

# Strengthening democracy around the world

Annual Review 2021-2022



**WFD**  
30 years of impact



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

## Foreword

Democracies are fragile plants that need much tending and, untended, decline – at first gradually and then, like all gardens, suddenly. For more than 30 years now, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) has been the constant gardener: actively helping democracies to grow stronger, so that freedom and prosperity can flourish.

As the devastating war in Ukraine persists, the need for WFD as the UK's public body dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world, has never been clearer. I am grateful for the hard work of WFD's Chief Executive, Anthony Smith, my fellow Governors, and Team WFD for their work on this great good cause. I hope the stories here inspire you as they have me.

**Richard Graham MP**  
**Chair of WFD's Board of Governors**



**WFD has been the constant gardener: actively helping democracies to grow stronger, so that freedom and prosperity can flourish.**





**Democracy and human rights are not luxuries. They link directly to our national security. And not just our security. Democracy and human rights are essential to our prosperity, our wellbeing, and our ability to thrive.**



## Introduction

Russia's war on Ukraine has violently illustrated what is at stake in the struggle between democracy and autocracy. For those in my generation that doubted it, we can now see clearly that our freedoms are at stake too, and that democratic values are a strategic priority. Democracy and human rights are not luxuries. They link directly to our national security. And not just our security. Democracy and human rights are essential to our prosperity, our wellbeing, and our ability to thrive. That was the message in the UK's Integrated Review published in March 2021, and WFD's work helps to implement the conclusions of that review.

The resilience and dedication of WFD's staff, and their commitment to supporting democracy, never fails to inspire me. This year is no different. As democracy defenders and advocates, WFD teams have built networks of liberty across the globe. Together, we dedicate our lives to democracy because we know that too many people have died for it.

**Anthony Smith**  
**WFD's Chief Executive**

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# About us

**At Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), we believe that the power of people is the most transformative force on earth. For 30 years we have actively helped democracies to grow stronger so that freedom and prosperity can flourish. In 2022, the devastating and illegal invasion of Ukraine shows that the fight to defend democracies around the world has never been more urgent.**

Democracy is good for prosperity and growth and reducing the impacts of climate change. A strong democratic system is key to achieving better societal outcomes such as better health and wellbeing, quality education, clean water, and gender equality.

That is why WFD is working to strengthen democracy across the world. We work to help make political systems fairer, more inclusive, and more accountable.

## **We do this by working with:**

- Parliaments
- Political parties
- Electoral bodies
- Civil society

WFD is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England.

WFD's established purpose is to assist, support and encourage the peaceable establishment and development of pluralistic democratic practice and political institutions.

WFD is a problem-solving organisation guided by local expertise in the places we work. At the end of 2021-22, our team consisted of 56 full-time equivalent staff based in the UK and 103 full-time equivalent staff based in our offices in the places we work.

## **We offer:**

- High quality and impactful programmes that directly support institutions in political systems, such as parliaments, civil society organisations and electoral bodies;
- Specialist analysis, research, and advice to inform policymakers on a range of democratic governance issues;
- International elections observation and technical advice on electoral integrity on behalf of the UK.



**WFD**  
30 years of impact

# Our 2021-22 impact in numbers

In 2021-22, WFD is proud to have engaged with around 12,500 people through nearly 800 activities as part of 87 programmes. We developed and disseminated more than 500 products, such as policy briefs, guides and websites.



**We delivered  
780 programme  
activities**



**We engaged members  
of 21 national  
parliaments**



**We worked in  
39 countries and  
territories around  
the world**



**We engaged  
635 MPs  
around the world**



**We generated  
253 studies, guides,  
and other learning  
products**



**We worked with  
835 members  
of civil society  
organisations**



**We supported  
6 election  
observation  
missions**

# Overview of our impact in 2021-22

2021-22 marked the final year in our 2017-22 strategy period. Throughout this period we have been committed to four objectives in supporting democratic governance:

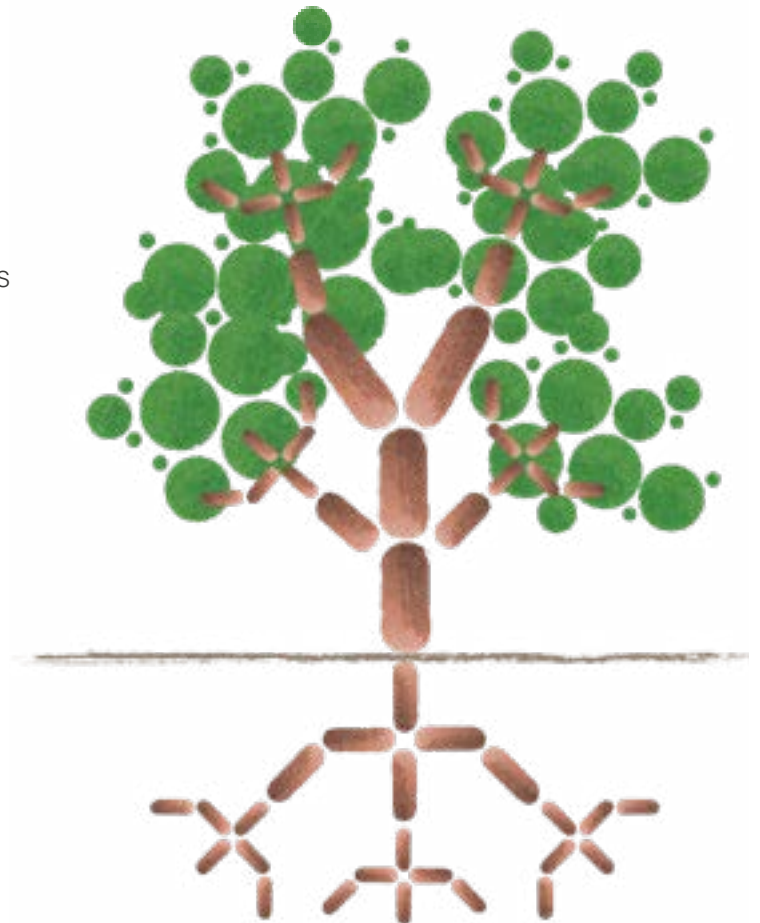
- Promoting inclusive political processes
- Enabling accountable political systems
- Supporting the protection of freedom and rights
- Fostering pluralist societies

Despite the global challenges facing democracy in 2021-22, reduced funding, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WFD made progress across all these areas in 2021-22.

2021-22 saw us focus greater attention on support to electoral systems and processes around the world, principally through our Global Elections Support Centre (GESC) project funded by the FCDO.

Through strengthening democracy, we are helping societies solve complex problems by:

- Challenging opaque practices that facilitate corruption;
- Ensuring transparency so that both parliaments and citizens know how decisions are being made and the types of information used for decision making;
- Building diverse reform coalitions with the authority to amend damaging and discriminatory practices and legislation;
- Supporting governance efforts to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change;
- Providing guidance and technical expertise that protect the integrity of elections;
- Helping protect fundamental rights through policy change, including ending violence against women and girls.





**WFD country teams are using their impressive political acumen, insight and convening power to support the increase in women's representation and influence in decision-making... This is supported by some powerful examples of parliamentary capacity building, technical support and brokering of 'relationships that no one wanted to have' through Women's Political Leadership (WPL) and inclusion programming partnerships."**

**Recent independent review of our approach to women's political leadership (WPL)**



**To know whether acts have achieved their purpose calls for systematic assessment. Recognition of that fact has expanded understanding of what constitutes the legislative process. The merits of post-legislative scrutiny have become more widely recognised internationally, not least due to the efforts of Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), with various national legislatures implementing some form of post-legislative scrutiny or oversight."**

**Philip Norton, Lord Norton of Louth**



**WFD's Global Election Support Centre has produced benefits, includ[ing] influencing the debate about post-election reform, helping create more space for citizen observers, and adjustments being made to development programming to the benefit of the election process."**

**Independent review of WFD's Global Election Support Centre**







## Pioneering the environmental democracy approach and responding to the climate crisis

The global environmental crisis and rising authoritarianism are two of the most pressing challenges we face. In 2021-22, WFD's programmes, research and policy advice contributed to tackling them both.

Ahead of COP26, where WFD showcased the environmental democracy approach, WFD supported parliamentarians from Sub-Saharan Africa as they built their understanding of COP26 and examined progress on environmental goals in their countries.

After the official launch of WFD's environmental democracy programme in 2020-21, WFD has already seen some impressive results. For example: working with the Climate Change Committee and Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change in Uganda, WFD's programme helped forge consensus to get a crucial climate bill passed.

And WFD's new environmental democracy programme in Georgia has already helped catalyse conversations between government, parliament, CSOs and local authorities. Following WFD support, the Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Committee on Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy jointly launched a thematic inquiry on decarbonisation.

2021-22 ended with WFD's flagship [Conference on Environmental Democracy](#), produced in partnership with the National Democratic Institute and the World Resources Institute, which brought together over 300 people to discuss why our planet needs democracy. In 2022-23 and beyond, WFD looks forward to advancing a political and governance strategy on climate at a time when it is urgently needed.



PLS Nigeria: Conference of Speakers representative expresses commitment to support the introduction of PLS into Legislative processes at State Houses of Assembly

## Helping parliaments and citizens hold political leaders to account on public spending and the impact of legislation

Embedding the practice of reviewing laws to assess their implementation and impact – a process known as post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) – was a common thread through WFD's programmes in this financial year. WFD worked to develop the capacity of parliaments to conduct PLS in countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Pakistan and Ukraine. In many programmes, WFD took a thematic approach to PLS, helping review and assess laws from a gender or – in Georgia, Pakistan and Indonesia – a climate perspective. In the Maldives, we worked closely with the Majilis (parliament), providing technical expertise in the national security inquiry, and support for committees on strengthening PLS.

WFD has helped build stronger accountability practices across the world, for example conducting an advanced course on PLS in conjunction with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) at the University of London. WFD developed and piloted [new parliamentary and legislative indicators](#) which measure how

effective a parliament is in performing PLS and help parliaments consider options for improving. Other accountability initiatives included creating new knowledge products on [scrutiny of sunset clauses](#) and [PLS of electoral campaign finance legislation](#).

In a year when public debt continued to soar in response to crises, WFD developed a unique, [free e-course for parliamentarians on public debt management](#), supporting parliaments' oversight of public debt.

WFD conducted [comparative analysis of the UK Bribery Act 2010 and anti-bribery legislation in Ukraine, Indonesia and Kenya](#), and launched the research with the African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC) and the Southeast Asia Network of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC).

WFD's programmes building transparency and accountability saw the team in Albania work with civil society advocates, supporting them to monitor the health state budget and environmental legislation and actively engage with key state institutions. In Montenegro and North Macedonia, WFD has supported the State Audit Institutions to improve the communication tools for their analysis which are now becoming increasingly present in the media and public debate on public spending and financial accountability.

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### Ukraine

The illegal invasion of Ukraine is devastating, and the consequences will be far reaching. Ukraine has been on a journey strengthening its democracy for the good of its people and WFD is proud to have provided support along this road. Over the past years, WFD's work focused on helping the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) to strengthen its role in scrutinising government, improving accountability for legislative and financial matters, and making society more inclusive of women and underrepresented groups

Before the Russian invasion, WFD worked with three parliamentary committees, in 2021, to improve their capacities for post-legislative scrutiny. The Devolution Committee's Call for Evidence received more than 1,000 responses, which were discussed at a committee meeting and shared with government representatives who were present.

Despite the outbreak of the war, WFD continues to work with parliament on a range of initiatives, including post-legislative scrutiny, improving support to law drafting, full policy cycle, hybrid and online procedures, and co-operation between parliament and the government.

The USAID-funded Rada Next Generation (RANG) programme in Ukraine works in partnership with the VRU, and was in the early phases of implementation in February 2022 during the Russian military assault on Ukraine.

It took a week for parliamentary partners to adapt to circumstances and for WFD's team to relocate, but the programme has not missed a day of implementation. The VRU quickly communicated its revised needs and WFD, as a member of the consortium delivering the programme, was able to adapt to these.

WFD's component of the programme focuses on the VRU's institutional capacity, primarily around accountability and oversight procedures. The programme is delivering reports with recommendations on improving civil society engagement, as well as providing a comparative study on how parliaments in seven countries apply PLS in oversight and public engagement efforts.





## Supporting women's leadership for better outcomes for women and girls — and everyone else

**Women's political leadership is good for the whole of society, not to mention democratic integrity and resilience. That is why supporting women's equal political participation and leadership is a core part of what WFD does.**

We support women's political leadership at local, regional and national levels across the globe – from the newest democracies, to more established ones. We have seen substantive results that make a difference for individuals and for societies.

In Uganda, following training and mentoring organised by WFD, women MPs who had never spoken on the floor of parliament raised issues including teenage pregnancy and harassment

of opposition women leaders by security forces. WFD also worked with Ugandan political and community leaders to raise the social, human rights, equality, and economic implications of the sharp rise in teenage pregnancies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative has led to policy changes in the support and services offered to these young women and girls, and has also made notable gains in shifting normative perceptions around teenage pregnancy.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the “More than a Quota” mentorship and networking programme brought together 40 women leaders across eight political parties at all levels of politics to build their skills and relationships, providing training on topics from personal branding to campaign strategies. Thanks to the participants, as of next year, registration of small businesses will be free in the Tuzla Canton – just one example of the local impact of women's leadership.



Participants speaking at a WFD International Women's Day event in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the event tackled important topics such as women's participation in politics and society



Political advocacy workshop brings together Social Welfare Committee in the Bangsamoro, Philippines



## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### Morocco

In Morocco, WFD has been supporting the leadership of women MPs and efforts to make parliamentary practices more inclusive and gender sensitive. This work has taken place over many years through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) programming.

After years of WFD collaborating with the Equity and Parity Committee in their and others' advocacy efforts to increase women's representation, the electoral code was changed. In 2021, Moroccans elected the the highest ever number of women MPs.

WFD continues to build on this success. In March 2022, a new programme to support women MPs launched, funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives. At the launch of the programme in the Moroccan House of Representatives, the Speaker expressed his support for making the Equity Committee permanent.



Women MPs with Canadian Ambassador to Morocco Nell Stewart at the launch of WFD's programme on Reinforcing the Role of Women MPs in Decision Making Processes



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Kingdom of Morocco shaking hands with Nell Stewart - Ambassador of Canada to Morocco



Full view of the room during the launch of WFD's programme on Reinforcing the Role of Women MPs in Decision Making Processes

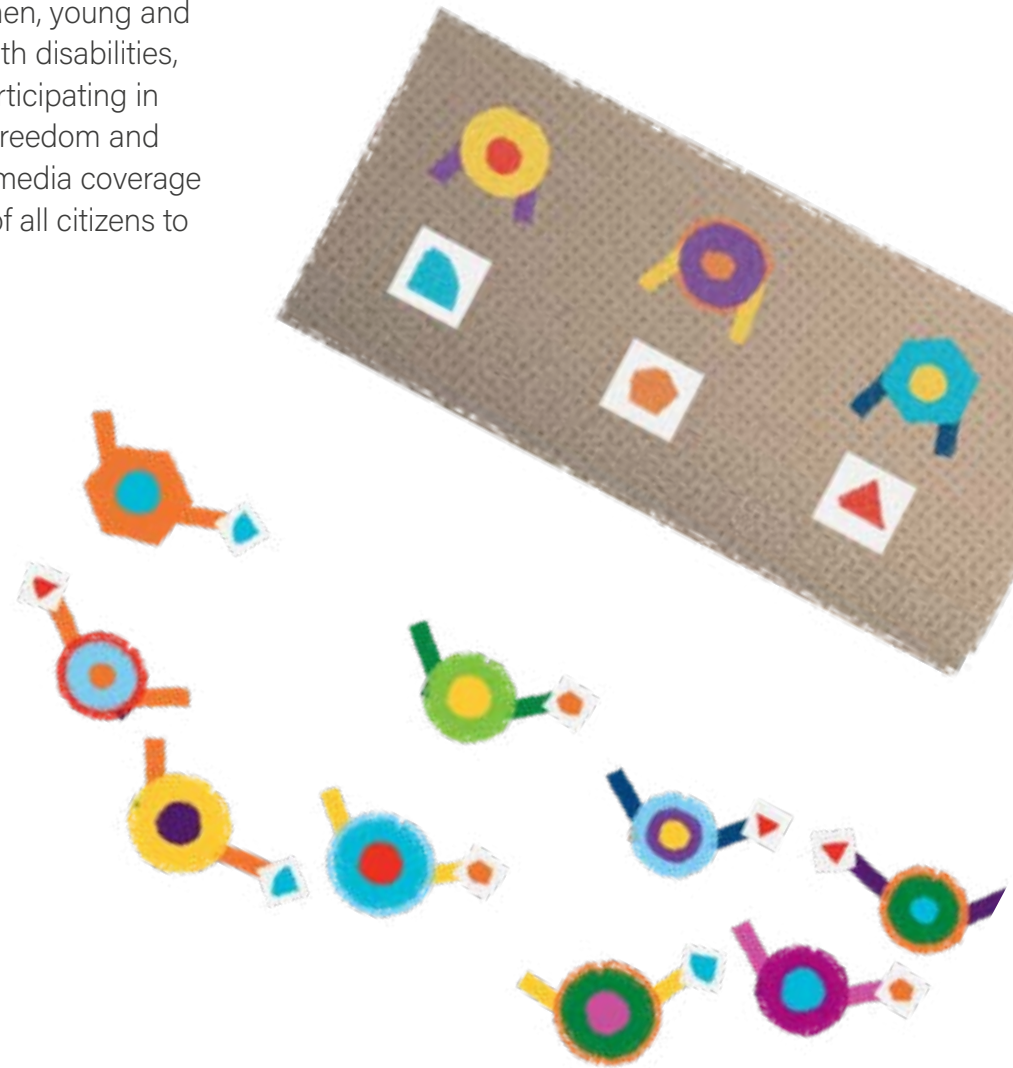
## Supporting free and fair elections so that more people can have their say in how society is run

Through our electoral assignments we helped to deliver commitments made in the UK Government's 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (Integrated Review) to build UK capability to support international election observation.

On behalf of the United Kingdom, WFD recruited international election observers for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observation missions to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Hungary, as well as training more than 50 observers. We also carried out observation and advisory missions directly.

Our Global Election Support Centre (GESC) entered its second phase, providing expert advice and analysis on elections and/or electoral reform in Zambia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Nepal, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Fiji, the Philippines, and Somaliland.

WFD also pioneered new approaches: our election observation mission to the presidential election in The Gambia conducted an [in-depth analysis](#) of the barriers that women, young and first-time candidates, persons with disabilities, and minority groups faced in participating in that election. It analysed media freedom and the impact of online and offline media coverage on the elections and the ability of all citizens to participate in the process.





## Working for openness and participation in democracies

By giving civil society and citizens a more direct role in setting policy agendas and shaping the public decisions that affect them, democratic institutions become stronger. In 2021-22 WFD helped countries to put participation at the heart of their democratic institutions.

WFD worked with five parliaments to fulfil their commitments under the Open Government Partnership (OGP), including those in Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan.

In Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the southern Philippines, WFD facilitated the establishment of a coalition of 12 civil society organisations (CSOs) which have identified women-led priorities and a roadmap for further engagement on environmental and land rights issues. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), we developed the capacity of civil society organisations that monitor the Congolese parliament. In Kyrgyzstan and Georgia, WFD provided training on environmental openness for parliaments and civil society.



Civil society organisations in Bangsamoro which WFD convened to create a communications and advocacy plan and a roadmap for engagement with the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament

In Sierra Leone, we continued supporting the country's parliament on its OGP work. The team was delighted that in the last National Action Plan (NAP III), the parliament achieved its highest scores (81%) on its open parliament commitment milestones.

WFD also produced [a guide to deliberative democracy for Members of Parliament](#), laying out new and innovative ways to bring citizens to the heart of the decision-making process, and published [a guide for increasing participation in environmental governance](#).

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### Bangsamoro

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the Muslim Mindanao (BARM or Bangsamoro) is an autonomous region in the Southern Philippines and the centrepiece of a long-running peace process in which the UK Government played an important support role.

WFD is supporting the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), which is serving as an interim government. The BTA's task is to put in place the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the constitutional basis of Bangsamoro, and to build the required institutional architecture and structures for effective and inclusive governance in Bangsamoro.

The Education Code is one of seven key pieces of legislation essential to building new structures for the political transition in Bangsamoro. WFD provided MP Rasul Mitmug Jr., the Vice Chair of Committee on Education and co-author of the Bill on Bangsamoro Education Code, with expert guidance, technical support and mentorship as the measure moved through the parliament. In 2022, the Code was approved by the parliament – and MP Rasul attributed part of the legislation's procedural and substantive success to the guidance provided by WFD.



The Bangsamoro Transition Authority holds its special session to discuss the committee report on the Bangsamoro Education Code. Credit: Bangsamoro Information Office





## Helping decision makers include people so that everyone's voice is heard and no one is held back

Where discrimination and inequality hinder societies' ability to thrive, WFD is helping decision makers include people who are often overlooked so that everyone's voice is heard, and no one is held back. In 2021-22 our work on political inclusion focused on ensuring young people, people with disabilities (PWDs), women, and LGBT+ people have access to decision-making.

We continued to work with Members of Parliament who look to build relationships with allies within their own parliament and with UK MPs to bring in legislation to better protect the rights of LGBT+ people. WFD organised a series of roundtable meetings for MPs in Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Croatia to discuss how to improve the protection of LGBT+ rights. Attendees exchanged experiences with each other and UK MPs on challenges they faced and how to overcome them, as well as to agree on legislative priorities for the protection of LGBT+ rights.

WFD worked across the Western Balkans to bolster the political participation and representation of young people, building on our research about the drivers of youth disengagement. From working with youth leaders of Albania's and North Macedonia's political parties to build their communication and debate skills, to supporting the engagement of young MPs with issues affecting young people, WFD has helped decision makers hear the voices of young people. Half of the participants of the Debating Academy in North Macedonia were candidates for municipal councillors, of which three were elected. In Serbia, video material WFD developed with the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade will be used by teachers across the country to introduce first-time voters to the electoral process and their civic rights.

Also in North Macedonia, WFD worked on supporting persons with disabilities to actively participate in decision-making processes on the local and state level alike. For the first time people with disabilities actively monitored elections and some also ran for office in the local and general elections.

This year, WFD's long-standing work with the Parliament of Lebanon led to the legislative body undertaking its first ever public hearing. It was led by the Women and Children Committee and focused on the economic security of women in the country, with a focus on the consequences of multiple crises including COVID-19, economic collapse, the Beirut port blast of August 2020, and the position of marginalised groups such as women with disabilities.



Participants in the Academy for Political Debate for Political Party Youth Branches, North Macedonia

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### The Global Equality Project

This year, our Global Equality Project (GEP) built on the success of our previous project on equality in the Commonwealth. Alongside the Kaleidoscope Trust, WFD worked in 18 countries and territories to help ensure women, LGBT+ people and other intersectionally disadvantaged groups can influence policy and law reform processes.

Achievements under the GEP included raising awareness of LGBT+ discrimination in Sri Lanka by taking films made under the Commonwealth Equality Project to audiences around the country and supporting the effective implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act in Nigeria through analysis, network and relationship building.

WFD also commissioned and produced new research and guides. We shared the knowledge we produced, for example presenting to civil society on how to review laws and policies that affect LGBT+ people in Taiwan.

While only six months in duration, the independent evaluators of the GEP found “strong evidence of progress against outcome targets”, noting in particular WFD’s “strong analysis of local context” and ability to build coalitions for change with local actors. Given the complexity of working on these issues, WFD was particularly praised for pursuing “multiple approaches [that were] proving successful e.g., relationships, coalitions, research”, demonstrating that “it is possible to work – and be successful – in difficult environments.”

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### Kenya Inclusive Political Parties (KIPP)

WFD's work with Kenyan political parties, funded by Demo Finland, helped ensure persons with disabilities (PWDs) are included in political parties' governing committees. It also helped to remove barriers so they could actively engage in the contestation of elections ahead of the Kenyan general elections in the summer of 2022.

WFD was very excited that nine of Kenya's political parties launched Disability Leagues during the last year. The political parties also instituted provisions in their internal documents such as constitutions, manifestos, and nomination regulations that promote PWDs' inclusion.

11 PWD candidates who took part in the KIPP programme were cleared by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to contest the August 9th 2022 elections. WFD also supported the formation of a vibrant technical working group (TWG) that is actively pushing the disability inclusion agenda and we

facilitated the development and adoption of a minimum standards guide on the inclusion of PWDs within political parties. After WFD's efforts to strengthen relationships between political parties and disabled persons' organisations, we have documented seven instances of informal partnerships and engagements between the two.

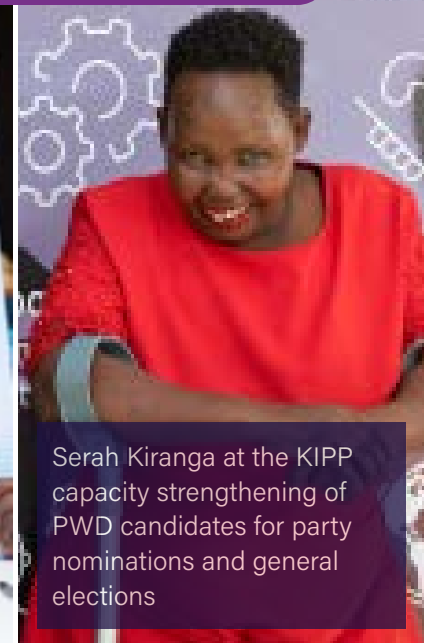
Political parties are keen to learn and improve and we saw a growth in interest in the programme: five additional parties joined the initial 11 taking part in the programme to increase the number of partner political parties to 16.



A group photo of some of the PWD candidates at the KIPP capacity strengthening of PWD candidates for party nominations and general elections



Nick Makau, Jerrita Mutinda and Miriam Kioko at the KIPP capacity strengthening of PWD candidates for party nominations and general elections



Serah Kiranga at the KIPP capacity strengthening of PWD candidates for party nominations and general elections



## Research and policy leadership

WFD's research programme is building an evidence base for what works when it comes to strengthening democracy. Drawing on its experience working across parliaments, political parties, civil society and elections, WFD's research also aims to improve the quality of the work the organisation, and its partners, undertake.

This year, WFD focused on developing the evidence base for doing development democratically, producing papers including [an outline by Professor Heather Marquette of how to "do anti-corruption democratically"](#) in poor and rich countries in ways that are politically informed.

WFD teamed up with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) to launch a [new website hosting joint research](#) on the cost of running for and staying in elected office in different countries around the world. This provides a valuable resource for people who agree that the cost of politics is a problem that impacts the overall strength and quality of democracy.

WFD's [publication with the Foreign Policy Centre](#) provided detailed analysis and practical ideas for how the UK can operationalise its renewed commitment to being a force for good in the world – defending openness, democracy, and human rights necessary for shaping the open international order of the future.





## WFD's UK Political Party Programmes

Alongside our programmes, WFD supports the international work of UK political parties.

### PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

## The Conservative Party WFD Programme in the Caribbean

The Conservative WFD Programme continued to strengthen democratic governance in Africa and the Caribbean by providing a platform for like-minded parties to share information, experience, skills, and ideas, and to upskill parties with the skills they need to be a strong opposition or to govern.

In 2021-22, the Conservative WFD Programme continued to build upon its legacy of increasing women's political leadership: in the Caribbean, the 2020 election saw the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) field its highest number of women candidates in a general election, following party-to-party best practice exchanges between the

Conservatives and JLP. It was wonderful to see a record-breaking number of women elected. Following this success, throughout 2021-22 the Conservatives' party-to-party programme facilitated training to upskill newly elected MPs, ensuring they are equipped to function as legislators and have the tools to provide a high standard of representation to their constituents.

The Most Hon. Andrew Holness – Jamaican Prime Minister – spoke about the benefits of the training in the Parliament of Jamaica and credited the party-to-party relationship and Conservative programming as fundamental to upskilling newly elected women MPs.

**"As a result [of the training] you will see a lifting of the tide of Governance in the Caribbean. You will see stronger political parties, better representation, better governance because of the effort of all who participated."**



## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### The Labour Party WFD Programme in Africa

This year, the Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA) supported social democratic women to enter politics through training opportunities in Africa. WAFA is a regional network that aims to change the face of politics by identifying, educating, and empowering women in Africa.

Factors such as patriarchal structures, gender stereotyping, and socio-economic barriers are among the reasons why women struggle to enter the political arena. This Labour Party WFD programme has identified women candidates who seek elected positions and express an interest in standing for public office and provided them with access to training resources and examples of best practice for competing.

Training activities took place in the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe this year. The programme

was successful in equipping participants with the political skills and knowledge, such as advocacy and fundraising skills, to help them put themselves forward for party selections. Participant survey responses submitted after the training showed that participants were enthusiastic about forthcoming elections and the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills.

Participants are now getting ready to share their knowledge and skills with other women in their parties, particularly in the more rural areas.

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### The Scottish National Party (SNP) WFD Programme in Malawi

In Malawi, the WFD SNP programme's work with the Parliamentary Women's Caucus continued, supporting the development of a four-year strategic plan which provides a clear roadmap for the country to achieve gender-related targets on girls' education, women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, and women's political participation.

The programme's main projects included a gender budget analysis and developing and disseminating a country specific stakeholder mapping tool for female parliamentarians in Malawi to maximise their advocacy and lobbying efforts. The data collected from this tool will be uploaded to each member's "constituency dashboard", which will allow each member to have up-to-date and easily accessible information and data regarding their constituency.

Through collaborations with the 50:50 Campaign, we have been able to ensure that the Parliamentary Women's Caucus is actively involved in the electoral reform process, and

especially, discussions around the Gender Quota Proposal. The WFD SNP programme has also been able to ensure that the Parliamentary Women's Caucus is consulted on the gender quota proposal and is able to pose queries when necessary.

A Media Monitoring Report was also developed through conducting media content analysis to identify policy frames and discourse commonly used when reporting on female MPs. This has helped the team to further assess and determine the type of media and visibility support that would be most beneficial to Caucus members.

## PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

### WFD's Multi-Party Office supporting the Africa Liberal Network

WFD's Multi-Party Office (MPO) works with the UK's smaller political parties represented in the Westminster Parliament on programmes that promote political pluralism.

The MPO continued to partner with the Africa Liberal Network to strengthen the representation of women within African liberal political parties, institutions, and the network's leadership. The MPO has worked with nine African political party leaders and a network of researchers around the world to produce several studies on the candidate selection processes within political parties. Often known as "the secret garden of political parties", this innovative research about how women are affected by selection processes has been presented at several international conferences.

Working with experts from the Liberal Democrats, the MPO has trained candidates from nine different countries. Following this training, participants were elected to national office and senior leadership positions in their political parties or selected as candidates for upcoming elections.



Stenah Shampile, a senior representative from the United Party for National Development (UPND) who took part in the Africa Liberal Network programme

# A global snapshot of our work in 2021-22





## Sub-Saharan Africa



### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Delivering post-legislative scrutiny training and virtual visits for the Commission de Suivi, the Human Rights Committee, and parliamentary-focused CSOs.

### Kenya

Helping ensure people with disabilities are included in political party governing committees and helping to remove barriers so they could actively engage ahead of the Kenyan general elections in the summer of 2022.

### Nigeria

Conducting policy dialogues on topical national issues, reflecting the voice and positions of young people and women and then generating policy briefs which were submitted to relevant committees of the National Assembly to improve policy processes and provisions for inclusive participation.

### Sierra Leone

Supporting the upgrading and implementation of the Parliamentary Mobile App, which allows citizens an easy way to find out about and engage with what is going on in Parliament.

### The Gambia

Supporting the country's National Assembly to host the first-ever National Assembly Day, which brought the Assembly closer to the people.

### Uganda

Promoting quality representation and inclusion of both youth and women, for example by providing new women MPs an opportunity to learn from experienced women leaders on how they can effectively champion women's and youth issues.

## Eurasia and the Western Balkans



### Albania

Supporting civil society advocates in the health and environment sectors to monitor the health state budget and environmental legislation.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bringing together women leaders from across political parties at all levels of politics to build their skills and relationships.

### Georgia

Institutionalising environmental democracy and working with the Parliament as it builds its ability to conduct post-legislative scrutiny and function in emergency situations.

### Kyrgyzstan

Delivering a campaign against the use of hate speech in elections and providing training workshops on preventing and combating the use of hate speech for youth and civic activists across the country.

### Montenegro

Providing an intensive training programme on strategic planning for women's forums in political parties.

### North Macedonia

Supporting young people and persons with disabilities to actively participate in decision-making processes on a local and state level.

### Serbia

Developing resources for all Serbian high school students to be used by teachers across the country in introducing first-time voters to the electoral process and their civic rights.

### Ukraine

Helping the Verkhovna Rada to strengthen its role in scrutinising government, improving accountability for legislative and financial matters, and making society more inclusive of women and under-represented groups.

### Western Balkans (Regional)

Working to improve the legal framework for human rights in the Western Balkans by monitoring the implementation of official human rights recommendations from Ombudsperson institutions and enabling MPs to better hold their governments' human rights records to account.

## Middle East and North Africa



### Algeria

Collaborating with the Parliament to provide an induction and orientation guide for newly elected MPs.

### Jordan

Working with the Human Rights and Public Freedoms committee to strengthen members' knowledge of post-legislative scrutiny and positioning women MPs to be more influential in parliamentary oversight.

### Kuwait

Examining the barriers to women's electoral success and researching the role of technology and the shift to online campaigning in the run up to the 2020 elections.

### Lebanon

Supporting a civil society coalition under the Digital Transformation Network to work with the Lebanese Parliament's ICT committee to improve transparency and accountability through e-governance.

### Middle East and North Africa (Regional)

Collaborating with and supporting the Arab Women Organisation (AWO) and the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women, including in the development of a template guiding election observation from a gender perspective and convening discussions on opportunities and challenges facing women's electoral success.

### Tunisia

Supporting a coalition of civil society organisations working to strengthen transparency and accountability in the field of energy and mining which is leading efforts to get Tunisia to sign up to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

### Morocco

Working with civil society organisations to equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively engage with parliament and ensure citizens feed into policymaking.



# Asia



## Bangsamoro, Philippines

Equipping new MPs, parliamentary staff, women, and civil society organisations with more communication, advocacy and policymaking skills.

## Indonesia

Working with the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) to strengthen scrutiny of government performance and build more open, responsive democratic institutions which engage civil society.

## Laos

Supporting the staff and members of the National Assembly and People's Provincial Assemblies (local government) to review and develop good quality legislation and operate in a more participatory way that takes account of the diverse experiences of Laos' citizens.

## Malaysia

Working closely with Malaysian civil society, women MPs, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development to integrate gender-responsive budgeting in their work. In its Budget in late

2021, the Malaysian Finance Ministry allocated funds for data management, with gender-responsive budgeting specifically mentioned.

## Maldives

Working closely with the Maldivian Parliament, providing technical expertise in the national security inquiry, and support for committees on strengthening post-legislative scrutiny and with civil society organisations and media to provide information on COP26.

## Myanmar

Initiating inclusive discussions with young leaders, civil society organisations in the region and other democratic actors to support the building of a practical vision for a peaceful, democratic and inclusive Myanmar.

## Nepal

Supported skill-building and knowledge exchange between women MPs, including bringing a delegation of women MPs to the UK to share their experiences of leadership with their UK counterparts as well as to compare approaches to constituency outreach.

## Asia



### Pakistan

Supporting the innovative mechanisms for participation and scrutiny that WFD helped put in place last year and improving the relationships between provincial committees relating to the environment and climate change and the National Assembly.

### Sri Lanka

Working through a multi-party parliamentary mechanism to deepen parliamentarians' and officials' awareness of good practices in parliamentary oversight of national security policy and law and convening stakeholders and disseminated resources aimed at building more inclusive societies.

### Taiwan

Establishing a new programming presence in Taipei which is helping to build a nuanced evidence base and key peer partnerships to support democratic resilience.

## Latin America



### Venezuela

Engaging NGOs, faith leaders, journalists and other civil society actors to assess the complex environment and the protracted governance and humanitarian issues and needs.

# What next?

Our 30th anniversary has given us the opportunity to reflect on our impact so far as well as what happens next. In the global context of the war in Ukraine, and recent data showing that democracy is in global decline, we believe that our work, and that of our partners, is more vital, urgent, and relevant than ever.

In October 2022, we will launch a new strategy for the next three years. It will include a renewed vision and mission, a refreshed theory of change, and a new results framework and set of strategic objectives. We will take an adaptive approach designed to respond to the challenges of conflict, climate change, global health and an economic downturn. In this context, we know that the accountability, inclusion, and transparency that democracy helps ensure will be essential.

The UK and other democratic countries are stepping up their work to support and defend resilient democracies and WFD intends to play its part, focusing on the real problems that our partners around the world are encountering.





# Funding

## Our income in 2021-22

WFD's overall revenue in 2021-22 was considerably lower than pre-pandemic due to the challenging funding environment. Nonetheless, WFD succeeded in expanding its donor base to include new UK FCDO Posts, USAID, and Global Affairs Canada. WFD also secured a new three-year core funding settlement from the UK Government for the period 2022 to 2025.

In addition to a grant-in-aid of £4.671 million from the FCDO, WFD received a total income of £8.25 million in 2021-22 from the following sources:

- Inclusive and Accountable Politics grant from the FCDO – £0.8 million
- UK Government funding from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) – £3.99 million
- UK Government funding for the Global Equality Project (GEP) – £0.6 million
- EU grants – £0.3 million
- UK PACT – £0.16 million
- Other third-party funding – £2.4 million

## How we spent our funding in 2021-22

WFD had a total expenditure of £12.6 million in 2021-22 across parliamentary and integrated programmes, political party programmes, staff costs and other operating costs.

- Parliamentary and integrated project costs are those directly related to WFD programming, including all WFD staff working in offices based outside the UK. Direct programmes spend was £6.5 million.
- Political party programmes and offices (PPO) receive an allocation of the grant-in-aid (GIA) received from FCDO. PPOs received £1.2 million
- Staff costs relate to UK-based WFD staff in 2021-22. Staff costs totalled £3.7 million.
- Other operating costs were £1.1 million

WFD's total net assets increased by £0.3 million to £1.2 million on 31 March 2022.

The increase in net assets is partly due to the reduced programme activity during the year, because of the pandemic.

In March 2022, FCDO confirmed a core grant of £6.5 million per annum for the next three years – 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.



As WFD turns 30, I am honoured to support the organisation as its Patron. **Its relevance has never been clearer; its experience and impact never more needed.**

Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons and WFD's Patron



Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to supporting democracy around the world. Operating internationally, WFD works with parliaments, political parties, and civil society groups as well as on elections to help make political systems fairer, more inclusive and accountable.

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**Cover photo:** The Ukrainian flag flies over the dome of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Ukraine's parliament).  
**Back cover photo:** A protestor in Myanmar raises a three finger salute in opposition to the February 2021 military coup.