

# SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY IN BURKINA FASO

## REGION

Africa

## COUNTRY

Burkina Faso

## DURATION

March 2016 to March  
2019

## PARTNERS

- ◆ National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- ◆ Yons Associates

## FUNDER

Global Affairs Canada



Parliamentary Centre  
Le Centre parlementaire

1000-66 Slater St.  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1  
Canada

T +1-613-237-0143  
E [parlcent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:parlcent@parl.gc.ca)

[parlcent.org](http://parlcent.org)

## *the* PROJECT...

*Support to democracy in Burkina Faso* is focused on strengthening the capacity of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso through a multi-faceted and targeted support for the 127 MPs and the parliamentary staff that assist them to perform their functions of representation, legislation and oversight in a more effective, transparent and responsible manner. It also seeks to help facilitate coordination and collaboration between the donors and implementing partners that work with the Assembly to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize the benefits. To help empower and build local ownership of results, the project works closely with locally based organizations and experts. All activities are carried out in a participatory and inclusive manner so that the specific needs of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff can be met.

## *the* BACKGROUND...

Burkina Faso is currently experiencing a democratic renewal that saw its light as a result of the popular uprisings of 2014. These events, where the citizens demanded to be at the centre of the country's development, led to the overthrow of the ruling government. Following a transition period, the successful November 2015 elections saw a new National Assembly, intent to improve its capacity to carry out its functions more effectively and transparently. The Canadian Government has shown its commitment to accompany Burkina Faso in its efforts towards democracy by signing a bilateral agreement between the two governments. The project to support the National Assembly, for which the Parliamentary Centre is the implementing agency, falls under this commitment.

## *the* TARGETED SUPPORT...

This project targets the specific needs of the MPs and parliamentary staff, and meets them through:

- ◆ **Practical trainings** meeting the specific needs of MPs and parliamentary staff in areas such as parliamentary research, legislative procedure, gender-sensitive budgeting and good governance of mining resources; all organized in tailor made **capacity building plans**.
- ◆ The development of **procedural and administrative manuals** contributing to improvement of the National Assembly internal management practices, transparency and accountability.
- ◆ **Peer exchanges** on best practices and lessons learned with MPs from partner countries, as well as **engagement workshops** with other governance actors in order to improve their dialogue and cooperation.
- ◆ **Practical engagement activities** that build bridges between the Assembly and the citizens on key social issues that affect their lives, and a gender-sensitive **awareness building plan** on citizen engagement and public consultation for MPs' outreach work.

## *the ACCOMPLISHMENTS...*

◆ A **Needs Assessment** of the National Assembly was carried out with the participation of the MPs and staff, and shared with the various stakeholders. This comprehensive assessment has served to provide targeted support to meet the specific needs of parliamentarians and staff. To date, more than 110 copies have been shared.

◆ A four-year **Strategic Plan** of the National Assembly (2016-2020) has been developed through a participatory, inclusive and results-based approach, involving the MPs and parliamentary staff. With the support of the project, the National Assembly now has a clear vision of the steps and directions it wants to take towards becoming a more effective and open institution.

◆ The project also assisted the Assembly in developing a complementary **Operational Plan** (2017-2020) and repertoire of **Special Projects** that will help bring the strategic plan to life. With 16 intermediate results, 45 outputs and 182 identified activities this results-based plan offers concrete avenues for partnerships with the international community to support the National Assembly in a coordinated manner and to avoid duplication of efforts. This has already resulted in pledges for funding by several donors of approximately \$ 7.5 million US! The project will continue to assist the Assembly to ensure a continuous dialogue between all partners and close monitoring of results.

## *the TESTIMONIALS...*



«... We worked as a team, with a participatory approach ... and we came up with a result that made everyone proud».



«In two days we were able to develop our operational plan and identify 18 projects and 182 activities to accomplish our strategic plan».



«This strategic plan will serve as a compass to the institution for the next four years ... All five parliamentary groups, six general committees and each department are represented, so we are developing a participatory and effective strategic plan».



## *the PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE...*

is a Canadian, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization, celebrating 50 years in 2018 as one of the leading and longest serving organizations dedicated to strengthening parliamentary democracy in Canada and around the world. Our assessments, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures and related stakeholders measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short, our mission is to support legislatures in their lawmaking, oversight and representatives roles to better serve the people they represent.