

Inclusive Legislatures for Gender-Responsive Policies Ghana and Togo



The four-year initiative (2022-2026) 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 their capacity to incorporate gender aspects across the exercise of their legislative, oversight and representation roles.

The project will assist the two parliaments in turning their strategic 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 two 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 and Togo present a mix of different governance and legal systems, their experiences can also provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned, best 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 200 parliamentarians (at least 50 women) and an estimated 350 000 (particularly poor and marginalized) women and girls. About 35 civil society organizations including women's right groups, along with an estimated 300,000 women and girls, particularly the poorest and most marginalized, will be able to share their views on legislation/policies and to provide direct feedback to decision-makers on how their lives are impacted by government programs.

Finally, by helping the parliaments of Ghana and Togo 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.