

Topic	<p><u>What is the Cost of Running for Office?</u> hidden yet real costs of running for office incurred by prospective candidates, presentation of the findings about the influence of money in politics in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo</p>
Speakers	<p>researchers Jamie Hitchen, Aaron Weah and Camille Forite, from the <u>Westminster Foundation for Democracy</u></p>
Key Takeaways	<p><u>Cost of politics Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Key findings: costs are rising and continuous (and not only financial), candidates bear the largest burden and in many contexts they spend more to win an election than they earn when in office, voters and candidates are increasingly in a transactional relationship <p>Case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Liberia</u>: clear example where youth is the biggest electoral group, but not at all represented as candidates, youth is a very vulnerable group specially after the generation with very little access to education after the war, political candidates buy the votes- <u>Democratic Republic of Congo</u>: clear example where women, youth and people with disabilities had less resources for their electoral campaign, and where electors interviewed perceived the election period as a moment to receive donations from the candidates which represents an additional income for their households
Highlighted Initiatives	<p><u>Cost of politics Study</u> Countries covered: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Albania, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia</p>
<u>Other Resources</u>	<p>All presentations are available <u>here</u> Article <u>What are we learning about the cost of politics?</u> Case study: <u>Senegal</u> Case study: <u>Thailand</u> Case study: <u>Sierra Leone</u></p>