The Hanns Seidel Foundation, founded in 1967, is a German political foundation, close to the Christian Social Union (CSU), providing political education “in the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development” in Germany and abroad. It has been working for nearly 40 years in the field of development cooperation and is currently taking an active part in approximately 100 projects in around 60 countries worldwide.

Our international activities based on Christian-social ideals seek to promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economy. In cooperation with our local partners we realize projects in the areas of political consulting and education. Our partners’ independency and ownership are of particular importance to us.

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Africa’s population has recently exceeded one billion. The economic growth of many African countries has been remarkable. Although lives have greatly improved, the majority of Africans have not benefitted from the boom. The development is held back for a number of reasons including poverty, unemployment, a lack of skills, crime and corruption. The civil society organisations and lobby groups are still weak whereas the political elite often misuse government institutions to retain power.

The European community has great interest in aiding to sustain development in Africa. Within the framework of the European Foreign and Security Policy it is essential that the population’s basic needs are met and peace and security are ensured.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation’s work is largely funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Our mission is to promote democracy, the rule of law, peace and human security, good governance, sustainable economic development and environmental protection. For this purpose, the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Africa works hand in hand with committed policy-makers, government officials, academics, the media and civil society organisations.

**ACTIVITIES – EXAMPLES**

In West Africa, our initiative to support the African Peer Review Mechanism strengthens political accountability and efficiency in public administration while fostering regional integration. Our Rule of Law Project provides comparative analysis of constitutional mechanisms to encourage a critical discourse among academia, the judiciary and policy makers. Trainings on civic education aim at strengthening citizens’ capacities, empowering them to better participate in the political, social and economic processes of their countries. By encouraging attitudinal change and institutional reforms, we work towards a more citizen-friendly police.

Agricultural and social development is a focal area of our work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Projects co-funded by the European Commission promote reforestation, sustainable farming and environmental protection. The key focus lies on the empowerment of local communities in order to enable them to become self sustained by ensuring food supply, increasing productivity and inducing changes in the socio-political structures of the communities.

In Southern Africa the Hanns Seidel Foundation supports the democratic transition towards an all-inclusive, non-racial democratic society.

In South Africa, we support projects to improve good governance at the municipal level and to enhance capacities for service delivery. We also work with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) to raise awareness and enhance research about crime, crime prevention and justice.

In Namibia we support political dialogue sessions at the “House of Democracy” aimed at enhancing the public debate. Through the assisted development of key skills, we help ex-offenders and economically disadvantaged people to reintegrate into their communities.

Projects in Kenya focus on enhancing citizen participation in democratic processes. Hanns Seidel Foundation-supported partners produce tools for civic education and conduct trainings to improve political and social accountability as well as service delivery at county government level.

In Tanzania the Hanns Seidel Foundation aims at fostering participation of women in politics and civil society. In addition, programs on community policing and civic education are implemented in collaboration with the Tanzania Police Force and other local NGO partners.

In terms of environmental protection and conservation the Hanns Seidel Foundation is committed to support governments to further enhance environmental awareness and the integration of climate change adaptation measures in development policies.

**FOCUS OF OUR WORK**

- Strengthening civil society
- Facilitating participation of civil society in political decision-making processes
- Supporting policies to ensure peace and human security
- Supporting sustainable economic development through the development of key skills
- Promoting the of rule of law
- Promoting decentralised structures
- Supporting initiatives to combat corruption
- Strengthening environmental awareness and climate change adaptation initiatives