



## Democratic Reforms Through Inclusive Participation (DRIP)

<b>Swiss Portfolio Outcome:</b>	Outcome 2: Improved social well-being for all, including in emergencies
<b>Implementation Period:</b>	December 2024 to November 2026
<b>Implementing Partner:</b>	UNDP and UN-Women
<b>Swiss Contribution:</b>	CHF 3,624,008
<b>Modality:</b>	Contribution

### General Description

In July–August 2024, youth-led protests in Bangladesh sparked demands for electoral justice, institutional reforms, and political accountability, resulting in significant political change. The DRIP project aims to capitalize on this momentum to facilitate an inclusive and peaceful democratic transition. Establishing free and fair elections and strengthening state institutions is essential for mitigating political conflicts and ensuring all voices are heard. As Bangladesh targets graduation from least developed country (LDC) status by 2026, the integrity of electoral processes and the robustness of public institutions are vital for a smooth political and economic transition. Stability is crucial for economic growth, achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and fostering inclusivity.

### Objectives

The DRIP aims to enhance the political stability of Bangladesh by supporting the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), civil society organizations, the media, and marginalized communities such as women and youth. It seeks to promote inclusive and less violent electoral cycles.

### Lines of Action / Components

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Mobilization:** Establishing youth platforms at both local and national levels, such as Youth Policy Labs and Peace Cafés, to empower young individuals in advocating for electoral reform. Additionally, the project collaborates with digital influencers to broaden outreach and foster a culture of inclusive governance.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** Building the skills and capabilities of the BEC, local administrations, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth leaders, and community stakeholders in areas of conflict sensitivity, advocacy, and policy engagement within electoral processes.
- **Participatory Dialogue and Conflict Resolution:** Fostering inclusive discussions within communities to alleviate tensions and build consensus before, during, and after elections. Collaborating with Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs) will focus on addressing issues such as Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP).
- **Research and Policy Support:** Producing knowledge resources and policy briefs to inform and influence electoral reforms and support innovative practices.

### Intended Impact in terms of Systemic Change

The DRIP project promotes inclusive engagement in democratic reforms by encouraging civic participation, particularly among youth and marginalized communities in Bangladesh. Additionally, it plays a vital role in laying the groundwork for peaceful transitions and democratic accountability through policy dialogue, grassroots mobilization, and providing institutional support to the Bangladesh Election Commission.

### Intervention Targets

Essential electoral reforms have been implemented, and the capacity of electoral stakeholders has been enhanced to bolster the credibility and inclusiveness of electoral processes. These improvements will support the Bangladesh Election Commission in increasing engagement among eligible voters, especially among youth, women, and minority groups, encouraging their participation in elections and improving voter turnout compared to previous elections..