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USAID Support to the 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia



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USG Assistance Strategy 2012 Parliamentary Elections

To meet the objective of helping Georgia to achieve free, fair and transparent parliamentary and presidential elections in 2012 and 2013, the USG Mission has developed a strategy based around four main pillars:

- Better administered elections, including a strengthened electoral code.
- A fairer, more competitive and more participatory campaign environment.
- More competitive, responsive and capable political parties.
- A Parliament more representative of political opinion.



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USAID Assistance Related to the 2012-2014 Elections Cycle

- Assistance comprised of more than \$17 million in programming directly related to the 2012-14 parliamentary and presidential elections in Georgia.
- NDI, IRI and IFES implement projects dedicated to improving electoral processes and enabling a competitive electoral environment.
- Several other projects have important elections-related components that support an improved electoral environment through:
 - increased media programming and access,
 - increased citizen participation,
 - public spaces for civic engagement,
 - televised regional parliamentary dialogues, and
 - updating/correcting addresses on the voter registration list.



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IFES

Increased Trust in Electoral Processes

Treats elections as a process rather than an event. It includes assistance focused on:

- Increasing the effectiveness and transparency of election administration.
- Supporting Georgia's electoral law reform process.
- Increasing citizen engagement.
- Building capacity of local NGOs through funding for different types of monitoring efforts including media monitoring, monitoring of campaign financing and the use of administrative resources.
- Helping to lower barriers for female candidates by addressing negative stereotypes associated with women in politics through TV ads, roundtables, and social media tools.



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IRI

Political Party Strengthening and Elections Observation

- Provides technical support to strengthen the organizational capacity of political parties on regional and national levels to build political parties' connections with constituents.
- Working with women from different parties to help them develop the necessary campaign skills to conduct effective voter outreach in the 2012 pre-election and election period.
- Deployment of short- and long-term elections observers.



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NDI

Parliamentary Strengthening Project

- Provides technical assistance to local CSOs to conduct effective observation of elections.
- Through local NGOs, NDI provides funding for 73 long-term observers in each district (ISFED), provides almost full coverage of national minority areas (PMMG), focused on dispute resolution (GYLA) and funds parallel vote tabulation (PVT).
- Working to improve the campaign organizing skills of women candidates and increase the visibility of and demand for women's participation in elected office by strengthening the ability of women to effectively conduct outreach to voters and the media during their campaigns.



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Other Election Related Projects

G-Media: This media project supports election coverage through training on specialized elections reporting skills for journalists and provides grants aimed at generating and distributing elections-related content.

G-PAC: This civil society project is making grants to support advocacy campaigns and public policy works to contribute to public debate on key issues during election periods.

Good Governance in Georgia (G3): Updating the voters list by associating registered voters with physical addresses and correct inaccurate addresses; and has established ten Centers for Civic Engagement across Georgia as public gathering spaces for civic discourse among citizens, their elected officials, the media, CSOs, and political parties.