

Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies Ghana, Togo, Ethiopia



The five-year initiative (2021-2025) will support the partner parliaments to adequately assess the relevant gaps and formulate, in a transparent and accountable fashion, their own detailed plans for strengthening institutional capacity to incorporate gender aspects across the exercise of their legislative, oversight and representation roles.

Pursuing a holistic learning-by-doing approach, the project will assist the three parliaments in turning the plans into reality by supporting them to apply a gender lens to specific pieces of legislation, including budgets that each parliament is working on as well to the parliamentary oversight of specific aspects of the governments' work.

The project will include a substantial focus on engaging civil society groups as well as individual women and girls and having their voices taken into account in the decision-making process. Ultimately, these experiences will inform the development and institutionalisation of practices and tools aimed at making the parliaments' legislative and oversight work more inclusive and responsive to the needs of women and girls. Engaging with three parliaments in a concerted effort will be an efficient way to provide support to their efforts to become more inclusive and responsive while also allowing for cross-fertilization and learning from each other's experiences. Given that Ghana, Togo and Ethiopia present a mix of different governance and legal systems, their experiences can also provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned, good practices and models that can be of relevance and use across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The project is expected to have a direct impact on the capacity of at least 280 parliamentarians (of which at least 153 are women) and at least 1000 parliamentary staff, (of which at least 400 are women). About 47 civil society organizations representing women and girls will benefit from increased engagement in the legislative and oversight process along with an estimated 500,000 women and girls, the majority of which falling the category of poor and marginalized, who will be given the opportunity to share their views on specific pieces of legislation and/or provide direct feedback to decision-makers on how their lives are impacted by the implementation of specific government programs. Finally, by helping the parliaments of Ghana, Togo and Ethiopia build practical capacity to apply a strong gender lens to the execution of their legislative and oversight roles. The project will offer a 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.

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