Project: The West Africa Governance Risk Assessment: Identifying and Addressing Signs of Retrogression in Democratic Governance. The project was a six-month pilot with an initial focus on Ghana.

Context: Inspired by findings from the Project Director's book, *5 Presidents, 8 Elections, 30 Years Later: How Ghanaians See Their Democracy,* *which* documented considerable gains but also pointed out six key challenges to Ghana's march towards democratic consolidation.

Key Outcomes - "*The Democracy Pledge"* is a key outcome of the program*.* Here, the goal is to work with registered political parties to come up with specific commitments aimed at addressing the identified challenges concerning Ghana's democracy and democratic governance over the past 30 years. The project successfully held an initial meeting with representatives of registered political parties on February 22nd, 2024, at CDD-Ghana to discuss the democracy pledge initiative. The meeting was attended by a total of thirty representatives from the various political parties. The project has established a road map to monitor political parties and how many included a democracy pledge in their respective manifestos.

The second outcome of the program is the "*Democracy Dialogue Sessions*," which attempted to stimulate open citizen discourse on democratic issues as a way of reinforcing the critical role of civic engagement and social capital in democratic consolidation. The project held three dialogues with people from various professional backgrounds in Accra, Cape Coast, and Tamale to get feedback on Ghana's current level of democracy. The project also held two virtual democracy dialogues.

The third outcome of the program is the development of "*Democracy Risk Profiles"* of countries in West-Africa. The goal is to expand the analytical tool kits for democracy activists and policy actors. The tool will enable interested actors to gauge which democracies are at risk of retrogression and which aspects of their democracy is more vulnerable and driving the risk. The profile is developed using primarily data from the Afrobarometer survey. The first iteration of the profile has been developed and undergoing review based on feedback from key stakeholders.

The End-of-Project Event

The end-of-project event took place at CDD-Ghana's Main Conference Room on Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event disseminated the observations, outcomes, and conclusions drawn from the program, especially from the various interactions held with stakeholders. The event brought together stakeholders, including policymakers, CSOs, activists, and people interested in democracy and democratic governance.

The project also held a follow up technical meeting with staff from CDD-Ghana, Afrobarometer and WADEMOS to get feedback on how to improve the first iteration of the Democracy Risk Profile analytical tool.

Links to selected activities of the project

1. https://thedempro.org
2. https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-news-lets-rebuild-political-trust-of-citizens-dr-osae-kwapong.html
3. https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-news-decode-constitution-laws-into-local-dialects-to-deepen-democracy-participants.html
4. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/12/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signals-part-i/
5. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/15/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signals-part-ii/
6. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/15/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signs-final-part/
7. https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-news-the-democracy-project.html
8. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/12/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signals-part-i/
9. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/15/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signals-part-ii/
10. https://thedempro.org/2023/11/15/west-africas-democracy-worrying-signs-hopeful-signs-final-part/
11. https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-news-the-democracy-project.html
12. https://thedempro.org/2024/01/31/has-democracy-been-good-for-the-poor/
13. https://thedempro.org/2024/01/31/beyond-the-ballot-box-a-look-at-our-self-described-civic-habits/
14. *https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/politics/ghana-news-prioritise-issues-of-governance-in-manifestos-dr-osae-kwapong-to-political-parties.html*