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WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT: COLOMBIA

FINDINGS PRESENTATION

Date, 2023

AGENDA

Assessment Purpose & Approach

Methodology

Barriers & Opportunities

Recommendations



ASSESSMENT PURPOSE AND APPROACH

- The study of women's political leadership in Colombia investigated the barriers to and opportunities for expanding women's participation and leadership in the political landscape.
- It used the Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) Assessment Framework to document women's access to and power in politics along sociocultural, institutional, and individual dimensions.
- The assessment analyzed WPPL through the lenses of access and power.
- USAID can use the report's findings to identify priority areas in which its investments are likely to have the greatest impact.

METHODOLOGY

Desk Review

Key Informant Interviews

- Ten politicians (seven women, three men)
- Four women donors and implementing partners
- One man political leader
- One woman electoral officer
- Seven women WPPL experts
- Two women government officials
- One woman USAID/Embassy staff



METHODOLOGY—FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

No.	Group	Location	Total Participants
1	Women in Civil Society	Bogotá	4
		Caribe	3
		<u>Pacífico</u>	5
2	Women in political parties	Bogotá	3
3	Women Media Workers	Bogotá	4
4	Young Women in political parties	Bogotá	5
5	Men in Civil Society	Bogotá	3
6	Young men in political parties	Bogotá	4
7	Men Media Workers	Bogotá	5

METHODOLOGY—SURVEY

POLITICAL PARTY	GENDER	NO. OF SURVEYS
<u>Pacto Histórico</u>	Women	18
	Men	1
Centro <u>Democrático</u>	Women	4
	Men	10
<u>Alianza Verde</u>	Women	14
	Men	3
Partido Liberal	Women	8
	Men	4
Partido <u>Conservador</u>	Women	0
	Men	5
MAIS	Women	3
	Men	3
Other parties	Women	5
No Party	Women	5

BARRIERS & OPPORTUNITIES



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SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Gender stereotypes
 - Violence against women in politics (VAWP) and electoral contexts
 - “Family voting”
 - Men politicians undermine WPPL
- **Opportunities**



INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Political parties
 - Opaque candidate selection process
 - Lack of women's leadership
 - Women's wings
 - Campaign finance
 - Differential needs of women in politics
 - Lack of women's agenda and voice
 - Marginalized communities face additional barriers
- **Opportunities**
 - VAWP law
 - Presidential Counselor's Office for Women's Equity
 - Women's participation in peace process

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Differential effects on underrepresented communities
 - Inadequate candidate preparedness training
 - VAWP
- **Opportunities**

Period	Percentage of women elected in the Senate	Percentage of women elected in the Chamber
1991–1994	7.2	8.6
1994–1998	6.5	12.7
1998–2002	13.4	11.8
2002–2006	9.8	13.3
2006–2010	12	9.6
2010–2014	16.6	12.6
2014–2018	21.5	19.2
2018–2022	23	18
2022–2026	28.7	29.7

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS



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SOCIO-CULTURAL

- Engage men gatekeepers and allies
- Support WPPL public information campaigns
- Conduct media training

“Women have become more empowered, but [participation] is still lacking because of the fear, the lack of guarantees for our security.”

**-Focus group discussion
participant, woman**

INSTITUTIONAL

- Electoral reform
- Develop monitoring capacity
- Increase women's access to resources
- Funding and technical support for civil society organizations
- Women's right to vote

INDIVIDUAL

- Civic education
- Political preparedness training
- Legal and psychological support



QUESTIONS?



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