

World Learning

World Learning provides education, policy advocacy awareness, training, technical assistance, and small grants' support to create a more fully engaged and active citizenry.



Civil Society and Governance Programs

Working with citizens, government, and private sector institutions to strengthen communities and transform lives

World Learning's Civil Society and Governance programs connect local communities with public and private sector institutions to promote citizen action for good governance and foster policies at the local, national and global levels that respect basic human rights.

Programs are most often implemented in transitional countries that face post-conflict, post-communist, and democratic governance challenges. World Learning has built the capacity of more than 10,000 civil society and governance institutions and NGO coalitions to strengthen their ability to serve thousands of communities and citizens.

Scope of the Problem

The number of countries labeled as free in 2008 stood at 89, representing only 46 percent of the global population. Despite significant global developments, the majority of the world's population faces serious development issues and lack of equal opportunities. This holds especially true for members of poor and marginalized communities.

The World Learning Approach

A progressive development framework must consider inter-related issues of poverty, human rights abuses, conflict, poor service delivery, weak governance, and social inequalities. To effectively address this diverse set of problems requires the cooperation of government and civil society. Drawing on more than 75 years of experience in culturally and politically diverse communities throughout the world, World Learning provides

education, policy advocacy awareness, training, technical assistance, and small grants' support to create a more fully engaged and active citizenry and help them build a better future.

Representative Programs

In Indonesia, World Learning's RESPECT program focuses on strengthening the capacities of district officials—mayors, regents and members of local parliaments—to interpret and implement laws and regulations at the district level in fair and equitable ways. Training officials to act within the rule of law and good governance best practices is designed to lead to a clearer acceptance and implementation of the notions of citizens' rights and equity. Local CSO representatives and forums play an important role in the program as it helps communities to identify and advocate against local regulations that support inequity and intolerance and negatively affect their daily lives.

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Civil Society and Governance Programs

Representative Programs *(continued)*

In Angola, World Learning's Civil Society Strengthening Program is supporting the country's post-conflict development following more than two decades of civil war. The four-year USAID-funded program works to expand capacity of the Angola NGO sector and to strengthen its ability to provide policy advocacy and improved service delivery to communities and individuals, including children suffering from the consequences of HIV/AIDS. World Learning's comprehensive initiative is based on intensive, targeted support through training, need-driven technical assistance, mentoring, and sub-grants. The program emphasizes building strong skills and resource platforms within 50 Angolan civil society organizations in six provinces relatively underserved by donors, government, and international NGOs, making them some of the most fragile in the country.

In Jordan, where 75 percent of the population is under the age of 30, World Learning is implementing a two-year Emerging Leaders project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund. Partnering with The Jordanian Center for Civic Education Studies, the project is developing the capacity of 5,000 university-age students and youth NGO leaders for active and democratic citizenship and community development. Emerging Leaders will participate in interrelated interventions including advocacy and communications skills training, civic education workshops, internships with civil society or government institutions, online forums, and dialogues with traditional and elected leaders. Together they will achieve the overall goal of individual empowerment and civil society engagement with traditional and community-based governance institutions.

Development Partners

World Learning believes strong collaboration with stakeholders and donors is critical to ensure ownership and commitment to development objectives. Projects are based on strong partnerships with a variety of organizations including USAID Missions and Washington Bureaus; other development assistance organ-



Photo by Preeti Schroff-Mehta

izations such as the World Bank; host government ministries and civil society organizations; regional organizations; and experts from the labor and media sector.

World Learning has decades of experience managing grants and contracts of varying scope, size, and complexity for US government, United Nations, private foundation, and other donors, and has implemented long-term, multi-component civil society projects in Romania, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Uganda, and other countries. World Learning also implements a Grants Solicitation and Management (GSM) program which provides health grants and management services to USAID's Bureau of Global Health and USAID Missions around the world targeting primarily local/national NGOs.

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World Learning, a nonprofit education, training, and exchange provider, works globally to enhance the capacity and commitment of individuals, institutions, and communities to create a more peaceful and just world. Founded in 1932, World Learning runs international development programs, study abroad, and graduate education in more than 70 countries, with participants from more than 140 countries. Development priorities include civil society and governance, education, HIV/AIDS, international exchange, and capacity development and training. US-based in Washington, DC, and Vermont, the organization has annual operating revenues exceeding \$100 million.

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