



Information on our proposed new program in Ghana, Togo and Ethiopia.

Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies

Ghana, Togo, Ethiopia

Proposal to: Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch

Anticipated Project Start Date: Mid-2021

Proposed Budget: \$ 8,999,732 CAD **Duration:** 5 years

There is an urgent need for parliaments to take a leading role in the pandemic response and recovery, particularly given the disproportionate effects of COVID 19 on poor and disadvantaged women and girls.



- Every single public policy, law and budget affects different groups of people in different ways. Understanding this principle is key to more inclusive governance and better development outcomes. This is true now more than ever, given the disproportionate social and economic effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on the poorest and most marginalised women and girls.

- Taking action to ensure women's political voice contributes to responses and recovery efforts will take political will, careful planning,

proactive measures, effective and speedy engagement, increased understanding and skills and monitoring progress. A recent report, 'Global Democracy and COVID-19: Upgrading International Support' a collaborative effort among international democracy support organizations (including Parliamentary Centre) provides recommendations for governments, policymakers and civil society to address the negative impacts of Covid-19 on democracy. Chief among these is incorporating democracy support into emergency pandemic response and recovery assistance.

- The parliaments of Ghana, Togo and Ethiopia have demonstrated political will and have formulated institutional priorities and strategies to become more inclusive and to better reflect the needs and aspirations of women and girls in line with national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They acknowledge their significant challenges and capacity gaps in trying to operationalize these frameworks and have asked the Parliamentary Centre for relevant and sustained support.



- Local civil society organizations have also enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity for more meaningful engagements with parliaments. Canadian legislators have also expressed an interest in engaging in peer-to-peer support for these efforts to share their experiences and to learn more about development challenges facing legislatures and societies.

Project Summary



In response to an invitation by Global Affairs Canada, the Parliamentary Centre has submitted a proposal for an initiative aimed at improving development outcomes and the enjoyment of human rights for the poorest and most marginalised people, particularly women and girls, in Ethiopia, Ghana and Togo.

The proposed initiative is expected to contribute to the **improved enjoyment of human rights for up to 69.5 million women and girls from about 170 ethnic groups**, the larger share of which are in the category of poor and marginalized.

Informed by consultations with the parliaments and civil society, including women's rights groups from the three countries and further strengthened by structured consultations with leading international gender and governance experts, the proposed five-year initiative (2021-2025) will:

- Support the partner parliaments to adequately assess the relevant gaps in their capacity and formulate, in a transparent and accountable fashion, their own detailed plans for strengthening institutional structures and practices to incorporate gender considerations and intersectional analysis across the exercise of their legislative, oversight and representation roles as parliaments seek relevant roles in managing the biggest public health crisis of our lifetime.
- Help turn these plans into practice by support in the process of initiating, analyzing and passing specific inclusive and gender-responsive laws, policies and budgets and overseeing government action on specific gender equality commitments, particularly those related to pandemic response and recovery.
- Include a focus on exploring different mechanisms to facilitate public participation, including the use of digital technology for engaging about 47 CSOs, including women's right groups, along with an estimated 500,000 women and girls, the majority of which are poor and marginalized, to share their views on specific pieces

of legislation/policies and provide direct feedback to decision-makers on how their lives are impacted by government programs.

- Inform the development and institutionalisation of practices and tools for making the parliaments' legislative and oversight work more inclusive and gender-responsive. Engaging with the three parliaments in a concerted effort will allow for learning from each other's experiences.
- Identify good practices and models that can be of relevance and use across Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. Exploring innovative approaches to work with parliaments on gender equality will also add significant value to the broader fields of study and practice regarding the nexus of gender and governance- particularly in relation to pandemic responses and recovery.
- Offer deeper understanding of how governance challenges can be better addressed in achieving the goals of Canadian Government's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), as well as larger internationally shared goals such as pandemic interventions and the SDGs.