



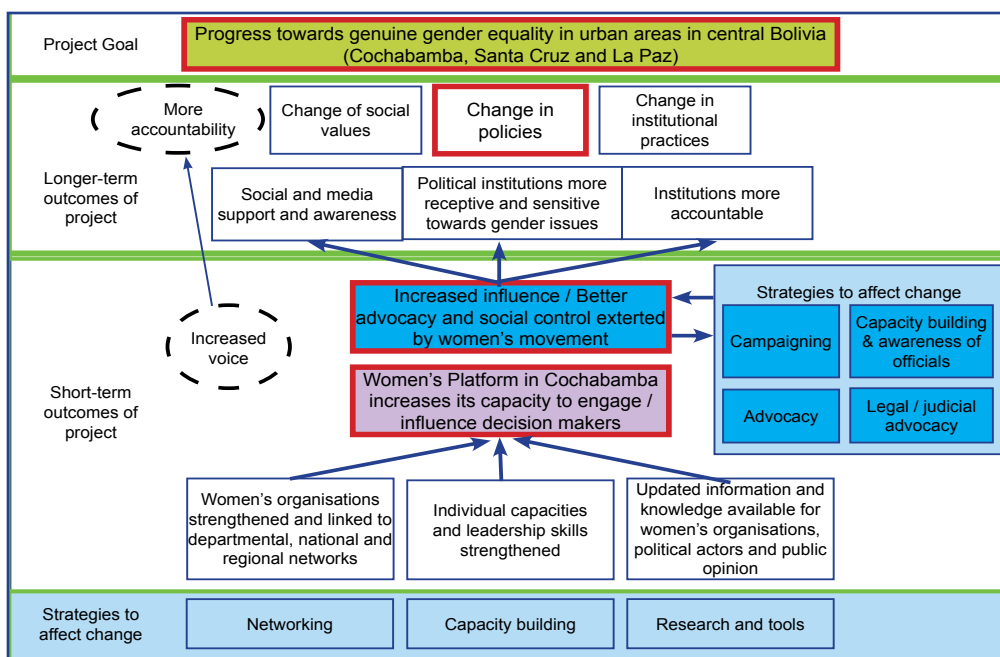
Bolivia

Citizen Voice

2013/14

Women's citizenship for change through intercultural forums in urban areas

This project was part of the Raising Her Voice portfolio which aims to promote the rights and capacity of women to engage effectively in governance at all levels. The project was implemented by partner organisation Instituto de Formación Femenina Integral (IFFI), a women's organisation based in the city of Cochabamba, and Oxfam GB. Together, they supported another organisation, the Women's Platform, to increase the leadership and capacity of women and institutions involved, and their participation and influence in political decision-making processes. This contributes to the project's goal of promoting gender equality in the metropolitan region of the city.



This diagram presents the theory of how this project was expected to achieve change. It demonstrates project activities and the outcomes that were expected to contribute to the overall goal of the project. The overall project goal, and outcomes assessed during the review are outlined in red.

Project date: August 2008 - March 2013

Evaluation: April 2014

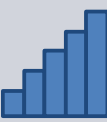
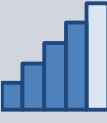
Publication: November 2014








Evaluation Design

The evaluation identified and sought the effectiveness of specific outcomes the project sought to achieve. Areas of improvement or approaches that can be replicated in other projects were also identified.

For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Results

Project outcome	Rating	Commentary
The Women's Platform of Cochabamba has contributed, with their committed and steadfast participation, to mainstreaming gender in the Departmental Statute of Autonomy		The organisation's strategy to mainstream gender in the Departmental Statute of Autonomy was found to be significantly effective. Evidence shows that the work of the Women's Platform was key to the achievement of this outcome.
Proposals by the Women's Platform have been incorporated into the political agenda of the municipality of Cercado.		At local level there is evidence that the organisation has managed to include some of its traditional demands in local public policies. However, the contribution of the project to achieving some of these political outcomes is not in all cases clear or conclusive.

Rating key:  - Outcome realised in full; evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution;  - Outcome realised in full & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made some contribution;  - Outcome realised to a small degree & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised, to any degree, but no evidence that the intervention made any contribution

Different documents and testimonies gathered show the continuous presence and lobbying by the Women's Platform during the whole legislative process significantly contributed to supporting the parliamentary work of members of the Departmental Assembly, and were key to establishing strong alliances with both women and men policy makers. The need to reinforce advocacy strategies with a stronger and clearer approach to contribute to mainstreaming gender in public municipal policies from different angles was also identified. The data collected indicated these achievements had not resulted in greater support or political institutional will for gender issues. Therefore, how much that can be sustainably achieved without improving awareness and political will of the municipal institution, is questionable.

Going forward

Based on the experience of the Women's Platform in Cochabamba, Oxfam escalated the work to support a national level campaign to engage and build capacity of National Legislative Assembly candidates on the contents of a national women's agenda. Oxfam also supported the establishment of a broader but also less institutionalised national network where NGOs, whose agendas specifically focus on issues of women rights and gender equality, can be joined with unions and social movements. In order to further the agenda on gender equality and women's rights, strategies to build alliances will be developed in line with the outcomes from thorough and permanent power and stakeholder analyses. Future programmes will also consider influencing stakeholders such as social movements, civil society organizations, church related institutions and movements, and social and public media, rather than exclusively focussing on influencing political parties or political leadership.

Since the review, the Women's Platform and IFFI have had a leading role assisting political parties to significantly increase the number of women representatives in both legislative bodies at national level during the latest national elections. Women's empowerment and women's transformational leadership have been identified as key in order to affect change in the new country strategic plan for Oxfam in Bolivia (2014-2019). Focus has been given to active citizenship, strengthening key social movements and civil society organisations at organisational and individual level. The Women's Platform has been identified as one of those key civil society organisations.

Photo credit: IFFI