



The Labour Party's
Westminster Foundation
for Democracy
Programme

Annual Review 2019/2020



Date of publication: July 2020

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	4
Introduction.....	6
How we're funded.....	6
Section 1: Yearly Overview	8
Section 2: Outcomes and Highlights.....	12
Section 3: Resources.....	18
Annex 1: Full list of projects supported in 2019-20.....	20
Annex 2: List of acronyms.....	21
Annex 3: List of figures.....	22



Figure 1: Summer Academy training (July 2019)

Introduction

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 projects 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.

How we’re funded

The Labour Party receives funds from the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)** - a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with additional funding from the Department for International Development.

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 projects with political parties and regional networks designed around their specific needs and in line with our international WFD strategy.

This document gives a summary of the projects we completed in the financial year 2019-20 and focuses primarily on what changes came about as a result of this support.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.labourwfd.org.uk/>

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.

The closing of political space, the rise in populist rhetoric, domestic developments and a series of contentious elections abroad have resulted in a number of challenges for our sister parties and networks across the regions.

Political instability has continued to affect efforts in the Middle East and North Africa but support has continued in the region. Placing gender equality high on party agendas and convincing party leaders of the value of gender equality in democracy development has been pushed by Tha'era, a network of women from the Middle East and North Africa.

In the Western Balkans, we have been continuously working with political parties to develop their policy-making processes in response to shared challenges of high levels of outward migration.

The inaugural meeting of the Progressive Women's Summit for representatives from the Eastern Europe and South Caucuses region took place to enable best practice by facilitating dialogue between women's organisations and activists.



Figure 2: Progressive Women's Summit (August 2019)

In Eastern Europe, Ukraine saw the presidential runoff won by comedian and actor Volodymyr Zelensky. Following the announcement of a snap parliamentary election, we worked with partners where they nominated their first ever independent candidate.

The emphasis on tackling the climate emergency has been prevalent in agendas across our programmes, including at our Annual Conference.

Our partners in Africa, the Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA), have been rolling out workshops across the region, enabling and engaging more women in political processes by giving participants fundraising tools to address financial barriers.

At the beginning of 2020, we witnessed the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic sweep across the globe, causing countries to implement lockdown measures with the aim of reducing the increasing number of cases and deaths due to the virus. We have been sensitive to the pressures facing communities, organisations and individuals at this time, and the need to be mindful of these when shaping our programmes for our work going forward.

Section 2: Outcomes and Highlights



Figure 3: Election Best Practice visit (December 2019)

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, youth and LGBTI. We are therefore pleased to report the following outcomes from 2019-20 in this section of the review.

Africa

This year, members and beneficiaries of WAFA have supported women's political representation across Africa, acknowledging ongoing challenges women face in politics through lessons

learnt. The Women's Academy for Africa is a regional network that seeks to improve the skills and confidence of women activists from social democratic parties in Africa.

Significantly, an outcome of the work that has taken place so far is that over 180 women have been trained on the political selection process, a programme designed to mobilise resources and fundraising tools to tailor for their own respective regions' campaigns. These "train the trainer's" activities have equipped participants with the skills to become trainers and ultimately sustain and multiply learnt skills within WAFA member parties.



Figure 4: WAFA meeting (October 2019)

Eastern Europe

The annual political Summer Academy for young social democrats from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus took place this year in Kiev, Ukraine. The academy offered skills training on a range of issues including policy exchanges, campaign strategies and communication methods. The programme also included a "train the trainer's" element that passed on the skills and knowledge to cascade trainings in their respective parties.

The networks established through events such as this help strengthen

social democracy throughout the region.

A regional summit for women from Eastern Europe was organised in Ukraine. The first meeting of its kind brought together representatives from across the region to build confidence, skills, solidarity and leadership of women to play an active and effective role in party politics, decisions, and platforms at local, national and international levels.

Ukraine saw the comedian and actor Volodymyr Zelensky elected as president. Shortly after, a snap parliamentary election was announced and we worked with partners where they nominated their first ever independent candidate. Unfortunately, the result was not as hoped, however, the ability to present a platform and policies with coherent ideology, respond to the challenges that societies face and voter priorities is something that will be extremely valuable to our partners experience in the future.



Figure 5: Summer Academy training (July 2019)

Middle East and North Africa

The UN has convened the Generation Equality Group to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. Civil Society has been asked to lead the initiative and present a strong feminist agenda to be discussed at a series of events. Tha'era has been selected as a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group, which will form the decision-making of the Core Group to Beijing +25. This is a significant outcome for the work we have done to support Tha'era, assisting them to advocate for women's rights through campaigns and lobbying.



Figure 6: Tha'era meeting (December 2019)

We have been working with partners in Jordan to foster relationships between parties and their trade union sector. The programme has raised awareness of the work of trade unions and contributed to developing legislation to defend workers' rights. Through engagement with trade unions, our partners have been able to reach out and better represent the interests and needs of their citizens as a whole.

"The support of the UK Labour Party in our programme in supporting trade unions has had a positive impact, especially as the history and experience of the UK Labour Party, the role of trade unions, the reality of the party and the success achieved because of unions. It has opened a new window for other members' participation." – Programme partners in Jordan

We have begun a new phase of the Future Leaders programme for young activists in the Middle East and North Africa. The programme brings together young people from across the region to take part in a wide range of interactive workshops and discussions that helped develop their communications skills.



Figure 7: Future Leaders training (April 2019)

Tunisia held their presidential and parliamentary elections, marking another important milestone in the country's democratic trajectory. The election ushered in the first handover of power from one democratically elected government to another since the adoption of the 2014 constitution. A recipient of our Future Leaders programme was later nominated as a

candidate for the elections. However, while unsuccessful in the election, the programme is significant in providing skills to support those to hold prominent roles within the party.

Western Balkans

Our partners in the Western Balkans have experienced high levels of outward migration, leading to a loss of skills, talent and resources to tackle entrenched societal and economic problems. The countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia face similar challenges and have worked collaboratively in cooperation with each other to share best policy practice in order to identify how to tackle this problem, recognising the solutions will not be easy without a full-scale economic response by the government and its institutions.

Regional and Cross Regional Activities

The Labour Party organised, in coordination with Progressive Alliance and Karl-Renner-Institut, a Training Academy this year for young activists from our sister parties in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The Academy offered instruction and training in all relevant sectors of modern party organisation and communication work in the context of political campaigns. Strategies and techniques of modern political

communication and techniques were taught. Furthermore, trainings were organised to actively engage in online and social media debates based on strategic and adaptable language.



Figure 8: Progressive Alliance (October 2019)

During our 2019 Annual Conference, we invited participants from sister parties and networks from Africa, Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Northern Africa. They were given the chance to meet with Councillor Anne Pissaridou and colleagues at Brighton & Hove City Council to learn about the sustainable development projects being delivered. Dan Carden MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development and Danielle Rowley MP, Shadow Minister Climate Justice and Green Jobs spoke to the group about Labour's international work and efforts to address the climate emergency. A Q&A with the Rt Hon Emily Thornberry, Shadow Foreign Secretary, allowed the participants to discuss the party's international work.

The conference provided the opportunity to network with Labour Party stakeholders and sister parties, learn how the party is tackling the climate emergency, and to understand how the annual conference plays a vital role in the party's democracy.



Figure 9: Labour Party Annual Conference (September 2019)

"I give credit to the Labour Party WFD team on supporting sister parties to learn on best practices. These visits is an eye-opener to me on ways I can help improve issues of policy formalities and messaging of party information." – Programme partners on our Labour Party Annual Conference.

A best practice programme for sister party representatives took place in the build-up to the Mayoral Elections, which was later postponed. Over the course of two days, participants joined in a number of briefings with a wide range of stakeholders engaged in the elections. This included an in-depth session with officials involved in the Sadiq Khan for London 2020 campaign.

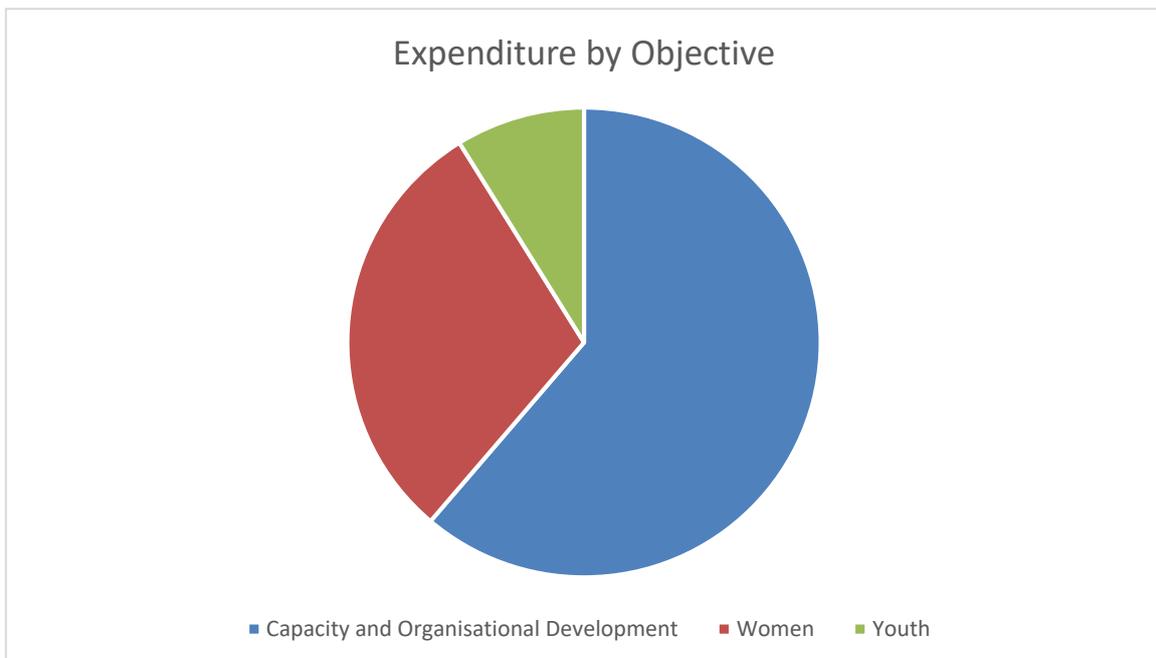
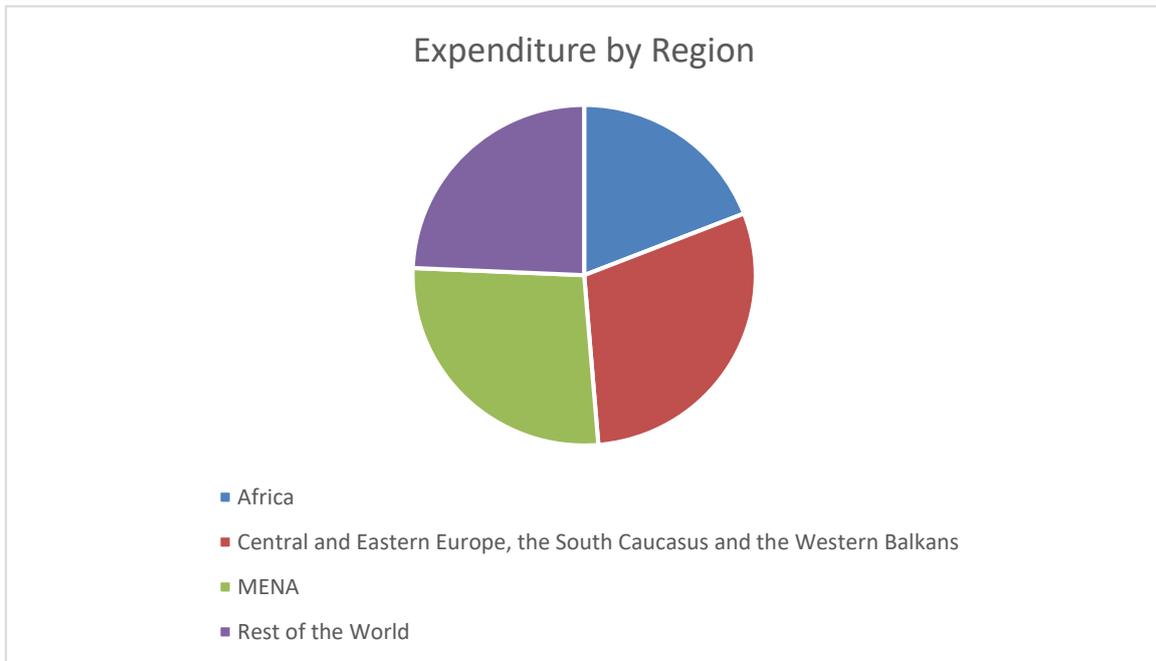
The Labour Party supported the European Forum to organise a conference with partners across Europe to outline future work plans, and discuss the role that progressive parties and political foundations can play in tackling the rise of illiberal democracies in Europe. Labour representative, Lord Ray Collins, Shadow Spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and International Development, held a session on civil society engagement and links with political parties. Workshops were delivered on best practice on combatting illiberal practices, and cooperation between progressive parties, trade unions and social movements. This conference resulted in increased cooperation between partners across Europe.



Figure 10: Progressive Women's Summit (August 2019)

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 2019-20 according to region and then by three key areas.



Annex 1: Full list of projects supported in 2019-20

Region	Country/ Network	Project Title
Africa	WAFA	Women's Academy for Africa
Eastern Europe	Ukraine	Capacity Building
	Various	Eastern Europe Women's Summit
	Various	Summer Academy
	Various	Enhancing LGBTI Rights in South East Europe
MENA	Jordan	Parties and Trade Unions
	Various	Future Leaders
	Tha'era	Advocacy Training
Western Balkans	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Policy Implementation
	Montenegro	Political Academy
	North Macedonia	Political Education
	Various	Western Balkans SD9 Youth Network
	Various	Western Balkans Social Democratic Parties and Trade Unions Phase Two
	Various	Western Balkans Regional Policy Making
Worldwide	Various	Annual Conference Best Practice Programme
	Various	Elections Best Practice Visits
	Various	Assessment and Regional Visits
	Various	Social Democratic Women in Politics
	Various	Women's Political Participation

Annex 2: List of acronyms

LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
WAFA	Women’s Academy for Africa

Annex 3: List of figures

Figure 1: Summer Academy training (July 2019)	5
Figure 2: Progressive Women’s Summit (August 2019)	7
Figure 3: Election Best Practice visit (December 2019)	10
Figure 4: WAFA meeting (October 2019)	11
Figure 5: Summer Academy training (July 2019)	11
Figure 6: Tha’era meeting (December 2019)	12
Figure 7: Future Leaders training (April 2019)	12
Figure 8: Progressive Alliance (October 2019)	13
Figure 9: Labour Party Annual Conference (September 2019)	14
Figure 10: Progressive Women’s Summit (August 2019)	14