



Political Parties of Finland for Democracy - Demo Finland has a special role not only in the Finnish foreign, security and development policies, but also internationally. Our inclusive multiparty focus is unique in the international democracy support field.

The strategic objectives of Demo Finland link to the increased ability of political parties to cooperate across party lines and to be responsive and inclusive. With the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' (MFA) support, during 2018 we continued our democracy support in Zambia, Mozambique, Tunisia and Myanmar. In Myanmar, Demo Finland with its partner organization Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy also begun implementing a share of the European Union's largest democracy support programme in the country, STEP Democracy -programme. In Finland, we continued the fruitful cooperation with all the parliamentary parties, facilitated discussions on democracy and provided trainings and exchange visits for the parties. On the international arena we continued our advocacy work in partnership with our network, the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and gained high-level exposure through its board membership.

To assess the results of our work, we have done crucial work in developing a results-based framework, based on our Theory of Change. Demo Finland is a one-of-a-kind organization both nationally and globally and achieves results far greater than its size.

Democracy support delivers – key results by Demo Finland and its partners in 2018:

In Myanmar, over 200 politicians have graduated the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) core courses and joined the alumni group. According to our recent survey, after the experience within the School of Politics, 27% of the alumni collaborate with other political actors at least once a month. This is a positive result, considering the political context and the short history of multiparty collaboration in the country.

In Zambia, the first National Women in Politics Platform was created, and it has already received countrywide recognition and media attention for discussions on issues affecting women in politics. The platform has also been recognized by senior party members and structures both at national and local levels; cooperation between the political parties' women's wings has been strengthened.

In Mozambique, awareness in the Parliament about the effects and dynamics of the Extractive Industry sector has increased and its oversight role has improved. The programme has introduced the rights-based approach for the Committees of the Parliament, and particularly the guidelines to monitor human rights in the extractive industry.

In Tunisia, in the municipal elections of 2018, 61 out of our 400 Tunisian School of Politics alumni ran as candidates. 32 of them were women and altogether 11 alumni, all women, got elected and are now able to use the multiparty dialogue skills learnt in the trainings. One of the female alumni was elected as the Mayor of Tunis, the capital of the country.



Demo Finland is a unique co-operative organisation of all Finnish parliamentary parties supporting multi-party democracy in new and developing democracies.



MYANMAR SCHOOL OF POLITICS

In Myanmar Demo Finland works to advance democracy and multiparty dialogue through its Myanmar School of Politics -programme (MySoP), run in partnership with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD). MySoP is the first cross-party training program in the country at the state/regional level and focuses on strengthening the democratic functioning of political parties and enhancing multi-party dialogue.

In the MySoP programme the capacities of promising women and youth within the political parties is built. In 2018, in order to follow-up on how the skills and opportunities of the underrepresented groups are used in the parties, the female and youth alumni were asked about their perceptions on participating in decision-making in their parties. The results are positive, as 51 % of female alumni and 34 % of the youth alumni are able to take part in the decision-making processes in their parties much or very much.

In addition to the growing number of alumni and progress in multiparty dialogue, the MySoP Shan State Multiparty Dialogue Platform (MDP) was set up in 2018. The assessment of the MPD team shows that a certain level of safe space and institutionalization has been created amongst the political parties at state-level. Based on the reporting from the parties this has not happened before. In MDP special emphasis has been put on confidentiality, trust-building, cooperation and dialogue in practice. As a result, members of MPD now freely provide updates about developments in their parties and even share challenges. This is a positive development in the challenging political context of the country.

ZAMBIA - EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

In Zambia Demo Finland works to strengthen women's role in local and national level politics together with our local partner, Zambia National Women's Lobby. We also support stronger co-operation between women politicians across party lines, to ensure a stronger impact is made in issues they hold important.

In 2018 the first National Women in Politics Platform was created to provide a safe space for female politicians to cooperate across political party lines. In addition to the national level, three local level platforms were also established, involving all the political parties' women's wings. During the year the national Women in Politics Platform members issued three press statements: on electoral violence, on the launch of the permanent Women in Politics platforms and on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

This shows that despite of the tensions between the ruling and the main opposition party, women's wings are able to cooperate across party lines.

Furthermore, during 2018 capacity building training for local councilors was held and a national conference was organized. The two-day conference gathered 118 of the 126 local level female councilors and chairpersons of women's wings from nine political parties at national level. The training increased the participants' knowledge on the training topics by 31%.

MOZAMBIQUE - IMPROVING OVERSIGHT IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY SECTOR

In Mozambique Demo Finland supports the democratic governance of extractive industries with its partners NIMD and Instituto para Democracia Multipartidaria (IMD). The project is part of Finland's Country Strategy and bilateral work in Mozambique. It aims to provide the National Assembly and six Regional Assemblies with sufficient know-how to oversee the use of natural resources and pass laws that ensure fair distribution of wealth created by the extractive industries.

In addition to increased awareness and more oversight, in 2018 the programme contributed to changing the perception of human rights violations. The programme showed that in addition to states, companies can also pose hazards to human rights. Awareness about environmental rights improved too, as well as the Parliament's intervention in this area. The work resulted in very concrete results, when MP's received complaints from the local community about environmental problems in some of the mining sites. The Parliament's intervention resulted in the temporary closure of a coal mine in Tete and a heavy sand mine in Nampula to address the environmental issues.

Through the project, Mozambican MP's have been exposed to different models, practices and policies in the extractive industry. Demo Finland formed a working group of Finnish MPs interested in the topic and in 2018, a delegation of Finnish MPs paid a peer-learning visit to Mozambique. During the visit a delegation of MP's from both countries visited a large coal mine, which gave an opportunity for Mozambican MPs to bring up concerns from the communities to the company level.

TUNISIAN SCHOOL OF POLITICS

In Tunisia, Demo Finland implements the Tunisian School of Politics (TSoP) -programme through its partner Centre Des Études Méditerranéennes Et Internationales (CEMI), together with NIMD. The aim is to build the capacities of politicians and parties so, that they can serve their constituencies and be a democratic channel for their own people. Set up in 2012, TsoP has now trained over 400 young Tunisian politicians.

According to a midterm measurement in 2018, the number of TSoP alumni who collaborate with civic actors at least monthly had risen by almost 20% from the baseline study done in 2016. This is a positive result highlighting that participation in TSoP increases the participants' collaboration with civic actors and it is crucial considering that there is generally a low level of trust among the citizens towards politicians in Tunisia. TSoP also aims to enhance multi-party dialogue and collaboration across party lines, and the midterm study shows that 32% more of the alumni now collaborate with other political actors at least once a month.

During the year ten permanent multiparty platform CDPP (Conseil de Dialogue entre les Partis Politiques) meetings facilitated by the TSoP- programme took place. The members of CPDD signed a charter regarding the municipal elections encouraging actors to work together to ensure the success of the elections in May 2018. This is an important achievement, since local elections are crucial in the transitional process and establishing a fair and safe environment for that purpose is crucial.



WORK IN FINLAND

Demo Finland is in a unique position as a joint organisation of all Finnish parliamentary parties to unite them to work towards a common goal. In Finland we organize events, discussions and trainings for the parties and engage in advocacy in order to raise awareness of the importance of democracy support both within the parties as well as other key stakeholders.

In 2018 Demo Finland organized numerous events in cooperation with political parties, the MFA and other stakeholders. Democracy Academy training course for the women's wings of the nine parliamentary parties was organized together with the MFA, with 28 female participants. The course focused on development, foreign and defense policies and aimed at deepening the participants' understanding of the inter-linkages between them. The goal of the course was also to strengthen the voice and role of female politicians in political discussions and decision-making.

Participants' knowledge on development policy and democracy support rose considerably and 94% of the women stated they would use this new knowledge in their political work. Additionally, the women's organizations made a joint statement on women's role in decision-making calling for equality in Finland's foreign and security policy. Furthermore, the statement required that women's voices must be heard in all levels of decision-making. Parliamentary committee seats and chairmanships need to be divided equally between all genders, and in order to challenge existing gendered structures half of the new ministers should be women.



ADVOCACY

Building networks with influential stakeholders is one of the key elements of Demo Finland's advocacy, and in 2018 we continued this both on the national and international level. As a part of the EPD network Demo Finland engaged in supporting the update process of the European Council's Conclusions on democracy support, and followed the ongoing process for the EU's new Multiannual Financial Framework and the changes to funding for democracy support as a result. Together with EPD, International IDEA and the European Network of Political Institutions (ENOP) Demo Finland commented on the European Commission's proposal for the MFF.

Through its board membership in the Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy (GPMD) Demo Finland was also part of global advocacy, especially towards the UNDP but also in building global solidarity in defending democracy.

Demo Finland also advocates for women's political participation via publications and together with EPD we produced a "Women in Decision Making" -factsheet. The factsheet has proven to be very popular, garnering positive feedback from policy makers, parties and other stakeholders.

In 2018 Demo Finland also facilitated a consultation of the political parties' youth wings on Resolution 2250 Youth, Peace and Security, regarding Finland's National Action Plan on the resolution. In 2018 Demo Finland also participated in all four party conventions held by the parliamentary parties during the year.