



**THE LABOUR PARTY'S
WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION
FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME**

Annual Review 2022-23

 **Labour**

Table of contents

Table of contents	1
Introduction.....	3
How we're funded.....	4
Section 1: Yearly overview	5
Section 2: Outcomes and highlights	6
Africa	7
Middle East and North Africa	7
Eastern Europe.....	9
Western Balkans	10
Section 3: Resources.....	14

For more information on Labour's WFD programme, please visit
www.labourwfd.org.uk/

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Introduction



Figure 1: Participants at the Women's Academy for Africa National Workshop, Central African Republic (November 2022)

The Labour Party supports political parties in new and emerging democracies around the world through its Westminster Foundation for Democracy Programme – a key component of Labour's international strategy.

We work together to ensure the values of democracy, freedom, justice and human rights are shared across the world.

As one of the oldest and most established social democratic parties in the world, Labour has long sought to share experiences and build alliances with like-minded parties across regions.

We do this by supporting bilateral programmes with other parties and by building regional and thematic networks. Throughout, we focus on working with women and young people, two groups that are often overlooked and marginalised in the political process.

This document gives a summary of the projects we completed in the financial year 2022-23 and focuses on the changes brought about through this support.

How we're funded

The Labour Party receives funds from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) – an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

WFD builds the capacity of parliaments and political parties; delivering parliamentary work itself whilst resources are provided to Westminster based parties to work directly with partners overseas.

The funding from WFD enables the Labour Party to deliver programmes with political parties and regional networks designed around their specific needs and in line with our international strategy.

For more information on WFD's work, please visit

www.wfd.org.uk





Figure 2: SD Platform roundtable participants on a social democratic vision for post-war Ukraine, Ukraine (March 2023)

Section 1: Yearly overview

Our projects are designed in accordance with the relevant political context and tailored to meet specific needs of political parties, particularly our sister parties across the regions experiencing both challenges and opportunities within their respective political environments.

This year, our partners were able to fully resume in-person activities and international travel without being restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our partners have used learning from the pandemic to adapt, using digital resources where appropriate.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been the most pressing challenge for not only our partner in Ukraine, but for the majority of our partners across the Western Balkans. The war has created fresh challenges for democracy in the region, with pro-Russian sentiment in some sections of Balkan society remaining constant. Both the war and the pandemic have created global inflationary pressures that have increased the costs of delivering activities for all of our partners.



Figure 3: Women's Academy for Africa National Workshop, South Africa (November 2022)

Section 2: Outcomes and highlights

The overall goal of the Labour Party's WFD Programme is to create stronger social democratic parties and actors to enable them to function and participate in a multi-party political system and provide a choice to the electorate.

The programme also aims to build strong regional networks through the sharing of best practice and skills training. For example, we have supported political actors on human rights and equalities through our work on women's political leadership, political participation of youth, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Despite the ongoing challenges this year regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine and global inflation, we were pleased to be able to deliver many successful activities and are able to report the following outcomes and achievements for the 2022-2023 financial year:

Africa

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

Factors such as patriarchy, gender stereotyping, and socio-economic barriers are among the reasons why women struggle to enter into the political arena. The programme has been integral in identifying women candidates whom seek elected positions and express an interest in standing for public office, and providing them with access to resources and best practice for competing.

Four workshops were held in Botswana, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and South Africa, with 30 participants in each workshop. These workshops resulted in participants gaining skills and knowledge in advocacy that will help them to put themselves forward for candidate selections within their parties. Moreover, participants were also trained and equipped with a variety of skills, such effective leadership and mobilising resources, which can be used to share knowledge with women in less politically participating rural areas.

Furthermore, the participants were trained in fundraising techniques in order to raise funds that in turn would help them towards their election campaign and standing. Thus, this programme has been successful in bringing women together to share their political experiences, educate and empower each other to engage actively in the political process, and work together to be better prepared to face challenges in testing circumstances and develop resilience.

WAFa was also able to conduct an evaluation activity in Uganda in partnership with the external consultancy Hope 2020. The evaluation analysed a WAFa workshop in order to discover possible gaps in the content, whether the most suitable tools and materials were being used, and whether the workshop was cost efficient. Upon surveying the participants, the consultant found the workshop to meet its objectives and recommended that further trainings should be carried out for women ahead of local elections, and on management skills.



Figure 4: Women's Political Leadership Training, Morocco (March 2023)

Middle East and North Africa

In February 2023, twenty-seven participants from five countries; Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco, met for a regional training of trainer's event held in Beirut, Lebanon. The aim of the two-day workshop was to train women involved in political parties from across the MENA region on advocacy, lobbying skills, implementation of campaigns, effective political communications, negotiations and analysis of organizational cultures and practices within political parties that present women with barriers to their political participation. In their post-workshop evaluation forms, the women recorded a positive response to the content of the workshop and the trainer, and stated that they will take this learning back to their respective parties to upskill other women.

Additionally, four regional trainings were delivered in Morocco, as well as four regional trainings in Lebanon. The trainings in Morocco focused on fighting digital violence, and empowering women's political participation, while the trainings in Lebanon focused on women in rural areas, training them on the topics of advocacy, campaigns, communication and negotiation. These activities have strengthened the political skills for women in Tha'era member parties, have increased the number of Tha'era trainers, and have increased the number of women decision makers in Tha'era member parties.

Our partner in Jordan, the Al Badeel Centre for Studies and Research, delivered their programme on local government party capacity development. Their activities included a roundtable meeting for 20 participants on the needs and priorities of local communities and two workshops on local municipality training for 40 participants representing all Jordanian governorates. The two workshops covered promoting good governance, budget management, social accountability, participatory planning, project preparation, financial analysis, and gender related concepts. Representatives from each governorate then produced a video on the proposed initiatives for their local community.

As a result of these activities, participants have been equipped with knowledge on how to improve governance at a local level, and have a more in-depth understanding of the specific social and electoral needs of different Jordanian municipalities. An additional outcome has been the networking participants were able to partake in, connecting local communities with civil society organisations.

Eastern Europe and South East Europe (SEE)

This financial year, the Labour Party WFD programme continued work in Armenia to support partners with their youth training academy which provides training on social democracy, political processes, campaigning, political technologies and communication.

In September 2022, the second-iteration of the programme was launched with 25 students enrolled in to the political academy. The academy delivered fantastic results, as our partners were able to deliver a total of 36 courses within 3 months, and the students were able to gain a better understanding of the working process of the party and communicate and network with party members. As a result of the programme, the students gained in-depth knowledge and skills that they will be able to use in future involvement regarding political processes.

Our partners in Ukraine, SD Platform, successfully carried out a roundtable meeting on overcoming the impact of Russian war, preserving and strengthening the potential of their organisation, and a social-democratic vision of rebuilding post-war Ukraine. 45 participants joined in-person, and another 80 joined online. The roundtable provided an opportunity for SD Platform to showcase its commitment to promoting progressive policies and engaging with key stakeholders on important issues facing Ukraine. It also helped in attracting new members to the organisation, with 15 young activists joining after having attended the meeting.

An SD Platform congress meeting "For a Fair and Inclusive Recovery of Ukraine" was also held, where key issues and proposals for the further activities of the SD Platform in wartime were discussed, including external positioning, a communication strategy, the launch of a digital membership registry, as well as electing a new composition of coordinators and responsible persons in specific areas.

With Labour WFD support, SD Platform has continued to provide informative publications for distribution on their social networks. This has been essential in building their policy platform. Our partners have produced new video content for their organisation and, as a result, social media reach has increased by 30 per cent. These outputs have helped to support the SD platform capacity to campaign effectively and mobilise its members.

One participant shared that they had *"learned how to work in our parties, step by step, towards developing society and making sure we all have human rights."* Another participant wrote that they had *"new ideas for work within the party."*

Participants at Regional Seminar

Western Balkans

In the Western Balkans, we worked with the Foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS) to facilitate their work on promoting inclusion and tackling inequalities by educating and engaging with social democratic politicians. A regional seminar successfully took place in Bar, Montenegro, and engaged 24 participants from municipalities across the programme countries, with two lecturers who are members of the LGBTQ+ community who were able to share

their lived experience. Their testimonies were a great asset to the seminar as they gave a detailed insight on the problems facing the LGBTQ+ community in the Western Balkans, and highlighted the need for further advocacy on LGBTQ+ issues. A concrete deliverable of this regional seminar was that the participants began making plans for policies which will contribute to the further inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community within the region.

Furthermore, a training of trainers was held in Skopje, Macedonia. The training was delivered by experienced trainers who work with LGBTQ+ shelters in the region. The training familiarised participants with global advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and for inclusive, open societies, preparing them to deliver the programme's national capacity building trainings. These trainings took place in the 4 programme countries: North Macedonia, Bosnia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Participants at these trainings were social-democratic politicians from different levels of government, including municipal councilors. The trainings increased their skills in promoting and advocating for human rights, as well as increased their knowledge about the status of discriminated groups and various forms of discrimination they face in law, education, healthcare system, media representation, and the labour market.

Six podcasts were also produced, for the purpose of awareness raising. In each podcast, one guest is interviewed, the guests being high-level politicians, including members of national

'With this training, social-democrats from North Macedonia, Bosnia, Montenegro, and Serbia, acquired skills and knowledge on tools and methods of advocacy for the rights of the LGBTI community.'

Pavle Bogoevski, North Macedonia (Training of Trainers participant)

parliaments. The central topic of each podcast was the search for practical applications of social democratic values in the field of human rights and improvement of the position of the LGBTQ+ population.



Figure 7: Party capacity training, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March 2023)

We continued to provide our partners in Montenegro with bilateral support to increase youth participation in politics. Our partners in the SDP Montenegro successfully delivered five training academies within five months, covering several topics, such as: introduction to politics, campaign planning, introduction to human rights, political communications, and the future of politics. Our partners were able to organise and deliver the academy to an exceptionally high standard, developing the skills and knowledge of the participants, and establishing a dedicated political academy for activists, members and supporters.

We also worked with our partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Forum of Left Initiative (FLI BiH), with the aim to promote debate and raise awareness on a wide range of social and political inequalities affecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, and raising party capacity in order to address these inequalities. They also had a specific focus on how these issues intersect with climate change.

Our partner developed one public policy on "Consequences of economic inequality for environmental protection", particularly in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially in Sarajevo Canton, where environmental pollution, primarily air pollution, is currently a vital problem. A public opinion survey was conducted on economic possibilities and views on climate change and environmental protection.

Consultations were also held in Sarajevo. The aim of the consultation and discussion was to raise awareness among the MPs, councillors and interested stakeholders on the connection between inequality and green policies. This activity was an excellent opportunity for the policy author, reviewer, and SDP decision-makers to discuss the next steps and agree on the best solutions to be implemented moving forward.

A Councillors and MP's representative support office, set up previously with the help of the Labour Party, continued to work in this financial year. The office continued working on the development of measures related to economic development, providing arguments for a social democratic economic policy and also contributing to the development of measures concerning sustainable environmental and economic development.

A round table event was also organised in Sarajevo. During this event, the MP's from the cantonal government had the opportunity to discuss future approaches and consider recommendations from the policy. Our partners also started a short promotional campaign this financial year, which they will continue to develop in order to promote the results of the research.

This project has played a significant role in providing the decision makers with proper tools and expertise for their work as well as practical support. Following the workshop on policy development, policy recommendations that were discussed have been included in the Cantonal assembly government plan for 2023- 2026. Two ministries have included three significant measures within their agenda from the public policy recommendations. In particular, the Ministry of Traffic included: supporting transition to eco-friendly heating through subsidies, building heating isolation in order to improve energy consumption and improving quality of life, improving urban mobility and providing cleaner, safer and good-quality access to public transportation.

Section 3: Resources

Our projects are funded through an annual grant from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The charts below show the breakdown of expenditure in 2022-23 according to region and then by three key areas.



