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WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Findings Presentation

Date: 2023

AGENDA

- Assessment Purpose & Approach
- Methodology
- Barriers & Opportunities
- Recommendations



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ASSESSMENT PURPOSE & APPROACH

- The study of women's political leadership in Côte d'Ivoire 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.



A young woman voting in the 2023 local elections (USAID/Côte d'Ivoire).

METHODOLOGY

Desk Review

Key Informant Interviews

- Five politicians (two women, three men)
- Two political leaders (one woman, one man)
- Three donors and implementing partners (one woman, two men)
- Three WPPL experts (two women, one man)
- Six women civil society and media representatives
- One man religious leader

METHODOLOGY—FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

LOCATION	GROUP DESCRIPTION	NO. OF FGDS
Abidjan	• Women in Political Parties and Locally Elected Women (RHDP) • Women in Political Parties and Locally Elected Women (PPA-CI) • Women in Political Parties and Locally Elected Women (PDCI-RDA) • Men in Political Parties and Locally Elected Men (RHDP) • Men in Political Parties and Locally Elected Men (PPA-CI) • Men in Political Parties and Locally Elected Men (PDCI-RDA) • Women Media Workers • Men Media Workers • Women in Civil Society • Men in Civil Society • USAID and Embassy	11
Bouaké	• Women in Civil Society • Men in Civil Society	2
Man	• Women in Civil Society (2) • Men in Civil Society (2)	4
Korhogo	• Women in Civil Society (2) • Women in Political Parties and Locally Elected • Men in Civil Society	4
Abengourou	• Women in Civil Society (2) • Men in Civil Society (2) • Media Worker	5
Gagnoa	• Men in Civil Society • Women in Civil Society • Media Worker	3

METHODOLOGY—SURVEY

POLITICAL PARTY	NO. OF SURVEYS
RHDP	• 10 women politicians • 10 men politicians
PDCI	• 10 women politicians • 10 men politicians
PPA-CI	• 10 women politicians • 10 men politicians

BARRIERS & OPPORTUNITIES



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SOCIOCULTURAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Patriarchal norms and attitudes
 - Sociocultural norms
 - Marital status
 - Intimidation, threats, and violence

"Men are still in the past; they want us to be traditional, whereas the world has moved on...that's why, for several years now, they've been doing everything they can to prevent me from being section secretary for my party in this village."
(Focus group discussion with women in civil society)

INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Enforcement capacity and legislation
 - Logistical barriers
 - Violence in political parties
 - Candidate selection processes
 - Parties' support for women candidates
 - Parties' efforts to advance WPPL
- **Opportunities**
 - Quota law
 - Laws on violence against women

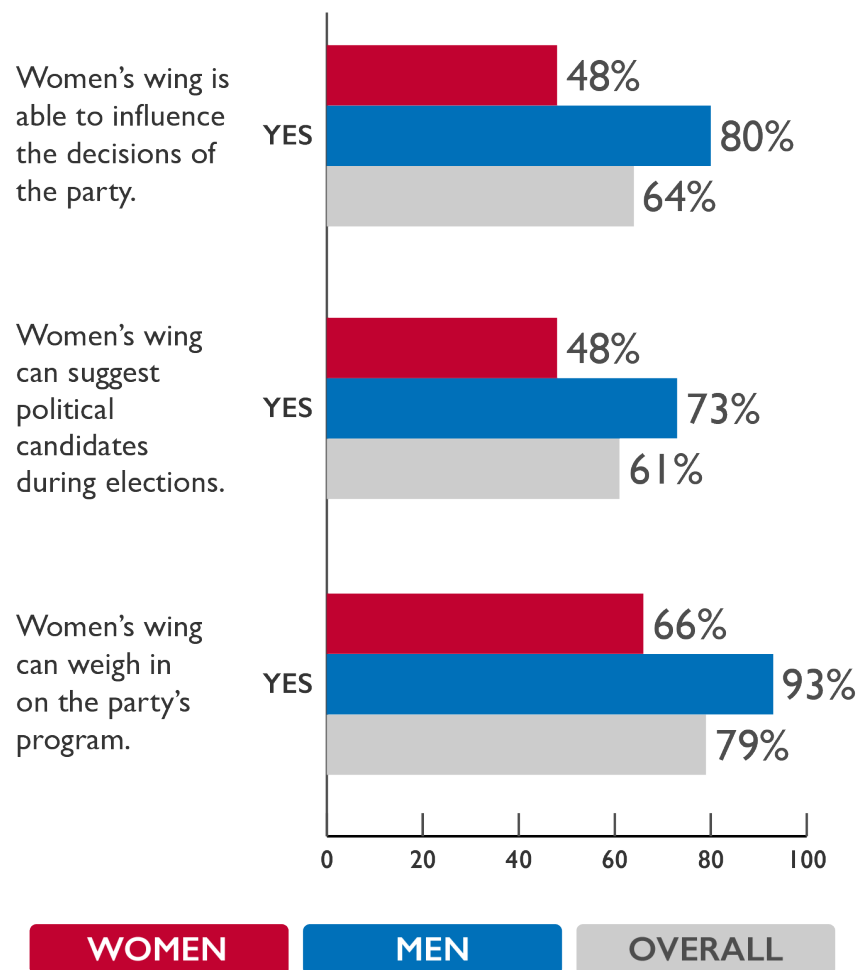


Group of youth who were working to combat hate speech (USAID/Côte d'Ivoire).

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

- **Barriers**
 - Confidence and political awareness
 - Political violence
 - Educational attainment and training
 - Personal financial means
 - Domestic responsibilities

SHARE OF POLITICIANS, BY SEX AND OVERALL, WHO FELT THAT THEIR PARTY'S WOMEN'S WING HAD INFLUENCE ACROSS THREE AREAS OF PARTY DECISION-MAKING.



SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS



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SOCIOCULTURAL

- Gender transformative education programs
- Mobilize influential men and women
- Cultivate a culture of equality
- Women leaders as role models
- Address sociocultural factors

“There are women who fight. There are women who are ready for anything. With their limited means, they’re ready to go meet with the population because they have a chance to convince electors and see the work they’ve done And these people then won’t hesitate to go out and vote. Yes, we have seen cases like that. Women who started from nothing, who had only a primary school education, but who became members of parliament, beating doctors and academics.”

(Focus group discussion with women in civil society, Bouaké)

INSTITUTIONAL

- Strengthen the CEI gender unit
- Reduce logistical barriers
- Women's involvement in local level decision making
- Enforce the 2019 gender quota law
- Complementary gender quota law
- Legislation to address political violence
- Women's leadership in party structures
- Improve data and reporting

INDIVIDUAL

- Foster solidarity
- Women's civic education
- Literacy and education for girls and women
- Women's earnings and wealth equality
- Capacity of women candidates
- Mentorship program for women political candidates

QUESTIONS?



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