



Country: India, © IDRC/ Steven Morris

In addition, 48 parliamentarians, four legislative staff and five civil society representatives participated in a hemispheric conference on women's empowerment. All legislative staff and civil society representatives were female while 38 parliamentarians were female.

India's Gujarat state is home to a strategy that mobilizes rural women and men to address sexual violence and safety. This strategy is based on the kNOW Fear model, which was developed with support from Canada's IDRC and is being tested in 16 villages. The kNOW Fear strategy builds on constitutional reforms introduced by the Indian government in 1992. These reforms reserve up to one third of seats on local elected bodies for women; however, they have largely neglected sexual violence and safety issues. A first of its kind in India, kNOW Fear teaches women and girls about their rights. It provides them with tools for conducting village safety audits. They use technology to gather evidence, frame their demands and monitor results. Men also play a role in the strategy, creating awareness within the wider community.

Through the Support for Civic and Electoral Education project with international development organization Development and Peace, Canada has pushed for progress in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on issues such as peaceful pluralism. This project supports civic and electoral education campaigns that seek to ramp up political participation and raise awareness of democratic values. In 2017-2018, the project's campaign reached more than 4.4 million people in educational sessions across the country. Campaign messages were also broadcast on 77 local language radio stations, reaching an overall audience of more than 10 million people.

ENSURING PUBLIC SERVICES WORK FOR EVERYONE

Public services that work for everyone can help resolve issues related to urbanization and rural poverty, and build overall resilience. Canada supports public services that respond to the clearly different needs of

people, and helps improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of public services in local communities.

Canada helped its government partners provide and/or monitor high-quality public services that respond to the needs of marginalized people—particularly women, children and youth. Achieving this meant working with governments at all levels and public service providers to:

- improve transparency and accountability;
- strengthen social accountability;
- improve public financial management; and
- use statistical data to guide service improvements.

Canada has been supporting the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative to address corruption and incorporate gender equality into public services. To learn how to fight corruption, 136 auditors from supreme audit institutions in English-, French- and Arabic-speaking regions were trained on auditing institutional frameworks. Courses focused on the gender dimension of corruption and its impact on the SDGs. In addition, inclusiveness considerations, including gender equality, were added to the Performance Audit Handbook, a valued public commodity used by public sector auditors around the world.

In Cuba, the Government of Canada supported a project in 2017-2018 to build the capacity of auditors through training, technical assistance and technological support. As a result, participants' knowledge about audit control, methodology and supervision grew by two thirds. Their confidence in their ability to blend in gender and environmental approaches when carrying out audits, meanwhile, shot up by 58%.

In Myanmar, the Government of Canada partnered with the Forum of Federations in 2016 for a three-year project to promote improved knowledge and understanding of federalism. Since the project began, 11,194 community leaders have learned more about federalism in 236 workshops led by local trainers across the country. Participants also learned about the mechanisms that can help strengthen women's participation in federalism and in public decision making. This was particularly the case for workshops focused on gender equality and federalism. There, over half of participants reported that their understanding of issues related to gender equality and federalism had risen by more than 75%. Issues examined included human rights, unity and diversity, peacebuilding, distribution of powers, local government, and fiscal federalism and gender budgeting.

In South Africa, the Government of Canada continued its partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2017-2018 through the Building Inclusive Green Municipalities project. This project helps municipal governments boost their ability to support effective service delivery, inclusive green economic growth and enhanced climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. During its first year in 2017, the