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# Voice & Agency Matter

## Evidence on the impact of women's political empowerment projects

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WOMEN'S VOICE, AGENCY AND PARTICIPATION

MANILA, JUNE 2-4, 2014



# Outline

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I. The state of women's political participation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

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II. IADB's work on supporting women's political leadership in LAC

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III. Evidence on the impact of women's political empowerment projects

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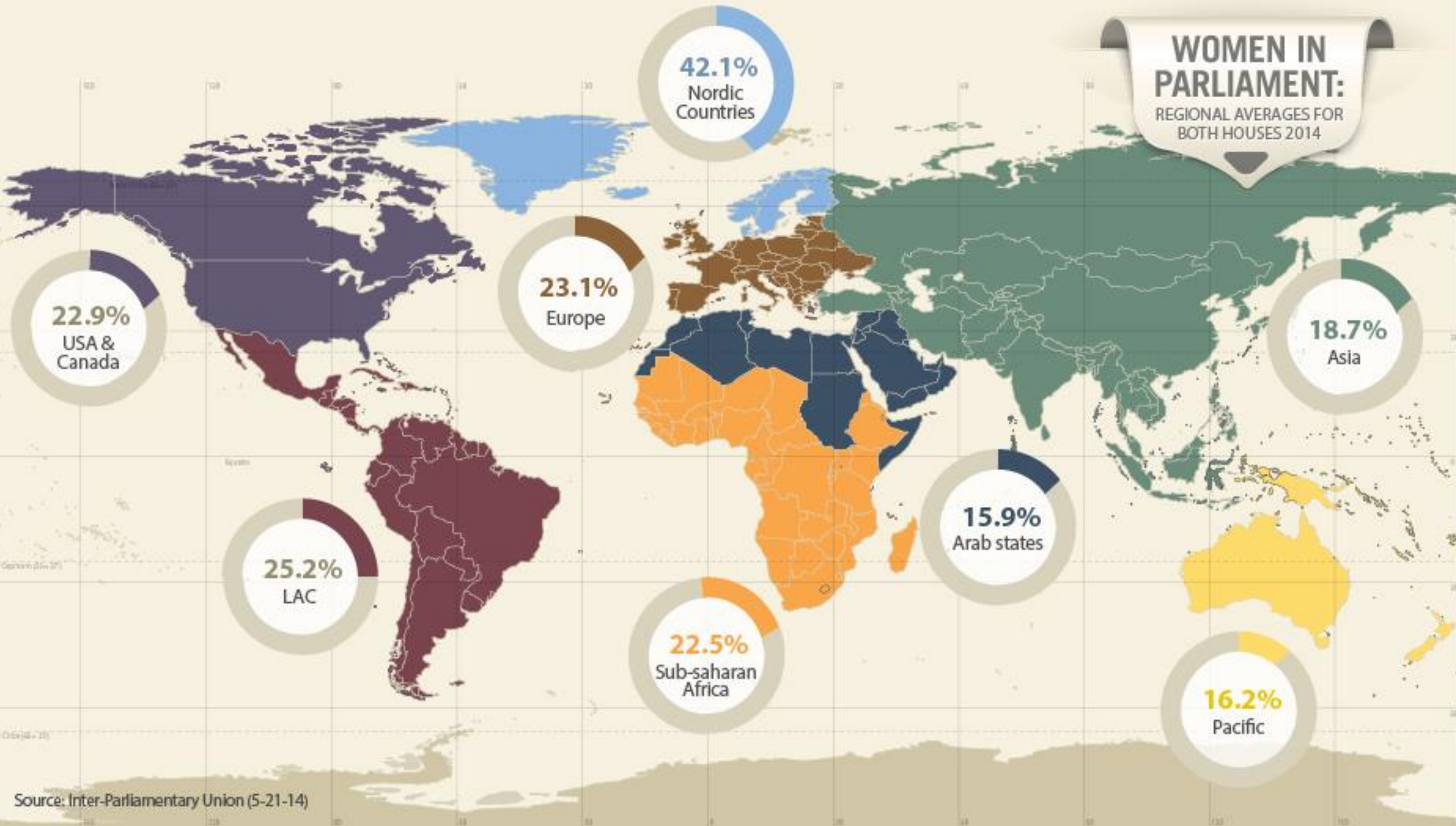
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# I. The state of women's political participation in Latin America and the Caribbean

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# WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT:




REGIONAL AVERAGES FOR BOTH HOUSES 2014



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (5-21-14)

## WOMEN HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT

IN LATIN AMERICA  
& THE CARIBBEAN

-  Countries currently with democratically elected female heads of state
-  Countries with democratically elected female heads of state in past
-  Female vice-presidents that assumed the presidency or served during a transition period
-  Countries with no female heads of state or government





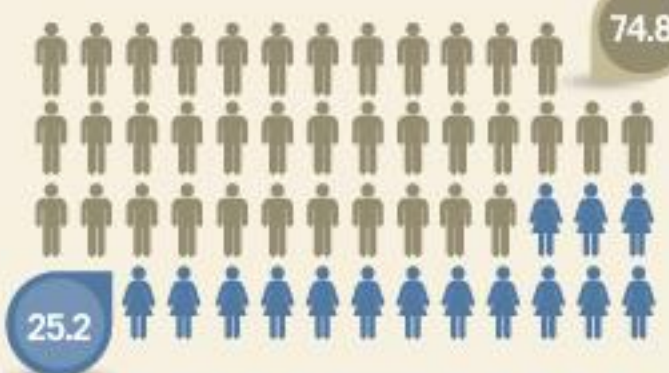
# WOMEN & POLITICS: LATIN AMERICA



\* Data for Argentina and Panama corresponds to elections held before 2012.  
 \*\* Data for most recent elections (as of May 2014) except for Panama.  
 Source: - GEPPAL database, IDB/PROLEAD.  
 - Inter-Parliamentary Union May 2014.

## WOMEN & POLITICS: THE CARIBBEAN

Percent of female and male parliamentarians in Latin America & the Caribbean.



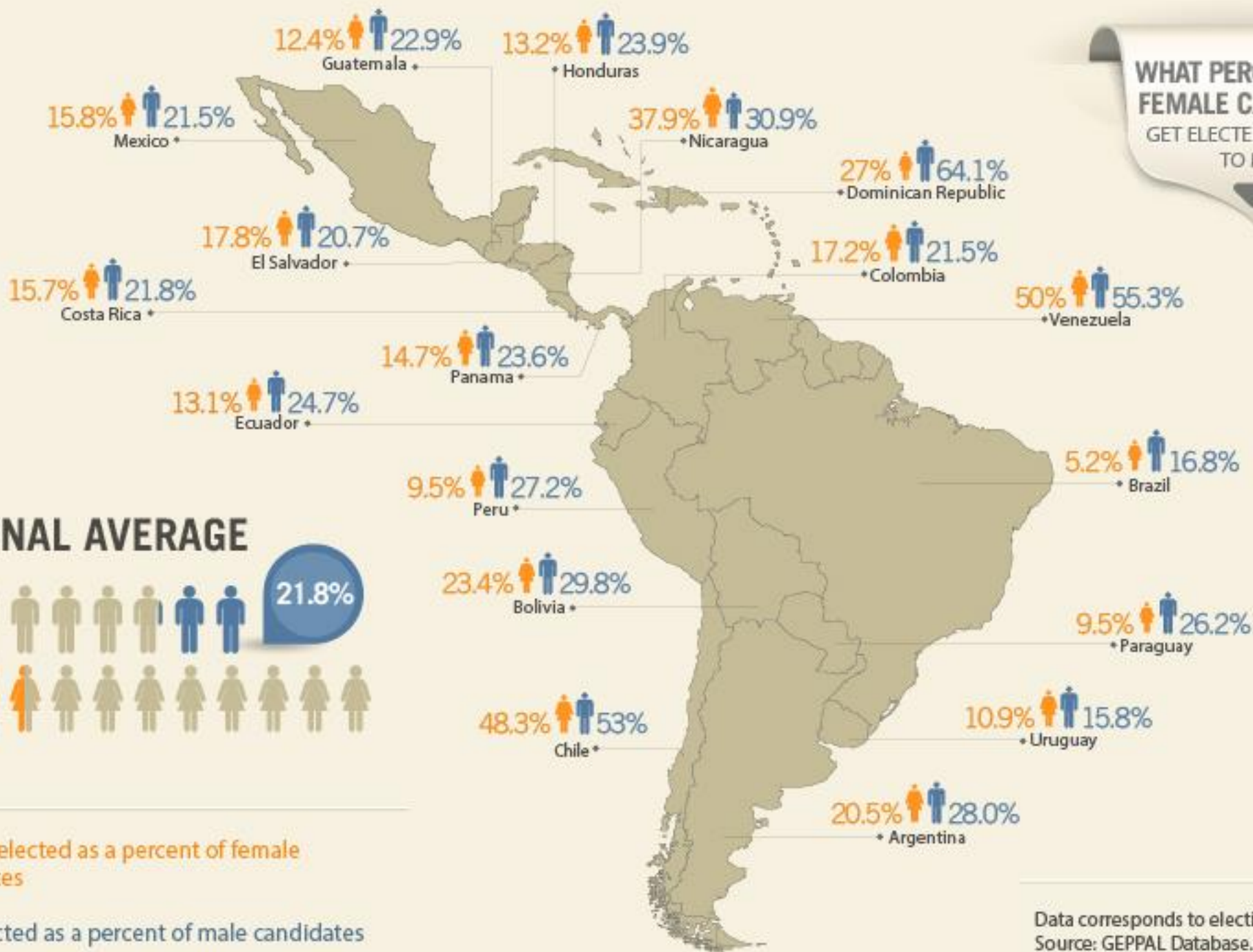
% Women elected to Congress (both houses/unicameral legislatures)

- Countries with quota laws for female legislative candidates
- Countries without quota laws for women
- Countries with quota laws for female legislative candidates and quota laws for women in political parties

\* Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (5-21-14) and GEPPAL database. IDB/PROLEAD.



**WHAT PERCENTAGE OF  
FEMALE CANDIDATES  
GET ELECTED COMPARED  
TO MEN?**



Data corresponds to elections held before July 2012.  
Source: GEPPAL Database. IDB/PROLEAD.



## PARTY POLITICS:

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION  
IN LATIN AMERICA



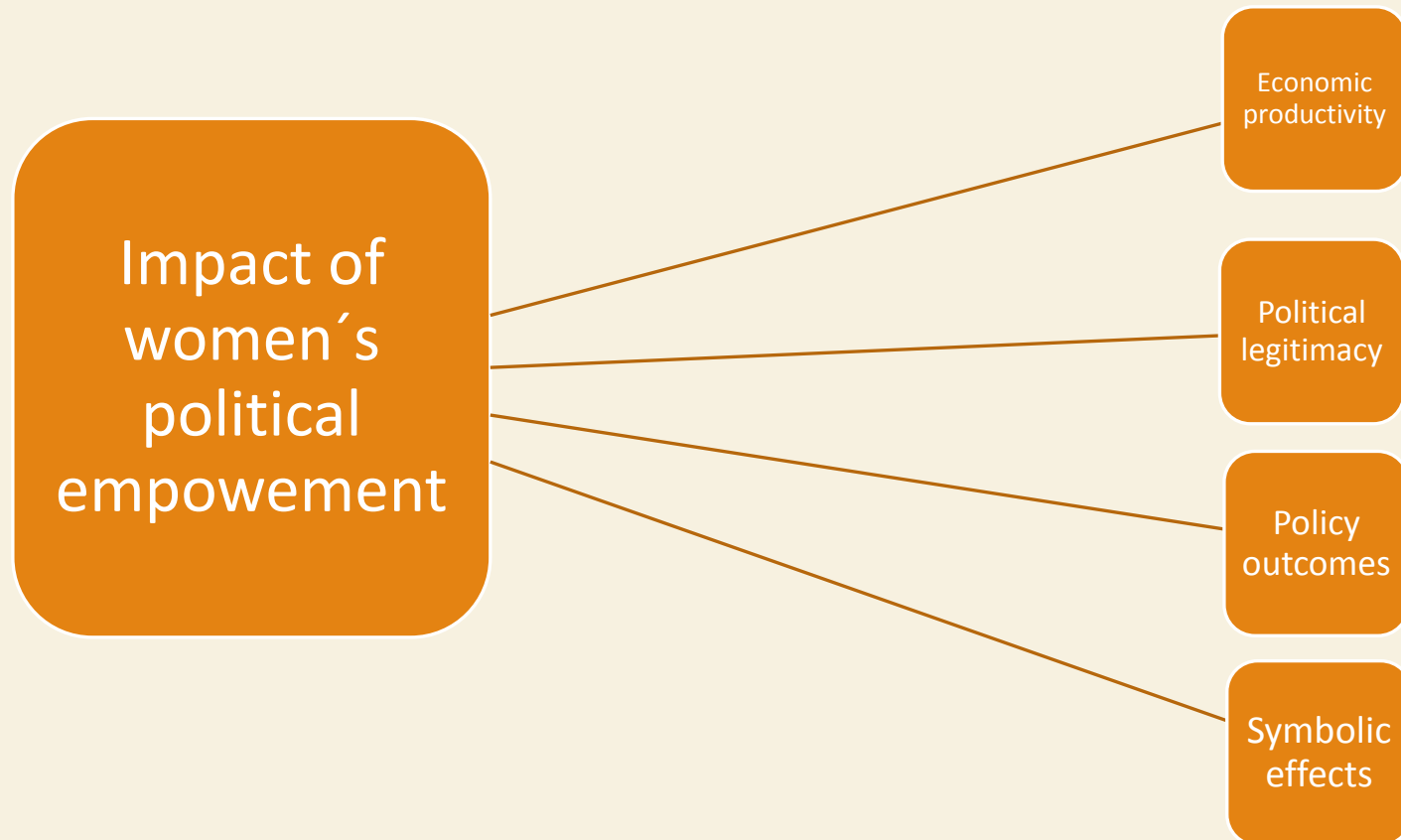
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## II. IADB's work on supporting women's political empowerment in LAC

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# Why is it a development strategy?

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# IDB investments in Latin America & Caribbean

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US\$24 million invested in women's leadership and political empowerment in region since 1995, mainly through its signature *Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation* (PROLEAD)

More than 160 non-governmental and governmental organizations supported in the region, many of them targeting indigenous and afro-descendant women



Parlamento Mujer



Corporacion Sisma



GEPPAL ([www.iadb.org/research/GEPPAL](http://www.iadb.org/research/GEPPAL))



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### III. Evidence on the impact of women's political empowerment projects

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# What works?

<b>Voter awareness campaign in Pakistan</b>	increased women's turnout rates and that of their close untreated neighbor, indicating large geographical spillover effects (Gine and Mansuri 2011)
<b>Community-based monitoring of public primary health care providers in Uganda</b>	led to large increases in utilization and improved health outcomes—reduced child mortality and increased child weight (Bjorkman and Svensson 2009)
<b>Village Councils assigned to be headed by women in India</b>	invest more in infrastructure that is directly related to women's interests (Chattopadhyay and Duflo 2004)
<b>Exposure to female leaders in Indian Village Councils</b>	A) weakens stereotypes about gender roles in public and domestic spheres and eliminates the negative bias in male villager's perception on female leaders' effectiveness (Beaman et. Al. 2008); B) influences adolescent girls' career aspirations and educational attainment (Beaman et. Al. 2012)
<b>Development programs that mandate women's community participation in Afghanistan</b>	improve women's mobility and income generation, however, they produce no change in more entrenched female roles linked to family decision-making or in attitudes towards the general role of women in society (Beath, Christia and Enikolopov 2013)
<b>Gender of politicians in India</b>	affects the educational levels of Individuals who grow up in the districts where these politicians are elected (Clots-Figueras 2012)

# IDB efforts to build knowledge base through impact evaluations



Electoral and community participation campaign in Guatemala



Voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaign in Paraguay

# Conclusions

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Challenge of finding natural experiments or interventions that lend themselves to an experimental design

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While monetary cost of intervention may be low, impact evaluations significantly increase costs

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Randomization is often difficult to implement and poses various constraints

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Impact evaluations carry significant risks at high costs

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We have a limited but growing knowledge of what development strategies work and don't work to promote women's voice & agency

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IDB/PROLEAD will continue to focus on impact evaluations to build knowledge base

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