

Promoting Participation Pathways for Human Development – 3P4D Initiative

3P4D is a UNDP Civic Space Flagship GPCR initiative funded by the Governments of Denmark, Luxembourg and the Republic of Korea. This initiative is supporting five UNDP Country Offices – **Kenya, Mongolia, Senegal, Somalia, and Sri Lanka** – in promoting structural reforms aimed at creating an **enabling environment for participation**. Each country follows its own **pathway**, focusing on an appropriate combination of the following elements:



Civic Space Regulations

Legal and administrative provisions regulating the exercise of the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as the protection of human rights defenders.



Citizen Participation Infrastructure

Concrete mechanisms and processes that allow for people's participation in different aspects of public life, such as procedures enabling citizen input into policymaking.



Civil Society Infrastructure

Mechanisms to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in a changing landscape, including by strengthening their financial viability.

To promote the **meaningful and equal participation** of all members of society without discrimination, 3P4D promotes a strong **gender equality lens** with a focus on women's participation, leadership and decision-making. Moreover, it systematically addresses the issue of **young people's inclusion in public life**— including, where applicable, the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda –with at least one result per country specifically contributing to advancing young people's leadership and participation in public life, including by providing support to youth-led organizations.

Why does this matter?

Civic participation is not only a democratic ideal—it is a **fundamental right** and a **cornerstone of peace and sustainable development**. Participation strengthens the social fabric, builds trust between citizens and institutions, and enhances policy legitimacy—policies shaped through dialogue are more likely to reflect public needs and gain support. When people can access information, express their views—including dissent—and organize collectively, democratic systems become more resilient. Evidence also shows that **societies fostering open dialogue are better able to manage disagreements peacefully**.

By combining a **common programmatic framework with context-specific pathways**, 3P4D delivers tailored solutions while enabling **peer learning and cross-country synergies**. Its distinctive design makes the initiative **highly scalable**, allowing new countries to join and benefit from existing technical support and knowledge.

Participating Countries

Mongolia

Mongolia is supporting legal and procedural reforms to align policymaking with human rights standards and increase inclusivity. “Participation accelerators” identified with youth and women’s CSOs, are being piloted to build capacity among policymakers and civil society.

Kenya

Kenya is advancing the operationalization of the Public Benefits Organization (PBO) Act (2013). The project also facilitates the registration of women’s and youth-led organizations as PBOs and supports the development of an inclusive public engagement framework.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is enhancing citizen engagement in parliamentary oversight. A digital platform is under development to foster dialogue between parliament and citizens. The project also supports CSO networks and revitalizes the Youth Peace and Security Coalition, with mentoring initiatives for aspiring women leaders.

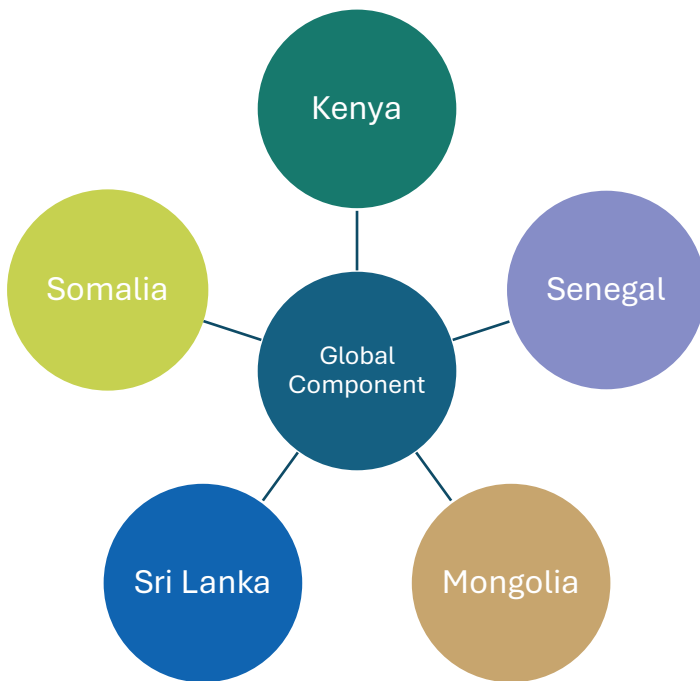
Somalia

In Somalia, the project promotes inclusive state-building by enabling women and youth participation in political, peacebuilding, and development processes. Dialogue between parliaments and constitutional bodies is fostered, while youth and women insider mediators are trained, and religious leaders engaged as agents of change.

Senegal

The project supports the passage of a Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill under Senegal’s Open Government Partnership commitments. The initiative also facilitates a participatory process for a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security, while strengthening women’s organizations in Casamance through seed funding and support for crowdfunding campaigns.

Mid-Term Results



Senegal is advancing an integrated approach to participation, information integrity, and inclusion. A key milestone was the **adoption of the Access to Information Law in August 2025**. This breakthrough followed sustained advocacy and technical accompaniment by the UNDP Country Office, including a high-level parliamentary retreat organized in collaboration with UN agencies and civil society partners. This was also reinforced through engagement with the Open Government Partnership as well as CSOs such as Article 19 and the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law to ensure alignment with global standards.

In parallel, **the national coalition on Youth, Peace and Security was launched**, and drafting of the National Action Plan is underway—creating new spaces for young people to influence peacebuilding priorities and governance reforms.

Sri Lanka is deepening democratic engagement and strengthening parliamentary outreach through participatory reforms and grassroots collaboration. A key milestone was the **launch of consultations on a citizens’ engagement platform**, complemented by support for **restructuring Sectoral Oversight Committees** and reinforcing the **women’s parliamentary caucus** to advance inclusive governance. In parallel, partnerships with civil society in Northern, Eastern, and Uva provinces have enabled **20 stakeholder consultations and training plans to integrate youth and women into local development planning**. These efforts are laying the groundwork for civil society consortia to enhance accountability and advocacy at the divisional level.

Looking ahead, Sri Lanka will prioritize **operationalizing the engagement platform, expanding CSO networks, and fostering regional exchanges** between local government representatives, parliamentarians, and professional women leaders—creating new spaces for pluralistic dialogue and citizen participation in decision-making.



Photo: UNDP Senegal



Photo: UNDP Kenya



Photo credit: UNDP Mongolia

Kenya is advancing on two complementary tracks: strengthening public participation and operationalizing the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act. A major milestone was the submission of an improved draft National Public Participation Bill to Parliament, shaped by broad consultations at county and national levels and reinforced by technical support to the drafting process. In parallel, harmonized draft PBO Regulations were finalized together paving the way for validation and parliamentary advocacy. The Country Office also spearheaded the development of a **draft Action Plan for protecting civic space** through dialogues with diverse CSOs, while supporting women- and youth-led networks in underserved counties to create new platforms for engagement

Looking ahead, Kenya will consolidate these gains through **civil society capacity-building**, and a **podcasts - storytelling initiative** reflecting on 15 years of public participation since the 2010 Constitution—amplifying diverse voices and producing a practical toolkit to empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities to lead local change.

Somalia is advancing inclusive 5–9 of the constitutional reform as part of ongoing amendments to chapters Constitution. A key milestone has been the **organization of broad-based consultations by the Federal Parliament, supported by UNDP, to ensure women, youth, and marginalized groups actively shape the review process.** These efforts are complemented by initiatives to strengthen civic engagement and transparent political dialogue, including plans to launch platforms for continuous citizen participation in legislative processes and small grants for women- and youth-led organizations advocating for gender-responsive governance. In parallel, **insider mediator training and community reconciliation activities are being rolled out to elevate youth and women’s perspectives in peacebuilding and decision-making.**

Looking ahead, Somalia will focus on sustaining citizen engagement through public forums and town halls, ensuring diverse voices inform constitutional reform and democratization efforts.

Mongolia is advancing participatory governance and inclusion through concrete reforms and local innovations. A key achievement is **the participatory design of the Second National Human Rights Programme**, building on lessons from the first programme and guided by consultations with Parliament and the Human Rights Commission. This process will deliver a practical guide to institutionalize inclusive approaches in future rights-based programming.

In parallel, **13 civil society-led initiatives are piloting new models of engagement**—from digital tools for legislative participation and citizen oversight of local decisions to deliberative polling in mining-affected areas and gender-sensitive employment advocacy for Kazakh women. Other projects are promoting transparency in land allocation, improving educational accommodations for students with disabilities, and strengthening digital literacy among herders to connect with national platforms. These efforts are laying the foundation for systemic mechanisms that embed civic participation and accountability across governance structures.

Cross-learning Global Component

To **3P4D initiative** has a strong **global coordination and peer learning component** that serves as a cornerstone of its approach, creating **safe spaces** for Country Offices to exchange experiences and address shared challenges. Monthly pulse-check meetings and **thematic learning exchanges** have facilitated real-time troubleshooting and alignment, while fostering **dialogue on critical issues** such as **civic space, youth engagement, information integrity, and gender inclusion**. These sessions have enabled **cross-country collaboration**, identified synergies, and informed practical and reasoned approaches to advance inclusive governance.

Strategic partnerships with global actors, including the **Open Government Partnership** have further support project implementation, and international civil society organisations such as the **International Center for Non-for Profit Law**, and the **EU-See Initiative** have complemented these efforts by supporting legal and institutional reforms through tailored workshops for different countries.

Responding to strong demand from Country Offices, the initiative expanded its global knowledge offer to include **digital participation and civic technology**. A flagship webinar, “*Civic Engagement in the Digital Age*,” explored how AI and digital platforms can strengthen democratic resilience, featuring case studies from Kenya and Timor-Leste alongside expert guidance on responsible, inclusive technology use. Building on this, UNDP published the *Guide to Digital Participation and AI Platforms*—developed in collaboration with People Powered— which provides actionable strategies for governments and civil society to **design and implement rights-based digital tools**. These resources, together with upcoming **Digital Participation Clinics** that offer **hands-on support for Country Office initiatives**, ensure that countries can harness technology effectively while safeguarding trust and inclusivity, reinforcing the initiative’s commitment to responsive, demand-driven support.

Acknowledgments

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