well as funding contributions, outreach of the 57-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to civil society (through the work of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and field missions) and through inclusion of civil society participants in various OSCE conferences.

The U.S. government, primarily through the Department of State and USAID, engages with the Community of Democracies (CoD) to encourage other democratic governments to promote civil society in emerging democracies and in multilateral fora, such as the UN Economic and Social Council's Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Committee. The United States is also active in the CoD's Working Group on Enabling and Protecting Civil Society, which coordinates diplomatic efforts to prevent and address the adoption of unduly restrictive laws targeting CSOs<sup>13</sup>.

Through Lifeline, an embattled CSOs assistance fund, the Department of State provides direct financial support to CSOs under threat for their work. Lifeline is a multilateral mechanism to provide emergency assistance as well as rapid response advocacy and resiliency grants to help frontline CSOs withstand harassment, threats, and attacks from state and non-state actors. Such assistance helps to expose escalating repression targeting local CSOs. Since its inception in 2011, Lifeline has assisted more than 2,300 CSOs in over 116 countries.

The Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA)'s South Asia Governance Fund provides capacity-building training to CSOs in South Asia, focusing on organizational development and sustainability, opportunities for regional networking, and small grants to carry out CSO activities in inclusion, anticorruption, countering disinformation, and promoting the rule of law in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

### **Free and Independent Media**

The U.S. government promotes media freedom and independent, public-interest



journalism through workshops, program support, technical assistance, and funding for national and international journalists' associations. The U.S. government also supports investigative journalism to empower citizens with information to hold governments accountable and fight corruption. Efforts support the viability and sustainability of an independent media in the face of complex challenges to its continued existence, including technological disruptions, changing consumer preferences, and the collapse of traditional business models. The U.S. government utilizes programming and public diplomacy to convey the importance of an independent, professional, and fact-based media in democratic societies<sup>14</sup>.

The U.S. government supports media literacy to enhance resilience against authoritarian foreign influence and promotes an active, engaged citizenry. It supports the development of local journalistic ethics, media capacity, and financial sustainability. It also promotes academic exchanges that support professional, independent media; supports visits of U.S. speakers; and promotes and defends an open, secure, and reliable internet, including the use of social networks, blogs, and electronic journals. To complement U.S. government assistance to independent and fact-based journalism, the U.S. government increasingly supports programs to address the spread of disinformation<sup>15</sup>.

U.S. Internet freedom programs promote the exercise of human rights online, including freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. These programs seek to strengthen the capacity of democracy and human rights activists and organizations by helping ensure they are using technology securely at no or minimal risk. These efforts further support those who advocate an open internet that enables the free flow of information through participation in local, regional, and international internet governance programs.

Through diplomatic engagement, the U.S. government supports the work of the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Representative on Freedom of Expression, the Freedom Online Coalition, and the Media Freedom Coalition. USAID currently co-chairs the Media Freedom Coalition's Working Group on Media Sustainability.

Through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, the U.S. government urges the release of journalists and bloggers arbitrarily or unlawfully imprisoned and works with governments to rescind criminal penalties for libel<sup>16</sup> and advocate for thorough investigations of violence against journalists<sup>17</sup>. Programs provide support for digital, legal, physical, and psychosocial security of media practitioners. U.S. projects further support women in journalism, support coverage of issues that disproportionately affect women, and protect and support women's voices in

media. In closed societies, U.S.-supported broadcast programming provides the public with alternative sources of news. The U.S. government supports technological solutions that provide uncensored access to a free, open, interoperable, and reliable internet, digital safety capacity-building programs for civil society, applied research into policy and technical threats to the exercise of human rights online, and training programs that increase access to information<sup>18</sup>, including through U.S.-funded resource centers<sup>19</sup>.

USAID global programs in this area include the Greater Internet Freedom Program, which focuses on digital security and internet governance; Advancing Integrity in the Media pilot programs addressing disinformation; and the Strengthening Civil Society Globally Program, which helps to strengthen civil society and independent media.

The Department of State and USAID counter the use of digital authoritarianism, including oppressive surveillance technologies exported by authoritarian governments, through improving digital security for independent journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists. The U.S. government also funds programs that help ensure that adequate legislation is in place and enforced to promote internet freedom. USAID's Digital Strategy establishes an agency-wide vision of development in the digital age, focusing on: (1) increased attention on cybersecurity; (2) creation of the Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment, a framework to guide missions; and (3) launch of the Digital Ecosystem Fund for targeted investments to achieve a vision of open, inclusive, and secure digital ecosystems that can also withstand aggressively pursued authoritarian interference. The Digital Strategy includes developing a more gender-equitable digital ecosystem as well as closing the gender digital divide, which has a heightened urgency given COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on women and girls.

ECA's Digital Communication Network, a global network of 8,000 journalists, public officials, new media specialists, communication professionals, and opinion leaders, addresses critical gaps in countering state-sponsored propaganda, disinformation, and misinformation by strengthening independent journalism and promoting media literacy.

The U.S. government supports investigative journalism to empower citizens with information to hold governments accountable and fight corruption, including through SCA's South Asia regional investigative journalists' capacity-building program, which is intended to empower regional journalists to more capably follow the flow of money and shine a light on corruption, such as in Sri Lanka.

## **Countering Transnational Repression**

As part of its commitment to stem rising authoritarianism around the world, the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to pushing back against governments that reach beyond their borders – including into the United States – to engage in acts of transnational repression that threaten or harm persons for peacefully exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Transnational repression is intended to have a chilling impact that extends beyond specific targeted individuals to intimidate entire diaspora communities, families who remain in the country of origin, independent media, civil society, and actual or potential political rivals. The administration is taking a whole-of-government approach to deter repressive countries from engaging in transnational repression, promote accountability for those who engage in it, and increase measures to protect victims against it. To these ends, the United States is working to heighten domestic and international awareness of, build opposition to, and take effective measure against transnational repression in all its forms.

## **International Religious Freedom**

The U.S government promotes universal respect for the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion as enshrined in the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The U.S. government does this through global efforts to combat violence, discrimination, and other abuses by governments against individuals on account of their beliefs or non-beliefs. U.S. efforts are led by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, who heads the Office of International Religious Freedom within the Department of State and serves as principal advisor to the Secretary of State and advisor to the President on religious freedom conditions and policy. The U.S. government monitors the state of religious freedom in virtually every country and territory in the world and produces an annual public report on its findings. The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom works closely with the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to track and counter global antisemitism. The Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism also contributes to the annual religious freedom report.

U.S. officials in Washington and at embassies and consulates worldwide routinely meet with foreign officials to advocate for religious freedom as well as meeting private citizens and civil society organizations (including religious community representatives) to understand concerns facing individuals on account of their religious identities or affiliations, or how they choose to manifest their beliefs. This demonstrates solidarity with members of marginalized groups.

Both USAID and the Department of State support public diplomacy and foreign assistance activities that address social constraints on religious freedom by promoting mutual respect for all people within diverse societies. Assistance programs address government constraints on religious freedom by advocating for laws and policies designed to protect religious freedom and by empowering local civil society organizations, including religious groups, in such protection efforts. In October 2021, USAID's Asia Bureau launched the Asia Religious and Ethnic Freedom activity, which prioritizes working with local organizations to expand access to religious freedom, while also being responsive to specific needs faced by minority populations fleeing persecution in the PRC.<sup>20 21 22 23</sup> U.S. government efforts promote the importance of intra- and inter-religious dialogue in encouraging more inclusive and religiously tolerant societies and peacebuilding. The International Religious Freedom Fund is a multi-government donor effort that assists those persecuted on the basis of religion, belief, or non-belief, and supports initiatives that address barriers to religion and belief with activities such as advocacy initiatives, public messaging, and awareness campaigns.

## **Labor Rights**

The United States works with private-sector worker organizations, and other CSOs to promote respect for human rights, labor rights, and responsible business practices globally. Promoting internationally recognized worker rights, such as freedom of association, and eliminating unfair labor practices are key to achieving inclusive growth, enhancing stability, and leveling the playing field for American workers and businesses.

The U.S. government supports efforts to eliminate exploitative child labor by engaging governments and local communities in planning, budgeting, and monitoring to move children from exploitative labor to education programs. U.S. efforts work to prevent and end forced labor by working with private-sector partners to address the risks of forced labor in their supply chains, and by supporting access to justice for victims of trafficking. The Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force applies a whole-of-government approach to enforcing the prohibitions on the importation of goods made with forced labor.

The United States funds projects through U.S.-based, international, and local labor rights organizations to advance internationally recognized worker rights overseas. It supports the participation and leadership of women and marginalized and vulnerable groups in worker organizations, and programs to combat workplace discrimination.

DRL advances worker rights and stable and inclusive economies through programs to promote international labor standards with an emphasis on freedom of association and collective bargaining. Programs focus on protecting the rights of the most vulnerable workers and in the past year have included efforts to advance women's participation in the workplace, combat violence and harassment of workers and labor advocates, and increase protections for migrant domestic workers. DRL's workers' rights programs also seek to maintain or expand civil society's efforts in closing restrictive environments and advancing democratic reforms.

The U.S. government works with the International Labor Organization, the International Finance Corporation, and other international organizations as well as civil society partners to support labor rights and well-regulated labor markets.<sup>24</sup> U.S. programs help strengthen the independence and good governance of worker organizations<sup>25</sup> and facilitate rights-respecting industrial relations.<sup>26</sup> These programs also promote fair labor standards and safe working conditions.

The United States is concerned about the worst forms of child labor and forced labor, and the U.S. government works to advance the elimination of these abuses and crimes through research, reporting, foreign assistance, policy engagement, private sector partnerships, and technical cooperation.<sup>27</sup> The U.S. Department of Labor publishes an annual report on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, which provides lists of goods produced with forced or child labor.

The United States works to increase women's economic empowerment globally by reducing barriers and enhancing protections in policies, laws, regulations, and practices to enable women to participate fully in the economy. Some of the barriers women face arise from gender-based violence as well as from foundational economic limitations, such as domestic laws abridging women's rights to have the same jobs as men, to have wage parity for similar work performed, to inherit or own property, or to enter contracts without the co-signature of a male family member. Addressing these barriers, while ensuring women have the legal and policy protections they need, requires deliberate efforts by government, the private sector, and civil society.

MEPI's projects on women's economic empowerment, implemented in eight Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, provide employers with first-hand empirical data and knowledge on specific workplace strategies. The projects develop, improve, and implement inclusive human resource policies and practices for better recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion of women, focused on the following sectors: higher education, science, technology, engineering, and math

(STEM), healthcare, and banking. These projects work to increase women's contributions to the formal-sector economy in the MENA region and alert economic stakeholders to the gaps, possibilities, and opportunities for increasing women's contributions to the economy.

USAID's women's economic empowerment activities are conducted in more than 60 countries and focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting women in the workplace; women's entrepreneurship and access to finance, markets, and networks; improving employer practices; and reducing discriminatory laws and social norms, including gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

Grants from ECA's Solidarity Center address migrant worker rights in Qatar; women's empowerment, gender-based violence, and harassment in garment factories in Ethiopia and Lesotho; and discrimination among Afro-Colombian workers in Colombia's informal economy.

USAID's Global Labor Program (GLP) builds the capacities of democratic worker organizations in 31 countries to advance labor rights. The program supports gender equality and the rights of vulnerable populations in the workplace such as migrants and informal laborers; counters forced labor and trafficking in persons; promotes access to justice for workers; and advances economic growth objectives to increase decent work worldwide. Over the past year, GLP has placed particular emphasis on assisting workers and democratic work organizations in addressing labor rights challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>28</sup>

As part of the PIDR, through the Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment, and Rights, USAID, the Department of State, and the Department of Labor are working to help governments, worker organizations, and civil society to pursue program and policy efforts that improve worker rights and empowerment.

### **Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and the Rule of Law**

The U.S. government supports building the capacity of partner-country criminal justice institutions and actors to effectively prevent, respond to, and mitigate local crime as well as transnational organized crime. U.S.-funded programs support efforts to propose, review, and implement criminal-law-related legislation; build capacity of judges,<sup>29</sup> police,<sup>30</sup> prosecutors,<sup>31</sup> corrections authorities, and defense attorneys;<sup>32</sup> offer institutional support to establish and strengthen effective and accountable law enforcement structures<sup>33</sup> and bar associations;<sup>34</sup> and improve access to justice for all, including women and members of other marginalized

groups. U.S. assistance further promotes the availability and use of civilian courts; mobile courts; and one-stop centers, such as those for survivors of human trafficking and gender-based violence that provide justice services and psychological, psychosocial, and social assistance.<sup>35</sup>

The U.S. government supports legal aid systems and services to close the global justice gap and satisfy essential justice needs. U.S. assistance helps national and provincial legislatures, courts, correctional institutions and authorities, as well as provincial and municipal authorities, to advance the rule of law. USAID has developed a new rule-of-law policy that elaborates a people-centered justice approach to strengthening justice systems and transforming justice institutions and services. This approach means these institutions and services can be more data-driven, user-friendly, and problem-solving in their efforts to close the justice gap and build trust in rule-of-law institutions.

The U.S. government funds programs to protect judges and their families from violence and intimidation. The United States seeks to prevent extrajudicial killings and disappearances while encouraging the investigation and prosecution of such cases.<sup>36</sup> U.S. assistance also strengthens the capacity of justice systems to respond to civil disputes and related grievances.<sup>37</sup> U.S. officials exchange best practices related to commercial, migration management, and anti-trafficking laws. The U.S. government supports training and professional exchanges in the United States for commercial law judges.<sup>38</sup>

In Northern Iraq, the Department of State's Near Eastern Affairs Bureau advances community policing approaches through its support to the International Organization for Migration's Supporting Peace, Security, and Stability project. The project works to increase the capacity of law enforcement institutions to engage communities to identify and resolve security issues. The project also improves the capacity of communities (including CSOs) to access judicial institutions and security actors to address security issues.

### **Political Prisoners, Prison Reform, and Abuses during Conflict**

Countless political prisoners are held worldwide. The U.S. government works to secure the release of all individuals who are held unjustly for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Key actions by the U.S. government include documenting cases, including in the Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; monitoring trials of political prisoners and reporting publicly on those trials; calling publicly on governments that hold political prisoners to release them; engaging in multilateral fora to support efforts

to free political prisoners; partnering with NGOs and other civil society organizations that work to get political prisoners freed; connecting with families and advocates of political prisoners; and when appropriate, using relevant sanctions or visa restrictions against those implicated in a political prisoners' detention.

The United States also works to improve deplorable prison conditions and prevent prisoner abuse, urging countries to comply with their international human rights commitments and obligations and follow international standards.<sup>39 40</sup>

U.S.-funded military training encourages civilian control of the military, cooperation in legal proceedings involving human rights violations or abuses committed during conflict, and the adoption of U.S. standards for military conduct. Training for foreign peacekeepers goes through the U.S. Global Peace Operations Initiative and the International Police Peacekeeping Operations Support program. The United States does not provide security assistance to any foreign security force unit where there is credible information the unit committed a gross violation of human rights.

## **Women's and Girls' Rights**

The U.S. government promotes women's and girl's human rights through policy and programming initiatives that promote legal reforms protecting the rights and freedoms of women and girls. Through foreign assistance programming, the U.S. government seeks to support and amplify women's leadership and participation in social, political, civic, and economic life. In support of such goals, the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) recognizes the pivotal role of women as change agents in contributing to international peace and security. Goals include supporting the meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes, as well as elevating survivor-centered approaches to reduce the harmful effects of gender-based violence in contexts affected by crisis, conflict, and fragile environments.

The U.S. Strategy on WPS promotes the protection of women's and girls' human rights, access to aid, and safety from violence, abuse, and exploitation around the world. The end goal is that women's and girls' security, human rights, and needs are protected by their governments, augmented as appropriate with regional or other security sector forces. This goal allows women and girls to meaningfully contribute locally, nationally, and globally. The U.S. Strategy on WPS acknowledges that the consequences of terrorism and terrorism-related violence in conflict uniquely affect women and girls. Women are often the first targets of



terrorism and violent extremist ideologies. For example, terrorists often advocate for, and carry out, the enslavement of women and girls. In preventing conflict and preparing for disasters, the WPS strategy advocates for the coordination with broader efforts by United States to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in order to ensure women and girls have safe and equal access to humanitarian assistance.

USAID developed the Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) assessment framework to identify key WPPL challenges and opportunities within a country. The full assessment includes a literature review, general population survey, politician survey, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Findings from the data collection are used to describe the foundational factors and to diagnose the state of WPPL in a country, examine the relevant drivers, and analyze the political economy in order to make evidence-informed recommendations to enhance women's political participation.

The U.S. government supports efforts to increase women's protection and full, equitable, and meaningful participation in all aspects and at all levels of military, law enforcement, and other security sector positions, including in peacekeeping missions. The Women's Economic Empowerment project seeks to increase the contribution of women in the economies and societies within the MENA region.

Operating within the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs empowers women with the knowledge, networks, and access they need to begin or expand their business and reach their full economic potential as business owners. Alumni from a wide range of U.S. programs and ECA exchanges are key to mentoring and facilitating Academy for Women Entrepreneurs cohorts.

The Women as Partners in Progress project paves the way for women in the MENA region to influence legislative work and heighten awareness of gender norms. MEPI's Tomorrow's Leaders Gender Scholars program grants scholarships to Lebanese and Egyptian students who take at least one gender course per semester to develop core competencies. These competencies will prepare students to advocate for policy reforms that prioritize inclusivity, to broker peace, to facilitate democratic transitions, and to encourage women's participation in the workforce.

## **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

Preventing and responding to all forms of GBV is a cornerstone of the U.S. government's commitment to promote democracy, advance human rights, and

further gender equality. S/GWI leads, in partnership with USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub, on policy development on bilateral, multilateral, and public diplomacy tracks to prevent and respond to GBV.

U.S. policy efforts and assistance support GBV prevention through educating and engaging local communities, parents, and youth; survivor-centered approaches to protection and response services; and efforts to support accountability for GBV, including technical assistance to educators, employers, public utilities, police, legal actors, and health care workers. DRL, with support from S/GWI, manages Voices Against Violence, the GBV global initiative that assists survivors of extreme forms of GBV. The Department of State aids pro bono mediation specialists for mediation training and law workshops pertaining to accountability for GBV crimes. As announced at the Summit for Democracy, the department is leading efforts, through the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, to address technology-facilitated GBV which poses a particular threat to the participation and safety of women in politics, both online and offline.

### **Advancing the Human Rights of Members of Vulnerable Groups**

The U.S. government works through both bilateral and multilateral channels to advance the human rights of vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities, members of racial and ethnic groups, religious minorities, members of indigenous peoples, and LGBTQI+ persons. The U.S. government promotes the human rights of persons with disabilities by assisting the development and implementation of legal reforms, including nondiscrimination laws and accessibility standards.<sup>41</sup> The goals are to empower CSOs to promote the rights of persons with disabilities<sup>42</sup> and to assist organizations to monitor government compliance with disability law and regulations.<sup>43</sup>

The U.S. government works to reduce violence and criminalization targeting LGBTQI+ persons globally by supporting local reform efforts that include documenting human rights conditions. DRL administers the Global Equality Fund, a global public-private partnership that provides emergency assistance to empower social movements to reduce violence and social and governmental discrimination, including the criminalization of same-sex sexual conduct. INL convenes a new interagency Violence Reduction and Civilian Security Assistance Working Group on a monthly basis. INL supports the creation of a new bias and discrimination training module and facilitation guides to include in training such as that conducted at INL's six international law enforcement academies.

## **Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups**

The U.S. government employs diplomatic engagement, cultural exchanges, and foreign policy and assistance to tackle the barriers that limit members of racial and ethnic minority groups from participating fully in civic and economic life and to counter the threat of racially motivated violence. Additionally, the United States is a party to international human rights treaties that enshrine states parties' obligations to prohibit racial discrimination and guarantee equal protection of the law to all persons.

DRL supports locally led efforts around the world to combat all types of racial and ethnic violence, facilitate access to justice for victims of racism, ensure fairness in the administration of justice, and dismantle economic structures in which workers are devalued. These efforts call upon the international community to take measures to acknowledge and prevent incidents of injustice and violence based on race and ethnicity.

On January 20, President Biden signed Executive Order 13985 to Advance Racial Equity and Support to Underserved Communities. To support and operationalize the executive order, the Department of State established an Agency Equity Team (AET) with working groups focused on creating high-impact and measurable programming and policy priorities across U.S. foreign policy and assistance, public engagements and exchanges, grants, procurement, contracts, and consular services.

In 2021 the AET had numerous accomplishments with respect to advancing freedom and democracy. For example, the Department of State provided U.S. missions overseas with strategic messaging guidance, original video content, and official statements from the Department of State's leadership on the one-year commemoration of George Floyd's murder, the Tulsa Race Massacre, and Juneteenth events. The Bureau of Global Public Affairs (GPA) coordinated a global campaign for the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act to celebrate how the Department of State and the world are improved by diversity, accessibility, equity, and inclusion. The campaign highlighted the contributions of persons with disabilities across the globe. GPA's Office of Research conducted research tests to assess the impacts of racial justice and equity messaging strategies with foreign audiences. Research showed U.S. messengers should avoid distinguishing the United States from other countries and avoid highlighting U.S. leadership on racial justice issues. This framing can incite backlash from global audiences. The findings, the first of their kind, were presented to department colleagues in March 2022.

In April, in conjunction with the release of the Department's Agency Equity Plan, the Secretary of State announced the creation of a new position – the Special Representative on Racial Equity and Justice – that will be exclusively devoted to operationalizing E.O. 13985 on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities across our foreign affairs work. On June 17, the Secretary announced the appointment of Desiree Cormier Smith to this position.

To support the development of civil society within ethnic minority groups, U.S. officials work with NGOs to organize capacity-building training and technical assistance opportunities. The U.S. government supports social outreach programs, networking opportunities with domestic and international NGOs, and tolerance-in-schools projects.<sup>44 45</sup> MEPI also conducts polling throughout the Middle East to track trends in the treatment and experiences of members of religious and ethnic minority groups. In Iraq the Department of State supports the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh/ISIL (UNITAD) in the implementation of the Promoting Accountability in Iraq for Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and War Crimes project.

USAID recognizes that in developing countries, U.S.-based Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) bring passion and vision to propel their work with indigenous and underrepresented communities in the United States. Through partnerships with these institutions, USAID harnesses the unique perspectives and capabilities of indigenous, underrepresented, and disadvantaged populations in the United States to enhance our international development and humanitarian assistance efforts overseas. MSIs act as implementing partners, as well as thought leaders informing design of our policies and programs to help ensure an emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

### **Trafficking in Persons**

The U.S. government partners with foreign governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and survivors of human trafficking to develop and implement effective strategies to combat human trafficking globally through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, targeted foreign assistance, and public engagement. The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons produces the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, a comprehensive assessment of government efforts using prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships to combat trafficking in more than 188 countries, including in the United States. The TIP Report provides policy recommendations that guide U.S. diplomacy on TIP year-round. The TIP report urges increased prosecution of suspected traffickers, expanded efforts to identify and care for

human trafficking victims, and interventions to address the root causes of trafficking. The U.S. government implements foreign assistance programs to combat human trafficking in alignment with country-specific recommendations identified in the TIP Report.

USAID supports its investments in countering TIP through technical assistance and training, strong interagency coordination to ensure complementarity of policy and programming, and research and evaluation to understand emerging trends and best practices. USAID integrates trauma-informed and survivor-informed counter-TIP approaches across sectors such as agriculture, democracy, human rights, governance, environment, and economic growth to increase the likelihood of sustainability.

### **Justice for Victims and Accountability for Perpetrators**

The U.S. government provides support to law enforcement, courts, and criminal tribunals that pursue accountability for the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The U.S. government supports truth commissions, offices of missing persons, offices of reparation, and other mechanisms to redress legacies of human rights violations and abuses.<sup>46</sup> It explores all available tools to promote accountability, including financial sanctions and restrictions on visas, licenses for commercial sales, military sales, and various types of foreign assistance. The United States also supports civil society actors that pursue accountability for atrocity crimes<sup>47</sup> and seek to provide justice to the victims.

### **The U.S. Department of State - Exchange and Diplomatic Programs**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the Department of State uses public diplomacy tools to advance democracy, human rights, and labor rights. For example, through people-to-people exchanges, including the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP),<sup>48</sup> the Fulbright Program,<sup>49</sup> the Humphrey Program<sup>50</sup>, the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists<sup>51</sup> Student Leaders, Leaders for Democracy Fellows, and Tomorrow's Leaders programs. Participants develop and share expertise on topics related to democracy, human rights, and labor. The Student Leaders, Leaders for Democracy Fellows, and Tomorrow's Leaders programs are active in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. Undergraduate exchanges, including English language programs and study of the U.S. institutes, build linkages and empower participants to tackle democracy and human rights challenges. Cultural exchanges, particularly those featuring

musicians, have long advanced and advocated for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Department of State also reaches diverse audiences on a variety of topics, including democracy, human rights, and labor, through American Spaces (also known as American Corners, Binational Centers, and Lincoln Learning Centers);<sup>52</sup> the U.S. Speaker Program; Ambassadors grants,<sup>53</sup> other small grants programs,<sup>54</sup> young leaders' initiatives for Africa, Southeast Asia, the Americas and the Pacific; ECA Sports Division's programming; and through ECA Cultural Division's programs on film and performing arts. The Department coordinates with the Voice of America,<sup>55</sup> and funds U.S. speakers on democracy and human rights-related issues.<sup>56</sup>

Alumni TIES (Thematic International Exchange Seminars) are three- to four-day, regionally focused, thematic seminars that bring exchange program alumni together to collaborate on solutions to critical global challenges and foreign policy priorities and, using a small grants opportunity, to take action on the seminar theme within the context of their regions. Seminar topics have included priority foreign policy themes such as media literacy education, closing the skills gap, building entrepreneurial ecosystems, advancing women's economic empowerment, religious and ethnic diversity, and environmental diplomacy.

ECA's largest private-sector-funded program, BridgeUSA, advances freedom and democracy through different exchanges for over 300,000 exchange visitors from more than 200 countries. Exchange visitors study, teach, and work alongside U.S. citizens and return home to share their experiences with friends and family.

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<sup>1</sup> Training activities include: Elections Process Support Program, Armenia; Independent Electoral Commission, Colombia; Coordinating Donor Support for Salvadoran Elections, El Salvador; Promoting Peaceful, Democratic, Transparent and Inclusive Elections, Burkina Faso; Enhanced Leadership in Elections for Citizen Confidence and Transparency, Honduras; Technical Assistance to the Malawi Electoral Commission, Malawi; Mali Electoral Transformation Program, Mali; Niger Elections Support Activity, Niger; Supporting Electoral Accountability and Transparency, Nigeria; Georgia; Electoral Governance and Reforms Project, Guatemala; Elections and Political Processes Support Activity, Haiti; Kyrgyz Republic; support to the State Election Commission, North Macedonia; Moldovan Electoral Administration Capacity Development Program, Moldova; Piloting Democratic Opportunities, Uzbekistan; Election Committee, Nepal; Election Commission, Pakistan; Election Commission, Sri Lanka; Political Process Program, Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> Training to Monitoring of Elected Bodies, and Political Process Development, Armenia; pardons of opposition candidates, Colombia; Guatemala; Strengthening Political Competition, Georgia; implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan, Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Political Processes and Party Support (PPPS) Program, Strengthening Election Administration in Kosovo program, Kosovo; IVLP, Lesotho; Strengthening Democratic Political Activism, Moldova; IVLP, Morocco; IVLP, The American Library, Strengthening political parties,

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Electoral and legislative processes, Nepal; Nicaragua; Pilot Engagement with States (PES) program, Jos Task Force, Nigeria; Sustaining Electoral Engagement for Democracy, Nigeria; IVLP, Pakistan; IVLP, Papua New Guinea; IVLP, Rwanda; ILVP, the Middle East Partnership Initiative, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Kuwait; American Connections, Singapore; enforcement of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Sudan; American Corners, Tajikistan; small grants, Togo; Promoting Credible Elections and Accountable Government in Togo; Political Process, Ukraine; and Tanzania.

<sup>3</sup> Armenia; Bahrain; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; China; Republic of the Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Ethiopia; Democratic Republic of Congo; Eswatini; Fiji; Georgia; Guatemala; Iraq; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanon; Liberia; Libya; Mali; Maldives; Moldova; Morocco; Mozambique; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Papua New Guinea; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Solomon Islands; Sudan; Syria; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Ukraine; Libya.

<sup>4</sup> Armenia; Azerbaijan; "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) campaign, Georgia; Guatemala; GOTV, Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanon; GOTV campaign, Maldives; Moldova; Pakistan; Sudan; Ukraine.

<sup>5</sup> Armenia; Bhutan; Central African Republic; Cuba; Georgia; Kyrgyz Republic; North Macedonia; Moldova; Pakistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>6</sup> Armenia; Bhutan; Burkina Faso; Cambodia; Colombia; Cote d'Ivoire; Egypt; Georgia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Libya; Mali; Moldova; Pakistan; Tajikistan; Togo; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>7</sup> Armenia; Belarus; Bhutan; Burkina Faso; Burma; Central African Republic; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Georgia; Guinea; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; North Macedonia; Mauritania; Moldova; Nigeria; Pakistan; Syria; Tajikistan; Ukraine; Zimbabwe.

<sup>8</sup> Burundi; Central African Republic; Chad, Cote d'Ivoire; Ethiopia; Guinea; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Mali; Nepal; Somalia; Tanzania.

<sup>9</sup> Armenia; Kenya, Mexico; Pakistan; Uzbekistan.

<sup>10</sup> Morocco; Tunisia.

<sup>11</sup> Afghanistan; Armenia; Bolivia; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Cameroon; China; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Georgia; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras; India; Israel; Jamaica; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Lesotho; Mali; Mexico; Morocco; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Pakistan; Paraguay; Somalia; South Africa; Tanzania; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; Vietnam; West Bank/Gaza; Zambia.

<sup>12</sup> Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Burma; Colombia; Cuba; Egypt; Georgia; Guatemala; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanon; North Macedonia; Mexico; Moldova; Montenegro; Tajikistan; Pakistan; Cote d'Ivoire; The Gambia; Serbia; Senegal; Syria; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Zimbabwe.

<sup>13</sup> Afghanistan; Colombia; Guatemala; Haiti; Kyrgyz Republic; Maldives; Pakistan; Paraguay; Tanzania; Tajikistan; Ukraine.

<sup>14</sup> Armenia; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Burma; Ecuador; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Iraq; Kenya; Kosovo; Malaysia; Mexico; Moldova; Montenegro; Morocco; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Qatar; Serbia; Tajikistan; Tunisia; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Vietnam; Journalism: Research and Investigation, Thailand IVLP; Journalism in the United States, People's Republic of China IVLP.

<sup>15</sup> Armenia; Bangladesh; Bosnia; Cambodia; Ecuador; Georgia; Indonesia; Kenya; Kosovo; Lebanon; North Macedonia; Moldova; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Russia; Serbia; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Syria; Tanzania; Ukraine; Venezuela; Zimbabwe; 21st Century ChangeMakers: Engaging Youth in the Battle Against Disinformation, Moldova IVLP; Countering Disinformation, Bolivia IVLP; 21st Century ChangeMakers: Promoting Discerning

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Media Consumption for Opinion Makers, North Macedonia IVLP; Sudan.

<sup>16</sup> Afghanistan; Bhutan; Burkina Faso; Central African Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ecuador; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Honduras; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal; Pakistan; Somalia; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Zimbabwe.

<sup>17</sup> Albania; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Democratic Republic of Congo; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Montenegro; Mexico; North Macedonia; Pakistan; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Ukraine; Turkey; Yemen.

<sup>18</sup> Armenia; Azerbaijan; Colombia; Honduras; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Nepal; Pakistan; Russia; Somalia; Ukraine.

<sup>19</sup> Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cuba; Ecuador; Eritrea; Georgia; Guinea Bissau; Iran; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Madagascar; Malaysia; Nigeria; Rwanda; Singapore; Timor Leste; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; Vietnam.

<sup>20</sup> Asia REF is available for Asia bilateral and regional missions to draw on, including Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Burma; Cambodia; India; Indonesia; Kyrgyz Republic; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Timor Leste; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; and Turkey.

<sup>21</sup> Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bahrain; Burma; Cote d'Ivoire; Egypt; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Georgia; Guatemala; Iraq; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Nepal; Nigeria; Malaysia; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Syria; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Zimbabwe.

<sup>22</sup> Afghanistan; Azerbaijan; Armenia; Bhutan; Burma; Central African Republic; Colombia; Egypt; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Georgia; Guatemala; Iraq; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanon; Mexico; Nepal; Nigeria; Pakistan; Syria; Sudan; Uzbekistan; Zimbabwe.

<sup>23</sup> Afghanistan; Burma; Central African Republic; Indonesia; Iraq; Niger; Nigeria; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Syria; Yemen.

<sup>24</sup> Algeria; Armenia; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Burma; China; Colombia; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ecuador; Egypt; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Iraq; Kenya; Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Liberia; Mauritania; Mexico; Morocco; Nepal; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Philippines; Saudi Arabia; Sierra Leone; Somalia; Tunisia; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; West Bank and Gaza; Yemen; Zimbabwe.

<sup>25</sup> Albania; Azerbaijan; Armenia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Central African Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Egypt; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Liberia; Mauritania; Morocco; Niger; Pakistan; Serbia; Somalia; Ukraine; Zimbabwe.

<sup>26</sup> Bangladesh; Burma; Cameroon; Colombia; Ecuador; Egypt; Georgia; Guatemala; Guinea; Honduras; India; Iraq; Kenya; Mexico; Morocco; Nigeria; Pakistan; the Philippines; South Africa; Tunisia; Vietnam; Zimbabwe.

<sup>27</sup> Bangladesh, Burma; Cambodia, China; Colombia; Ecuador; Egypt; The Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras; India; Iraq; Indonesia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyz Republic; Laos; Malaysia; Mexico; Morocco; Nepal; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Senegal; Qatar; Thailand; Tunisia; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Vietnam.

<sup>28</sup> Bangladesh; Cambodia; Colombia; Georgia; Lesotho; Liberia; Mexico; Morocco; South Africa; and Ukraine. Regional programs operate in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Southern Africa.

<sup>29</sup> Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; China; Congo; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Georgia; Guinea; Haiti; Honduras; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Liberia; Laos; North Macedonia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mexico (Ben Franklin Library);



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Moldova; Morocco; Mozambique; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Paraguay; Philippines; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Eswatini; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Venezuela; Vietnam; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

<sup>30</sup> Albania; Azerbaijan; Armenia; Bahrain; Bosnia; Cameroon; Colombia; Democratic Republic of Congo; Egypt; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Liberia; North Macedonia; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal; Pakistan; Qatar; Serbia; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>31</sup> Albania; Armenia; Bosnia; Burkina Faso; Colombia; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; North Macedonia; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal; Nigeria; Pakistan; Serbia; Tajikistan; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan.

<sup>32</sup> Albania; Azerbaijan, Armenia; Bahrain; Bosnia; Colombia; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia, Kenya; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Liberia; North Macedonia; Mexico; Moldova; Pakistan; Qatar; Serbia; Sri Lanka; Syria; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>33</sup> Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain; Georgia; Guatemala; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Moldova; North Macedonia; Pakistan; Serbia; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>34</sup> Albania; Azerbaijan; Armenia; Bosnia; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Colombia; Georgia; Guatemala, including through the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG); Honduras; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal, Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Syria; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan.

<sup>35</sup> Armenia; Bahrain; Georgia; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Moldova; Qatar; Ukraine.

<sup>36</sup> Central African Republic; Chad; Colombia; Guatemala; Guinea; Lebanon; Rwanda; South Sudan; former Yugoslavia.

<sup>37</sup> Armenia; Central African Republic; Chad; Colombia; Guatemala; Mexico; Nepal; Pakistan; the Philippines; Zimbabwe.

<sup>38</sup> Albania; Azerbaijan; Armenia; Chad; Colombia; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; Kenya; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; Zimbabwe.

<sup>39</sup> Azerbaijan; Afghanistan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Colombia; Cote d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Egypt; Ethiopia; Indonesia; Iraq; Iran; Jordan; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Liberia; Libya; Mali; Morocco; Montenegro; Myanmar; Rwanda; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Tunisia; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Turkey; Yemen.

<sup>40</sup> Kenya.

<sup>41</sup> Azerbaijan; Burma; Cote d'Ivoire; Georgia; Guatemala; Honduras; Pakistan; Sri Lanka.

<sup>42</sup> Armenia; Kenya; Lebanon; Nepal; Nigeria; South Africa; Syria; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Zimbabwe.

<sup>43</sup> Armenia; Guatemala; China; Kenya; Mexico; Vietnam.

<sup>44</sup> Algeria; Bahrain; Eritrea; Guinea; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Morocco; Pakistan; Syria; Tunisia; Yemen.

<sup>45</sup> Armenia; Bangladesh; Burkina Faso; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Guinea; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Liberia; Pakistan; Rwanda; Sudan; Ukraine; Mexico.

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<sup>46</sup> Armenia; Burma; Colombia; The Gambia; Indonesia; Iraq; Kenya; Libya; Mexico; Mozambique; Nigeria; Peru; the Philippines; Senegal; Syria; Ukraine; Zimbabwe.

<sup>47</sup> Burma; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Syria.

<sup>48</sup> Afghanistan; Armenia; Bangladesh, Belarus; Bhutan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brunei; Burma; Central African Republic; China; Democratic Republic of Congo; Comoros; Republic of Congo; Egypt; Fiji; Guinea-Bissau; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Laos; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libya; North Macedonia; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mexico; Moldova; Morocco; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Tajikistan; Tonga; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Vietnam.

<sup>49</sup> Armenia; Belarus; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Burma; Republic of the Congo; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanon; Libya; North Macedonia; Maldives; Mexico; Moldova; Nepal; Pakistan; Paraguay; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan.

<sup>50</sup> Armenia; Bhutan; Burma; Moldova; Nepal; Pakistan.

<sup>51</sup> Armenia; Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Moldova; Nepal; Pakistan.

<sup>52</sup> Afghanistan; Ecuador; Malaysia; Pakistan; Tajikistan.

<sup>53</sup> Afghanistan; Eswatini; Pakistan.

<sup>54</sup> Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burma; Cambodia; China; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Egypt; Eritrea; Eswatini; Ethiopia; Fiji; Georgia; Guinea; Honduras; Iraq; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Laos; Lebanon; North Macedonia; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malawi; Maldives; Mauritania; Mexico (Ben Franklin Library); Moldova; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Paraguay; Philippines; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Venezuela; Vietnam; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

<sup>55</sup> Angola; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Guinea-Bissau; Iran; Pakistan; Paraguay.

<sup>56</sup> Afghanistan; Algeria; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bolivia; Brunei Darussalam; Burma; Central African Republic; China; Egypt; Eswatini, Ethiopia; The Gambia; Georgia; Guinea; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Laos; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mauritania; Moldova; Morocco; Nepal; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Paraguay; Pakistan; Qatar; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Thailand; Togo; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Zambia.