



The Democratic Republic of Congo

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population:
111 million

System of Government:
Semi-presidential Republic

Head of State:
Félix Tshisekedi

Head of Government:
**Prime Minister Judith Suminwa
(appointed June 2024)**

Last Legislative Election: **2023**

Next Legislative Elections: **2028**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, exhibits low performance on democracy indicators. Freedom House rates it as “Not Free” (18/100)¹, and V-Dem classifies it as an electoral autocracy.

Despite vast mineral wealth, the country remains one of the poorest in the world, with governance undermined by corruption, clientelism, and weak state capacity. Conflict

continues to dominate national politics with over 100 rebel groups active, especially in East Congo. Gender equality remains low, with sexual violence used as a weapon of war, gender gaps in the labour market, and women underrepresented in political life.

Looking ahead, numerous domestic and regional challenges, the armed conflict in the East, and institutional fragility threaten prospects for democratic consolidation.

TED SUPPORT

Scope definition of the TEI Peace and Security

In 2023, TED supported the EU Delegation (EUD) and Member States in defining the thematic scope and the geographic focus of the TEI Peace and Security. A consensus process led to the decision to concentrate on Ituri province, with actions prioritising governance-oriented peace and security measures.

Logical framework Development

In 2024, TED subsequently assisted in the design of a comprehensive logical framework, mapping and aligning 40 projects financed by 5 Member States (BE, NL, GE, SE, FR) and the EU in the Ituri province. This framework has strengthened coherence, efficiency and coordination of European peace and security support in Ituri.

Upcoming: European Transitional Justice Support Strategy

TED is currently preparing support for the development of a European Transitional Justice Support Strategy for the, extending the Team Europe process beyond Ituri and peace & security to a broader democracy and governance agenda.

Member States involved

BE, NL, DE, SE, FR

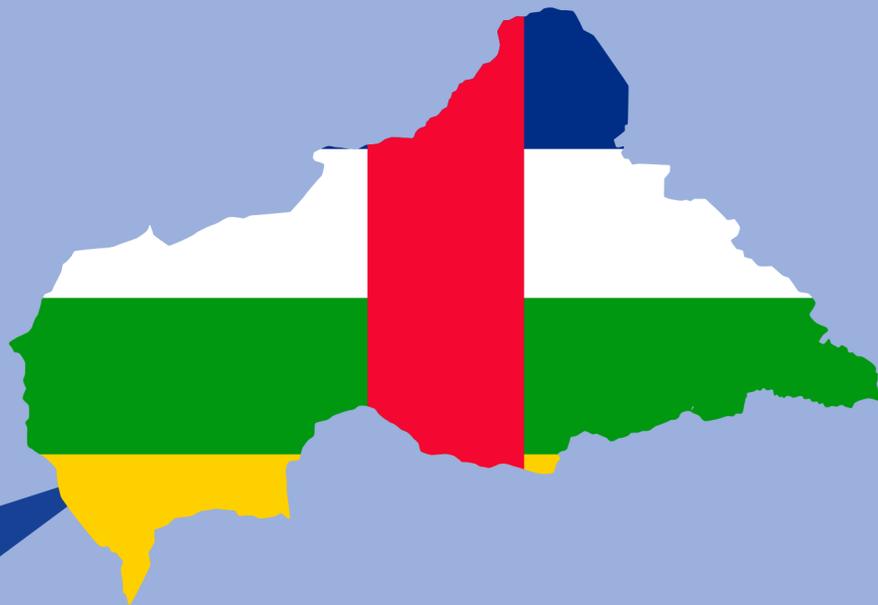
RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Identification of Ituri as the priority geographic focus.
- Adoption of a governance-focused approach to peace and security.
- Improved coordination among EU actors in a highly fragmented operational landscape.
- Renewed momentum for the TEI, with tools for political dialogue and strategic communication.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

1. March - April 2023
2. January – March 2024
3. October – December 2025

Central African Republic



COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population : **5,6 million**

Head of State:
President Faustin-Archange Touadéra

System of Government :
Presidential system

Head of Government:
Prime Minister Félix Moloua

Last Legislative Elections:
2021

Next Legislative Elections:
December 2025

CAR ranks among the weakest globally on democratic indicators, rated “Not Free” (8/100) by Freedom House¹, and classified by V-Dem as an electoral autocracy.

Despite mineral wealth, the country remains among the poorest worldwide, its economy dependent on aid and agriculture, and its development hindered by insecurity, fragile institutions, and protracted conflict.

The Special Criminal Court (CPS), a hybrid body created in 2015, investigates and prosecutes serious violations of

international humanitarian law committed in CAR since 2003. It combines national and international staff to ensure impartiality and independence, collaborates with the International Criminal Court and domestic courts, and relies mainly on funding from the UN, the US, the EU and Switzerland.

In June 2024, a Team Europe + Initiative (TEI+) has been confirmed to provide resources and expertise for the Court’s independent operations. The TEI+ unites Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the European Union.

TED SUPPORT

Special Criminal Court Evaluation

TED supported the EUD and Member States+ in CAR in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the governance and financial autonomy of the Special Criminal Court. This led to actionable recommendations guiding the TEI+ in supporting the Court during its second mandate.

Political Visibility & Coordination

In December 2024, TED assisted in organising an event alongside the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the International Criminal Court. The event highlighted the CPS’s achievements and challenges, aiming to raise awareness and mobilise partners.

EU Member States+ involved

BE, FR, DE, AT, CH

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Concrete, evidence-based recommendations to guide a coordinated Team Europe + approach in supporting the CPS, covering strategic planning, centralised budgeting, capacity-building, political engagement.
- Strengthened dialogue and coordination among EU actors and international partners.
- Reinforced momentum and motivation for coordinated action in a challenging context.
- Enhanced Team Europe’s visibility and credibility as a partner supporting transitional justice in CAR.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

Nov 2024 – Feb 2025,
with side event on Dec 3, 2024.



TANZANIA

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population:
67.5 million

Head of State :
President Samia Suluhu Hassan

System of Government :
**Unitary Presidential
Democratic Republic**

Head of Government:
President Samia Suluhu Hassan

Last Legislative Elections: **2020**

Next Legislative Elections:
October 2025

Tanzania shows mixed democratic performance: Freedom House rates it “Not Free” (35/100), while V-Dem classifies it as an electoral autocracy¹.

Tanzania has held multiparty elections since transitioning from a one-party state in the early 1990s, but the opposition remains weak. The ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi party has retained power for over 60 years. President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who succeeded John Magufuli after his death

in 2021, initially eased repression but has since reverted to similar tactics. Opposition leaders face arbitrary arrests, media outlets have been suspended, and a wave of violent enforced disappearances of political activists took place during 2024.

With the 2025 elections approaching, narrowing civic space, media suspensions, and repression of opposition raise concerns about democratic reform and constitutional protections.

TED SUPPORT

TED has been accompanying the EU Delegation (EUD) and Member States (MS) in strengthening the joint engagement on justice reform and human rights in Tanzania. Each mission has progressively reinforced the Team Europe approach, moving from sector-specific reform support towards a broader coordinated strategy:

2024 - Criminal Justice Reform

In early 2024, TED reviewed the Othman Chande Commission’s criminal justice reform and provided recommendations to the EU and MS to support the process. The study also mapped donor programs, and highlighted best practices from regional and European experiences. This work informed political dialogue with Tanzanian authorities and reactivated MS interest in the justice and rule of law agenda.

2025 – Joint Approach to Human Rights & Democracy Support

Building on the momentum of the justice reform support, TED is currently finalising the development of a roadmap for a joint EU and MS approach to support Human Rights and Democracy. This includes mapping ongoing EU and MS actions and initiatives, aligning priorities, and strengthening the foundation for collective dialogue and programming.

Member States involved

- **Criminal Justice Reform (2024):**
IE, DE, DK, BE, SE
- **HR&D Support (2025):**
BE, FR, NL, DE, IE, DK, SE, FI, IT, ES, PO

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Provided the EU and MS with a strategic framework for supporting the criminal justice reform process.
- Contributed to political dialogue with Tanzanian authorities on justice sector reform.
- Boosted coordination and MS interest in supporting the justice and rule of law agenda.
- Laid the foundation for a Team Europe approach to support Human Rights and Democracy, enhancing coordination and coherence of actions.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

1. January – March 2024
2. June – September 2025



UGANDA

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population:
47.1 million

System of Government:
Presidential system

Head of State & Government:
**President Yoweri Museveni
(since 1986)**

Last Legislative Elections: **2021**

Next Legislative Elections: **2026**

Uganda is rated as “Not Free” (34/100) by Freedom House and classified by V-Dem as an electoral autocracy.

President Museveni, in power since 1986, has consolidated power through patronage, constitutional changes, and a politicised security apparatus routinely used against political opponents, civil society, and independent media. Ethnic divisions remain politically instrumentalised, while LGBTQIA+

people face severe criminalisation and persecution, reinforced by the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. Socio-economic challenges persist: unemployment, corruption, and rising costs drive discontent, especially among youth.

With the 2026 general elections approaching, concerns mount over intensified repression, executive interference in the judiciary, and the militarization of the state.

TED SUPPORT

Governance and Accountability

In 2023, TED supported the EUD and Member States in drafting an Action Document (AD) for a €1.5 million programme on Advancing Governance and Accountability. Following the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)’s closure, the action document opened new avenues for donor coordination and reinforced Team Europe approach in governance support.

Political Economy Analysis (2024–2025):

Building on this foundation, TED conducted two annual Political Economy Analyses (2024–2025) on democratic governance, further strengthening EUD & Member States collaboration in-country. Focusing on corruption, accountability, civic space, succession and transition, and gender equality, the PEA provides a solid evidence base to make European democracy support more effective, coordinated, and resilient.

Member States involved

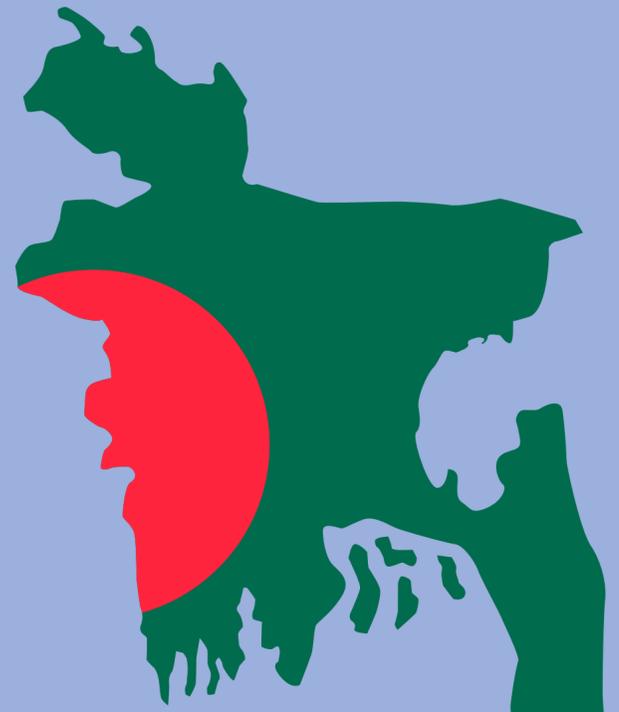
IE, NL, DE, FR, DK, BE

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Strengthening Team Europe governance support and ensuring continuity in donor coordination following the DGF’s closure by drafting the action document for the advancing governance and accountability programme
- Launched a multi-year PEA to guide strategy and resilience of democracy support in Uganda.
- Created space for structured evidence-based MS engagement on sensitive political issues.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

1. March - April 2023
2. May - September 2024 - PEA 1
3. April - June 2025 - PEA 2



BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is rated “Partly Free” (45/100) in Freedom House and classified by V-Dem as an electoral autocracy with autocratising tendencies. Governance challenges include systemic corruption, nepotism, weak oversight, and restrictions on political and civic freedoms.

Bangladesh is one of the world’s most populous countries and hosts one of the largest refugee camps in the world, housing approximately one million Rohingyas from Myanmar since 2017. The low-lying country is also amongst the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. The economy relies heavily on

agriculture, the garment industry, and remittances

In August 2024, a student-led uprising ended the Awami League’s 15-year rule, establishing an interim government under Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus. Civic space has been reopened and reforms targeting the judiciary, electoral system, corruption commission, and constitution have been initiated. However, incidents of violence and political retribution persist, underscoring the need to closely monitor Representation, Rights, and the Rule of Law in the period ahead.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population:
171.5 million

System of Government:
Parliamentary system

Head of Government: **Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus (interim government since 2024)**

Head of State:
President Mohammed Shahabuddin

Last Legislative Elections: **2024**

Next Legislative Elections: **2026**

TED SUPPORT

Twinning Fiche for Anticorruption Action:

In July 2025, TED supported the EUD and Member States in developing and strengthening the Twinning Fiche for a new anticorruption initiative. This included analysing governance and corruption vulnerabilities in the evolving political context, drafting recommendations to enhance the design and impact of the initiative, and facilitating coordination among Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the EU.

EU Member States Involved

SE, CH, NL

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Strengthened the technical foundation for a high-priority EU-funded anticorruption initiative.
- Laid the groundwork for structured, coordinated Team Europe support to accountability and governance reforms through Twinning and mapping of actions.
- Positioned anticorruption as a central pillar of EU engagement with Bangladesh’s interim government and reform agenda.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

July – September 2025



MALAWI

Malawi is rated “Partly Free” (65/100) by Freedom House and classified by V-Dem as an electoral democracy.

While elections are regularly held and peaceful transfers of power have occurred, Malawi faces persistent governance challenges, with systemic corruption undermining accountability. Widespread economic distress further weakens public confidence in institutions. Malawi is heavily dependent on agriculture but with low agricultural productivity, climate shocks, slow structural transformation and an unsustainable public debt, over 70% of

the population lives below the poverty line.

Alongside these concerns, discrimination against minorities and ongoing gender inequality remain significant issues. Courts and civil society have acted as important checks, particularly during the disputed 2019 elections. Recent reforms seek to strengthen judicial independence, though access to justice has declined.

Concerns over rising political violence and widespread electoral distrust rise ahead of the September 2025 elections.



COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population: **21.6 million**

System of Government: **Presidential system**

Head of Government: **President Lazarus Chakwera (since 2020)**

Head of State: **President Lazarus Chakwera**

Last Legislative Elections: **2019**

Next Legislative Elections: **September 2025**

TED SUPPORT

Social Accountability in global gateway investments

In 2025, TED supported the EUD and Member States in defining a framework to strengthen social accountability in Global Gateway investments. This included reviewing governance risks and corruption vulnerabilities in investment projects and designing a comprehensive framework to integrate transparency, citizen monitoring, and governance safeguards across EU-supported initiatives.

Member States involved

IE, DE, NL

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

- Delivered a structured approach for embedding anticorruption and social accountability in EU investments.
- Enabled stronger alignment and coordination among Member States and the EUD on governance priorities.
- Identified effective tools for civil society engagement and oversight in Global Gateway projects.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

May – June 2025



COUNTRY INFORMATION

Population:
18 124 838

System of Government:
Presidential system

Head of Government: **President
Bernardo Arévalo (since 2024)**

Head of State:
President Bernardo Arévalo

Last Legislative Elections: **2023**

Upcoming Legislative Elections:
2027

GUATEMALA

Despite generally free elections, Guatemala faces entrenched corruption, organised crime, weak access to justice, and restrictions on press freedom, leaving it rated partly free (48/100) by Freedom House and classified as an electoral democracy by V-Dem.

The 2023 elections were a turning point,

as the opposition won despite intimidation and harassment of the media, civil society actors and judges. Although the government is currently seeking to advance anti-corruption efforts, politics have been characterised by confrontation: Prosecutorial actions against the president, his party and the Electoral Tribunal are creating obstacles to governance¹

TED SUPPORT

Justice Sector and Civic Space

In early 2025, TED supported the EUD and Member States in analysing justice sector and open government reform processes, providing recommendations on the way forward, mapping Civic Space capacities, and suggesting measures to better involve the sector in national reform processes.

Supporting Good Governance

Building on the momentum of the first support assignment, TED contributed to the design of the new programme “Stronger institutions for stronger Social Cohesion among Regions and Generations”, with integrated key findings into the process. A dedicated component on rule of law and anti-corruption was developed based on said findings.

Member States involved

DE, FR, ES, SE, CH as Observer

RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

TED facilitated collaboration between the EU and Member States in Guatemala, ensuring a coordinated approach to electoral reform. Key recommendations on future reform steps include:

- Prioritising integrity over procedure by supporting systemic reforms that enhance transparency and resilience;
- Aligning electoral reforms with existing Governance and Rule of Law programs, enabling a coherent democracy protection approach.
- Strengthening and scaling up domestic electoral monitoring platforms and Indigenous observation missions, helping them cover conflict-prone areas and combat disinformation.

TIMELINE OF TED ASSIGNMENTS

January – September 2025