



Overview

Since 1995, IFES has worked front and center on women's issues around the world, many times as a result of elections work in ensuring all individuals vote, such as in Afghanistan's historic elections in 2004. IFES has educated women around the world, encouraged their participation and incorporated their voice into the electoral process. IFES has worked from Papua New Guinea to Mali, from Indonesia to Qatar and India to Kazakhstan on strengthening women's voices and participation in the democratic process.

Program Title	Program Description	Impact/Results
<p>Middle East and North Africa: Status of Women 2008-2010 <i>CIDA</i></p>	<p>Measures how women in Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen see themselves as members of society, the economy and the polity. These measures combine individual-level public opinion data and country-level statistical data into a set of comprehensive and comparable indicators and corresponding policy recommendations. Subsequently, the project will use the information to build capacity of local NGOs seeking to improve women's well-being by providing them with tools to develop policy recommendations and skills for working on media, advocacy campaigns and activities with parliament to advance issues of women's status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved availability of useful and effective data to analyze women's status in politics, economy, society, and family. ✓ Strengthened NGO-capacity to pursue research-based advocacy on behalf of women to influence the policy process around women's status issues. ✓ Increased understanding and awareness of the status and needs of women by legislators and other political leaders.
<p>Yemen: Building the Capacity of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) Women's Department 2009 <i>British Embassy, Yemen</i></p>	<p>Strengthen the internal administrative and organizational skills of the Women's Department of the election commission in Yemen to have a greater impact on electoral policy and to increase women's overall participation in political life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved women's participation in parliamentary and local elections ✓ Greater resource provision to the Women's Department within the election commission's budget
<p>Afghanistan: Civic education promoting women's participation in electoral processes; Women's Rights Under Islam. 2004-2011 <i>USAID</i></p>	<p>Current IFES programming targeting women in Afghanistan is focused on civic education related to voter registration and the election process.</p> <p>IFES is also carrying out programming aimed at promoting issue-based elections by helping women define priorities and engaging candidates on issues specifically relevant to women.</p> <p>Face-to-face voter education programs carried out for the 2004 and 2005 elections in all provinces of Afghanistan reached some 2 million eligible female voters. Women-focused outreach focused on rights and civic duties of Afghan women in the democratic process.</p> <p>In 2007-2008 IFES implemented a nation-wide "Women's Rights Under Islam" initiative aimed at promoting dialogue and understanding of the rights of women within an Afghan constitutional and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase Afghan women's understanding of the electoral process and increase likelihood of participation in democratic governance. ✓ Build the capacity of Afghan women to engage with elected officials and in the electoral process by identifying priority issues and interacting with candidates. ✓ Increased understanding of democratic and electoral processes. ✓ Men and women in Afghanistan were exposed to religious and legal arguments which contribute to the advancement and promotion of women's human rights.

IFES Initiatives and Impact on Women's Issue:



	Islamic framework. 115 seminars/discussions took place along with 32 broadcast talk-shows.	
Sierra Leone: Winning with Women 2008 USAID	Strengthen the participation of women in the 2008 elections and beyond. This included a massive awareness campaign including radio programs, newspaper articles and IEC materials including 12,000 posters - conducted by IFES and NEC staff and five PPRC gender staff members salaried by IFES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased percentage of women councilors in Sierra Leone from 11% to 19% in the 2008 elections.
Guinea: Support Transparent & Credible Legislative Elections with Increased Women's Participation 2007-2009 USAID	Strengthen women's participation: A Women's Memorandum was produced to address recommendations to the National Assembly, the Government, political parties, civil society, development partners and the media on strengthening women's participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Served as a catalyst for putting issues of women's participation on the agenda at an important ECOWAS Electoral Management Bodies meeting in Conakry in February, 2008.
Global: Study on Women's Socio-Political Participation 2000 UN, Vital Voices, Oxygen Media	Forum on Women's Global Access and Leadership on the 5th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. Forum based on comparison of public opinion survey data from Belarus, Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to see differences between men and women in terms of socio-political participation and attitudes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Economic difficulties experienced in the three post-Soviet republics have an effect of dampening socio-political participation despite the educational resources of women.
Tajikistan: Promoting Women's Political Participation 1999-2005 USAID, OSCE, British Embassy in Tajikistan, Swiss Development Corporation	Trained women candidates to run for office in the first local and national elections held in Tajikistan since the 1992-1997 civil war. Increased their interest in political participation as voters, observers and candidates. Enhanced appreciation of rights as equal citizens and decision-makers. Promoted gender equality as a political issue with all parties in Tajikistan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over 200 women's candidates empowered to run for seats in local councils and national parliament as both independent and party-affiliated candidates (as a result, outside of the Scandinavian countries Tajikistan had the highest percentage in the world of its national parliament comprised of women) ✓ Political parties increased focus on women's issues, either creating or enhancing women's subcommittees on a national and local level within their party structures.
Qatar: Women Candidate's Political Empowerment 1998 USAID	Empower women prior to Qatar's 1st election; where women were also able to participate as voters and candidates. IFES conducted intensive training program for female candidates, campaign staff, and interested Qatari women in Arabic-language materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 7 women announced their candidacies for the historic March 1999 nation-wide elections.



India: Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLRI)

WLRI consisted of legal aid, legal literacy, advocacy, public information, capacity building and research components. While some activities were conducted at the national level, the majority of the interventions were in two target states – Karnataka and Rajasthan. Interventions spread to include 43 partner organizations working at the national level and the local level -- in 16 districts of Karnataka and 20 districts of Rajasthan.

IFES has implemented this initiative in India since November 2003, with funding by USAID and in partnership with Indian NGOs and government agencies to enhance the ability of women to protect their rights and increase their access to justice by:

- Expansion of knowledge, dialogue societal and legal response on rights violations
- Increase availability of legal assistance through NGOs and community groups

Key Initiatives

- Twenty eight anti-violence counseling centers for women
- Women Power Connect, a national coalition of over 700 members country-wide united to professionally lobby Parliament
- Community-based groups addressing violence against women, female feticide and property rights of women
- Engaging boys and young men to promote gender equity in rural areas and urban slums
- Gender trainings for doctors, judges, public prosecutors and religious leaders
- Help desks for women in family courts
- Network of lawyers and paralegals to assist women's access to justice
- Enhancing Muslim women's knowledge about rights under the Qur'an and the Indian Constitution
- Capacity building of key national government officials and local elected women representatives on gender-responsive budgeting

Key Results

- ✓ Programs implemented in two states in 36 districts and at the national level;
- ✓ Partnerships established with 43 partner NGOs with significant capacity-building both in terms of issues and management;
- ✓ 55 NGO counseling, legal aid, and mediation programs created and strengthened including twenty eight dedicated anti-violence and rights counseling centers for women;
- ✓ 3538 community-based initiatives for gender equity started and strengthened;
- ✓ 157,430 women received legal information, advice or support directly from partners;
- ✓ 819,305 women, girls, men and boys participated in VAW programs organized by the various components of the program with a total outreach to 2.3 million people; 29.5 million were also reached through a TV serial.
- ✓ 164,948 people were trained in human rights protection which, in addition to community members, included: