



Together, we build resilient democracies that deliver for all.

ABOUT IFES

IFES advances democracy for a better future. We collaborate with civil society, public institutions and the private sector to build resilient democracies that deliver for everyone. As a global leader in the promotion and protection of democracy, our technical assistance and applied research develops trusted electoral bodies capable of conducting credible elections; effective and accountable governing institutions; civic and political processes in which all people can safely and equally participate; and innovative ways in which technology and data can positively serve elections and democracy. Since 1987, IFES has worked in more than 145 countries, from developing to mature democracies. IFES is a global, nonpartisan nonprofit organization based in Arlington, Virginia, and registered as a 501(c)(3).

OUR VISION

Democracy for a better future.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Electoral Integrity

Trusted electoral stakeholders deliver credible elections.

Anti-Corruption & Democratic Trust

Effective governing institutions are accountable to the people they serve.

Democratic Inclusion & Human Rights

All people safely participate in civic and political life on an equal basis.

Cyber & Information Integrity

Technology, information and data positively serve elections and democracy.

IFES

By The Numbers



Reached 25M+
people with civic and voter education in 2021



Supported 30
elections in 2021,
training 300K+
election officials



Worked across 58
countries in 2021

She Leads Women's Leadership Program

She Leads, a flagship program of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), empowers women with the skills and knowledge to take on leadership roles in political and electoral processes through a series of beginner, intermediate and advanced training levels. To date, *She Leads* has trained over 7,500 women in eight countries and continues to expand. Each program is tailored to the cultural and contextual needs of the country, and reflects lessons learned from successful *She Leads* alumnae. As a result of the *She Leads* program, alumnae developed formal and informal personal networks, increased self-confidence and assumed leadership roles to advance women's political participation.

Program Highlights

Applying Skills and Knowledge

A unique facet of the *She Leads* program is that participants have community mobilization assignments between trainings. The assignments help the women apply skills and knowledge from the trainings in their communities. These assignments have included conducting voter education, advocating for gender-inclusive decision-making and teaching others about the role of elected representatives, ultimately reaching over 200,000 individuals.

Becoming Leaders

She Leads alumnae report feeling better prepared and confident to serve as leaders in their communities, with participants twice as likely to think they could be a leader compared to when they started the program. *She Leads* alumnae have taken on leadership roles as elected officials, representatives on local councils or working groups, and domestic observers, formed their own community-based organizations, and felt more empowered to fill leadership positions. Two *She Leads* alumnae were even selected to serve as commissioners in the highest electoral office in their countries, carrying out executive duties and bearing the responsibility for electoral leadership.

Advocating for Change

She Leads participants in various countries advocate for more women in leadership positions and encourage women's political participation. One such effort is IFES' "We Stand Together" campaign, launched in 2017 at in Myanmar. Supporters advocated to elected officials on the importance of women's political participation, mobilize their communities and collected photo petitions demonstrating support from regional-level roundtables.

FIGURE 1¹



¹ *She Leads* Nepal participants complete a training activity.

She Leads Curriculum

Beginner Training

In the beginner-level training sessions, women gain technical knowledge on topics such as "Getting Involved in the Electoral Process," "Women's Leadership" and "Gender Equality." Thus far, the beginner trainings have been also adapted as a young women's training and as a training for women living in former conflict areas.

Intermediary Training

The intermediary curriculum offers greater insight on more complex technical topics such as "Ethical Leadership" and "Power Mapping." Participants also develop additional leadership skills including strategic questioning and working with the media.

Advanced Training

Bringing together alumnae who have completed intermediary trainings, participants in the advanced training partake in a multi-day course providing advanced technical training and leadership skills capacity-building



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such as “Personal Action Planning,” “Overcoming Objections” and “Mediation.”

Campaign Skills Bootcamp

Building on successful *She Leads* candidate trainings that IFES led in Sri Lanka, the *She Leads* Nepal program implemented a “Campaign Skills Bootcamp” introduced current elected women in the *She Leads* program the skills and steps necessary to run an effective campaign for re-election. Following this training, 50 percent of participants were nominated for re-election.

Advocacy Skills Training

Throughout the *She Leads* program, participants learn skills associated with advocacy efforts, including “Working with the Media,” “Community Mobilization,” and “Working with Stakeholders.” In Nepal, IFES developed a full *She Leads* advocacy training to engage former elected women who had completed the *She Leads* program, as they transitioned from elected leaders to community leaders or other leadership roles. The advocacy skills training provides alumnae with the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt what they have learned through the *She Leads* program to continue to advocate for inclusive, participatory governance.



“Before the training I hoped I might be a leader. Now I know I will be a leader.”

— Su Hlaing Tu (far left) Young Women's Training participant

Success Story

When Lalita Chaudhary was elected as a ward committee member in Duhabi Municipality-12, Sunsari district in Nepal's 2017 local elections, she had no experience in politics. However, she recognized that politics could be a powerful means to solve many issues facing her community. Like many elected women representatives in Nepal, Lalita faced compounding difficulties fulfilling her role due to cultural barriers to women's leadership in political spaces, which have been historically reserved for and dominated by men. After completing the beginner's and intermediary *She Leads* trainings, she gained knowledge, leadership skills and confidence and began to voice her opinions in ward committee meetings. Her growing confidence and skills are reflected in her successful election as a member of her political party's regional committee.



“The She Leads training helped me gain confidence and prepared me to work in higher positions within my political party.”

— Lalita Chaudhary, Ward Committee Member
Sunsari district, Nepal

