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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

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Outline

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

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

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

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

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT:

REGIONAL AVERAGES FOR BOTH HOUSES 2014

42.1%
Nordic
Countries

23.1%
Europe

22.9%
USA &
Canada

18.7%
Asia

25.2%
LAC

15.9%
Arab states

22.5%
Sub-saharan
Africa

16.2%
Pacific

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



% Women legislative candidates (both houses/unicameral legislatures)*

% 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

* 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.

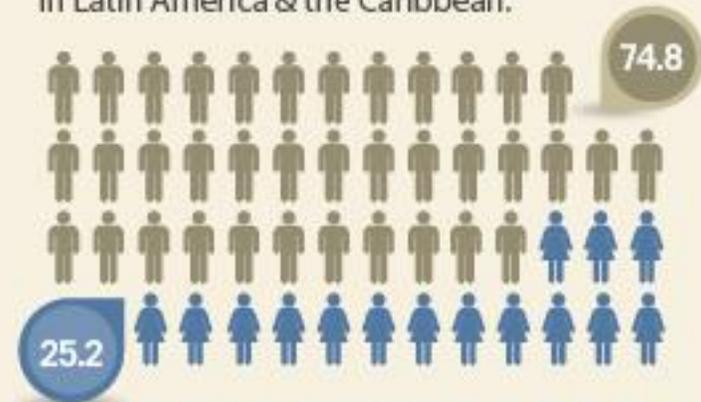
- Inter-Parliamentary Union May 2014.



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

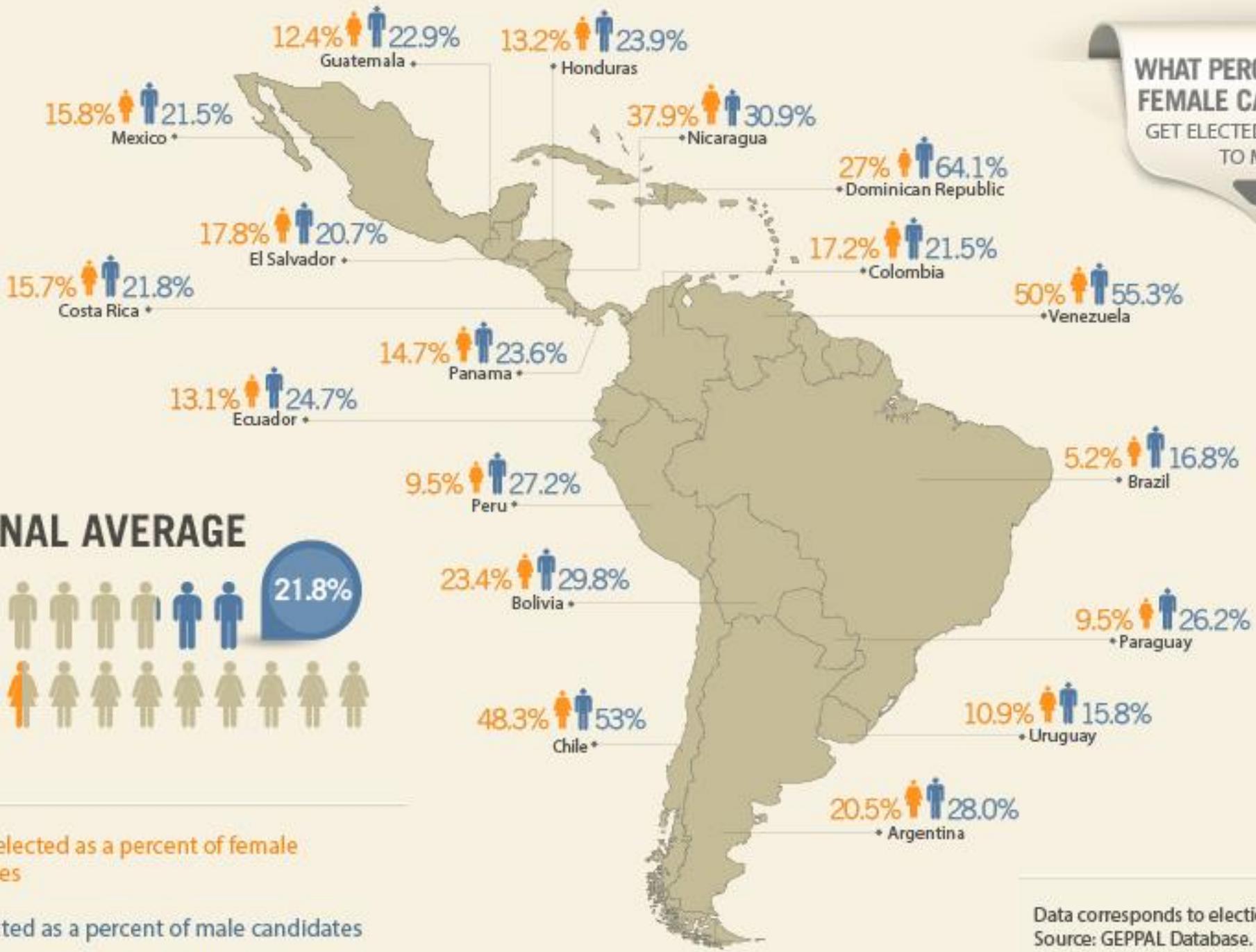
■ Countries without quota laws for women

■ 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?



REGIONAL AVERAGE



Women elected as a percent of female candidates

Men elected as a percent of male candidates

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

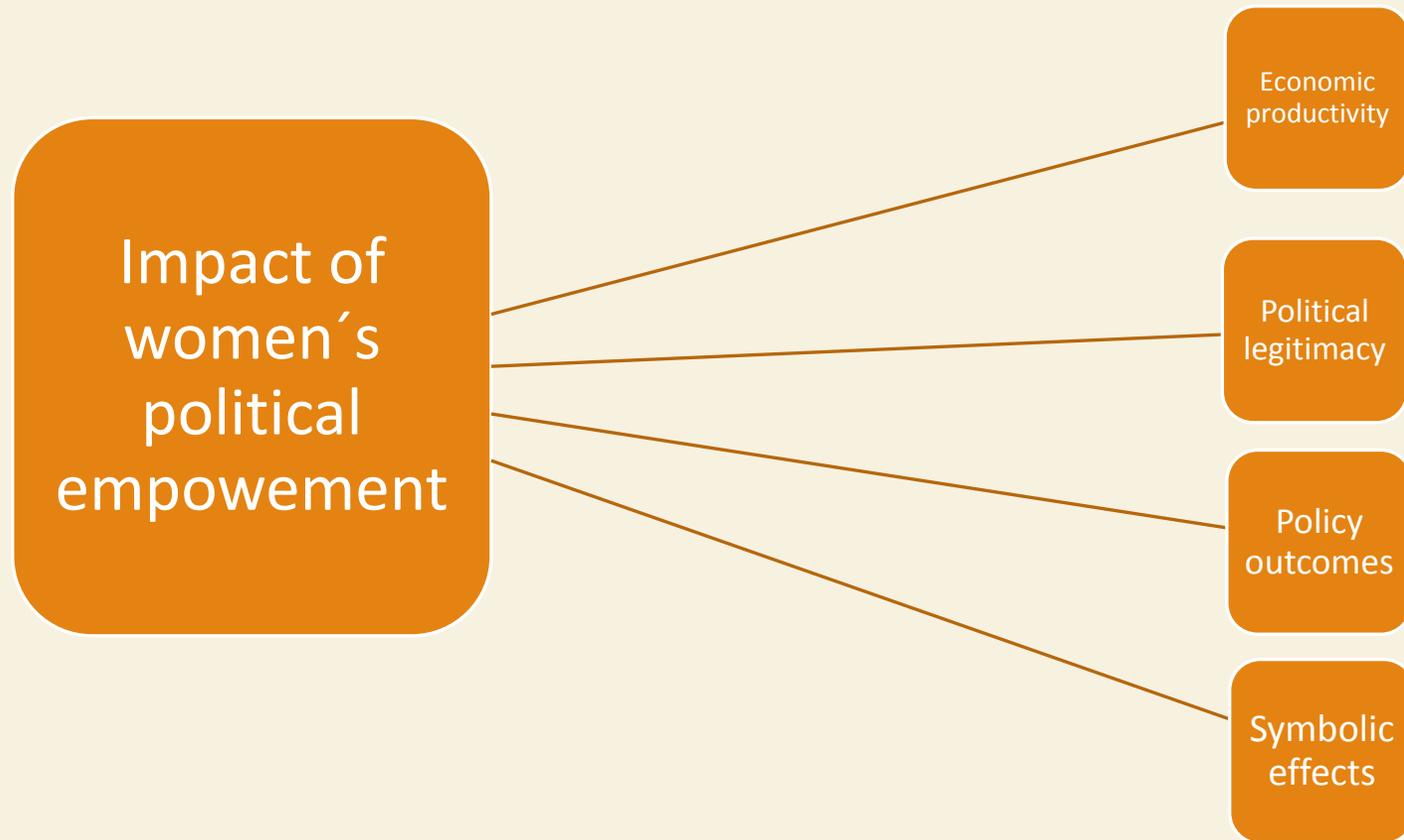
PARTY POLITICS:

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION
IN LATIN AMERICA



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

Why is it a development strategy?



IDB investments in Latin America & Caribbean

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)

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

What works?

Voter awareness campaign in Pakistan	increased women's turnout rates and that of their close untreated neighbor, indicating large geographical spillover effects (Gine and Mansuri 2011)
Community-based monitoring of public primary health care providers in Uganda	led to large increases in utilization and improved health outcomes—reduced child mortality and increased child weight (Bjorkman and Svensson 2009)
Village Councils assigned to be headed by women in India	invest more in infrastructure that is directly related to women's interests (Chattopadhyay and Duflo 2004)
Exposure to female leaders in Indian Village Councils	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)
Development programs that mandate women's community participation in Afghanistan	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)
Gender of politicians in India	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

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

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

Randomization is often difficult to implement and poses various constraints

Impact evaluations carry significant risks at high costs

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

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