



About IFES

IFES advances democracy for a better future. We collaborate with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector to build resilient democracies that deliver for everyone. As a global leader in the promotion and protection of democracy, our technical assistance and applied research develops trusted electoral bodies capable of conducting credible elections; effective and accountable governing institutions; civic and political processes in which all people can safely and equally participate; and innovative ways in which technology and data can positively serve elections and democracy. Since 1987, IFES has worked in more than 145 countries, from developing to mature democracies. IFES is a global, nonpartisan organization based in Arlington, Virginia, USA, and registered as a nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] under the United States tax code.



Message From the President



72 percent of the world's population lived in autocracies in 2022, according to an analysis from Swedish research institute V-Dem, an IFES partner. A dramatic spike from 2012, when the number was 46 percent.

So is the democracy story of 2022 one of decline? I do not believe so. Instead, the story is about democratic resilience.

Ukraine's resistance to Russian aggression is undoubtedly the most inspiring example of democratic resilience in 2022. I have traveled to Ukraine twice since the invasion began and witnessed the devastation and trauma—but more importantly, the bravery of Ukraine's people, the strength of its institutions, and the commitment of IFES's staff. What I have seen leaves me with no doubt: Ukraine will prevail as an example for global democracy.

Ukraine is only one of more than 40 countries where IFES worked to support democracy in 2022. While we take a deep look at Ukraine in this annual report, each country where we work faces significant challenges of its own, and, in each, IFES brings the same holistic strategy for democracy support, the same spirit of local partnership and innovation, and the same drive to ensure that all people have a voice in their system of government. And in each country where IFES works, we see people rallying around shared values of freedom and fairness.

So we at IFES do not read V-Dem's findings as a prophecy of decline. We see these numbers as a signal that our work is more vital and necessary than ever. And we are doubling down on doing that work in the places where it is needed the most.

Sincerely,

Tony Banbury
IFES President and CEO

Message From the Board



Democracy does not just happen. It takes work.

It is our great privilege as Chair and Co-chair of IFES's Board of Directors to see how IFES contributes to that work around the world. This report offers examples of IFES's impact in supporting free and fair elections, fighting corruption, ensuring technology works for rather than against democracy, and advancing inclusive societies.

The key to our work's success is almost always local.

In every place that IFES operates around the world, the organization builds deep local connections. From institutions to civil society to citizens, IFES has become a

trusted partner worldwide in building resilient democracies from the ground up. And through IFES's strategic network building, those local democracy forces benefit from global learning and innovation.

That is why IFES's mission statement is "Together we build resilient democracies that deliver for all." That first word, "together," is the key to IFES's success.

It is well understood that democracy is under attack in countries in all regions of the world. In this report, you will read about some of the many local partners with whom we work. In their stories, you will see some of the reasons we are so confident that IFES has the right formula for meeting democracy's challenges today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Ambassador William Eacho
Chair, IFES Board of Directors

Ambassador J. Kenneth Blackwell
Co-chair, IFES Board of Directors

IFES

Strategic Outcomes



Trusted Electoral Stakeholders Deliver Credible Elections

IFES elevates the trust and credibility of electoral officials and institutions. Election officials need to protect democratic norms and deliver elections that are technically sound, inclusive, safe, and secure. Electoral stakeholders must be responsive to and mitigate corruption, disinformation, and other threats to election integrity. Without credible elections, other democratic institutions and processes are called into question.



Effective Governing Institutions Are Accountable to the People They Serve

IFES amplifies the efforts of public officials and civil society to promote good governance and rule of law. IFES empowers civic groups to fight corruption and the abuse of state resources, and to reform political finance systems. We also contribute to public transparency and accountability mechanisms and global and regional peer networks of judges and election commissioners. IFES innovates approaches to preserving electoral integrity, security, and rule of law in conflict situations.



All People Safely Participate in Civic and Political Life on an Equal Basis

When all groups of society are represented, democracy thrives. Throughout its work, IFES promotes an informed and empowered citizenry by mainstreaming an intersectional approach to traditionally underrepresented groups and promoting peaceful participation through conflict mediation and mitigation activities, while developing culturally tailored civic education and leadership programs.



Technology, Information, and Data Positively Serve Elections and Democracy

IFES develops technology and information integrity solutions for civic engagement and electoral management. We work with electoral stakeholders to counter hate speech and use social media to promote tolerance, accessibility, and inclusivity. Our research focuses on the evolving relationship between elections and technology and developing cybersecurity and disinformation toolkits. Our growing networks connect government, civil society, and private sector actors to adapt technology to advance—not degrade—democracy and elections.

IFES by the Numbers



27

countries with IFES
offices



33

election management
bodies supported



49

countries with IFES
programming

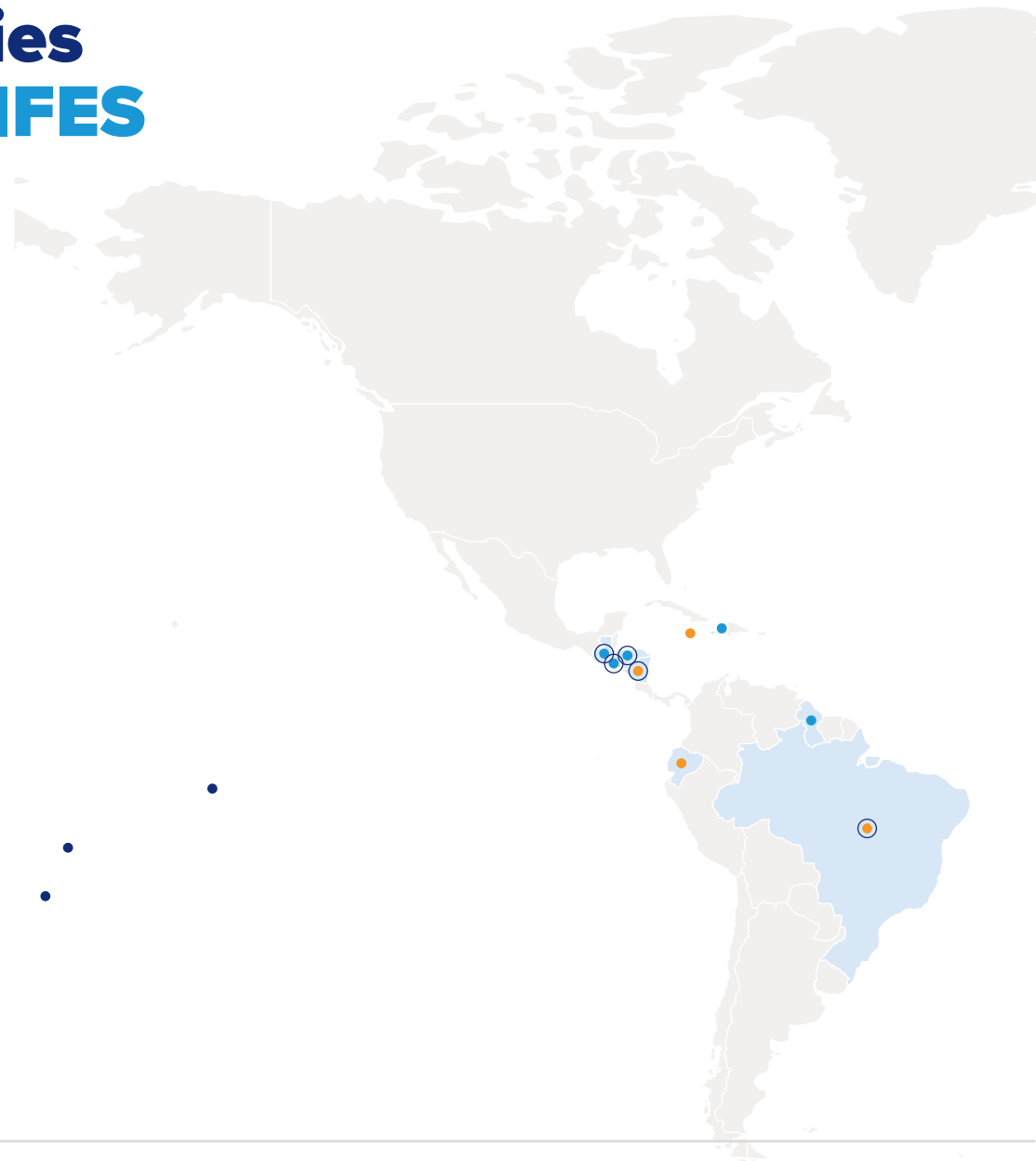


72

projects worldwide

◆ Countries Where IFES Works

- Country Office and Programming
- Programming
- Regional and Global IFES Programming
- EMB Support
- ◆ Country Where IFES Works



IFES by the Numbers



788,895

IFES.org page views



40+

external publications



56,061

downloads from
IFES.org



\$86.7 million

fiscal year 2021 revenue

Advancing Democracy in a Time of War

IFES has been steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that Ukrainian democracy re-emerges from the war as strong and resilient as ever.

In April, IFES President Tony Banbury was one of the first NGO leaders to travel to Ukraine after the invasion. “The best way of standing with Ukraine is standing in Ukraine.”



6

local civil society partners



8,091

civic education program participants



44

staff members in Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia began its criminal full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Missiles struck across the country, followed by ground troops and heavy armor. Russia's invasion killed thousands and displaced millions. It was a brutal assault on the Ukrainian people—but the Ukrainian people inspired the world with their resistance, rallying against the invader's brutal tactics and greater numbers with inspiring determination and resilience. Russia's war of aggression continues, and so does Ukraine's heroic resistance.

In the first days after the invasion, our priority was the safety of our team and partners, and we worked to ensure our staff were out of harm's way. We quickly reprogrammed work to meet the emerging challenges of the war—for example, our disability and inclusion work with local non-governmental organization (NGO) Fight for Right pivoted to evacuate over a thousand Ukrainians with disabilities and immediate family members.

Winning the peace

IFES maintained a continuous presence in Ukraine from the start of the war. By spring, as Russian forces had been repelled from the Kyiv region, our office in Ukraine's capital reopened and, with IFES Ukraine leadership based in Kyiv, continued supporting Ukraine's democracy in the face of regular air raids over the months that followed.

“*The legacy of the current war will be determined by Ukraine's and the international community's ability to honor the sacrifices of those Ukrainians killed in the war by accelerating the nation's democratic development. Post-war democratic progress must be multifaceted and include further advances on decentralization, political pluralism, freedom of the press, adherence to the rule of law, anti-corruption, human rights, and democratic elections. These efforts will be key to realizing Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic ambitions and maintaining international support for critical economic and military assistance,*” Peter Erben, IFES's Ukraine Country Director and Principal Adviser, and Gio Kobakhidze, IFES's Ukraine Deputy Country Director, wrote in the Atlantic Council's UkraineAlert publication.



Providing support to institutions

When Ukraine prevails and martial law lifts, Ukraine needs to be prepared to hold inclusive, free, and fair elections. That work must happen now to ensure Ukraine is well positioned to continue its tradition of democratic elections. IFES is working closely with lawmakers, civil society, and Ukraine's Central Election Commission to support Ukraine's preparations to ensure that all Ukrainians—including millions of displaced people—can cast their ballots.

For Ukraine and the world to have faith in their elections, transparency and accountability around political finance are essential. IFES supports the National Agency on Corruption Prevention's mission to monitor money in elections and ensure public sector integrity.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought an increase in cyber-attacks. IFES provides cybersecurity and operational assistance to key government bodies to safeguard the nation's electoral infrastructure and to ensure continuity of governance even through war.

These efforts will be key to realizing Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic ambitions and maintaining international support for critical economic, humanitarian, and military assistance through and after the war.



3,500

students completed civic education course since invasion



84%

of students say course helped them learn ways to rebuild Ukraine



> 60

universities and colleges in partnership

Deepening civic and democratic knowledge

Well-informed and engaged citizens are essential for a thriving democracy. IFES has focused on civic education in Ukraine since 2018, reaching over 12,000 young Ukrainians. Since the invasion, IFES has continued its partnership with Ukraine's Ministry of Education and 60 universities and colleges nationwide that offer IFES's civic education course, "Democracy: From Theory to Practice."

IFES provided support to educators and students on educational resilience through war. Thousands of students deepened their knowledge of democracy and citizenship skills in shelters and through air raid sirens over the past year.



Ukraine's recovery promises to demonstrate democracy's resilience to the world. IFES stands with Ukraine in its journey to not only prevail in the face of this war, but also in its determination to win the peace and the future by advancing Ukraine's democracy.

Elections in Nepal

In Nepal, over 11 million voters cast ballots in November 2022 to elect new members of the federal House of Representatives and the Provincial Assemblies. This election, along with the May 2022 local elections, followed years of political uncertainty, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Making Nepal's elections more inclusive and accessible

The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) piloted 100 accessible polling locations across all seven provinces, with the support of IFES aided by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and USAID. These locations included a total of 392 officers trained on accessible polling, fitted ramps, and braille voter information.



12

civil society partners



140

voter education videos
produced by influencers



23.7 million

total votes cast in 2022
elections

Participants of IFES's youth-focused media literacy workshops—conducted with the support of Meta—created short films that echoed the message of ensuring the accessibility of polling locations and contributed to the *My Vote, My Future* voter education campaign. In one film, a man in a wheelchair uses a ramp to cast his ballot independently in 2022, while in 2018, a woman needed to assist her father to cast his vote.

As another component of *My Vote, My Future*, IFES mobilized Nepali influencers and celebrities to produce authentic videos that focused on countering disinformation, fact-checking, and active civic engagement.

Social media campaign positively serves democracy in Nepal

Wangden Sherpa made a name for himself on social media as a musician and influencer who created viral videos for a young audience. Politics rarely crossed his mind, never casting a ballot at the polls.

But when presented with a way to collaborate with other Nepali influencers to create voter education content on social media, Sherpa saw an opportunity for his audience to make an impact.

“*I knew exactly how to reach that group of people who knew the importance of voting and how it could shape our future but didn't have that right push,” Sherpa said.*

The videos, created as part of the Nepal Election Hype House program using #MyVoteMyFutureNepal, #NepalVotes2022, and #ProudNepaliVoter received over 59 million views.

Mamta Siwakoti, an influencer and lawyer who makes content about legal issues in Nepal, said that while many of her viewers are more involved in politics, engaging them in innovative ways is essential.

“*Coming together with others to make fun videos [on the elections] is something I would not have done on my own,” Siwakoti said.*

Over 3 million young people were eligible to vote for the first time in the 2022 elections. Sherpa said now, these videos set a new standard of making voting information accessible through innovative methods for young voters.



Games Without Frontiers



964

civic education program
participants in Guyana



374

people reached through
civic education games in
Guyana



74

trained game facilitators in
Guyana



Learning by playing in Guyana

Guyanese teacher Keanu educates his students about civics differently than most—with a colorful set of games, featuring graphic characters representing Guyana’s diverse population.

Keanu learned about these card and board games through a training for Indigenous youth with IFES Guyana, who developed the games through the support of USAID to encourage young people’s participation in civic and political life.

“As a teacher, [the games] are really useful in the classroom,” Keanu said.

The toolkit aims to develop young people’s knowledge of democratic processes and strengthen their leadership and advocacy skills, encouraging them to engage with their communities.

Rondell, a staff member at the Guyana National Youth Council who has used the toolkit with groups of youth across Guyana, said it’s common for young people not to

seek out resources about voting and civic participation outside of school.

And for young people with disabilities, finding information on how to participate in the political process is even more difficult.

“People with disabilities are not exposed to much information because of a lack of access, so this program was able to both target them while also including them in the decision-making,” Rondell said.

Youth trainers with disabilities run trainings with the toolkit alongside youth without disabilities for mainstream audiences, serving as role models for participants.

Now, both Keanu and Rondell are training other young people across Guyana to teach others how to play the games.

“In a modern, technological age, it is about finding innovative, creative ways to bring out lessons so that the people not our age can follow and understand what is happening,” Rondell said.



Civic education around the globe

Games are just one example of a local IFES innovation in civic education spreading globally. IFES first developed the Strengthening Engagement through Education for Democracy (SEED) methodology in Georgia in 2012. The course introduces students to fundamental concepts of democratic citizenship, systems of government, civic participation, and human rights, while deepening soft and hard skills through hands-on, real-world learning experiences.

IFES has worked with over 100 universities and over 200 education specialists in Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, and Bangladesh to develop and offer fully accredited university-level curricula, which in many universities has become a requirement for graduation.

Awakening democracy in Tunisia

About 5,000 miles across the Atlantic from Guyana, in Tunisia, board games and other initiatives about active civic participation and democratic values are now a part of the academic curriculum for primary, middle school, and high school.

Lina, a student who participates in IFES's civic education programming, ran as a political candidate in her school's election simulation as part of the curriculum. Her teacher said it is important for Lina and her peers to understand how to respect candidates and decide independently on who you want to represent you at an early age.

“All of what you learn at the age of 12 is very important and it takes root in your mind that this is the behavior in a democracy,” the teacher said.

The curriculum outlined by the Democracy Awakening Toolkit, produced by IFES and the Ministry of Education, is expected to reach a minimum of 500,000 students between ages 10 and 18 annually in the future.

Technological innovation driving information accessibility

Technology and innovation drive the development of civic education programs in Tunisia. For Ahmed, who is hard of hearing, he said that it is hard for people with limited hearing to understand elections and receive information about voting. But through

the IFES-developed New Tech Inclusive Democracy Exhibit, he explored different voting and electoral scenarios through augmented and virtual reality experiences.

“The VR experience was simply magnificent,” Aymen, a Deaf activist, said. “The fact that the sign language interpretation was assisting me all the way through the voting simulation made me understand the process from A to Z.”



6,300

Democracy Awakening
Toolkits produced by IFES



500,000

students reached by toolkit
in Tunisia



The technology-based games and experiences also engage young people, a generation that gets its information from smartphones. IFES developed an app called Run4Democracy (RFD) to encourage young people to register to vote. While the player runs to collect Tunisian flags and voter ID cards, they need to avoid obstacles along the way. While having fun, the gamer receives voting information that they may not seek out elsewhere.

“ Every person, whether as a student studying civic education, or as a voter and citizen who demands his rights, for me, one of the most important duties are elections because an election is a collective responsibility,” participant Lina said about the importance of civic education in Tunisia.



Elections in Kenya

In Kenya, 64.7 percent of around 22 million voters cast ballots in August 2022 to elect a new president, governors, senators, and members of the National Assembly and county assemblies.

Supporting Kenya's judicial bodies

Judicial bodies now bear a greater responsibility in determining the integrity of elections, requiring judges to be prepared for challenging cases that come with political pressure and potential violence.

Following the violence that erupted after Kenya annulled the 2017 presidential election, IFES provided technical assistance to the judiciary through the Judicial Committee on Elections (JCE) and the Kenya Judiciary Academy ahead of the 2022 general election.



46,233

polling stations in the general election



4

local civil society partners



600+

judges trained

The Supreme Court of Kenya reviewed nine petitions contesting the election in a timely manner and ultimately upheld William Ruto as the duly-elected president on September 5.

“Because we have trained all the judges well, we are sure that we will be able to deliver and finalize all of [the cases] judicially within the stipulated timeline,” Justice Musinga, the JCE Vice President and President of the Court of Appeals, said before the election.

Using Artificial Intelligence to detect hate speech and disinformation

Online hate speech and disinformation plagues candidates in Kenya’s elections. Not only does it misinform voters, but it provokes violence ahead of and following the elections, as Kenya saw in 2017.

To combat this, IFES worked with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to implement a custom Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that provided a platform to detect, record, and analyze hate speech on Twitter. Throughout the electoral cycle, the tool enabled the commission to better manage factual inconsistencies, identify potential safety risks, and train its staff on media monitoring at the National Tallying Center.

“This is the first instance we are aware of where an AI-driven tool has been custom-developed to detect online hate speech for a specific election,” IFES CEO and President Tony Banbury said.

The IEBC said they found the tool especially useful to complement its existing, robust social media and traditional media monitoring capacities. They plan to deepen connections between this tool to its future risk management and research functions.





Regional seminar puts elections back on agenda in Burkina Faso

After two 2022 coups in Burkina Faso, which replaced transitional authorities who had overthrown the democratically elected government eight months earlier, there were muted conversations around when the next elections would be.

But at a first-ever West Africa regional seminar in December hosted by the Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI), with IFES support, there was a breakthrough. Burkina Faso's interim President Capitaine Traore underlined the gravity of the security challenges rocking the country, affirming that the democratic transition would end with elections sometime in 2024.

His speech, reiterating his support for a return to civilian rule, was a much-welcome development to the CENI, since he expressed his support for the body.

Supporting Democracy in West Africa



133

trained on electoral lexicon in Senegal



23

judicial personnel trained in Mali



150

participants at the regional seminar in Burkina Faso

Over the following three days, participants from a dozen African countries held open, productive, and in-depth discussions about the timing of elections in an insecure environment, issues of election legitimacy, security planning and mapping, disinformation, and the risks of political campaigning.

Creating a more inclusive election for the Deaf community in Senegal

In Senegal, people who rely upon sign language to communicate have largely been shut out of conversations on elections and politics due in part to a lack of established vocabulary on the subject.

“Deaf people are discriminated against; some of us don’t even know the name of the President,” Aminata Dia, a member of the Association of Deaf People in Pikine, said.

Making voter education more accessible, IFES—as part of USAID’s Nietti Elections

program implemented by CEPPS—convened representatives of the Deaf community in Senegal and legal experts to develop Senegal’s first sign language lexicon of electoral terms.

The Direction Générale des Élections—Senegal’s election commission—used the sign language lexicon during their institutional campaign for the legislative election in July 2022.

With new voter education videos in sign language, members of the Deaf community like Papa Alioune Sow, former president of the National Federation of Deaf Organizations of Senegal, discovered new information about the electoral process.

“Before the video, I didn’t know that the vote was secret,” Papa said.

Supporting electoral integrity in Mali

In 2020 and 2021, Mali experienced two coups within eight months, disrupting

democratic order and delaying the country’s democratic transition. The return to democracy was tougher than initially thought.

Initiating electoral reforms to create an independent electoral management body, among other initiatives, the transitional authorities ensured the process would not be left behind amid the instability.

Informed by an Electoral Integrity Assessment conducted by IFES with the support of USAID—providing a mapping of vulnerabilities of the electoral process—IFES assisted transitional authorities to draft a new electoral bill, which the Transitional National Council adopted in June 2022.

In addition to the historic creation of the first independent electoral body, other provisions that also serve as an important step in Mali’s democratic transition included a bill mandating a minimum 30 percent gender quota for most elections and increased voting access for persons with disabilities.



IFES Global Convening

IFES brings together people who care about the future of democracy from around the world to learn and build networks. From election practitioners to anti-corruption experts, from civil society to students, our events create opportunities to build networks and advance knowledge in the cause of democracy.

Judges on the frontline of African democracy

This July, from eight countries across Africa, over 80 high-level judges, civil society representatives, and other practitioners gathered in Malawi and online to share experiences on election dispute resolution, identify challenges, and exchange legal solutions. This was the second peer-to-peer event of the Africa Electoral Justice Network, which enhances participants' appreciation of the application of rules of procedure in elections and consolidates knowledge and understanding of challenges facing Africa's judiciaries.



Launch of Electoral Integrity Cohort in India

Traveling to India in October, IFES CEO and President Tony Banbury joined the Election Commission of India and other partners to launch the Election Integrity Cohort, which IFES co-led with India, Greece, and Mauritius at the second Summit for Democracy. As election leaders face unprecedented challenges, they discussed how to shore up democratic trust.

Anti-corruption global summit in Prague

In October, IFES's Center for Anti-Corruption and Democratic Trust, in partnership with the Central and Eastern European Law Institute (CEELI), brought together civil society organizations to discuss issues like political finance, abuse of state resources, and judicial reform. Convened under the Effective Combat Against Corruption and Implementing Anti-Corruption Treaties and Standards projects, the event aimed to address gaps in the implementation of anti-corruption priorities in nine countries.

This program is funded by the U.S. Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau.



Regional disability rights dialogue

People with disabilities face many barriers exercising one of their most fundamental rights as individuals—the right to engage meaningfully in civic and political life. The COVID-19 pandemic brought forth many unprecedented challenges for persons with disabilities. IFES and the General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) hosted a two-day dialogue to strengthen joint advocacy and cross-regional collaboration for disability inclusion, engaging 229 participants across different sectors and age groups from countries in Southeast Asia and Africa.

The AGENDA network is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the U.S. Department of State



Each year, IFES honors inspirational leaders with an unwavering commitment to building resilient democracies that deliver for all. The awards—given to a Republican, Democrat, and a member of the international community—highlight how the work of safeguarding and advancing freedom and democracy transcends political parties and national borders.

Democracy Awards Dinner

IFES honored three global democracy leaders with its 2022 Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award:

The Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) Officers of the U.S. Agency for International Development, with USAID Administrator Samantha Power accepting on their behalf.

“The work is often thankless. The news is often bleak. But we have heroes that we look to and shepherds in this world that keep the flame burning.”



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, with Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oksana Markarova accepting on his behalf.

“You have to work for democracy all the time. You have to fight for it during the peaceful time so you don't have to fight for it during the war.”



U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio).

“We hope that the war in Ukraine will be a turning point, where we can turn the tide and democracy regains the upper hand against forces of tyranny, and that is what we all must continue to fight for.”



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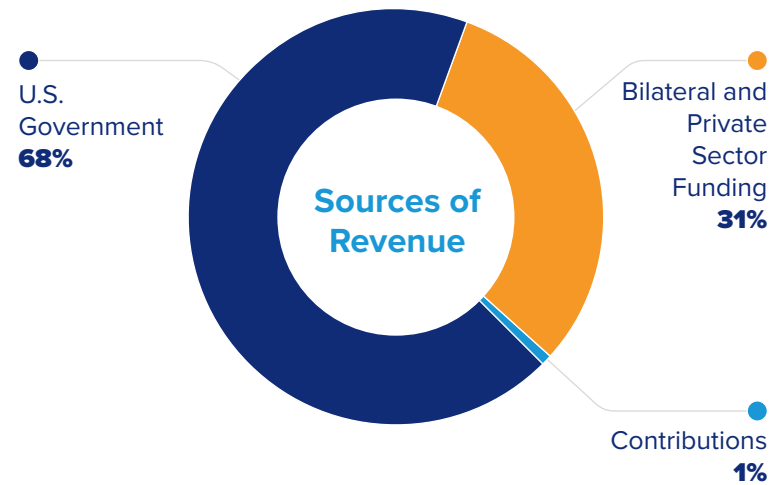
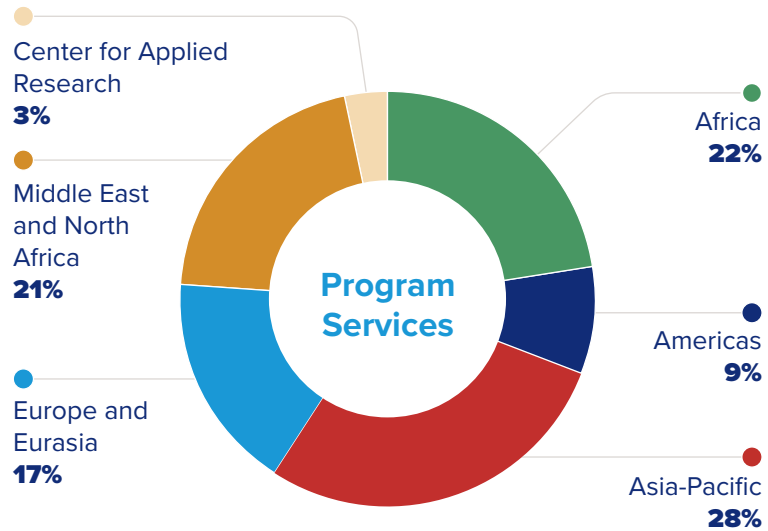
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Financial Data Fiscal Year 2022



Revenue Growth





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