

A photograph of a man in a light blue striped shirt speaking into a microphone, with his right hand raised in a gesture. He is surrounded by a large crowd of people, many of whom have their hands raised in the air, some making peace signs. The background shows a simple building and trees under a clear sky.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**STRENGTHENING
POLITICAL PARTIES
TO ENHANCE
DEMOCRACY**

DIPD

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY
DANSK INSTITUT FOR FLERPARTISAMARBEJDE

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The vision of the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy is to contribute to the development of well-functioning democratic political parties and multi-party systems in strong democratic cultures in emerging democracies.

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1. Preface

STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES TO ENHANCE DEMOCRACY



STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES TO ENHANCE DEMOCRACY



*Mogens Jensen,
Chairman of the Board*

Democracy is under pressure. Not only does an unacceptable number of autocrats continue to exert dominance on almost every continent. In recent years, the continuous rise of democracy in the West has been rocked by several major setbacks. The rise of populism and less than democratic leaders, who are more than willing to challenge the laws and principles on which our democracies have been built, has led some to believe that we might be heading for a downturn.

“ *And there is hope. Every day, small steps down the long road to democracy are being taken by political leaders”*

These challenges underline the importance of democracy support and for actors, who are willing to stand up for democracy, to engage in dialogue with partners around the globe. Political parties remain at the heart of this effort.

For roughly 150 years Danish political parties have been acting as channels for democratic participation, mobilizing different layers of society and providing leadership and solutions. Through local boards, national congresses, campaign groups and in parliament, they have, step by step, developed not only a thoroughly resistant democratic system and strong institutions, they have also formed a democratic culture that permeates the Danish public.

Therefore, DIPD is built by political parties for political parties. We bring together politicians and party

members from countries, who are in different phases of their democratic development. Some at the very beginning of a democratic opening and some, who are fighting to break down the walls of repression – and share ideas and inspiration. Together, we work to get marginalised groups – especially women and youth – involved at all levels of political parties. We work on building effective and democratic structures inside the political parties, from the local level to the national leadership. And we bring together parties across the political spectrum, in order to foster a culture of collaboration and dialogue.

And there is hope. Every day, small steps down the long road to democracy are being taken by political leaders, young and old, in Nepal, in Kenya, in Colombia and in the 11 other countries, where DIPD engage in long-term partnerships.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC CULTURE



*Mathias Parsbæk Skibdal,
Head of Secretariat*

Danish democracy is defined by pluralism. A pluralism of ideologies, of political solutions and of organisational cultures. Pluralism is therefore also a defining characteristic of DIPD's global partnerships. Across 16 countries, DIPD and the Danish political parties are engaging in long-term partnerships with political parties, movements and multiparty platforms. These partnerships are characterized by trust, by mutualism and by a shared ambition to promote democratic culture, peaceful political collaboration and equal participation.

“ This is why DIPD's approach has always been to engage directly with political parties, both in Denmark and in our partner countries.

In a time of political disruption, where the old democracies are faced with new challenges, political parties continue to take center stage as the only actors, who can deliver long-term solutions to increasingly complex problems. This is why DIPD's approach has always been to engage directly with political parties, both in Denmark and in our partner countries.

In Nepal, the political parties have taken the responsibility of ensuring a continued peaceful transition from conflict to peaceful, inclusive democracy. In Kenya, opposing parties are looking for new ways of collaborating as an alternative to generation-old conflicts. And in Colombia, political movements are redefining their role in a time where the peace is balancing on a knife's edge. It is these contexts, and many more, that Danish political parties and DIPD are offering ideas, experiences and chances to reflect

on how other countries have tackled similar challenges.

2018 has also been a year of new beginnings for DIPD. On January 1st, we initiated our third grant period. This time with an increased grant from parliament - a testament to the growth of DIPD and the recognition of the importance of our work. Focus has therefore been on continuing the positive development of our engagements, including piloting new modalities of cooperation between the Danish political parties, DIPD's secretariat and our partners around the world. This is done in a recognition that the vast and diverse experiences stored in the Danish political parties can benefit all of DIPD's partners.

While we have seen a trouble-free continuation of many partnerships initiated in earlier grant periods, some partnerships have taken a little longer to get

going. This is in part due to political insecurities in countries such as Tanzania, but mainly caused by an ambition by both the political parties and the secretariat to properly pick-up on the learnings from the previous project cycle before starting afresh.

The transition to a new grant cycle also saw the discontinuation of a couple of multiparty partnerships and a handful of party-to-party partnerships. From 2018 and onwards, DIPD is no longer active in Egypt and Zimbabwe, while party-to-party partnerships in countries such as Zambia, Ghana, Swaziland, Tanzania and Nepal have been finalized, in order to begin new collaborations in Burkina Faso, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Colombia.

Looking across the project portfolio, we can see an increasing emphasis on developing the internal capacities of political parties and cross-political dialogue, while efforts related to representation of women and youth has decreased a little compared to the previous grant cycle. This is in part due to the development of new integrated project modalities, where the Danish political parties play a more active role in the traditional multiparty partnerships, and thus activate a greater focus on parties' internal capacity.

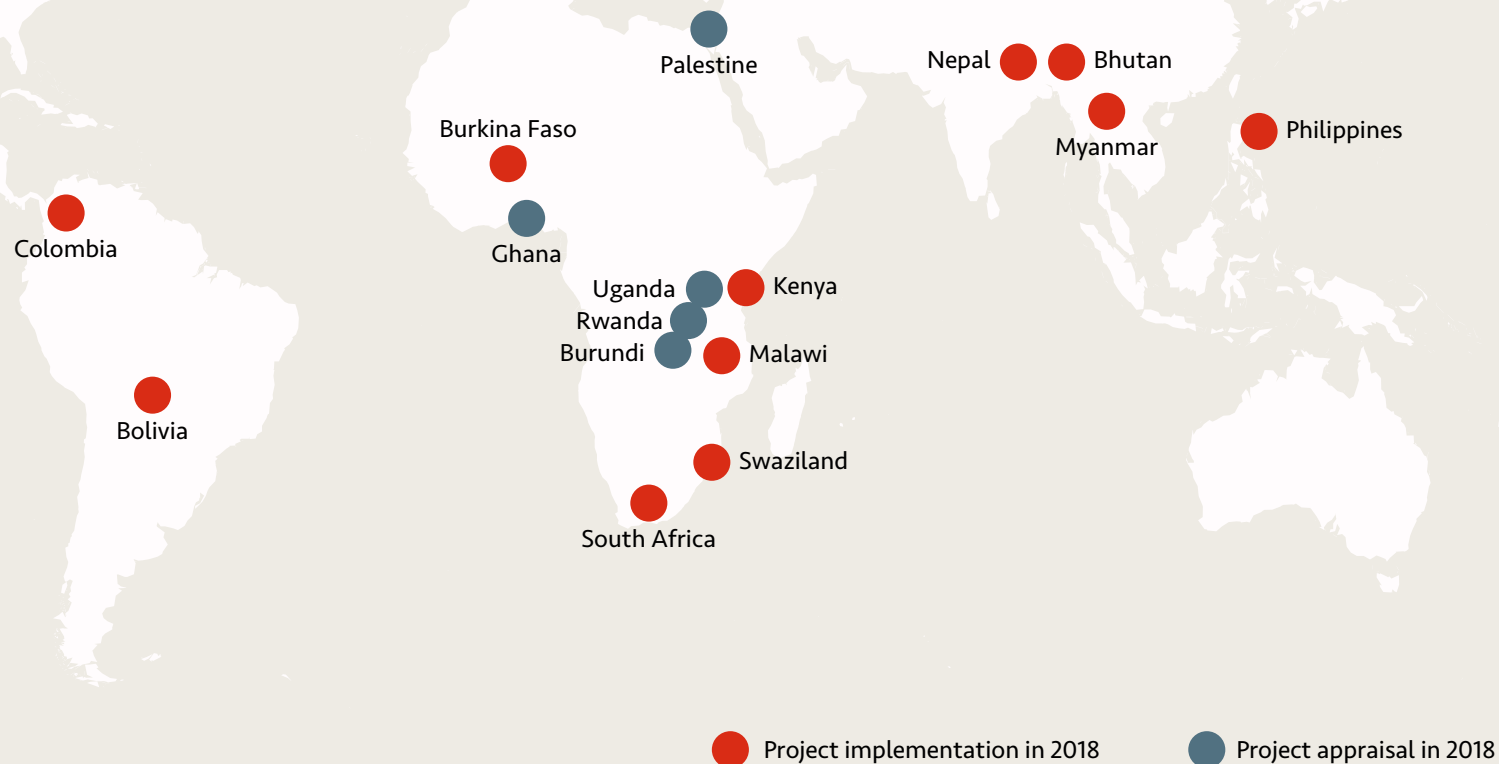
Even though we are only a year into the new cycle, positive results from both continued partnerships and new engagements are emerging.

In Burkina Faso, all the political parties have signed a "Copenhagen Declaration", committing to an increase in female and youth participation in the party organisations. In partnership with a regional platform in Asia, the Social Democratic Party facilitates discussions on local welfare models, rooted in their own policy development. In Nepal, the country's first ever Democracy Fair with the participation of both senior party leaders and the general public was launched and deemed a great success. In Kenya they called it the People's Dialogue Festival, but the result was the same: political parties, CSO's and citizens were given a new platform for interaction and dialogue. Both events were heavily influenced by the Danish Democratic Festival and helped on its way by Danish parties. And in Colombia, Marcha Patriótica and The Red Green Alliance have been training candidates and local leaders to run for the local elections, while the peace process finds its form.

Looking a year ahead, we expect many more positive contributions to democratic development to surface.

2. WHERE WE WORK

In 2018 DIPD worked in 11 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. In 5 countries DIPD conducted appraisals for new project engagements starting in 2019





3. KEY COUNTRY RESULTS IN 2018



BURKINA FASO

The Danish Social Democratic Party has in 2018 started a project with the ruling government political party, MPP. In 2018 a high-level dialogue on Social Democracy was held in Copenhagen. The study inspired dialogue on social democracy and policy development on a range of aspects, including health, taxation, sustainable development, education and gender equality. The study visit gave MPP new inspirational input to use in their work, selecting two specific policy areas to focus on further on in the project, education and tax.

DIPD has in 2018 started a multi-party project in Burkina Faso with the aim to strengthen political parties' democratic functions and to strengthen political dialogue, particularly in the representation of women and youth. All activities planned for 2018 have been carried out satisfactorily. This includes a study visit by the Burkina political parties to Denmark organized by DIPD, a visit by Danish politicians to Burkina Faso and the establishment of an advisory technical committee with representatives of the parties. It was of great importance to carry out a study visit to Denmark for representatives of the political parties, as it strengthened the discussion and dialogue between the Burkina political parties and increased understanding of democratic practice, culture and dialogue and importance of achieving reconciliation between the political parties. The study trip resulted in a "Copenhagen Declaration", in which all political parties agreed to participate in a joint project.



MYANMAR

The DIPD program in Myanmar, focuses on strengthening the dialogue between parties and building the capacity of political parties to be effective actors in Myanmar's transition to democracy. In order to strengthen the role of political parties in the peace process, DIPD has organized a multi-party political dialogue among the representatives of political parties in the "Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee" to support them in promoting their political interests in the political dialogue. Through this dialogue, the political parties have recognized the importance of promoting their political positions in the democratic reform process. DIPD has also been able to build a culture and practice of multi-party dialogue between political parties across the political spectrum. These dialogues have engaged the parties in land and nature resource management and successfully engaged political party youth representatives to prepare the National Youth Policy. 2018 was also the year where the new cooperation with Socialist People's Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party started. This resulted in visits from party cadres from the Liberal party to support the youth component of the project, with a special focus on supporting the organization of youth wings. Later the Social Democratic Party visited Myanmar to support the women's component in the programme.



REGIONAL ASIA

The aim of the partnership project between the Danish Social Democratic Party and the regional network of Social Democracy in Asia (SocDem Asia), comprised of like-minded organizations and parties in Nepal, Philippines and Myanmar, is to reimagine and rethink Asian social and welfare state models. In 2018 a Regional Conference on Reimagining an Asia Social Welfare Model was held to set forward the strategy for the 3 year project. This was complemented by a Study Visit to Denmark by policy writers from the project countries, where the policy writers were provided a comprehensive program on the development of social democracy in Denmark and the welfare model, with an overall framing and specific cases on education, health, taxation, etc. These exchanges on the welfare model and specific policy areas have continued with SDP resource persons present at the Regional Conference, and at national activities in partner countries where visions on how to build a social welfare system in the different countries have been set forward. The national project partners have now identified the social welfare policy that they will focus on. For instance, the Akbayan Party in the Philippines has decided to focus on a policy on universal health care, which was one of their main election promises. DPNS and SNLD in Myanmar have also identified provision of health services in public hospitals as their policy focus; while the Nepali Congress Party has focused on education and health as their focus area.



KENYA

In Kenya, DLDP and DIPD partnered with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD-Kenya) to strengthen dialogue between political parties towards greater collaboration in dealing with societal problems. This contributes to consolidating the new political environment in Kenya, transitioning from a divisive general election to a national dialogue and reconciliation agenda initiated by the protagonists in the presidential campaigns of 2017.

In 2018, youth wings were also strengthened and young people were better equipped to become initiators, enablers and beneficiaries of change. A combination of inter-generational engagements between youth and senior peers and trainings of young party cadres provided rare opportunities to enhance youth influence on public interest matters and to hold party officials and elected leaders to account.

The project also inspired and showcased collaboration across the political spectrum and issue-based politics due to its integrated manner, where several Danish political parties contribute to trainings and other activities. This included a joint visit by young politicians from The Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party to Kenya.



MALAWI

Women and youth in Malawi are under-represented in political parties in Malawi. For the upcoming general election in 2019, only 22% of the 1333 Parliamentary candidates and 20% of the Local Government candidates are female. Through a combination of building institutional structures, such as youth and women wings, and equipping women and youth to run for political seats through mentoring, trainings and exchange visits, the Socialist People's Party, DLDP and DIPD partnering the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD-Malawi) contributed to enhancing meaningful participation of women and youth in Malawi's political parties as the country prepares for general elections in 2019.

In 2018, three out of five parties in parliament strengthened their women wings and women that participated in the mentor programmes reported back that they had gained improved confidence which helped them in their campaigns nationally and locally. Furthermore, all political parties committed to the idea of establishing autonomous youth wings and there was a general trend of youth from all political parties becoming more proactive in demanding space to actively participate in affairs of their parties.



SWAZILAND

The political situation in Swaziland (officially: Eswatini) keeps being dominated by the absolute monarch King Mswati III. The king has the power to appoint the prime minister and also appoints a minority of legislators to both chambers of the parliament. The lower house has the power to debate and pass bills, but does not hold the power to go against the King's rule. The Danish Social Democrat Party (SDP) supports the Swazi Democratic Party (SWADEPA), which won seats in the lower house in the 2013 election, with a view to influence the system from within. 2018 saw a new election for the Swazi parliament and unfortunately the party did not get any elected candidates, due to repression from the regime and a lack of a sensitized electorate. Thus, SDP and SWADEPA has made adjustments to the project and now have an enhanced focus on the successful strengthening of the party organization aiming at the 2023 election and a strong focus on civic education and campaigning for multiparty democracy.



SOUTH AFRICA

The political landscape in South Africa is changing as the main opposition party Democratic Alliance (DA) is gaining ground. In one province and in a growing number of municipalities and local councils, DA is moving from leading the opposition to leading local government – alone or in coalitions. On this backdrop, The Danish Liberal Democracy Programme, part of the Danish Liberal Party (DLDP) partners DA to develop the capacity to govern locally and take responsibility in local and provincial governments in South Africa.

During the year, DA and DLDP shared experiences on coalition management and governing locally through learnings from a visit by Danish mayors to South Africa, an exchange by South African mayors to Denmark and a Best Practice Sharing Breakaway event for DA mayors.

As 2018 was the first year of the project, the partners have also used it to strengthen their partnership and approaches to collaboration as a combination of analysis, exchange of experience, exposure to the Danish experience and mentorship to take the local actors in DA to a new level when it comes to local government and coalition building.



BOLIVIA

While Bolivia continues to score relatively high on parameters of political rights and civil liberties, the efforts of President Evo Morales to expand his term as President continues to pose serious questions of the democratic legitimacy of his leadership. His efforts to expand his reign has led to popular protests and a growing tension between the MAS-IPSP administration and the opposition. Human Rights Watch reports growing pressure on human rights defenders and independent media.

It is in this context that The Socialist People's Party is conducting the final activities of a partnership that has lasted since 2011. In recent years, the partnership has centered around the development of internal mechanisms for conflict resolution in MAS-IPSP – a vast political movement built on the mass-mobilization of several indigenous and labor groups.

When finalized, the partnership will have established a fully adapted structure of conflict resolution, with numerous party mediators working for the peaceful resolution of internal conflicts.



NEPAL

2018 was another important year in Nepal's ongoing democratic development. After the successful completion of the three rounds of the 2017 local elections, 2018 saw the election of a new Prime Minister in Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli and the reelection of Nepal's first female President, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, both representing the Nepal Communist Party.

Nepal Communist Party itself was also involved in a game changing merger, which saw the unification of the United Marxist Leninist and the Maoist Centre. The Nepal Communist Party is now the predominant force in Nepali politics, holding a solid majority of seats in both the House of Representatives and the National Assembly.

It is within this new political dynamic that DIPD has continued its longstanding support to the political parties of Nepal, with a maintained focus on developing the democratic culture among the largest parties and strengthening the influence of women and youth in party politics. The partnership centers around the Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening (JOMPOPS) – a coalition of political parties represented in parliament – and includes leadership trainings for female party members and local leaders and multiparty dialogues.

In 2018, a new initiative was launched with direct inspiration from Denmark. After a high-level delegation from Nepal visited the Democracy Festival on the island of Bornholm, Denmark, in 2014, and lengthy discussions on the viability of Nepali equivalent, the first Democracy Fair in Kathmandu was opened in September 2018. The event saw the commitment and participation of all the parliamentary parties in a three-day event, which both celebrated democracy and collaboration, and brought highly relevant political debates to the public sphere.

Apart from the Danish inspiration, the Nepali Democracy Fair also had a Danish footprint by having a Danish delegation comprising of DIPD staff, a representative from the Danish Democracy Festival and several key persons from the Danish Social-Liberal Party, who were key note speakers at the event. The delegation from the Danish Social-Liberal Party was part of a new initiative in the programme, focus will be on creating a group of youth trainers from all the four big parties and a general close Danish Social-Liberal Party involvement.



BHUTAN

Bhutan continued its 11-year democratic journey with a significant leap in 2018 – its 3rd election. The election further consolidated democracy with a high voter turnout of 71% for the National Assembly, a rise in women representation from 8% to 15% and a livelier debate than in previous elections.

The DIPD programme and our three local partners BCMD, BDD and BNEW, can definitely take our share of the honour. BCMD organized a large conference with panelists from all 4 national parties, with about 500 citizens participating and broadcasting in national television. BCMD also published a large journal on democracy. Hereby BCMD contributed significantly to a public debate about politics, which is still at its infant stage. BNEW has made several trainings to all female candidates in Bhutan and has also trained journalists on gender-sensitive reporting in the media during elections. BDD spent the election year running voter sensitization and, more importantly, consolidating itself as a legitimate institution for multi-party dialogue.

The new cooperation between the programme and the Socialist People's Party resulted in a visit from party chairman Pia Olsen Dyhr and MP Lisbeth Bech Poulsen. They participated in a conference on Women in Politics for all female candidates during the 2018 elections (organized by BNEW) and a seminar on Danish experiences on party ideology and party coalitions (organized by BDD). Moreover, the visit saw bilateral inspiration meetings with the prime minister, foreign minister, speaker of parliament and former prime minister.



COLOMBIA

2018 was marked by slow progress in the implementation of the 2016 peace accord between the government and FARC. Moreover, a surge in attacks on human rights defenders and social leaders by paramilitary groups indicates that the peace is fragile. Key to peace in Colombia is therefore to hold the government to account - in a non-violent manner - in delivering on its obligations in the peace accord. It is within this complex and fragile context that the Danish party the Red Green Alliance started a new DIPD project in January 2018. The project supports a network of political parties and civil society groups that promote the full implementation of the peace accord through the umbrella organization MAPA. There is an urgent need to ensure a broad-based awareness of the accord as a first step towards holding the government accountable to its obligations. One of the project's focus areas was initially to educate candidates to take part in local elections in the Special Transitory Peace Electoral Districts using peace pedagogy techniques. However, with the government lacking implementation of these, the Red-Green Alliance and MAPA have re-strategized to cater for the contextual challenges. The focus going forward in 2019 is now to reach a broader spectrum of candidates, social leaders and other groups to prepare them for the local elections in October 2019, so that the content of the peace accord will be debated at the election and ultimately implemented.

4. DIPD SELECTED COUNTRY CASES



THEME 1

STRENGTHENED REPRESENTATION IN THE POLITICAL PARTIES

- GENDER EQUALITY
- GENDER AUDIT
- AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES
- ADVOCACY AND REFORM OF PARTY LEGISLATION
- RESTRUCTURING OF YOUTH AND WOMEN WINGS



CASE STORY FROM BHUTAN:

ROAR OF THE FEMALE THUNDERDRAGON



**“It was really a great help for me.
I learned a great deal of tools to be
used in a political context”**

In The Kingdom of the Thunderdragon, Bhutan, a woman's place is traditionally not anywhere near positions of power.

So explains Sonam Pelzom, 33, in a matter-of-fact way devoid of any anguish. She herself is one very prominent example of the winds of change blowing in the Himalayan mountains these years.

Sonam Pelzom does not overstate her new position in Parliament, though her story really is quite exceptional: Coming from a non-political background she got engaged with the newly formed Bhutan Network for Empowering Women (BNEW) seeking to promote candidates for the 2018-elections.

Sonam, who holds a BA in geography, started to join training sessions and capacity building workshops with the organization and pretty fast her skills developed a political cutting-edge.

“It was really a great help for me. I learned a great deal of tools to be used in a political context. Before the training, I did not really know much about campaigning, about how to lead or to communicate with people. I learned how to build a strategy and how to campaign,” Sonam recalls.

The Himalayan avalanche

Before continuing Sonam Pelzom's story, let us have a look at the general female representation in Bhutan's democracy.

Fair would be to say first, that democracy is a comparatively new concept in Bhutan: the tiny monarchy enacted its first constitution in 2008 and in the same year had its first multiparty democratic elections.

“I think also, that just by being visible in Parliament, I can inspire more women to go into politics”

In the first parliamentary elections, only 8 women were elected to be in the Parliament comprised of an Upper House and a Lower House with a total of 72 seats.

For those believing in slow, but certain change, the next elections in 2013 was like an avalanche of snow from the Himalayan mountains drowning any hope of change: Not a single woman could be elected to the Upper House of the Parliament, while the Lower House continued at the same pace with 4 elected again.

In this dismal time, The Bhutan Network for Empowering Women got started. In the Eastern district of Mongar, one Sonam Pelzom began attending the meetings.

“I had full support from the men in my house, both from my husband and my father. They gave me full support from the beginning,” she recalls.

Refining her skills in politics, campaigning and more made her ready to run for a seat in the Upper

House, where 20 seats – one for each district of the country – are available. In her own district of Mongar, Sonam contested alongside 12 male candidates for the single seat in national council to represent the largest among all 20 districts in Bhutan!

Sonam Pelzom stresses, that not only learning the practical and theoretical tools helped her during the elections:

“It was equally important to me, that I also got in touch with an extensive network of grassroots-women members of BNEW at the local level. A lot of people shared the belief that women’s representation should be improved,” Sonam says.

On the campaign trail with an infant

Sonam Pelzom had to do her campaigning breast-feeding her then 6 months old infant son. During this time, she was especially fond of her social media-training by BNEW she says, as she could connect with her voters in Mongar and beyond more easily.

“It really helped me a lot. I got a lot of women out to openly support me and vote for me during the elections”.

When the dust settled after the 2018-elections, Sonam – along with eight other women – had won seats in the two houses of the Bhutanese Parliament.

A total of 11 women are now in Parliament (9 are elected and 2 are appointed by the king), amounting to 15.2% of the total seats. While just a year has passed since the elections, Sonam feels a deep sense of satisfaction for being able to stamp her mark on the landscape of Bhutanese democracy and politics:

“One year is not a long time in politics, but I really feel the need to advocate and promote opportunities for women in technical education as the number of girls pursuing it is insignificant. Our jobs are changing and many require a higher level of skills. We have to equip women and girls in order for them to grab the emerging opportunities in the job market,” she says enthusiastically.

Thus, Sonam Pelzom is currently working on a proposal to secure women’s equal opportunities in technical education.

“I think also, that just by being visible in Parliament, I can inspire more women to go into politics” she says.

CASE-STORY FROM MALAWI:

FROM REBEL ROUSERS TO RESPONSIBLE POLITICS



“ *I have of course been introduced to politics in general, but also been taught how to speak in public, how to fare in political debates, how to fundraise for your campaign and so forth”*

Mbiri Mulamba, 34, is not exactly your standard stereotype of a political hoodlum. Elegantly dressed, well-spoken and not oblivious to the faults and failures of the past, she pauses to sum up her achievements in the Malawi 2019 local elections.

All votes have not been counted yet, but she will finish third in a political contest where only the winner gets a seat in the local government.

In her district in Blantyre, Malawi's second largest city, the votes are being counted in two centers. The first center has finished the count and 811 votes bear Mbiri's name - a fair result to her assessment. The second center, well, there has been a slight mix up in

the counting, but they have declared Mbiri as coming in third.

Alas, all is not lost. Mbiri has achieved position as National Publicity Secretary (Youth Wing) in her party, UDF. And she has come a long way in the past five or six years.

“I wasn't really into politics at an early age, even though my late Uncle Mr Wenham Nakanga was very active in politics – he actually was one of the people who drafted the first constitution of Malawi, when Malawi moved from a dictatorship state to a democratic state,” she explains.

From rebel-rousers to involvement

Previously, the political parties tended to view youngsters merely as a tool for instigating riots or protest in the streets or to boost morale during campaign season and political rallies, not as someone to be involved in decision-making or policy-shaping work.

“Young people didn’t have much of a role in the political system. We would have directors of youth that were maybe 50 or 60 years old. And the young were mostly seen as people to be used in protests or political violence,” Mbiri says.

Now, through training and dedicated effort, the political system of Malawi is undergoing change. CMD has been conducting trainings and lobbying with political parties in contribution to the change in policies and formation of independent wings. However UDF is the only party out of the four other parties that have established both a youth wing and a women’s wing to expand the role of young people and women in politics. And not only for show. Mbiri has participated in training with a purpose to groom her and others into policy makers and political representatives.

“I have of course been introduced to politics in general, but also been taught how to speak in public, how to fare in political debates, how to fundraise for your campaign and so forth,” she says.

Tools that she put to good use in her recent campaign running for the local government.

“I had meetings, public discussions and I campaigned with my own political manifesto. I also did door-to-door campaigning trying to explain my manifesto. I also visited a lot of special groups like the disabled, religious groups and elderly people,” she recounts.

Gender focus

Mbiri Mulamba has also been groomed through the mentor-program of the cross-party organization Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD). She was a mentee of a prominent political figure, Rita Namba from UDF’s National Executive Committee.

“She was taking me to meetings and teaching me how to behave in politics,” Mbiri proudly declares.

Now, Mbiri herself has taken the mantle on her as a mentor for six mentees from the UDF youth wing.

“I had meetings, public discussions and I campaigned with my own political manifesto”

THEME 2

STRENGTHENED INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION IN POLITICAL PARTIES

- **INSPIRATION TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON WELFARE MODELS**
- **STRENGTHENED ORGANISATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES**
- **ENHANCED DEMOCRATIC INTERNAL PROCESSES IN POLITICAL PARTIES**
- **BOTTOM-UP-APPROACH TO STRENGTHEN DECENTRALISATION**
- **INCREASED CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES**
- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAPACITY STRENGTHENED**



CASE-STORY FROM SOUTH AFRICA:

COALITION BUILDING IS KING



“ I have of course been introduced to politics in general, but also been taught how to speak in public, how to fare in political debates, how to fundraise for your campaign and so forth”

By the look of her Facebook-profile Marlene Vermaak van Staden, 38, is no usual mayor.

She posts selfies with construction workers in her South Africa constituency of Modimolle and asks citizens for understanding when electricity cables have been stolen and power is off.

Her tiny - by South African standards - constituency of Modimolle harbors 160.000 souls on paper, or, as she plainly states, more accurately around 200.000 people if you include the illegal immigrants coming from many other African countries.

While the political challenges for Marlene might be shared by many mayors around South Africa, her approach has taken a new twist, since she and her party, the Democratic Alliance, formed a partnership with the Danish Liberal Party in 2018.

“In South Africa we are not used to building coalitions, when we need to form a government, she begins.

Building political alliances is central to Marlene Vermaak van Staden and the Democratic Alliance. Since leaving the apartheid-era in 1994, the party of Nelson Mandela - the African National Congress - has dominated the political landscape on both at national and local level. But in recent years, other parties have surfaced and must now learn to work together to gain influence.

A unique achievement

Marlene Vermaak van Staden's story begins as a teacher in an secondary school and working as a freelance journalist.

"I could see at the school where I was working that so many things were going wrong and that people were just not understood, There was no communication between the government and the people and it caused a lot of frustration. I realized that if I was not going to get into politics, I was never going to be able to change these things," she recalls.

Thus, in 2012, she entered politics, not knowing that only four years later she would find herself as the first Democratic Alliance Mayor, to end the reign of the ANC in the municipality, even in the entire province.

Marlene Vermaak van Staden has built her position on diligent political compromise and alliances. Democratic Alliance forms the minority of votes in a council of 28 with two other very unlikely coalition partners, the Economic Freedom Fighters and the Freedom Front Plus. She needed tools and advice not so easily found in South Africa..

Inspiration was to be found a bit further north, 14.000 kilometers further north to be accurate.

A new partnership

Marlene Vermaak van Staden is sitting in an air-conditioned hotel in Cape Town in 2018. In her company is a host of Democratic Alliance mayors and other people from her party and a few guests from far-off, Denmark. The guests are mayors, representing the Liberal Party of Denmark.

For the guests, building coalitions and compromising to achieve political results is the only way of doing politics in a setup, where 5-10 parties are represented in the average local government.

The Democratic Alliance and the Liberal Party has set up a formal partnership. Following the conference in Cape Town, South African mayors would visit Denmark to gain inspiration.

"One thing that was really nice was that we did a roleplay designed to form a coalition government. You know, forming coalition governments is something that is really new to South Africa. It never happened in the past and it's something very challenging for us," Marlene says. The workshop really was an eye-opener for her.

"I really want to bring that workshop to South Africa. We've got so many things to learn. One thing is, that all parties should really feel that they are winning when forming a coalition. We've got parties with extremely ideological differences and trying to get them to work in a coalition is very difficult," she says.

In Modimolle, Marlene Vermaak van Staden still has to apply the art of political compromise and cooperation as a political disagreement between her party and the coalition partners from the Economic Freedom Front emerged.

"We didn't speak to each other for a whole year because the EFF got angry at the Democratic Alliance on a national level for something. We need to sort these kind of things out," she recalls.

CASE-STORY FROM SWAZILAND:

PUSH FOR PUBLIC ORDER ACT



The sun was high on the sky the morning of April 12th when Jan Sithole prepared to march. Not a cloud in the sky, he remembers. Not a shower. The banners were blowing freely in the breeze through the industrial capital of Swaziland in Manzini city.

Something big was about to happen, something truly historic in the modern history of Swaziland,

though Jan Sithole was quite at peace with the situation.

He had seen his share of the political repression that had plagued Swaziland for years, since the events of 1973 that banned political parties, usurped the independence constitution, removed the Bill of Rights and completely quashed democracy from the

stage. Among other mishaps during the era of the 1973 state of emergency decree, before the promulgation of the current constitution in 2005, as a labor union leader he had been kidnapped, dumped in the trunk of a car - and left.

But this day, April 12 of 2019, exactly forty-six (46) years since 1973, Jan Sithole had peace of mind. He had met twice with seniors from the police force to discuss the first officially party organized pro-democracy demonstration in Swaziland since 1973.

“In fact, we had a close cooperation with the police force, as required by the new Public order Act, so we did not expect the demonstration to go out of control or end in violence,” Jan Sithole states.

“The police told us: We will allow you to manage the march through your own marshals, and we will only consult you through the marshals if needs be, otherwise we shall be walking alongside through visible distances,” he recalls.

Exchange of political know-how

The march was the emblematic outcome of a political process taking years for Jan Sithole to accomplish. To him, the process started with the formation of SWADEPA, a political party, in 2011. Two years later, he was among the first opposition candidates elected for the Parliament.

Jan Sithole is today the President of SWADEPA and the party has formed a relationship with the Social Democratic Party of Denmark engaging both parties in an exchange of ideas and political know-how.

“It was really one of the best things to happen. We have had inspiration for our political program and how to run successful campaigns. I remember learning how to do door-to-door campaigns - something we had never tried before,” Jan Sithole recalls.

The endeavors of SWADEPA in the Parliament was crowned with an important piece of legislation for democracy:

“In Parliament, I had been given the chair of the labor portfolio. I remember both the European Union (EU) and the Americans (USA) were pressing for

our laws to comply with international standards, so we set about to change the Public Order Act,” from the archaic undemocratic 1963 colonial public order, Jan Sithole tells.

A few years later, in 2017, the labor carried fruit. The Public Order Act was passed in Parliament setting the groundwork for democratic strides in Swaziland.

“It was really a democratic milestone. With the Public Order Act all you need to do to have an assembly, is to notify - not ask permission - the local authorities, and then the police will have to make arrangements to meet with your team and marshals for traffic control and public order and everything, so that you can have your assembly and demonstration,” says Sithole.

Seeds of democracy

Standing on the legislation of the Public Order Act, several organizations and political parties joined forces with Jan Sithole and SWADEPA to form the rally.

As he walked through the streets on that sunny morning, he remembers stopping to chat with shopkeepers and groups of bystanders.

The peaceful demonstration has since been the template for more demonstrations, enabling Swaziland to take democratic strides.

“It was a milestone. After that, several marches have taken place on other issues. People are now marching with much greater freedom and confidence,” says Jan Sithole, as long as they apply the public order to the letter.

“I remember learning how to do door-to-door campaigns - something we had never tried before”

THEME 3

STRENGTHENED POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN A MULTIPARTY SYSTEM

- **STRENGTHENED DEMOCRATIC CULTURE AND DIALOGUE**
- **DIALOGUE ON AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**
- **STABILIZING FRAGILE DEMOCRACIES**
- **DIALOGUE ON PEACE PROCESSES**



CASE STORY FROM BURKINA FASO:

MULTI-PARTY PROGRAM IN BURKINA FASO



The overall purpose of the new project, which runs from 2018-2020, is to promote and strengthen democratic functions of the political parties in Burkina Faso. Sanon Djéjouma belongs to the ruling MPP party in Burkina Faso. He is the president spokesman for

the Inter-Party Dialogue in Burkina Faso. He is also member of the National Executive Bureau of MPP and holds the position of Deputy National Secretary for Political and Civic Formation.

“The dialogue we see between the parties in Denmark, that is the dialogue we lack in Burkina Faso” says Sanon Djéjouma from the MPP party in Burkina Faso. He was in Denmark in 2018 as part of a delegation from Burkina Faso to experience the Danish democracy. The delegation, which consisted of representatives from all 14 parties in the Burkina parliament, received inspiration in Denmark on dialogue between the Danish parties, and how to achieve a higher political participation of women and young people.

“We have dialogue internally in each party, but not between the parties” he continues. But this dia-



We have dialogue internally in each party, but not between the parties

logue has now started, with the journey to Denmark.

“Implementing a multi-party dialogue-based project is of great value in the new fragile democracy in Burkina Faso. Through our platform for dialogue, we are now able to work together to strengthen the representation of women and young people in political parties, in order to create a common vision for a cooperation between the parties in Burkina Faso. We create a trust between the political parties, a trust that has not existed before”.

In Burkina Faso, the political parties talk about the need for reconciliation between the different political fractions. There are still a number of challenges in good governance and democracy in Burkina Faso. Djéjouma Sanon says: “Those who have previously been in power and now have lost it, have to get used to the new situation. Today, there are actors who exploit and seek to increase tensions between groups. It is not a conflict between ethnic or religious groups, but in reality, it is a conflict between economic interests. And the new platform for dialogue has an important role to play in addressing the need

to ensure confidence in the political system and that politicians have a common interest in strengthening security and stability in Burkina Faso.”

Both for opposition parties and for government parties the Inter-Party Dialogue provides clear benefits, says Sanon Djéjouma: “We are strengthening our capacity to work with democratic development, we create a common vision and the politicians who participate in the dialogue are more visible to the population as actors of positive change”.

The study tour in Denmark in 2018 resulted in a “Copenhagen Declaration”, in which all political parties agreed to participate in a joint project focusing on developing the capacity of political parties for better representation of women and young people and improve the parties’ communication with the public and voters. We learned a lot from this journey, says Djéjouma Sanon, who was impressed by the Danes’ willingness to participate in democracy and political debate through voluntary work in various councils and in party organizations.

NEPAL - DEMOCRACY FAIR IN KATHMANDU 2018



DIPD has partnered with the Joint Mechanism for Political Party Strengthening (JOMPOPS) - coalition of parliamentary parties in Nepal - since 2011. The objective has always been clear: to develop the democratic culture among the largest parties and to strengthen the influence of women and youth in party politics. Since 2018, The Social-Liberal Party of Denmark has been a part of the partnership, offering expertise on youth inclusion and democracy fairs. Chitrlekha Yadav, a member of parliament for Nepali Congress and a former Minister of Education, says: “We got the inspiration to have this Democracy Fair from Denmark”.

It is mid-September and we are standing on Durbar Square in Kathmandu. This is where Kings of old would be crowned one of the many places where the April 2015 earthquake left a lasting mark. Nowadays it

is buzzing with street vendors, tourists and ordinary citizens, who want to pay their visits to the royal palace and the surrounding temples and courtyards.

Today, though, something entirely new is happening. Neither a king nor a souvenir is on offer at Durbar Square. Instead, the first edition of Nepal’s Democracy Fair is being offered to a curious crowd. All the leaders of Nepal’s political leaders are there, and along with the numerous party members, journalists and yes, a curious crowd of local citizens.

“People observe this Democracy Fair as a campaign for democracy. The different political parties have different stalls at the same place. It is an example of genuine partnership among the political parties, which I think is very helpful in order to have a strong democracy,” Chitrlekha Yadav continues.

On stage the political leaders discuss issues such as the implementation of the constitution and how to get more women in to political leadership. Having such high-level discussion on public display is not on the daily menu in Nepal. Neither for the public nor for politicians. But most people are excited. Clara Halvorsen is a member of The Social Liberal Party of

“This is the first time that Nepalese citizens experience this extraordinary openness”

Denmark and former Deputy-Chair of The Social Liberal Youth: “This is the first time that Nepalese citizens experience this extraordinary openness, where you can basically walk straight in and have a conversation with members of the parliament and leaders of the political parties. In Denmark we tend to take this accessibility for granted, but in Nepal, this is huge,” Clara Halvorsen explains.

Even though this was a first-time experience, the reception from both the political parties and the local citizens was highly positive:

“This is just a start. But this is so important and I asked the people to get their comments on the Democracy Fair and they said: you must take this kind of fair to the grassroot level, to the local level, to every district. Though formally we close the Democracy Fair, we just learned that is so important,” Chitrlekha Yadav concluded.

During the three-day Democracy Fair political debates were taken to the streets of Kathmandu, with thousands of local citizens, party members and political leaders gathering to celebrate democracy and cross-political collaboration.

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS 2018

COUNTRY/ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES (IN DANISH KRONER):				TOTAL
	STRENGTHEN WOMEN REPRESENTATION	STRENGTHEN YOUTH REPRESENTATION	CAPACITY BUILDING POLITICAL PARTIES	MULTI PARTY DIALOGUE	
ASIA REGIONAL PROJECT			862,000		862,000
SWAZILAND	81,000	65,000	615,000		761,000
BURKINA FASO	7,000		197,000	909,000	1,113,000
COLOMBIA			512,000		512,000
PALESTINE		84,000	21,000	14,000	119,000
SOUTH AFRICA			505,000		505,000
BOLIVIA			698,000		698,000
GHANA				66,000	66,000
AFRICA REGIONAL PROJECT			150,000		150,000
KENYA		752,000		870,000	1,622,000
MALAWI	1,096,000	552,000			1,648,000
NEPAL	798,000		577,000	1,269,000	2,644,000
BHUTAN	543,000		124,000	292,000	959,000
MYANMAR			1,569,000	588,000	2,157,000
CROSS SECTORAL INITIATIVES	212,000	212,000	153,000	153,000	730,000
MONITORING	628,000	628,000	455,000	456,000	2,167,000
ADMINISTRATION	1,353,000	1,353,000	980,000	980,000	4,667,000
TOTAL	4,718,000	3,646,000	7,418,000	5,597,000	21,379,000



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