



Inter-American Development Bank

|| CALL FOR PROPOSALS

|| WOMEN'S VOICE AND AGENCY IN PUBLIC LIFE: GENERATING RIGOROUS EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 13, 2015

The Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) *Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation* (PROLEAD) announces a call for proposals for impact evaluations that analyze the effectiveness of interventions that promote women's voice and agency in public life in Latin America and the Caribbean. Voice refers to an individual's participation in decision-making in their households, communities and societies; agency is the ability of individuals or groups to make effective choices and transform those choices into desired outcomes (World Bank, World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2012).

At least **three grants** will be awarded of up to **\$US 45,000 each**, depending on the scope of the work proposed. The eligible impact evaluations can use either an experimental, quasi-experimental or mixed methods design. Support can be provided for activities at any stage of the evaluation process, including the design process, collection of baseline data, collection of follow-up data or the impact analysis based on existing or already collected data.

1) Justification and Background

Over the last two decades, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has witnessed a visible trend: the increasing participation of women in public office. Five female presidents and heads of state currently hold office simultaneously. At the legislative level, women increased their representation in national elected office from 9 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 2014. Also, today women are more likely to form part of local government or participate in the oversight of programs at the community level.

But despite significant gains, important challenges remain that inhibit women's effective political participation. Women's presence in political decision-making positions remains low when we consider that women comprise one-half of the region's population.

In addition, despite new spaces for citizen engagement, women continue to have fewer opportunities than men to exercise agency. Women have often been excluded from participating in policy design and programs that directly impact their lives, and from efforts to demand greater government responsiveness and accountability.

Several initiatives to bridge the gender gaps in voice and agency in LAC have been undertaken by different actors, including national governments, NGOs, bilateral cooperation and multilateral institutions. These include enacting quota laws to increase female presence in parliaments, encouraging women to vote, training prospective leaders to increase the pool of electable women and creating spaces for women's oversight of community projects. However, little is known about the impact of policies and programs that promote women's voice and agency in public life or about the impact of women's increased participation in decision making spheres in expanding gender equality in the region.

This research initiative forms part of IDB efforts to generate knowledge and a rigorous evidence base for investing effectively in women's voice and agency in public life. The activities will strengthen the Bank and the region's capacity to improve the design of policies and interventions.

2) Objective

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to support impact evaluations that seek to provide solid evidence on the effectiveness of investing in women's voice and agency in public life in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3) Scope and methodology

To be eligible for funding, proposals should focus on evaluating interventions in one of the two following areas:

- a. Interventions that foster women's participation in political, civic or community leadership positions;
- b. Interventions that promote women's contributions as agents of good governance at the project or program level.

Proposals should meaningfully contribute to building a strong evidence base about the effectiveness of investing in women's voice and agency in public life and have a high probability of influencing policy or programming.

Areas that are eligible for funding include, among others:

- political participation at the national, sub-national or local levels;
- institutional capacity of the state (e.g. improving delivery and quality of public services);
- fiscal and municipal management (e.g. women's leadership in municipal management, local governance, or decentralization processes);
- social protection and health (e.g. women's empowerment through community oversight of conditional cash transfer programs and/or public service delivery; public resource management; and accountability);
- water and sanitation (e.g. women's participation in water boards);
- transport (e.g. women's participation in community decision-making about transport policies, priorities and investments).

Eligible activities include one or more of the following:

- a. designing an intervention and/or experiment with an impact evaluation (for example, the design of a component within an existing project or a new intervention)
- b. designing the impact evaluation of an existing intervention or project;
- c. collecting baseline data;
- d. collecting follow-up data;
- e. conducting gender disaggregated analysis in an existing study that uses an experimental or quasi-experimental design. Qualitative data will also be considered but it must be part of an impact evaluation study.

Eligible proposals include not only new research projects but also ones that are already underway and require additional financing.

Evaluations can use an experimental design (randomized controlled trial), a quasi-experimental design (regression discontinuity design, difference in differences, matching, instrumental variables and synthetic control methods) or mixed methods (experimental or quasi-experimental design combined with a qualitative methodology).

Proposals should clearly elaborate the theory of change for the intervention and the assumptions underlying the theory of change. The write-ups of the impact evaluations should link the empirical evidence generated to broader policy or programming recommendations.

Final deliverables that may be submitted include, among others:

- Proposal with the design of an intervention and/or experiment that includes an impact evaluation
- Report on data collection process
- Research paper

In cases of data collection, the research team must submit a paper describing the data collection process and provide preliminary analysis, if possible. We also request a copy of the final publication, when available.

When the deliverable is a research paper, it will be considered for dissemination. Proposals should also indicate other strategies for further dissemination of the final version of the paper and its policy implications.

4) Selection criteria

Any independent researcher, research institution, or non-governmental, governmental or multi-lateral organization from an [IDB-member country](#) may submit a proposal. Regional and sub-regional projects are also eligible. Non-regional researchers or institutions can participate with teams from proposing institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Each of the approved proposals will receive a grant ranging from US\$15,000 to US\$45,000, depending on the scope of the work proposed. Projects with other funding sources may apply, but they need to explain how this additional funding will contribute to the project.

All activities and final deliverables financed by this call for proposals should be finished and submitted by October 5, 2015. Proposals and final products may be submitted in Spanish or English.

The following criteria will be applied:

- **Relevance and potential for impact:** the proposed activities are relevant to the thematic focus of this call for proposals and address a relevant knowledge gap. The findings have the potential to impact voice and agency programs and policy-making
- **Quality and rigor of the evaluation:** the proposed intervention will apply systematic data collection tools, when applicable, and recognized standards of impact evaluation methods in a rigorous manner, in order to produce solid and robust evidence. It will also be based on a strong and clearly articulated theory of change explaining how the planned activities are intended to be linked or contribute (directly or indirectly) to voice and agency outcomes.
- **Institutional capacity:** This refers to the capacity of the proposed evaluation team to conduct a rigorous evaluation. It will take into consideration the principal investigator/evaluation team's relevant evaluation skills and experience.
- **Cost-effectiveness of the evaluation:** the budget is realistic and proportionate to the complexity of the proposed intervention, its length and expected outcomes.

5) Proposal Submission

Eligible entities and individuals should submit the main proposal using this [template](#) no later than March 13, 2015.

Contracts will be signed with the IDB. Institutions must provide the name and contact information of the legal representative with authority to sign contracts, if selected to conduct the research.

6) Coordination and Schedule

Gabriela Vega (IDB Principal Gender and Diversity Specialist) and Vivian Roza (IDB/PROLEAD Coordinator) will coordinate this project. There will also be a consultative team formed by experts on the topic, responsible for the selection of the proposals and available for technical support.

The tentative schedule of activities is as follows:

February 3, 2015	Call for proposals issued.
March 13, 2015	Due date for receiving proposals.
March 23, 2015	Announcement of selected proposals, contracting process initiated.
March 31, 2015	Discussion seminar via videoconference, where the outline of papers, data sources, its limitations and the methodologies to be used in the studies will be discussed.
September 4, 2015	Due date for receiving the partial draft of the final deliverable.
October 5, 2015	Deadline for submitting the final version of the final deliverable.

7) Financial Aspects

The IDB will contribute up to **US\$45,000** for any selected evaluation, depending on the scope of the work proposed. The payment schedule is as follows:

- **30 percent** within 15 days of the signature of a formal agreement with the IDB.
- **35 percent** within 15 days of approval of the initial draft of the research paper, report, data collection or any other previously agreed deliverable.
- **35 percent** upon approval of the final research paper, report, data collection or any other previously agreed deliverable.

For additional information, please contact:

Vivian Roza
vivianro@iadb.org

Program for the Support of Women's Leadership
and Representation



Inter-American Development Bank

|| APPLICATION TEMPLATE

|| CALL FOR PROPOSALS

|| WOMEN'S VOICE AND AGENCY IN PUBLIC LIFE: GENERATING RIGOROUS EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 13, 2015

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST USE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION TEMPLATE

- Applicants must complete and submit all relevant sections of this application template. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.
- Proposals should not exceed 10 pages (not including the researchers' CV). Any proposal that exceeds 10 pages will not be read.
- Completed applications and other supporting documents must be submitted via email to the following addresses: gabrielave@iadb.org and vivianro@iadb.org with the subject line "Application for Women's Voice and Agency". In case of any further queries, contact us at vivianro@iadb.org.

PLEASE TAYLOR SECTION A OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE TYPE OF ACTIVITY BEING PROPOSED (DESIGN OF AN INTERVENTION AND/OR EXPERIMENT WITH AN IMPACT EVALUATION, DATA COLLECTION, IMPACT ANALYSIS, ETC).

|| SECTION A: PROPOSED EVALUATION STUDY

A.1. Title of the Evaluation Study

A.2. Abstract of the Proposal

Describe the problem that you propose to study and the research questions that you want to answer. Summarize accurately and clearly the overall context, rationale and significance, including policy/programmatic relevance of the proposed study within the overall context of the research area.

A.3. Purpose and theoretical framework

This section should introduce the research question and include a brief discussion of the problem, the theoretical framework to be used, the relevant literature and the policy or programmatic relevance of the evaluation.

A.4. Geographical scope

Indicate the evaluation's geographical scope, including the reason for choosing the proposed area. Please note that this grant is for evaluations limited to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A.5. Description of program/intervention

Describe the basic characteristics of the program/activities proposed for evaluation, highlighting its objective, expected outcomes, number of beneficiaries and the activities to be carried out in relation to the objectives of the evaluation. Clearly explain the theory of change for the intervention and the assumptions underlying the theory of change.

If you are seeking funds to finance part of a broader program or project, then explain the overall context within which the activities will take place.

For proposals focused on data collection and project design, indicate what steps will be taken or have been taken to secure additional funding to implement the intervention/evaluation.

A.6. Methodology and type of deliverable

Identify the evaluation methods and experimental or quasi-experimental techniques to be employed, explain what kind of data will be used and how it will be obtained, power calculations, if applicable, and the size of the sample to be used.

Provide an explanation of the type of deliverable to be produced with the support of the grant. Specify, for example, whether it will be a research paper, a research report that includes an analysis of the data collected, or a report of the activities supported by the grant.

A.7. Work plan

Provide a timeline of all the outputs and main activities to be conducted. Please note that the final deliverable must be submitted by October 5, 2015. Indicate when the requested resources will be needed and any activities previously advanced.

|| SECTION B. RESEARCH TEAM INFORMATION

B.1. Principal Researcher

First name		Last name	
Title/Position			
Name of organization			
Address of organization			
Country of residence			
Email address		Telephone	
Website			
Core area of expertise			

B.2. Research collaborator (if any – replicate form for other members of the research team)

First name		Last name	
Title/Position			
Name of organization			
Address of organization			
Country of residence			
Email address		Telephone	
Website			

Core area of expertise	
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B.3. Summary of Skills and Expertise

Provide a brief narrative of the principal researcher's skills and relevant expertise that would be beneficial in conducting the proposed evaluation. List details of relevant previous activities and publications by the researcher. Please note that subsequent substitutions of researchers originally indicated in the proposal may be made with prior approval from the project coordinators, but the research leader should lead the project until its full completion.

List the additional expertise brought in by the research collaborator(s) or explain how the collaborator(s) complements the principal researcher's skill (if applicable). Proposals should state if they involve, directly or in partnership, researchers/evaluators from LAC or non-LAC countries.

Please attach CV of principal researcher and research collaborator(s), if applicable. The CV of each researcher should not exceed 3 pages.

SECTION C: DETAILED BUDGET

Proposals must include a budget proposal and a brief narrative. The budget must clearly outline and link the use of funds to the evaluation outputs described in the proposal and detailed in the work plan. It should break down the items financed by the IDB and, if applicable, those financed by other sources. The budget narrative must explain the proposed allocation of funds to the various activities.