



Assessment of the iKNOW Politics project

July 2011

Executive Summary

This report is a program assessment of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics project (iKNOW Politics or iKP) - to evaluate the extent to which it has successfully completed its program objectives. The evaluation methodology used in this assessment combined qualitative and quantitative methods including content analysis, interviews (40 persons) and an online survey (264 persons).

Key findings: The main aim of the second phase was to extend the reach of the network to new audiences and regions. The network has successfully completed key activities of this phase with the launching of an Arab language version and having in place four regional coordinators. The immediate results have been that membership of the network has tripled in the past two years and the resources available nearly doubled. The main benefit of the iKP network has been its contribution to members' knowledge in the political arena. Facilitated through the resources available and to a lesser extent by the online exchange, examples were found where a more significant impact could be seen in the work of women through influencing their projects, training conducted, advice received and campaigns conducted.

Effectiveness: The iKP network has partially achieved its first objective of facilitating an exchange between women. With over 9,000 members it has been successful in creating a diverse and new worldwide network but it has not yet reached its full potential. The exchange features on the iKP platform facilitate an exchange but it is estimated that not more than 900 members are actively using them. This is an evolution from 2007/8 where 350 members were found to be active but remains steady at 10% of total membership.

The iKP network has largely achieved its second objective of equipping women with tools and resources. With some 5,000 resources available in four languages, the iKP network has built further on its position as a key resource center for women in politics.

Factors identified as facilitating the results achieved were: A supportive and dedicated membership base; collaboration and support from partners; extending the language base and improving the user interface. Factors identified as hindering the results achieved were: Technological limitations of the platform; level of promotional activities; stability of the iKP team; language and contextual issues.

Relevance: The iKP network has proven relevant for women in politics and particularly appropriate for urban-based women in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, more so than those in Asia Pacific and Europe. An indicator of relevance is that 75% of members surveyed believed the network had played a role in their political activities.

Sustainability: If the project was concluded, iKP members and staff indicated that the following main benefits/results would remain: Contacts established between women; the smaller and parallel networks established; the capacities built and the resources available. Sustained results could also be seen in the strategies, partnerships, skills transfers and personal skills of members.

Efficiency: Overall, the project has performed successfully with the majority of scheduled activities undertaken with full or partial achievement resulting. The budget

management and allocation of resources seemed appropriate for the set objectives and activities. The departure of the Project Manager in 2010 resulted in an overcharge of work for remaining staff and the project not being able to progress as quickly as desired by all stakeholders.

Impact: The immediate impact of the iKP network has been to increase the knowledge of women through the resources and exchange. Longer term impact was identified in eight areas: support for projects; integration of resources into training, support for campaigns; reference as source material; use as background information; support for members' values; offering advice to members; and building networks for members. The positive effects were more seen in the network's support to the contribution of women to politics. A negative effect identified was that sometimes the network could raise expectations of possible support or resources to local initiatives. When asked what were the major influences in changes to their political activities in the past two years, survey respondents indicated changes to the political environment in their countries (45%) followed by changes to information and support (43%).

Suggestions as to how to attract more women to the network were found in the areas of promotion, networking, content, social media, offline activities, usability/access and training. "Online courses conducted by others" and "More information from my country" were additional content desired by members. iKP members also expressed a desire for more content in certain areas such as leadership, public speaking, decision-making, networking and on themes such as Voter Education, Civil Society Organizations and Campaign Planning and Strategy.

On their use of technology and the Internet, the average number of active Internet use per day was 5.5 hours indicating a connected and online public. The main technologies used to communicate and network were email, Internet in general, mobile phone and Facebook. iKP members indicated that they stay up-to-date with issues concerning women in politics mainly through media of their own countries and the iKP network.

The following table contains the key conclusions and consequent recommendations:

| Conclusion | Recommendation |
|--|---|
| <p>A. The exchange aspect: As in the 2008 assessment, only 10% of members were found to be actively using the "exchange" features of the platform. Various reasons explain this low usage: the complexity of using the features; contextual issues and the malfunctioning of the email alert system. In addition, some discussions have moved on to other platforms, mainly social media.</p> | <p>Review the set-up of the discuss features (reduce their complexity - particularly the discussion circles); ensure email alerts function by establishing a system to test the alerts on a weekly basis; consider how some of these features could better link/integrate with Twitter and Facebook. For example, posts in Twitter and Facebook appear on the iKNOW platform, integrate an RSS feed onto the iKNOW platform and a direct feed into news so that it appears on Twitter and Facebook.</p> |
| <p>B. Impact: A surprising finding of this assessment was that a more long term result of the iKP was its influence on members' projects. Results show that through the network, members were motivated to launch a new project, adjust a strategy, change an approach taken, etc. The network is not really set up to support or even reference such projects.</p> | <p>Review how the iKP network could facilitate further its influence and support for members' projects. As a first step, this could be achieved through the constitution of a members list online and descriptions of their projects inspired by /related to iKP.</p> |
| <p>C. Regional priorities: The assessment found that significant differences do exist between regions in terms of needs for content, features – and potential opportunities. This does not imply that separate platforms are needed; but that priorities and use of the platform will differ from region to region.</p> | <p>When reviewing priorities for the regions, consider how separate strategies may be required at the regional – and even sub-regional levels. The regional summaries found in annex 1 provide more suggestions and recommendations per region.</p> |
| <p>D. Promotion: The report provides many suggestions from members themselves as to how to attract more women to use iKP. Many of these suggestions focus on promotional aspects. The mobilization of young online audiences active in social media is yet to be fully exploited.</p> | <p>Create a promotion plan of action for the network at the regional and global levels; boost efforts with online audiences and social media.</p> |
| <p>E. Project stability: based on the feedback from the members, the iKP has the potential to reach and support many more women. However, the project has not been able to reach its potential partially due to the frequent changes in regional coordinators that have delayed and slowed the project. Given the limited funding that the iKP has available this may be a challenge to overcome.</p> | <p>If possible offer two year contracts to regional coordinators.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>F. Offline/online: The assessment raised the importance of promotion the iKP network further in offline events. Further, the demands of members go further than what can be expected of an online knowledge network. While resources are limited, initial attempts have been made to extend the network to “offline” audiences in some regions. Initiatives undertaken with partners to promote or link into the iKP have proved successful and this area could be further explored.</p> | <p>While considering the limited resources available, define an approach at the regional level to what extent the network will be present offline; if necessary define priority cities/countries/sub-regions in which to be present. Try to mobilize current members to bring in colleagues and friends. Offer some sort of incentive for women to reach out to their own networks and integrate them into the iKP. Work further with partners at the regional/sub-regional levels on promotional and other opportunities to link with the platform.</p> |
| <p>G. Opportunities: Several options are available to iKP at the global and regional levels. The addition of extra languages may be unrealistic therefore other priorities will have to be focused upon. Adding extra languages may involve only having select features and content available in the given languages.</p> | <p>Review each region with the notion of extending the reach of the network based on the feasible options of the regions – set priorities where necessary. Consider how presence of partners could be further utilized and if certain target groups (e.g. political activists) should be more targeted. Review other options of introducing extra languages that do not imply a full translation/service.</p> |
| <p>H. Resources: The assessment highlighted that members were largely satisfied with the content and features available on the platform. General agreement across regions indicated that members would like for more of a focus on e-learning and country-specific information. An issue raised was the need for regular and ongoing promotion of resources.</p> | <p>In reviewing future content and resources for the platform consider the requests of members as found in this report, notably the focus on e-learning, country specific information and other thematic areas. Regularly promote resources to members and non-members through email and other media.</p> |

Glossary of Terms

| | |
|--------|---|
| AP: | Asia Pacific |
| IDEA: | The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance |
| iKP: | International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) |
| IPU: | The Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| LAC: | Latin Americas and the Caribbean |
| MENA: | Middle East and North Africa |
| NDI: | National Democratic Institute for International Affairs |
| SSA: | Sub-Saharan Africa |
| UNDEF: | United Nations Democracy Fund |
| UNDP: | United Nations Development Programme |

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1. Introduction

This report summarizes a program assessment of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics project (iKNOW Politics or iKP) - to evaluate the extent to which it has successfully completed its program objectives. This assessment will inform the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs' (NDI) and contribute to a final substantive narrative report to the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), as well as provide input into future iKP activities. The Terms of Reference for this assessment are found in annex 2.

The evaluation methodology used in this assessment combined qualitative and quantitative methods including a content analysis, interviews (40 persons) and an online survey (264 persons) as detailed in annex 3. Information about the consultants who worked on this assessment can be found in annex 1.

With the support of an initial grant from the UNDEF received in January 2007, the iKP project was launched in February 2007 by five international organizations: NDI, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women. It is an online portal (www.iknowpolitics.org) providing information, shared knowledge and networking opportunities for women in politics. Since its launch, iKP has established an active online community of over 9,000 members with a significant resource base and is functional in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

2. Description of the iKP Project Objectives Evaluated

The purpose of this program assessment was to evaluate the extent to which iKP has successfully completed its program objectives in the second grant period of 2009/10. These objectives, as detailed in the grant from UNDEF were as follows:

- To facilitate a global exchange of knowledge and resources on gender and political participation linking several existing networks and actors in an issue specific discussion; and
- To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena.

The path from actions to results for the project (“intervention logic”) has been reconstructed and is detailed in the diagram below.

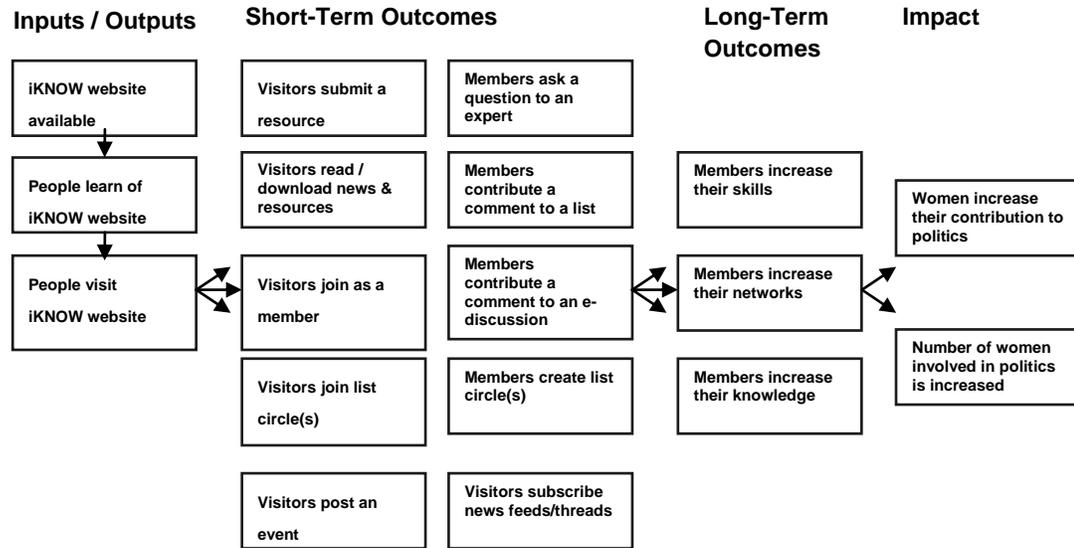


Figure 1: Reconstructed Intervention Logic for the iKP Project

The principle action of the iKP project was to establish the iKP platform and to attract members. Once on the platform, a series of “short-term outcomes” were set for visitors. The aim of the outcomes was to increase knowledge, skills and enhance networks (“long-term outcomes”) that would ultimately lead to an increase in the contribution towards, and the number of women involved in, politics (“impact”). This program assessment focused on examining whether the short-term outcomes were achieved and whether this led to the desired long-term outcomes and ultimately the impact.

3. Overview of Assessment Criteria and Methodology

Based on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) evaluation criteria, the evaluation questions for this assessment were as follows:

1. Effectiveness

To what extent have the project’s stated objectives been achieved? What factors facilitated or hindered the results achieved?

2. Relevance

To what degree was the project relevant and appropriate in relation to the needs and situation at the national, regional and global levels?

3. Sustainability

To what extent will the benefits / results from the project continue after UNDEF’s support ends? How has the design and implementation of the project impacted on sustaining results beyond project completion?

4. Efficiency

How is the project assessed on overall project performance, the outputs in relation to the inputs, the financial management, the implementing timetable?

5. Impact

What impact has the project achieved and is likely to achieve in the future? What are the positive and negative effects produced or caused by the project on society or parts thereof?

As mentioned above, the evaluation methodology for this assessment employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods which are described in detail in annex 3. Questions concerning the selection and sampling of subjects, data and constraints and limitations of the methodology are also addressed in this annex.

4. Key Findings

The main aim of the second phase of the iKP project was to extend the reach of the network to new audiences and regions. The project has successfully completed key activities of this phase, notably: launching an Arab language version and hiring four regional coordinators around the world. The immediate results show that membership of the iKP network has tripled in the past two years and the resources available nearly doubled (see figure 2).

Members indicated that the main benefit of the iKP network has been its contribution to their knowledge in the political arena. Facilitated through the resources available and to a lesser extent by the online exchange, examples were found where a more significant impact can be seen on the work of women through influencing their projects, training conducted, advice received and campaigns conducted.

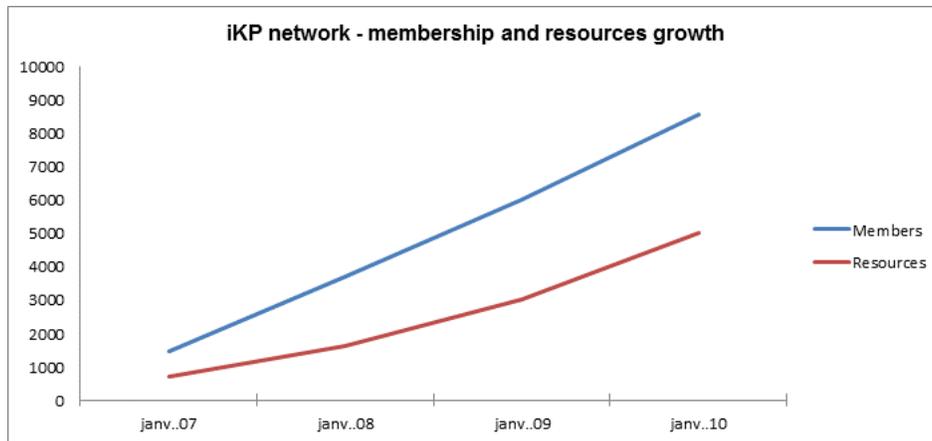


Figure 2: Connecting/exchanging: survey responses – global/regional

4.1. Effectiveness

To what extent have the project’s stated objectives been achieved?

The findings for this section are structured around the two main project objectives.

Objective 1: *To facilitate a global exchange of knowledge and resources on gender and political participation linking several existing networks and actors in an issue specific discussion*

This assessment found that the iKP network has partially achieved this objective. With over 9,000 members, the iKP network has been successful in creating a diverse and new worldwide network – rather than linking existing networks - with significant achievements but it has not yet reached its full potential as a global exchange.

Some half of iKP members who responded to the online survey agreed that the iKP network had supported them in connecting with other members and exchanging views. Some regional differences were detected with the Middle East/North Africa and the Americas being most positive and Europe and South-Saharan Africa least positive (see figure 3 below). Members interviewed also varied in their opinions on the exchange aspect. These differences are discussed further in annex 1.

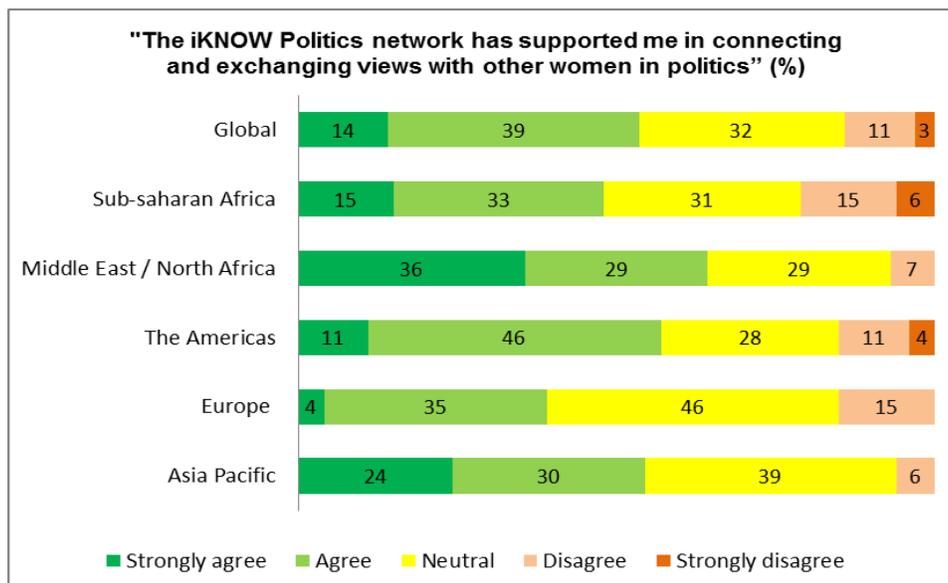


Figure 3: Connecting/exchanging: survey responses – global/regional

When asked directly if they have used iKP to network with other women, 33% of members responded positively which is a significant difference from the 53% that were of the opinion that the network had supported them in connecting and exchanging views. This is a possible indication of the difference between “connecting/exchanging” (more passive) and “networking” (more active).

Do you use the iKNOW Politics network for any of the following? (choose as many as you wish)

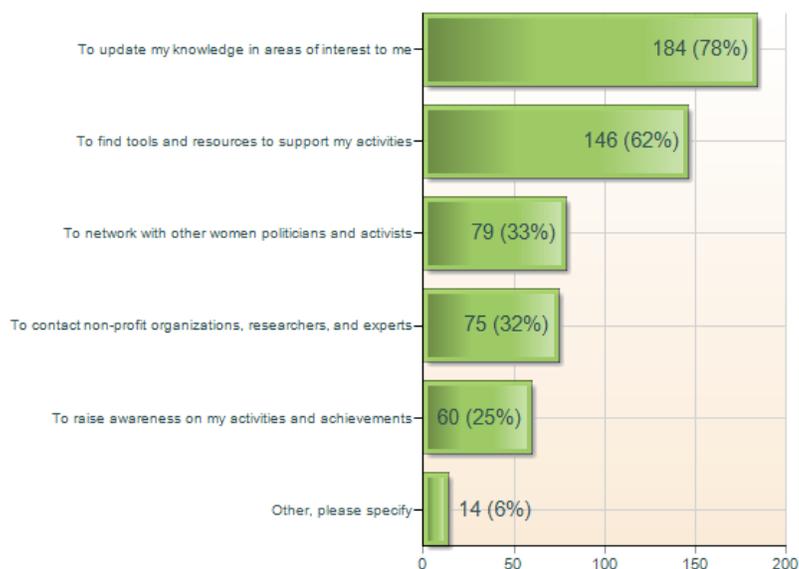


Figure 4: Use of the iKP network: survey responses - global

The iKP network has facilitated an exchange primarily through three features: *Discussion Circles*, *E-Discussions* and *Ask the Expert*. These features facilitated an exchange but it is estimated that in 2009/10, not more than 900 members were actively participating in them. This is still an increase from 2007/8 where 350 members were found to be actively participating but the figure remains steady at 10% of total membership. As seen in 2008 assessment¹, Spanish speakers were the highest number of users. Examples were found where the iKP network did help to establish contacts for women even beyond the iKP online platform, such as invitations to conferences or participation in projects. This is discussed further in section 4.5. In addition, an additional exchange also occurred on social media platforms, notably Twitter and Facebook. The exchange features remain the most popular with iKP members after the *Library* and *World News* (see figure 5). The following quotes illustrate how useful members have found these features:

"[Ask the Expert] An effective way to develop the information and to have a direct answer from the experts, opening dialogue and gaining more knowledge & information."

Civil society, Sudan

"This section [Discussion Circles] allows me to enter into discussion with competent women that are not known to me; to have a broad view of the political scene; to prepare myself for the transition to democracy knowing the difficulties we may encounter as democrats and especially as women; feeding off the experiences of other women: it is strongly encouraging!"² Party activist and political candidate, Tunisian

¹ Owl RE, *Program Assessment of iKNOW Politics*, December 2008.

² Translation from French: «cette rubrique me permet d'entrer en discussion avec des compétences féminines restées inconnues pour moi; d'avoir une large vue sur la scène politique,

A knowledge exchange has occurred on many topics. Overriding themes identified in 2009/10 were: elections; participation; campaigns; and quotas. Compared to the 2008 assessment, the campaign theme is more prominent with the leadership theme less so and the Middle East overtaking Africa as a geographical focus of discussions. The following table is a summary of the main keywords identified in the network exchanges:

| List Circles | E-Discussion | Ask the Expert |
|---|--|---|
| Leadership, elections, parliaments, quotas and the Middle East. | Legislation, participation, networks, elections and campaigns. | Campaign planning, electoral systems and laws, political parties, participation and quotas. |

An in-depth analysis of these “exchange” features may be found in annex 7.

Objective 2: *To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena.*

This assessment has found that the iKP network has largely achieved this objective by equipping women with tools and resources. With some 5,000 resources available in four languages (including news items), the iKP network has built further on its position as a key resource for women in politics (also found in the 2008 assessment). The resources are the most popular feature on the iKP platform along with *World News* (see figure 5). In addition, 88% of iKP members that responded to the survey said they trusted the information found on the iKP platform. Results show that the resources have contributed significantly to women’s role in the political arena, and are particularly used for training and guidance. This is discussed further in section 4.5.

de me préparer à la transition démocratique tout en sachant les difficultés que nous pourrions rencontrer en tant que démocrates et spécialement en tant que femmes; me nourrir des expériences des autres femmes : cela est fortement encourageant!»

Which one of the following features of the iKNOW Politics website do you find the most useful?

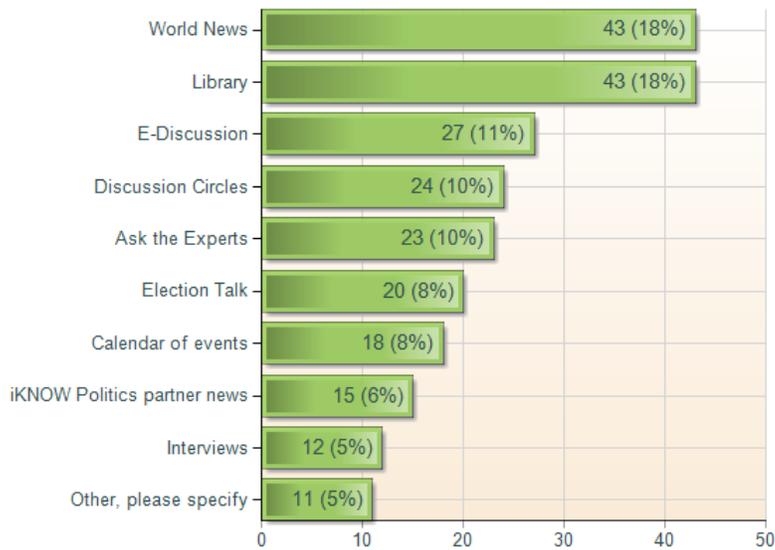


Figure 5: Most popular features on iKP platform – survey responses

Although some half of iKP members who responded to the online survey agreed that the iKP network had provided them with useful tools and resources, members interviewed were generally more active in underlining the value of the resources. Further, 78% indicated that they had used the iKP network to update their knowledge and 62% to find resources and activities (see figure 4). Differences can be seen between regions with the Middle East/North Africa and Asia Pacific being most positive and Europe and the Americas least so (see figure 6 below). These differences are discussed further in annex 1.

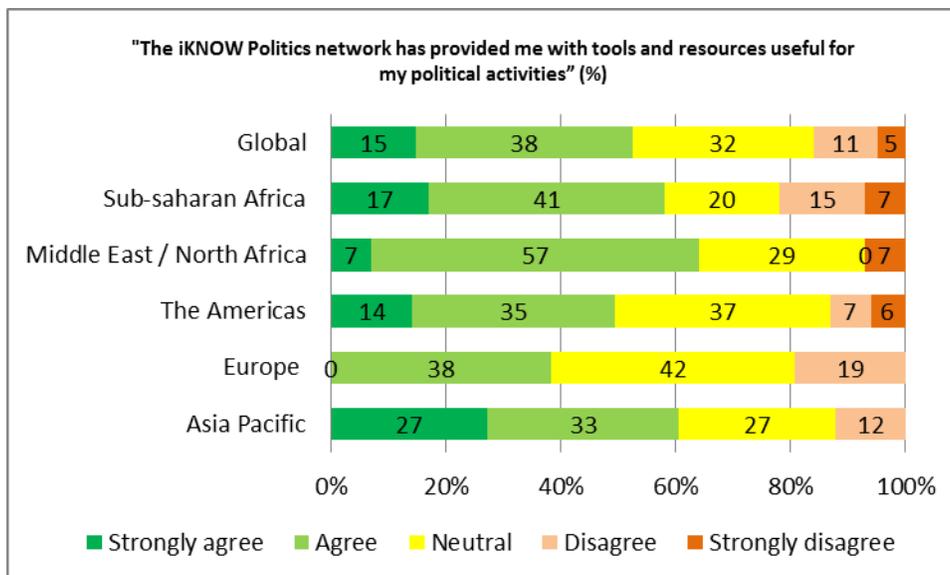


Figure 6: Providing tools/resources: survey responses – global/regional

The iKP network set out to equip women with resources primarily through the resources available in the *Library* section. Other information on the platform, notably, *World News*, *Election Talk* and the exchange features also offer resources in the form of news items and discussion comments and responses.

Currently, some 5,000 resources are available on the platform including news items and other content on the platform. In terms of type of resources, the majority of resources available in the *Library* section are *Report/White Papers*, *Guide/Training Material* and *Website/Database*. Since 2008, the addition of Arabic resources has reduced the predominance of English resources from 67% to 55% of all resources. It is estimated by iKP staff that some 30% of resources are posted by members compared to 5% in 2008.

In terms of issues, the focus of the resources varies depending on the language. Overall, more resources are available on topics such as *Leadership*, *Advocacy*, *Electoral Systems and Laws*, *Elections and Quotas*. The relevance of these issues to members is discussed further in section 4.2.

| Top issue per Pages of Resources (no. of pages) | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| English | French | Spanish | Arabic |
| Advocacy (43) | Electoral Systems and Laws (40) | Leadership (48) | Electoral Systems and Laws (16) |

The following quotes illustrate how resources were used by iKP members:

"It provides tools and knowledge that empowers me in my political ambitions, as well as in my role as an advocate for women in politics in Papua New Guinea." Political candidate

"Our association "Femina International" undertakes training and these resources assist us a lot." Civil society, Cameroon³

The information presented is reliable and has a wide range of comprehensive coverage of the region, making it easier to see it as a guide with primary sources. It is a reference for me", Academic, Ecuador⁴

An in-depth analysis of resources may be found in annex 8.

What factors facilitated or hindered the results achieved?

The following factors have been identified as *facilitating* the results achieved to date:

³ Translation from French: «Notre association "FEMINA INTERNATIONAL" faisant dans la formation cette rubrique nous aide beaucoup au niveau de la documentation»

⁴ Translation from Spanish: « La información que presentan es confiable y tiene una amplia grama de cobertura respecto a la región, lo que facilita introducirse mas como direcciona hacia las fuentes primarias. Es un referente para mi »

- **Supportive and dedicated membership base:** the iKP network has been successful through the participation of a core membership. The members have also been key to referring and promoting the network with colleagues, as have the experts that are engaged with the network.
- **Collaboration and support from partners:** the support of the project partners - IDEA, IPU, NDI, UNDP and UN Women – has been key to extending the project’s reach by incorporating the iKP network into their programs, projects and events. The value of partners’ contributions was in this type of collaboration. The network provided visibility to partners’ activities but were of most value to members when linked with the network.
- **Extending the language base:** the launching of the Arabic version while maintaining the other three languages has been important in reaching new audiences.
- **Improving the user interface:** The user interface (both public and members’ webpages) has gradually improved since 2008. According to members, this has facilitated the use of the platform. iKP members surveyed indicated that their satisfaction with website usability mostly increased from 2008 to 2010 (see figure 7). All specific characteristics such as “ease of using the network” have increased positively between 3-9% points.

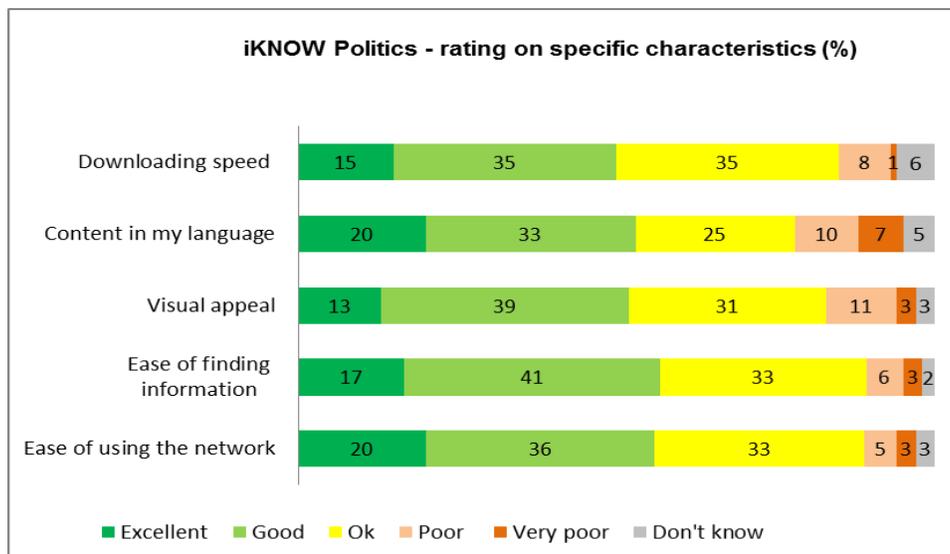


Figure 7: Rating on specific characteristics: survey responses

The following factors have been identified as *hindering* the results achieved to date:

Technological limitations of the platform: Despite the improvements to the user interface, the iKP platform has faced technical limitations that have hindered its success. For example, the email alert function – key to prompting online discussions – was not functioning due to technical reasons. The platform has also been unable to capture data on its members. In addition, as technology progresses quickly and people are

increasingly mobile, particularly in certain regions (e.g. Asia) web platforms are increasingly accessed through mobile phones. The iKP is accessible through a browser on a mobile phone but it is not adapted for navigating and use on such a device. There is also no specific application that allows visitors to access certain platform features (e.g. Discussion Circles) directly through a mobile phone.

Level of promotional activities: A recurring factor raised by non-members interviewed was that they simply did not know about the iKP network. This was also identified as an obstacle in the 2008 assessment. The limited promotional activities for the network have affected its potential to reach a broader audience. It should be noted that partner activities were seen as a main way of increasing visibility. As mentioned above, the non-functioning email alert hindered regular contact and promotion with existing members.

Stability of iKP team: The support of the iKP team has been important for the project, however the staff changes that have occurred in some positions (i.e. coordinators for MENA and AP) has reduced and delayed the effectiveness of the project. It is probably not a coincidence that one of the more successful regions is the Americas where the iKP coordinator has been on staff since 2007.

Language limitations: Despite operating the network in four languages, the network is hindered in that it does not reach women in politics who do not speak one of these languages. This is particularly an issue in Asia and Eastern Europe.

Contextual issues: There are many contextual or country-specific issues such as access to the Internet, sensitivity of discussing online with “unknown” persons and computer literacy that could be considered a potential obstacle to any platform. Although non-exhaustive, those identified by this assessment as being of particular relevance to iKP included potential sensitivity of belonging to a “political” network; time and availability of women involved in politics; lack of confidence in participating in discussions for women at the beginning of their political career.

“I think it has helped me communicate with very interesting women and some of them I met in person and the idea that we can share experiences has given me motivation in my own work” Gloria, Panama

Gloria is very active in politics in Panama. She is President of the Association of Parliamentarians in Panama and has also published a book on how to win an election as a woman. She considers herself an author and a poet and is also active in academia. She is helping to promote iKP amongst her circles. In September 2011 there will be a four hour seminar about iKP at the university in Panama. They will organise a forum to show participants how to use the platform. The aim being that women will hopefully join and continue to use the network.

“In my life as an instructor, which is important in my life, iKP has supported me a lot. Just the fact that I was able to see what others are doing I could use it in my work.”

“The debates and the summaries that are uploaded about specific topics - I download these and I find them very useful for my work as an instructor. The interviews are also very useful.”

“iKP has supported me in helping me to understand what is happening in other regions - how to access politics is essential for women.”

4.2. Relevance

To what degree was the project relevant and appropriate in relation to the needs and situation at the national, regional and global levels?

This assessment found that the iKP project has been both relevant and appropriate for women in politics. It has proven relevant partially due to a lack of other centralized resources and networks on this subject. The iKP network has been particularly appropriate for urban-based women in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, more so than those in Asia Pacific and Europe.

An indicator of relevance is the perceived role that the iKP network has played in members' political activities: 75% of members believed the network had played a role in their political activities. Of the 14% (32 persons) who believed it had played a "significant role" – a large number of women were from Africa and few were from Asia Pacific and Europe (Middle East and the Americas were represented at same levels as for all survey responses).

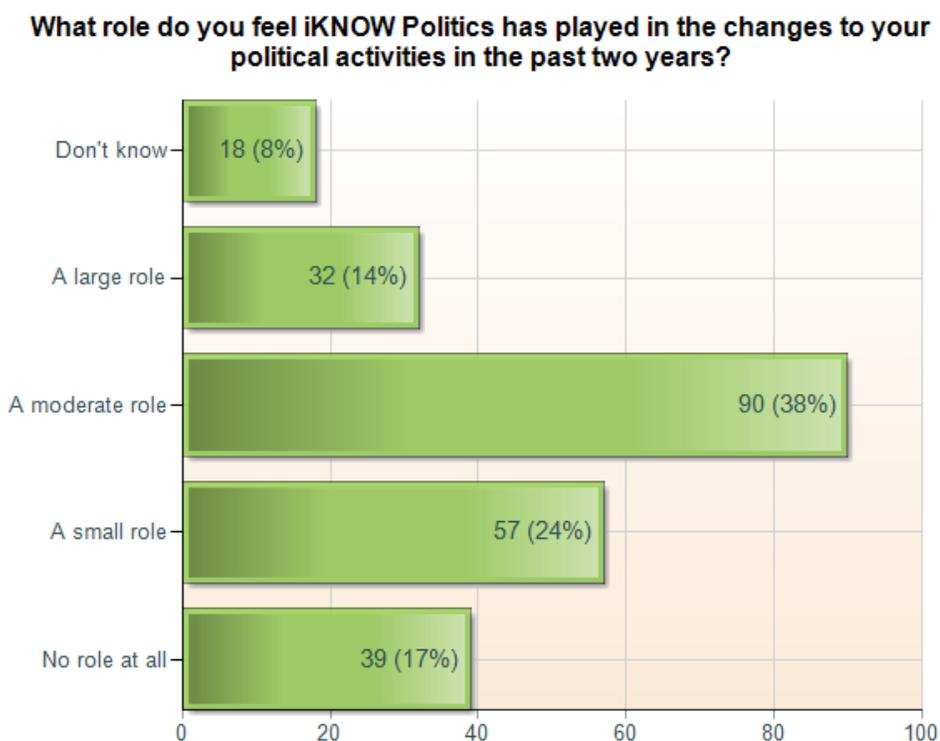


Figure 8: Perceived role of iKP in political activities: survey respondents

Was the iKP network able to correspond to the needs of members in terms of its focus on themes and issues? The following table shows a comparison between the current overall focus of the iKP content (discuss features and resources) and where iKP members (survey respondents) would like to see more content on:

| Current focus | Desired focus |
|---|--|
| Leadership Advocacy Electoral Systems and Laws Elections Quotas Participation Campaigns | Leadership Voter Education for Women Public Speaking Civil Society Organizations Networking Campaign Planning and Strategy Decision-Making |

Concerning its relevance at the national, regional and global level, feedback from iKP members indicated that it did provide relevance at the global level by establishing contacts among women from the different regions of the world. At the regional level, the 2010/11 *Arab Spring* was given as an example where the iKP network was able to centralize resources and contribute to explaining the implications for women in politics to other women around the world. At the national level, the iKP network has proven more relevant for urban-based women.

Challenges were linked to reaching women outside of the main capitals and cities, given the Internet based nature of the network. This is recognized by the iKP team and pilot projects have been designed to address this issue. For example, in Mali, “grassroots meetings” are held for rural-based women. Some members also expressed a desire for the iKP network to be more relevant and reactive to the political events in their own countries or regions. For example, members would like the network to focus on providing resources for candidates in campaign planning and strategy for upcoming elections. In addition, some members commented that for the iKP network to be more relevant, it would have to be more physically present in their countries.

"It is very encouraging, getting connected with women in other African countries and across the world". Desyderata, the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Desyderata's organisation, *Femme Solidaires pour la Paix et le Développement*, works to promote women's participation in political life but she has also herself political ambitions. Her work has exposed her to the issue of women's political participation and she has become more and more interested in politics. The situation for women in DRC is serious and she wants to work for change. She visits the iKP website at least two times a week when she is not travelling mainly to exchange views with other women and to share her own thoughts and strategies. Through iKP she could activate solidarity from other women and mobilise support for change. It's a strategic tool to her.

She feels that the most important aspect of iKP is the exchanges through the forums. In DRC women often feel de-connected, but iKP gives them a possibility to connect with other women all over the world and gives visibility to the different organisations. For her personally, it has been useful to be able to create a user profile, and has used this in contacts with new donor organisations since she does not have her own website. Another important aspect is that iKP connects women from civil society with women who are active in politics. This creates links and exchanges; she can get advice on how to better build the capacity of others.

She is now focusing on preparing women in her community for more active political participation as a first step. In the near future she will herself get more directly involved in politics. Different political parties have tried to recruit her but she wants to be an independent candidate for parliament. Political parties are just using women to show that they are inclusive, but in reality their opinions are not considered according to Desyderata. iKP can help her to find resources and connections to establish this independent position.

"It's a very important and useful initiative and I strongly encourage the iKP team to continue their work and if possible, come to DRC and train more women in how to use the website and its features."

4.3. Sustainability

To what extent will the benefits / results from the project continue after UNDEF's support ends?

The iKP network relies on continued donor and partner support in order to keep operating, i.e. to cover technical and staff costs. However, if the project was concluded, iKP members and staff indicated the following main benefits/results would remain:

- Contacts established between women would continue outside of the iKP network;
- Smaller parallel networks established by women may remain (on themes or regionally based; on social networks) that would continue;
- Women in politics will have benefited from resources on iKP and these would continue to be used and distributed;
- The rich content generated in e-discussions and other exchange features have been used to inspire and integrated in academic studies;
- The iKP project has contributed to building capacity amongst women in politics.

In addition, it should be noted that the security given by the UNDEF funding has enabled the iKP team to invest more time in investigating other funding sources.

How has the design and implementation of the project impacted on sustaining results beyond project completion?

The design and implementation of the iKP platform has been largely focused on facilitating an exchange between women in politics, contributing to their knowledge and equipping them with the necessary tools and resources. The philosophy of the project is to support the contribution of women in their political actions so this is where sustained results would be sought.

Based on the interviews and survey responses, the iKP project has contributed significantly to a number of sustained results in the following areas:

Strategy: influencing strategies and approaches for preparing for elections and political campaigning in general (10 countries)⁵

"We benefit from the platform's expertise and its programs as an incentive to encourage Iraqi women to have independent political decisions and for her to have independence in selecting the appropriate candidate in the previous parliamentary elections." Political candidate, Iraq

Skills: Building capacities through use of materials for training and building skills (11 countries)

⁵ Alternatively it was identified by women where more resources were needed (section 4.2).

*“Holding workshops and seminars, transferring the new knowledge to women.”
Local elected representative, Colombia⁶*

Personal skills: Through use of materials and from exchanges on the platform, building up personal skills and knowledge in leadership, campaigning, training and skills building (30 countries)

“Reading the news updates my knowledge of important current events on gender, equality and fairness.” Civil society, Mexico⁷

Partnerships: establishing new networks, contacts, projects and partnerships outside of the iKP networks (25 countries)

*“I have used information on the site to design a project targeting politicians”,
International development staff”. Kenya*

It should also be noted that the factors facilitating/hindering results as detailed in section 4.1 have also impacted on sustainability of the project.

“iKP has helped me become more aware of the gap between women and men in my country and region.” Fabiola, Peru

“Through iKP my perspectives have changed. I was born in an urban area and I didn’t take the rural perspective into account. I wasn’t aware of issues such as quotas and the importance of equal opportunities. We always have a disadvantage vis-a-vis men.”

Fabiola, a blogger and member of NGO *Compromiso por la Mujer* was a young activist during the Fujimori times. Today she works with groups of young adults and writes opinion pieces in blogs and now works for the NGO *Compromiso por la Mujer*. On the iKP platform, she provides opinions on specific topics. Since 2008, she runs a discussion circle called “jovenes en politics”, about youth and politics (400 participants). iKP has helped her to gain new insight about the issues that women in politics face today.

“I really like the circles. You can get a lot of insight into what women think. Also when they choose one topic and they talk about this for one week or so. Also the library is great. I would like to see more opinion pieces and more extensive reports”.

“It should be very simple. The more complicated the more deterrent it is. For the circles sometimes I wonder if what I’m posting is actually going to my circle or somewhere else.”

“It would be interesting to have more social media integrated into the platform. They have a Facebook page but it’s not really linked to the iKP page. It would be great to have a more direct link. This could attract more people to the page as well. There are a lot of young people wanting to get involved in politics but they don’t really know how to. It would be good to try to access these groups, in the institutes and networks where these people congregate.”

⁶ Translation from Spanish: “Haciendo talleres y seminarios, donde se hace el traspaso del nuevo conocimiento a las mujeres”

⁷ Translation from Spanish: “Al leer las noticias, actualizo mis conocimientos sobre los sucesos importantes actuales sobre genero, igualdad y equidad”

4.4. Efficiency

How is the project assessed on overall performance, the outputs in relation to the inputs, the financial management, the implementing timetable?

Overall, the project has performed successfully with the majority of scheduled activities undertaken with full or partial achievement. The completion of these activities has led to the level of achievement of the two key objectives as described in section 4.1.

Performance: In the second phase of the iKP project (2009/10), seven key activities/outputs were set as part of the UNDEF-funded project description⁸. These activities/outputs are listed below with an accompanying assessment and commentary.

| Key Activities/outputs | Assessment | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|---|
| 1. iKNOW Politics is introduced at a series of events in the targeted regions (LAC, MENA, SSA & AP). | Fully achieved | The 2008 baseline data indicated that iKP was presented at 27 events of which 13% (48%) were in targeted regions. As of June 2011, the iKP project has been presented at some additional 30 events of which 25 (83%) were in targeted countries. |
| 2. Train-the-trainer workshops are held for women and CSOs in each targeted region. | Partially achieved | No train-the-trainers workshops were conducted with this concept being adapted by the iKP team. More so, the iKP was presented at events as described above and in the LAC and SSA regions “grassroots” seminars conducted to reach non-urban audiences were held. |
| 3. iKNOW Politics Arabic language launch is held, | Fully achieved | The Arabic site was launched in October 2009. Some 150 resources are available in Arabic now totalling 10% of all resources. |
| 4. New and expanded discussion circles on the website involving women from the targeted regions | Partially achieved | The 2008 baseline data indicated that there were 23 discussion circles online of which 19 were in English. As of June 2011, 28 discussion circles were online of which 10 were in English. The discussion circles are not yet used to their full potential as discussed in section 4.1. |
| 5. New and expanded E-discussion forums on the website involving women from the targeted regions | Partially achieved | The number of E-discussions held was as in previous years. Positively a more diverse audience participated with the first discussion held largely in Arabic. |
| 6. Interviews conducted of women leaders from the targeted regions | Fully achieved | The 2008 baseline data indicated that 21 interviews were online and only 50% were from targeted regions. As of June 2011 there were 55 interviews online with 76% from targeted |

⁸ NDI, (July 2008) *iKNOW Politics Project Document for UNDEF*.

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| | | regions. |
| 7. The iKNOW Politics website includes weblinks and event information from partners in the targeted regions | Partially achieved | The 2008 baseline data indicated that the iKP website linked to 167 organizations of which 28% were from targeted countries. As of June 2011, the iKP website linked to 202 organizations of which 35% were from targeted countries. |

Financial management: The UNDEF grant provided USD \$325,000 for the iKP project over a two year period (September 2008 to August 2010). The following table provides an overview of the projected and total expenses for this period.

| Budget items | Projected budget | Total expenses | Balance |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <i>Salaries/Fringe</i> | 54'771 | 22'745 | 32'026 |
| 2. <i>Field Staff Allowances</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. <i>NDI Field Office Overhead</i> | 0 | 19'217 | -19'217 |
| 4. <i>Office Space/Utilities</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. <i>Supplies/Equipment</i> | 7'740 | 7'511 | 229 |
| 6. <i>Communications</i> | 3'240 | 4'114 | -874 |
| 7. <i>Travel/Per Diem</i> | 16'876 | 63'119 | -46'243 |
| 8. <i>Contractual Services</i> | 139'597 | 124'230 | 15'367 |
| 9. <i>Consultants</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. <i>Other Direct Costs</i> | 33'000 | 18'390 | 14'610 |
| 11. <i>Sub-grants</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total Direct Costs</i> | 255'224 | 259'325 | -4'101 |
| <i>Indirect Costs</i> | 69'776 | 64'572 | 5'204 |
| Total costs | 325'000 | 323'897 | +1'103 |

An analysis of the budget indicates that 99% of the funding allocated was spent (with a balance of \$1,103 remaining). The majority of the expense (73%: items 2-10) funded the salaries, set-up and activities of the regional coordinators. One budget item exceeded significantly its projected amount (7. Travel/per-diem) and one item (3. NDI Field Office Overhead⁹) was not foreseen in the budget. This was compensated by under spending on several items (notably 1. (HQ) salaries, 8. Contractual services and 10. Other Direct Costs). Indirect costs were 20% of the total budget. Given that the aim of this second phase of the project was to expand the iKP network mainly through the activities of the regional coordinators, the budget management and allocations seem appropriate for this goal. It should also be noted that iKP partners and other donors also provide funding for the project, for example to fund the ongoing maintenance and development of the iKP platform.

⁹ Overhead costs of providing office space and services for three regional coordinators in NDI field offices, including: office rent and utilities, phone/fax, postage, supplies, repairs, local travel, printing/copying, office security guards, bank charges and subscriptions.

Implementing timetable: the UNDEF project description listed two important milestones for the project in 2009/10:

- **Hiring of a minimum of two regional coordinators:** Since 2009, three additional regional coordinators have been in place in the MENA, SSA and AP regions (in addition to the existing LAC coordinator).
- **Implementation of Arabic Regional launch:** launched in October 2009 as described above.

The project description also set out a timeline for implementation of the seven key activities as described above. These activities have been largely implemented within the set timeframe with the exception of activity two "*Train the trainers*" where the core component of the activity was not undertaken in the format foreseen in the project description.

Project management: For the 2009/10 period, the project was managed until June 2010 by a Project Manager assisted by a Knowledge Network Facilitator. With the departure of the Project Manager in 2010, the Knowledge Network Facilitator took on the additional responsibilities of the Project Manager. Coordination has been assured through daily/weekly contact between the Project Manager and the Regional Coordinators, conference calls between the iKP team less regularly and twice yearly coordination meetings in-person of the iKP team. With the employment of three additional Regional Coordinators in 2009, more managerial tasks were created for the Project Manager. With the departure of the Project Manager and the Knowledge Management post, this had led to a high workload for the current Project Manager / Facilitator. This reduction in staff has resulted in the project not being able to progress as quickly as desired by all stakeholders.

Staffing: The securing of four Regional Coordinators was an important milestone for the project that has had a positive impact of extending the iKP network as discussed in this report. However, a concern for the project has been the stability of the staff as mentioned in section 4.1. The Regional Coordinators are mostly offered six months contracts which has not provided the long term security necessary for the scope of a project such as iKP.

4.5. Impact

What impact has the project achieved and is likely to achieve in the future?

The assessment has shown that the iKP network has made available to women a large number of resources and given them the possibility to exchange views and build networks. In the period under review (2009/10) the iKP audience has tripled and new regions have been reached more effectively with regional coordinators in place and the addition of an Arabic language version. Therefore, the immediate impact of the iKP network has been to increase the knowledge of women through the resources and exchange – 78% of iKP members reported on this impact (see figure 4).

How have these changes contributed to the ultimate project impact¹⁰ which was to increase the contribution and participation of women in politics? When asked how the iKP network has impacted on their professional activities, some 140 examples were given by iKP members. These examples could be split into eight categories of impact as shown in figure 9, with the size of the circles indicating the number of examples found.

The figure shows that the where the iKP has had a high level impact (5 out of 5) and found in forty examples was in actual projects of iKP members; initiating a project for women based on iKP resources; adjusting a strategy as a result of iKP. The estimated level of support was lower from the iKP network (2 out of 5) as resources and exchanges are provided but then it is up to members to use them as they design. Alternatively, many examples (45) were found where impact was more at the information level (e.g. useful resources for background information but not yet a direct use) having a low impact level (1 out of 5) but was highly supported by the iKP network (5 out of 5).

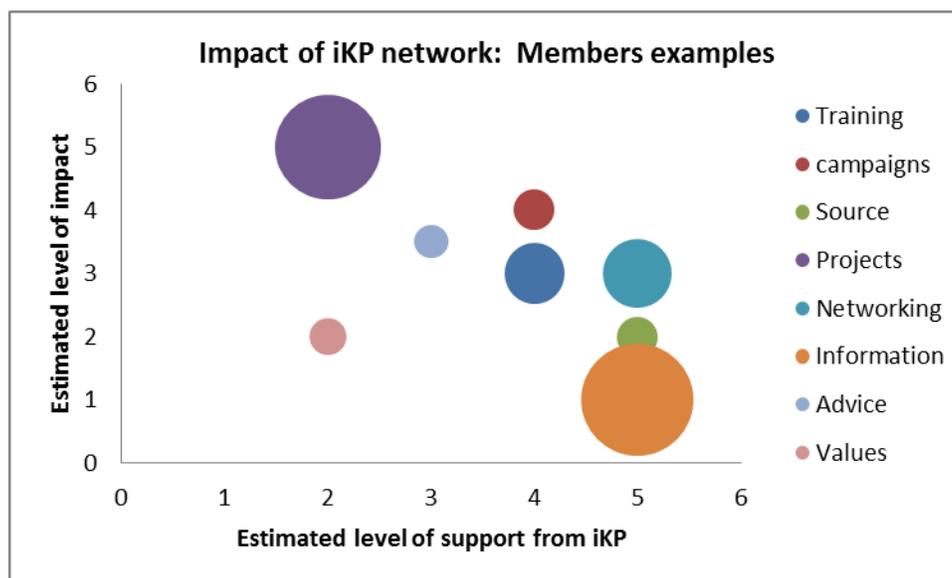


Figure 9: impact of iKP network: members' examples

¹⁰ As described in the *Reconstructed Intervention Logic* of chapter two.

The following quotes from interview and survey respondents illustrate each type of category example:

Information (45 examples)

*“To know what is going in different part of the world, and to use it for my experience”
Academic, Albania*

Projects (40)

*“I use the information in activities related to projects under my coordination, in those carried out by my organization and in advocacy activities.”
Human rights activist and feminist, Brazil*

Networking (17)

*“By sharing knowledge and experiences in a discussion circles”
Academic, civil society, Nepal*

Training (13)

“Holding workshops and seminars, which makes the transfer of new knowledge for women”¹¹, Political candidate, Columbia

Campaigns (6)

To plan campaign strategies, successful alliances, enhance tools to support campaigns, help in spreading news on events and exchange of information”. Civil society, Yemen

Source (6)

*“As a research student interested in gender issues, as regards to politics and political participation of women, iKP site is part of my sure guide in my research work. Bravo.”
Academic, Nigeria*

Values (5)

It has taught me to be more cautious and less confrontational; to find a point of agreement and meeting with women from other places and other parties.¹² Bolivia

Advice (4)

*“I've used the content of debates (e.g. on campaign financing) for my research purposes and I've sought an answer to a question from an expert on gender mainstreaming”
International development staff, Australian*

¹¹ Translation from Spanish: “Haciendo talleres y seminarios, donde se hace el traspaso del nuevo conocimiento a las mujeres”

¹² Translation from Spanish : « Me enseñaron a ser mas cauta y menos confrontativa para encontrar un punto de acuerdo y encuentro con mujeres de otros lugares y de otros partidos. »

What are the positive and negative effects produced or caused by the project on society or parts thereof?

The positive effects of the iKP project can be seen in the political arena. The findings of this assessment indicate the iKP project has had an impact in a variety of areas through the resources and exchanges of the network. These changes are seen as having a positive impact on the contribution of women to politics.

The negative effects of the project are less evident. A negative effect identified by the iKP regional coordinators was that sometimes the network raised expectations in terms of support or resources, subsequently leading to disappointment as such support was not available at this time. In addition, members interviewed and surveyed would like to see the iKP network more physically present in their countries which has not been possible given the virtual/online nature of the network.

The impact of the iKP network must be put into perspective with other potential influences on women's contribution to politics. When asked what major factors influenced changes to their political activities in the past two years, the following were indicated most often by survey respondents: changes to the political environment in their countries (45%) followed by changes to information and support (43%). As mentioned above, 75% of iKP members that responded to the survey did believe that the iKP had played a role in the changes to their political activities in the past two years.

What do you consider as the main factors that have played a role in the changes to your political activities in the past two years? (choose as many as you wish)

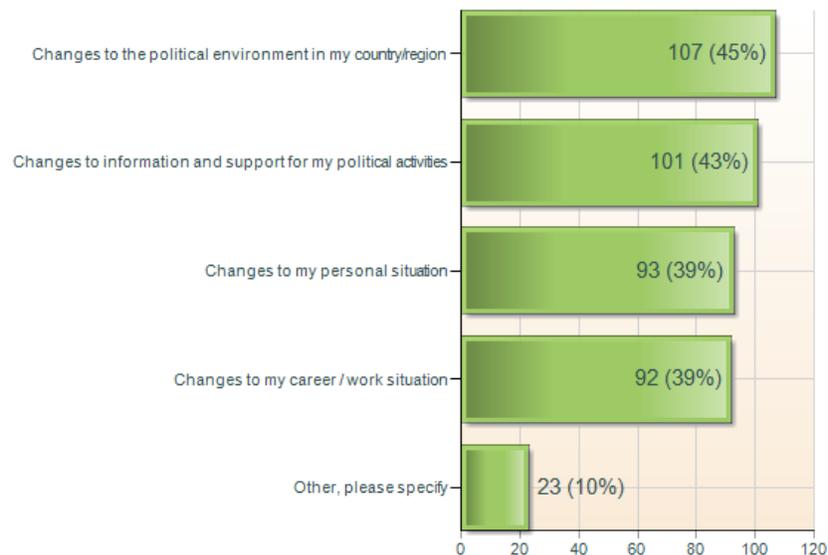


Figure 10: Main factors – political activities – survey responses

“What needs to be looked at is that the information is accessible to everyone, even those who cannot access Internet or who don’t know the language.”
Adinda, Indonesia

“What I find very interesting is the e-discussion even though I haven’t participated in it.

Adinda works for a think tank linked to public policy issues, working on developing policy briefs and research relevant to women in politics. She feels that the value of iKP is in that it provides practical information such as manuals and tools about how to run for government office; and that it talks about advocacy. In her work she has tried to reach the grassroots level, which are most difficult to reach because they do not have access to or feel familiar with the technology. She feels that for those living in the cities, for example women activists, they use increasingly social media and the Internet for their activities whereas those who are not familiar with technology are more apt to turn to public gatherings for example.

“It’s not easy to introduce technology to the local or grassroots level. It’s easier for the urban or middle class levels of those in politics. They have the confidence and they can use information from a variety of sources. But what is important is to reach all classes”

“It would also be good to see that it is monitored more closely, that there is someone there to help us if we have technical questions. Like a chat option so that if we run into complications then we can ask right away and find a solution.”

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

In four years, the iKP network has grown to be a large global network for women in politics. In the last two years, the network has extended its reach and achieved significant milestones. The success of the network has been seen in the desire of iKP members for it to move beyond its mandate as an online knowledge network. The following conclusions and recommendations are aimed at sustaining the network and bringing out its full potential. These recommendations are for the iKP network in general. Specific recommendations per region are found at annex one.

A. The exchange aspect: As in the 2008 assessment, only 10% of members were found to be actively using the "exchange" features of the platform. Various reasons explain this low usage: the complexity of using the features; contextual issues and the malfunctioning of the email alert system. In addition, some discussions have moved on to other platforms, mainly social media.

Recommendation: Review the set-up of the discuss features (reduce their complexity - particularly the discussion circles); ensure email alerts function by establishing a system to test the alerts on a weekly basis; consider how some of these features could better link/integrate with Twitter and Facebook. For example, posts in Twitter and Facebook appear on the iKNOW platform, integrate an RSS feed onto the iKNOW platform and a direct feed into news so that it appears on Twitter and Facebook.

B. Impact: A surprising finding of this assessment was that a more long term result of the iKP was its influence on members' projects. Results show that through the network, members were motivated to launch a new project, adjust a strategy, change an approach taken, etc. The network is not really set up to support or even reference such projects.

Recommendation: Review how the iKP network could facilitate further its influence and support for members' projects. As a first step, this could be achieved through the constitution of a members list online and descriptions of their projects inspired by /related to iKP.

C. Regional priorities: The assessment found that significant differences do exist between regions in terms of needs for content, features – and potential opportunities. This does not imply that separate platforms are needed; but that priorities and use of the platform will differ from region to region.

Recommendation: When reviewing priorities for the regions, consider how separate strategies may be required at the regional – and even sub-regional levels. The regional summaries found in annex 1 provide more suggestions and recommendations per region.

D. Promotion: This report provides many suggestions from members themselves as to how to attract more women to use iKP. Many of these suggestions focus on promotional aspects. The mobilization of young online audiences active in social media is yet to be fully exploited.

Recommendation: Create a promotion plan of action for the network at the regional and global levels; boost efforts with online audiences and social media

E. Project stability: based on the feedback from the members, the iKP has the potential to reach and support many more women. However, the project has not been able to reach its potential partially due to the frequent changes in regional coordinators that have delayed and slowed the project. Given the limited funding that the iKP has available this may be a challenge to overcome.

Recommendation: If possible offer two year contracts to regional coordinators.

F. Offline/online: The assessment raised the importance of promoting the iKP network further in offline events. Further, the demands of members go further than what can be expected of an online knowledge network. While resources are limited, initial attempts have been made to extend the network to “offline” audiences in some regions. Initiatives undertaken with partners to promote or link into the iKP have proved successful and this area could be further explored.

Recommendation: While considering the limited resources available, define an approach at the regional level to what extent the network will be present offline; if necessary define priority cities/countries/sub-regions in which to be present. Try to mobilize current members to bring in colleagues and friends. Offer some sort of incentive for women to reach out to their own networks and integrate them into the iKP. Work further with partners at the regional/sub-regional levels on promotional and other opportunities to link with the platform.

G. Opportunities: Several options are available to iKP at the global and regional levels. The addition of extra languages may be unrealistic therefore other priorities will have to be focused upon. Adding extra languages may involve only having select features and content available in the given languages.

Recommendation: Review each region with the notion of extending the reach of the network based on the feasible options of the regions – set priorities where necessary. Consider how presence of partners could be further utilized and if certain target groups (e.g. political activists) should be more targeted. Review other options of introducing extra languages that do not imply a full translation/service.

H. Resources: The assessment highlighted that members were largely satisfied with the content and features available on the platform. General agreement across regions indicated that members would like for more of a focus on e-learning and country-specific information. An issue raised was the need for regular and ongoing promotion of resources.

Recommendation: in reviewing future content and resources for the platform consider the requests of members as found in this report, notably the focus on e-learning, country specific information and other thematic areas. Regularly promote resources to members and non-members through email and other media.

Annex One: Regional Summaries

Middle East and North Africa:

What is special about this region for iKP?

- The region is especially relevant given the *Arab Spring* and the political changes taking place in the region. People (particularly youth) are demanding democracy & good governance and are becoming much more engaged in politics and decision-making.
- The issue of gender parity and the Internet is particularly relevant for the MENA region. For example, during the revolution of Egypt, women played an equally important role in pushing for change and pressuring the Mubarak regime to resign. Today the country is going through a post-dictatorship era and is redrafting its constitution. However, Egypt's nation-building process however has excluded women as decision-makers and many women are protesting till this day.
- Very few female role models exist in the MENA region. This concern was reiterated by all the members and non-members of the platform. This offers a great opportunity for iKP to showcase women's successes and struggles in politics in addition to offering mentoring programs for younger women engaged in politics.

Effectiveness: how successful has iKP been in achieving two main objectives:

1) Facilitating an exchange: iKP has not yet been successful in facilitating an exchange between women of the region, according to person interviewed (which contrasts to persons surveyed). No member interviewed indicated that she networked or exchanged information with other women. There has been limited activity in the discussion circles and no member interviewed utilized the 'Ask the expert' feature.

The only exchange that was mentioned amongst the members was the launch of the iKP platform in Amman, Jordan whereby they had the opportunity to meet other women and learn from each other.

2) Equipping women with tools and resources: iKP has been quite successful in equipping women in this region with tools and resources primarily through its library and secondly through the consolidated responses. Most of the members currently perceive the platform as a resource provider rather than a networking platform. There remains significant opportunity for iKP to strengthen this objective through online capacity building and training programs.

Relevance: how relevant is iKP to needs of the region?

iKP is very relevant to this region as mentioned in the introductory text above.

- It is perceived as a one-stop shop by its members:

"It's a complete website. It offers everything from up to date news to events. I depend on it as a resource." Sally Elbaz

"You feel it's a one-stop-shop that provides all expertise from one site". Aysha

"I go there for everything" Aysha, Trainer

- Provides Resources & Role Models

"It supported me while I was trying to prepare presentations or reports for example on laws that discriminate against women. But it didn't support me in my political career." Suzie Greiss

"I benefit from the discussions and also from the women role models. Before this site, I never had a woman role model. Now I have numerous." Sally Elbaz/ Political Party Member

"It is very very rich. It has so much knowledge on women and politics. Especially regarding the quota system, political parties and women's role in it. It also has great resources on civil wars and its impact on women. I looked at it two days ago regarding women's role in building democracies in transitional states. It's a very important site for me." Mahmoud/ Researcher

" I used the website to see what the new/hot topics are. I receive emails. I love the global voices. I receive email alerts when someone posts an opinion; and I look at them. When I need to prepare for a conference; I go there for resources. And I use a lot of the information for the courses I teach at Tawasil." Aysha/ Trainer

- Academically relevant: Provides information and statistics

"As a lecturer and researcher, I always advise my students to look at the site. I always try to put it as a reference source in all the studies I write." Mahmoud / Researcher

iKP provides lots of information for women. I always recommend it in my courses. It has relevant sources and very important discussions for women" Aysha/ Trainer

- Potential use for members

"Although I don't use it the way I should have. However, if I was a politician, I would use it to have more voters or to explain a specific point of view more clearly because it's a platform. You can campaign through it. As women, the network can replace late meetings or help you share your political ideas without having to leave your home at 9pm. You are in your room and you are talking to people that are your possible voters." Fatima/ Lecturer

"The features are great. However I would like to see specific research studies and information. The more studies posted on the site, the greater lobbying power the platform can have." Mahmoud

"I see so many opportunities that I have not utilized. Especially forming partnerships with other women." Sally Elbaz

" I am preparing to run for the Municipal Council in three years and the resources are very helpful. It is good, but more things need to be added to the site. We need to focus on the role of media in political elections and awareness campaigns." Aysa

" I believe that iKP is an excellent platform for young women. If you want women who are young to become engaged in politics, this is a very good tool for them. We are embarking on a revolution of youth. Its young people that led this revolution and the presence of this platform is an opportunity for them to be changemakers." Suzie Greiss

Language issue: The MENA region is characterized by a range of languages in addition to multilingualism. Many MENA users seem to expect their search for a particular subject to bring content in different languages. For example, Tunisia seeks information in French and Arabic, Egypt seeks information in English and Arabic. This limits the users who seek information in more than one language. We see an opportunity for the platform to add to its search functionality this language element.

Impact: what impact has iKP had to date in this region?

To date, iKP has had an impact by providing resources and statistics to those seeking the information. It is clearly a site that particularly appeals to academic circles.

However, its potential in terms of membership numbers and engagement of women through the platform is immense. One of the members believes that the platform can play a role in changing attitudes and mindsets of women towards women.

Extension: What are the opportunities to reach more women? What is needed to attract more women?

Annual Events:

- iKP annual conferences are essential in this region. The excitement following the forum in Jordan declined after some time. An annual gathering can renew membership excitement and create a 'community' that meet and exchange knowledge and expertise on a systematic basis.

IT & Social Media

- Use of social media to market the platform for younger generation of women.
- Building capacities with regards to password retrieval system

Capacity Bulding & Training

- -"Women exchange programs" that bring women from different parts of the world under the iknowpolitics platform.
- Online training and capacity building.

More In-Depth Research

- In-depth research from the field

Partnerships to increase membership

- Utilize the networks of the NDI and the United Nations
- Young Women's Leader's Academy of the NDI

Additional Services

- Start implementing projects on the ground.

Recommendations – Middle East and North Africa

- Much more aggressive marketing of iKP site in MENA through social media and other channels to capture a younger generation of rising female politicians and activists
- Hold an annual regional MENA iKP conference that brings together members and provides training workshops
- More collaboration with partners active in region (e.g. MENA) to fully optimize all opportunities
- Greater coverage on the untold stories of women in politics in MENA (e.g. those who have succeeded and those who haven't yet).
- Tackle the social issues of each country that influence politics in MENA. Possibly create country-specific section that includes background on country and its political situation.
- Modify search engine in Arabic to include results in English and French.

Sub-Saharan Africa

What is special about this region for iKP?

The African region has seen major improvements in the last two years and is starting to grow and set priorities. According to the regional coordinator, iKP was not very known two years ago. Through promotion, travelling across the region and holding seminars in different countries there is now at least one organisation of women that supports and promotes iKP in every country.

One challenge in this region is linked to technical issues. Many women in Sub-Saharan Africa do not even have an e-mail account according to women interviewed. In addition, the challenges are less linguistic but more so in reaching women working outside of the urban centres.

“They should have some field presence. Only a few percent of women in Cameroon have access to the Internet and when they do they don’t think about accessing iKP.”

“Many women in Lesotho do now have pc’s but otherwise it could be a great tool for training. They could use it to empower other women, make them more interested and motivated.”

“computer literacy is the hindrance. Secondly more advocacy is needed urgently to help more women join the network. we are willing and ready to help with capacity building, get in touch with me and my group.”

“to be reader friendly, many women in poor countries cannot access Internet so they don't benefit from the resource, so for it to reach more women it is important to empower the few who are in the network to find ways of reaching rural women.”

Although there has been a commendable effort to gain visibility in this region, some have indicated that more could be done.

“In countries like Mali iKNOW Politics need to be more visible. Most women do not know how to use a website like this but once someone has showed them how to do they find it very useful. There needs to be some direct promotion of the project, especially among women leaders and at universities.”

“iKP should organise an official launch event at country level to attract some attention. Somebody from iKP should come to Cameroon and show women what it is and how to use it. Women need to be familiar with the tools before they can use them.”

Effectiveness: how successful has iKP been in achieving two main objectives:

1) Facilitating an exchange: Overall women were positive in terms of the exchanges established through the network despite the limitations of access for some members.

“..For women in this region the possibility to connect with women in other countries and in regions like Latin America or the Middle East is the main advantage of iKP. They are more interested in the contacts and to be able to reach out to women all over the world than in using the resources on the site.”

“I first found out about iKP at a workshop organised by NDI and briefly met with some women from Zambia. Thanks to the website I’ve been able to stay in touch with these women.”

“i know politics will assist me link with other women both in my country and beyond. This network gives a lot of information globally which helps in brainstorming .it will also introduce me to another level of thinking and introduce me to organizations that can assist in different projects advocacy, lobbying, creating awareness etc. in other areas of coverage.”

“The most important is the exchanges through the forums. In DRC women often feel de-connected, but iKP gives them a possibility to connect with other women all over the world, gives visibility to different organisations. For her personally, it has been useful to be able to create a user profile, she has used this in contacts with new donor organisations since she does not have her own website.”

2) Equipping women with tools & resources: Women in general have been very satisfied with the tools and resources available to them. However, sometimes expectations are not met as women expect material and capacity support from the network.

“But for the concrete features on iKP I think that the news part is interesting, that resources, interviews and consolidated responses from experts are useful and relevant. There should be more consolidated responses. No need to wait for questions to come in, the experts could be asked to elaborate on current debates. For example where there are elections coming up, they could write about the electoral system in those countries.”

Relevance: how relevant is iKP to needs of the region?

The platform is used by women who are already politically active, especially in English-speaking countries. But those who are most interested are women in civil society organisations; they are many and participate more actively.

One problem is that iKP is mainly relevant for women in urban areas. It can even be perceived as a little elitist. In African rural areas it is almost impossible for women to benefit from a website. As a result, the regional coordinator has started “Grassroots meetings” with the first one held in a small town outside Bamako, Mali. Some 100 women from the local political assemblies, NGOs, media and teachers were united with the resulting discussion broadcast over radio and posted on the network.

“It is very encouraging, getting connected with women in other African countries and in the world.”

“If I had not participated in that NDI workshop I would never have heard of iKP. I think that iKP needs to work with country level coordinators, or focal points, that can spread the word.”

Impact: what impact has iKP had to date in this region?

It was felt that the exchanges and capacity developed through iKP for this region will not be wasted even if the project is concluded. A factor for sustainability in this region has been that many students and teachers are using the website for their research.

“Reach women through different forums and discussions should be shared, I was impressed when I read my contribution in the web it makes me feel that others can come across and read what I wrote during the discussion forum”

Extension: What are the opportunities to reach more women? What is needed to attract more women?

The regional coordinator works primarily with the partner organizations to promote iKP and to reach more women. In some countries (e.g. Sierra Leone and Nigeria) there are some very active women and promoting iKP functions well. In other countries it is more difficult. More collaboration with partners would enable the network to reach more women in this region.

In addition, the network has not yet reached full capacity in terms of usage levels in the major urban centres of this region. This is in addition to the challenges faced in reaching women in the rural areas.

Recommendations – Sub-Saharan Africa

- Increase collaboration with partners active in the region, particularly in those regions where usage is low (e.g. West Africa)
 - Introduce additional strategies to promote the network in the main urban areas
- Continue efforts to promote the network in rural areas, given limited resources

Europe

What is special about this region for iKP?

Given its diversity as a region, Europe is a particular challenge for the iKP network. Although participation from Western Europe is relatively low, the network has stocked many reference materials produced from this region. Of higher priority in terms of target publics is Central and Eastern Europe. Both regions are a challenge linguistically with only the Eastern European countries sharing a common (mostly) second language (English). As more young people speak in English in this region, there is an anticipation that more use of the English-language resources could be made (especially from Central Europe). However, with the current generation, the absence of a Russian version of the platform is a barrier for many women in Eastern Europe.

Effectiveness: how successful has iKP been in achieving two main objectives:

1) Facilitating an exchange: the network has been active in the region to a limited extent with successes seen in some sub-regions (e.g. setting up a closed discussion circle in the Balkans). The network has also had good visibility in some regions (e.g. Baltic states) due to high profile experts from these areas. The domination of the online exchange in Spanish has led to some Spanish women participating but remains largely focused on the Americas.

2) Equipping women with tools & resources: as for other regions, the website has been successful in this regard; taking into consideration the language limitations, and that women in Western Europe may be the creators of such resources or have more options for different resources compared to other regions.

“We need more experience in political issue as young democracy system.”

“More exchange of experiences and methods and a larger geographical coverage”

Relevance: how relevant is iKP to needs of the region?

As mentioned in the introductory text, the iKP network has the potential to be very relevant in select regions of Europe (notably Central and Eastern Europe) but currently faces barriers mainly due to linguistic issues. The iKP network is less relevant to women in Western Europe but this is not – nor should be – a key priority audience for the network (with the exception of being important role models, sources of resources and support).

Impact: what impact has iKP had to date in this region?

The iKP has had limited impact in Europe to date compared to other regions where the network is more active. Nevertheless, examples can be seen where the network has aided as a knowledge update and exchange – and consequently supported women in their political careers.

Extension: What are the opportunities to reach more women? What is needed to attract more women?

For this region, opportunities exist to reach more women with several options possible: focus on Eastern Europe with a Russian-language version; work further with national organizations to provide content of local interest; initiate a greater role for experts from Western Europe; and focus on smaller initiatives such as that of the Balkans closed Discussion Circle. In this regard, the iKP network has already started a pilot project in Central Europe with the aim of sourcing more content and information from the sub-region.

“It could be a way for academics like her to get more active contacts with practitioners.”

“As a researcher it would be useful to find an overview of the latest academic articles related to women and politics, especially those that are not published in the gender focused journals, and also be able to access comparative data on the situation in different countries.”

“to create and extend network of women involved in politics. To organize forums and meetings where women can discuss about politic”

“Providing “individual tutorials” in the field to politicians women in order to make them see the resources available into iKNOW politics”

“I would like more articles about women who already reached their goal - even when little and trivial.”

“Partnering with national organizations to provide national content”

Recommendations – Europe

- Develop strategies for each important sub-region (e.g. the Balkans, Russian speaking countries, Central Europe) with a focus on working with national partners where possible
- Consider other smaller issues such as that of Balkans closed discussion group to encourage more usage
- Given funding availability, consider introducing a Russian language version

The Americas and the Caribbean

What is special about this region for iKP?

The Latin American region is a highly connected environment and many people have access to the Internet. This presents an opportunity for iKP to become a central reference point for these groups and to help strengthen their networks. This region has arguably the highest penetration level for the iKP network amongst women and has notably benefited from a regional coordinator in place since 2007.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development¹³, Latin American women suffer less gender discrimination and enjoy more rights than many other regions of the world particularly such as Africa and Asia. The region is dominated by progressive governments (Ecuador, Paraguay, Chile and Argentina) which could mean more opportunities for women.

Effectiveness: how successful has iKP been in achieving two main objectives:

1) Facilitating an exchange: iKP has been more effective in facilitating an exchange in this region compared to the other regions. From the responses received, it can be concluded that the most valuable aspect of the platform is the support women feel by hearing about and learning from the experiences of others. Although some connect online to exchange information, some of the technical challenges seem to interfere with the possibility of a more sustainable networking.

“Women feel that they are not alone which is very reassuring and we see a lot of dialogue.”

“There was a documentary about women in politics. It had some contacts at the university about women in politics and I wanted to go back to get the information I saw and I couldn’t find it. That was a great shame. Especially if it was due to some technical issue.”

2) Equipping women with tools & resources: iKP has been very effective in equipping women with tools & resources in the Latin American region. Many women identified the iKP platform as a valued resource for their work in politics. They are able to obtain the necessary information for research, initiatives, events, and other endeavours. They are able to learn from other women’s experiences and they feel supported knowing that others have succeeded in situations similar to their own.

¹³ OECD thematic paper on Millennium Development Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women, UNDP 2010 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/62/45341361.pdf>

“Yes it gives a lot of access to information such as comparing cases from different regions, it provides support and advice to the members and also commending each other”

“The library is excellent and well organised, and the publications are very good. Also the discussions are great.”

Relevance: how relevant is iKP to needs of the region?

As a dynamic region in terms of communication and networking, iKP has been very relevant for women active in politics. As the platform has a large variety of resources in Spanish, women are able to use it to support their initiatives. They are able to find necessary resources, exchange ideas, and network in their own language.

“It is an instrument with great value for the women in the region.”

Impact: what impact has iKP in this region?

iKP has helped women in the region learn from each other and support each other in the challenges they face to become an integral part of the political framework. The potential for iKP is to expand further to integrate more women and serve as a central hub in terms of resources and networking for women involved in politics. All interviewees emphasized the value of iKP for their work in terms of resource of information and support for their activities.

Some of the challenges for the future are linked to technological aspects in terms of access and usability as well as funding. Successful women in politics have limited amount of time available and some have encountered problems with login and navigation. This was identified in the 2008 assessment as an impediment to using the platform more widely.

“I know has helped me become more aware of the gap between women and men in my country and my region.”

“The projections for the future are limited because of the lack of funding. This is a shame. We could do so much more with a stable financing. We could establish a road map for the next 3 or 4 years.”

Extension: What are the opportunities to reach more women? What is needed to attract more women?

Although the present rate of women in politics continues to increase in Latin America, women will not reach the parity zone for another 40 years (OECD 2010). Therefore, there is a real need for a stronger network amongst women to accelerate this process and iKNOW politics can be an integral part of this.

iKP seems to be very active in promoting the platform at various events throughout Latin America. Word of mouth is highly effective in this high context environment. Among some initiatives identified by the interviewees, expanding and linking to social networks such as Facebook was among the most prevalent, in addition to reaching further into rural areas.

“It would be interesting to have very renowned women in politics appear online for a certain hour for a special forum in chat form so that we could intervene ask questions and get direct feedback/interaction.”

Recommendations – the Americas and the Caribbean

- The Caribbean poses a particular challenge – a linguistic mixture (Spanish, English and French) and given the survey responses (three – two from Dominican Republic and one from Jamaica) and feedback from the region indicates a small but active community. Efforts could be made to introduce more content (e.g. news) from this region
- As this region is the most active user of the discussion features, consider how these features could be further used, e.g. Q & A with renowned women in politics as suggested by the above member
- As for the AP region, the LAC region would be an option to introduce a pilot project on integrating the network further within social media such as Facebook and/or Twitter
- As exchange of experience is highly valued in this region, consider introducing a pilot project where women could profile their projects/careers that have indirectly or directly benefited from iKP.

Asia Pacific

What is special about this region for iKP?

Asia Pacific is a challenging region as women are not as empowered as in some other areas. There are opportunities in this region as there seems to be a real need for support and guidance in addition to the resources that women are able to obtain from the platform. From the interviews it seems apparent that women are looking to connect with others and learn from their experiences. Two main obstacles seem to be impeding this development. These are accessibility and language.

Accessibility: access to the Internet appears to be a problem for many women in the region and even when they do have access the connection is weak. This means they cannot navigate easily throughout the site and tend to leave sooner than wanted. Also, some have technical difficulties with the login and navigation which also deters them from exploring the different sections of the site. Currently, the iKNOW platform is only accessible on a computer and in a region with weak infrastructure this may be an

impediment. Therefore, people tend to increasingly access the Internet through mobile phones but the iKP platform is currently not adapted for this type of access.

“If there were an option to connect by mobile phone without having to go through Internet that might help.”

Language: although many women understand English, they do not feel comfortable communicating in this language. Therefore, there are missed opportunities for some of the women in this region. Many users end up turning to social media to interact because they are able to find more users in their own language on these platforms.

“All the information on the platform is in English or Arabic and Spanish or French. But there is nothing for the language in our region. It would be great to have a translating option...Perhaps there is some organisation interested in translating the site into Bahasa Indonesian. This is also understood by the Malaysians.”

“For example things like looking at needs assessment before undertaking advocacy work that would be great to have but it should be translated. Also if there is information about what women are doing in other regions its great but its more valuable if its translated. You should either have a translation option or have mediators who can help the locals understand the content.”

“There should be some option for translation so their opinions can be heard. If the language is an obstacle then the regional coordinator has to be more active to help those people who have the experience and a voice to be heard.”

“ in parliament or politicians they have a problem with the language so they have asked if we could provide information in the local language. They would probably join the discussion more if it were in their own language.”

Effectiveness: how successful has iKP been in achieving two main objectives:

1) Facilitating an exchange: The iKP platform has been moderately successful in facilitating an exchange between women in politics in this region. Although there is great potential, and some leaders in politics have been able to connect, many women hesitate to participate in discussions due to issues linked to language and connectivity. Participation may be higher in larger cities but in rural areas both of these factors are major impediments to women seeking to use the platform for this result. Some have been able to follow the discussions but hesitate to engage

“One of our partners UN women published something about this so I tried to connect this group with the MP and they started working together. So I hope that these groups will continue to work together.”

“Although the language is a problem for women in this region, some have found it useful to connect with others. They find it challenging to write in English but feel ok with listening so in that way they have been able to get something out of it.”

“Not so much because I tend to observe the discussions and I recognise some of my friends in the network but I don’t necessarily chat with them.”

2) Equipping women with tools & resources: IKP has been successful in providing tools and resources to women in this region. Many women have emphasized that they were able to learn from the platform, particularly about experiences of other women also in other regions. The platform has helped them understand the issues more clearly and having a sense of being part of a network has inspired them to move forward with their own initiatives.

The most usable aspect is the library, the news, and the interviews because it’s sharing of experiences.

“Also the discussions are very good for networking and sharing experiences. “

“Politicians are really mobile so this would be good. Their emails are often opened by their assistants not by them directly, so it is not personal but they are the only ones who access their mobile phones. Here in Indonesia everyone has a Blackberry because it has applications for chatting so a lot of people use it.”

Relevance: how relevant is iKP to needs of the region?

IKP has been moderately relevant for the region due to the obstacles of accessibility and language. These impede a wider usage of the platform and, therefore, the impact is not as pronounced as it could be.

“The platform is very popular, it has a good image and reputation in this region not only for the users but also for other organizations. “

“Sometimes it’s difficult to share information or participate in discussions, particularly if you have a bad Internet connection.”

Impact: what impact has iKP had to date in this region?

The iKP platform has had an impact in that it has served as a reference and guide for women in politics. It has helped clarify issues such as gender equality, quotas, and training for parties or MP’s for example.

“It helps me to shape my arguments in terms of women’s issues. Its helpful on a daily basis. Issues such as electoral mechanisms, campaigning, and I can get tips from what is happening in other countries. For example also to find out how different women are using social media in their activities.”

Extension: What are the opportunities to reach more women? What is needed to attract more women?

With regard to the issue of accessibility as a challenge for this region, one option might be to provide access through mobile. Women in this region are connected through mobile technology more than Internet on computers. Having a mobile application may result in more value for the user.

Another option is link the platform to existing social media platforms in the region that allow for the use of local languages. There seems to be a need for women to connect and discuss but they feel uncomfortable doing this in English.

“I think more active use of social media might help to raise awareness and attract more women. I think there are a lot of women who don’t know about it.”

IKnow does have Facebook and Twitter applications but Twitter, many Indonesians use it but in their own language not English. So this is another situation where language is a problem. For Facebook, they don’t really use the iknow page very much also for the same reason.”

Plus also all the discussion are always about women and led by women, as some women interviewed pointed out. The interviews are always of women but never of men. But it would be interesting to hear from a male MP about his perspectives of women’s issues.

Recommendations – Asia Pacific

- Given the presence of the mobile phone in Asia, this region could be most suited for a pilot initiative to adapt iKP for mobile use – i.e. integration of the discussion circles posting function with a mobile capacity.
- In the same vein as above, this region could be most suited for a pilot initiative to integrate Twitter and Facebook further in local languages. This could involve simply monitoring and moderating these streams in a local language (e.g. Bahasa Malaysian Indonesian).
- Develop strategies for regions considered important (e.g. South East Asia, Indian sub-continent) or consider focusing on countries where maximum potential exists given language constraints (e.g. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan where English is more widely spoken amongst politically active women)

Annex Two: Terms of Reference

In accordance with its United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) agreement, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) wishes to hire an Evaluation Consultant to conduct an assessment of its project iKNOW Politics (www.iknowpolitics.org).

Background

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) was launched in February 2007 as a project of five international organizations: the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It is an online portal providing information, shared knowledge and networking opportunities for women in politics. Since its launch, iKNOW Politics has established an active online community with a significant resource base. The site – www.iknowpolitics.org – has received over 25 million hits, at a current rate of almost 100,000 hits on the site every day. iKNOW Politics also has over 1,100 resources in its online library, 3,300 registered members, and over 100 experts from 28 countries.

Headquartered in Washington D.C., with field offices in every region of the world, NDI is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide using a global network of volunteer experts. Since 1985, NDI has been committed to the process of increasing the number of women in elected office as well as civil society and political party leadership through programs that strengthen women's skills for engaging in politics, emphasize that women are impacted differently by public policy, and improve the public perception of women in political life.

In September 2008, NDI received a United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) grant to help launch iKNOW Politics. The two main objectives of the grant were:

- To facilitate a global exchange of knowledge and resources on gender and political participation linking several existing networks and actors in an issue specific discussion; and
- To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena.

Objective and Purpose

The objective of the program assessment is to evaluate the extent to which iKNOW Politics has successfully completed the program objectives. The assessment will inform the planning of future iKNOW Politics activities.

Using the UNDEF key criteria and NDI's final report and results framework to guide the evaluation design, the illustrative evaluation questions may include:

The Key Criteria of evaluation should cover the following elements:

- **Assessment of the effectiveness of the project**
The extent to which the project's stated objectives are achieved or the likelihood that they will be achieved for all project types. The effectiveness of the project should be assessed in accordance with the activities, outputs and outcomes detailed in the results framework to be enclosed in the final project document. Factors contributing to and detracting from the results are to be included in the evaluation report.
- **Assessment of the sustainability of the project**
The extent to which benefits or results from the project will continue or are likely to continue after UNDEF's support has come to an end (i.e. the lasting results, changes in behavior, possible follow-up projects) including an examination on the design and implementation of the project, whether this impacted on the results of the project and if the results can be sustained beyond project completion.
- **Assessment of the relevance of the project**
The degree to which the project was justified and appropriate in relation to the need and situation on the national/regional/global level.
- **Assessment of the efficiency of the project**
The analysis and the evaluation of the overall project performance, the outputs in relation to the inputs, the financial management, the implementing timetable.
- **Assessment of the impact that the project has achieved and is likely to achieve in the future**
This requires measuring the positive and negative effects produced or caused by the project on society or parts thereof. Usually the long term effects of a project is measured, for this requirement; the vendor is expected to capture any changes already seen in the relatively short term or any potential catalytic effects that would influence the long-term impact of the project.

NDI will work collaboratively with the Evaluation Consultant to finalize the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the assessment and ascertain appropriate methodology to collect and analyze data.

Key Tasks and Deliverables

NDI will work with the Evaluation Consultant to develop evaluation strategy and delineate tasks necessary for successful completion of the program assessment. The tasks will likely include:

- Desk reviews of NDI and iKNOW Politics documentation relevant to the program;
- Design of the overall evaluation strategy and methodological approach, including: program logic; identification of appropriate data collection and analysis methods; development of evaluation instruments and questionnaires; and establishment of protocols for data collection and analysis;
- Piloting of data collection and analysis instruments;
- Data collection and analysis, likely including: a review of project reports, data collected through on-going program monitoring, a web-based (online) survey, and phone interviews with selected network users and members;
- Data analysis against assessment objectives; and
- Submission of a program assessment report.

Task completion will result in the following deliverables:

- Evaluation inception report that includes: TORs, refined evaluation strategy, intervention logic, evaluation questions, methodology, and work plan;
- Data collection, analysis instruments, and protocols;
- Weekly progress reports (verbal and/or via e-mail);
- Raw and processed data;
- Draft program assessment report and oral briefing; and
- Final evaluation report that includes:
 - Executive summary of findings and conclusions;
 - Introduction with background to the evaluation;
 - Evaluation questions, methodologies and approach, scope, constraints, and limitations;
 - Description of the project objectives evaluated;
 - Data collection and analysis based on criteria and findings;
 - Challenges, lessons learned, overall impact, good practices and success stories;
 - Key findings and conclusions; and
 - Annexes, including: TORs, work plan, instruments and protocols, databases, references, documentation, etc.

Period of Performance

October 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010

Qualifications of Evaluation Consultant

The Evaluation Consultant shall have documented experience of evaluations of social and virtual networking websites and international development programs. Required qualifications:

- Masters degree or higher, in evaluation, applied research, social science, political science or a related field;
- At least 5 years experience managing or conducting evaluations, preferably those relating to analysis of online or social networks;
- Proficiency in both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, including survey design and implementation, sampling strategies, and statistical analysis;
- Proven excellent research skills, including development and application of analytical frameworks as well as tools and production of analytical reporting;
- Ability to work remotely with diverse stakeholders and achieve quality results with limited supervision; and
- Excellent English oral and writing skills.

Preferred qualifications:

Knowledge and/or previous work experience with women political participation programs.

Conditions and Resources

The Evaluation Consultant will receive a daily consultant fee – not to exceed 42 days – plus reimbursement for assessment-related long-distance phone calls. No travel is foreseen for the assessment, and the Evaluation Consultant will work remotely.

To Apply

Selection Criteria

A selection process will be carried out by a Steering Group based on the following criteria:

- Prior experience of carrying network evaluations;
- Specialized knowledge of electronic network analysis;
- Proposed methodology and work plan described in letter of interest; and
- Cost and fees.

Annex Three: Evaluation Methodology

The objective of this program assessment was to evaluate the extent to which iKNOW Politics has successfully completed the program objectives. These objectives, as detailed in the grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) were as follows:

- To facilitate a global exchange of knowledge and resources on gender and political participation linking several existing networks and actors in an issue specific discussion;
- To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena.

To evaluate the extent to which the above objectives have been completed or not, the following research methods were used:

- Content analysis and categorization
- Online survey (in Arabic, English, French & Spanish)
- Telephone Interviews (in Arabic, English, French & Spanish)

The matching of these research methods to the above objectives are further detailed in the “assessment methodology grid” found in annex 4 of this report.

Selection and Sampling

Content Analysis: All accessible content of the “Discuss” section of the website was analyzed. The themes and content of the List Circles, E-discussion Forums and Ask the Expert features were analyzed by keywords to identify major trends and patterns.

Categorization: The resources accessible the “Library” section were categorized on the basis of existing categories used by the website: type and issue.

Online Survey: Website members and non-members were requested, by email to complete an online survey (which was available in Arabic English, French and Spanish). The email invitation was sent to all registered members of the network (approximately 9300 people) and those subscribers to the iKNOW politics e-newsletter that are not members of the website (approximately 10,000 people). In total, 264 responses were received to the survey. Although beneath predicted returns, this was satisfactory to allow for an analysis to draw trends and patterns. The survey questions can be found in annex 5 of this report.

Telephone Interviews: telephone interviews were conducted with 39 persons. The complete list of people interviewed and the guide used can be found in annexes 6 and 5 respectively. The sampling framework for this assessment set out to interview a cross section of members, non-members and partners. The framework can be found in annex 4. The interview transcripts were analyzed using the ATLAS.ti qualitative analysis software.

Constraints and Limitations of the Program Assessment

The main constraints and limitations of this program assessment were:

- Difficulties to extract precise membership details (country/level of participation, etc.) from the iKP website due to changeover in the technical provider;
- Difficulties to extract detailed web statistics from the the iKP website (e.g. number of downloads) due to changeover of the technical provider;
- In terms of people sampled for the survey, it would have been preferable to have more responses to the survey – although the diversity of opinions and countries did allow an in-depth analysis to be undertaken.

Annex Four: Inception Report

Introduction

This document is an inception report for the program assessment of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics program (iKNOW politics). The objectives and purpose, intervention logic, assessment strategy, methodology and work plan are detailed in this document.

Based on this inception report, a proposed structure for the final report is detailed in annex one.

Objectives and purpose

The objective of this program assessment is to evaluate the extent to which iKNOW Politics has successfully completed the program objectives. These objectives, as detailed in the grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) are:

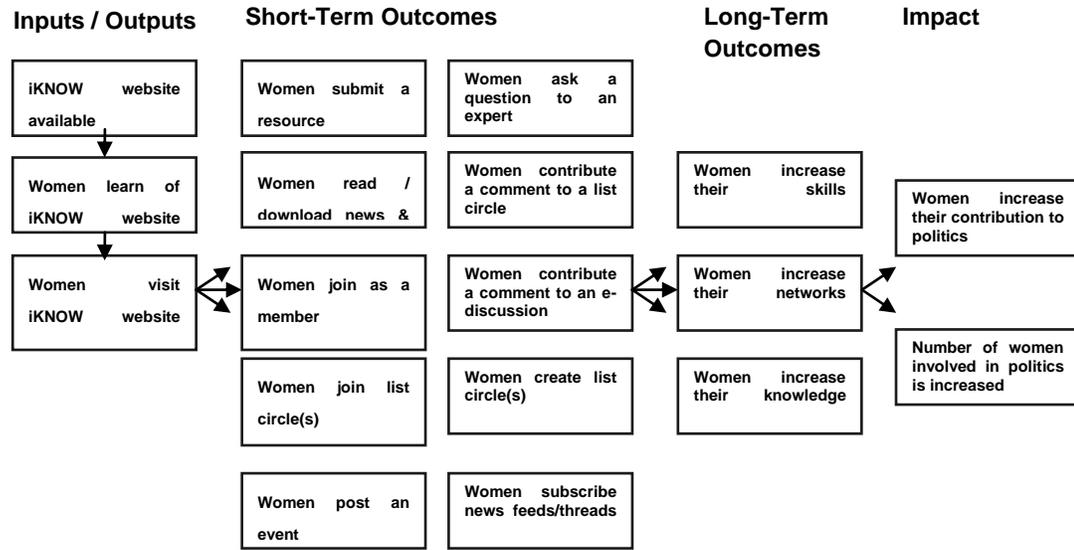
- To facilitate a global exchange of knowledge and resources on gender and political participation linking several existing networks and actors in an issue specific discussion;
- To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena

The program assessment will use the following key criteria: effectiveness, sustainability, relevance, efficiency, impact and extension. These criteria are further developed below in section 5.

The assessment will inform the substantive narrative report of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs to UNDEF, as well as provide input into the planning of the third phase of UNDEF funding and future iKNOW Politics activities.

Intervention logic

The intervention logic describes the path from input to impact for the program. The following intervention logic for iKnow Politics was detailed in the previous program assessment (December 2008). The intervention logic will assist the assessment in understanding to what extent the program objectives were achieved.



Intervention logic for iKnow Politics

Assessment strategy

The following points describe the approach that will be taken to undertake this program assessment:

- Combining of qualitative and quantitative methods to respond to the assessment criteria;
- Examining multiple indicators to determine the impact of iKNOW politics on women and their participation in politics;
- Making reference to the previous program assessment and other relevant monitoring data to establish progress and possible gaps.

Assessment Methodology

The following grid details the assessment methodology to be used in this program assessment. The methodology is organised on the basis of the six assessment criteria.

| Assessment criteria | Proposed indicators | Proposed tools |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Effectiveness To what extent have the project's stated objectives been achieved? What factors facilitated or hindered the results achieved? | - Level of achievement of two key objectives; facilitating an exchange and equipping women with tools & resources - Identification of facilitating and hindering factors | - Online survey with members and users - Interviews with members, staff and partners - Review of documentation, web analytics and other data - Analysis of portal content |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>2. Relevance To what degree was the project relevant and appropriate in relation to the needs and situation at the national, regional and global levels?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree of relevance of project to needs (national, regional and global) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online survey with members and users - Interviews with members, staff and partners - Review of documentation, web analytics and other data - Analysis of portal content |
| <p>3. Sustainability To what extent will the benefits / results from the project continue after UNDEF's support ends? How has the design and implementation of the project impacted on sustaining results beyond project completion?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of sustainability of the project - Identification of sustained results (e.g. lasting results, changes in behavior, possible follow-up projects) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online survey with members and users - Interviews with members, staff and partners - Review of documentation, web analytics and other data - Analysis of portal content |
| <p>4. Efficiency How is the project assessed on overall project performance, the outputs in relation to the inputs, the financial management, the implementing timetable?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of project efficiency (performance, input-output, financial management, timetable) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews with members, staff and partners - Review of documentation, web analytics and other data - Analysis of portal content |
| <p>5. Impact What impact has the project achieved and is likely to achieve in the future? What are the positive and negative effects produced or caused by the project on society or parts thereof?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of current and future impact - Identification of positive and negative effects (changes seen or potential catalytic effects) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online survey with members and users - Interviews with members, staff and partners - Review of documentation, web analytics and other data - Analysis of portal content |
| <p>6. Extension Where are the main opportunities to reach more women? What will be necessary to attract more women to use iKP? In addition to the current tools and platforms available on iKP, what are other tools or features would users like to see on iKP? What would be the best platform for this network and information exchange? What are other areas of information that women need that are not available on iKP? What else can iKP be doing? What are the expectations that are not being met? What types of technology does the target audience use on a regular basis? (Mobile, radio, etc.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of main opportunities (geographic, linguistic) - Identification of key factors to attract more users - Identification of tools, features and platforms - Identification of other areas of information - Identification of types of technology and levels of use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews with staff, partners, members and users - Interviews with non-members |

Assessment tools

The assessment tools will be used across the five criteria. The following table provides further information on these tools and how they will be deployed.

| Tool | Number planned (if relevant) | Information source | Software (if relevant) | Measuring criteria |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Desk review</i> | N/A | All relevant documentation | N/A | 1-5 |
| <i>Content analysis</i> ¹⁴ | 1 content analysis | Discussion circles, consolidated responses, ask the expert, e-discussions, library | | 1-5 |
| <i>Online survey (in Arabic, English, French & Spanish)</i> | 1 (same & different question per group) | Members (9,300 with 10% response rate desired) , Non-members (iKP e-newsletter subscribers) (10,000 with 10% response rate desired) | Zoomerang | 1-5 |
| <i>Telephone Interviews (in Arabic, English, French & Spanish)</i> | 41 | Members (16) Experts (4) Staff/partners (7) Non-members (14) | ATLAS.ti | 1-6 |
| <i>Website metrics analysis</i> | 1 | Website back-office | Web metrics software as used by iKP | 1-5 |

Some interviews may be conducted in-person and/or in groups if opportunities arise to do so. Where possible, we will not survey people that will be interviewed and vice-versa. Further information on the sampling frame can be found in annex two.

Work plan

Based on the scope of the project, a schedule of eight weeks is planned. The key tasks and deliverables are listed for each step in addition to where client validation will be required.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Key steps - <i>Key deliverables</i> | 2 – 8 May | 9 – 15 May | 16- 22 May | 23- 29 May | 30 May – 5 Jun. | 6 - 12 June | 13 - 19 June | 27 – 30 June |
| Review definition - <i>Inception report</i> *client validation | | | | | | | | |

¹⁴ For this program assessment, a content analysis will be undertaken of the themes and topics treated in the “Network” and “Exchange knowledge” sections of the website to determine the focuses of these sections.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tool creation & desk review - <i>Interview guide</i> - <i>Survey questions</i> <i>*client validation</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Data collection (interviews & survey) - <i>weekly reports</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Compilation & analysis of results - <i>weekly reports</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Delivery of draft report - <i>Draft report</i> <i>*client validation</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Client comments on report | | | | | | | | |
| Delivery of final report - <i>Final report</i> - <i>Raw/processed data</i> <i>*client validation</i> | | | | | | | | |

Distribution of Tasks:

Glenn O’Neil: team leader, Document review, preparation of methodology, survey preparation, interviews (5) with staff and partners, compilation and analysis of results.
15 working days

Rosita Ericsson: Interviews (14) with members, non-members, partners and staff, content analysis, compilation and analysis of results. Focus on Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. *12 working days*

Patricia Goldschmid: Document review, interviews (14) with members, non-members, partners and staff, content analysis (Spanish), compilation and analysis of results. Focus on Americas and Asia. *12 working days*

Huda Shashaa: Interviews (7) with members, non-members and staff, content analysis (Arabic). Focus on North Africa/Middle East. *5 working days*

Annex One: Draft structure for final report

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction (with background to the evaluation)
3. Description of the project objectives evaluated (including intervention logic)
4. Overview of assessment criteria & methodology
5. Key findings:
 - Effectiveness

- Sustainability
- Relevance
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Extension

6. Conclusions & recommendations

7. Annexes:

- Assessment methodology
- Persons interviewed
- Assessment instruments used (survey questions, interview guidelines, content analysis framework)
- ToR
- Inception report
- About the authors of the report

Annex Two: Sampling Frame

Online survey

For the online survey, the sample will be both all registered members of the iKNOW politics website (some 9,300 people) (“members”) and those subscribers to the iKNOW politics e-newsletter that are not members of the website (some 10,000 people) (“users”).

For both groups, a response rate of 10% is desired (1,930 - 930 and 1000 respectively). This will allow an analysis of trends and feedback that is representative of the two different groups (presuming a relatively equal geographic and linguistic balance in the responses).

Telephone Interviews (41 in total)

The telephone interviews will be conducted with the following sampling frame:

16 Members: of which can be broken down into the following sub-groups:

- 4 super members: members that are frequent (daily) users of the website;
- 4 identified members: members that have undertaken a specific task on the website, e.g. ask a question to an expert;
- 4 normal members: members that visit the website regularly (e.g. weekly);
- 4 non active members: members who have signed up but rarely or never visit the website.

A geographic balance needs to be considered in selecting the members for interviews.

4 Experts: from each of the following areas of expertise if possible: Elections & Quotas, Campaigns, Political Parties, Advocacy and Lobbying, Skills Building and Parliaments/representative.

7 Staff and partners: iKP project manager, 4 iKP regional coordinators, NDI, IDEA, IPU, UNDP, UN Women.

14 Non-members: from each geographic region if possible - Asia, Europe, North Africa/Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and The Americas.

Identification of persons to be interviewed: the Owl RE team will work with iKnow Politics to identify the members, experts, partner and staff to interview. As far as possible, we will identify the members and experts independently by examining their activities on the iKP portal (and then consequently establishing contact).

For the non-members, the Owl RE team will contact independently women with a profile matching that of iKP members (i.e. women active in grassroots politics). These women will be largely identified through searching for web presence of grassroots organisations and consequently establishing contact.

Annex Five: Evaluation Instruments

Annex Five – Section One - Questionnaire

We would appreciate your feedback on women in politics and the iKNOW Politics network (www.iknowpolitics.org). This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The aim is to help us improve services and support offered by iKNOW Politics. All feedback provided is anonymous.

1. On the topic of women and politics, which of the following areas are you most interested in? (please select a maximum of three)*

- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Campaigns
- Elections and Quotas
- Parliaments & Representatives
- Political Parties
- Post-conflict and Transitional Participation
- Indigenous issues
- Minority communities
- Youth
- Skills-Building
- Peace agreement and peace making
- Other

If 'Other', please specify _____

2. Which year did you become a member of the iKNOW Politics network?*

- 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 I don't recall I don't believe I am a member

3. In a normal month, how often do you visit the iKNOW Politics network (www.iknowpolitics.org)?*

- I never visit the network Less than 1time a month often 1 -2 times a month 3-4 times a month 5-10 times a month More than 10 times a month

----->>Those who answered "I never visit" go to question 26) ----->>

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

"The iKNOW Politics network has supported me in connecting and exchanging views with other women in politics"

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |

“The iKNOW Politics network has provided me with tools and resources useful for my political activities”

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |

5. Which one of the following features of the iKNOW Politics website do you find the most useful?*

- Library
 - World News
 - Discussion Circles
 - E-Discussion
 - Ask the Experts
 - Calendar of events
 - Interviews
 - Election Talk
 - iKNOW Politics partner news
 - Other (please specify):
-

6. Please explain why you find this feature useful?:*

7. How would you rate iKNOW Politics on the following characteristics:*

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ease of using the network: | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Don't know | Very poor | Poor | Ok | Good | Excellent |
| Ease of finding information on the network: | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Don't know | Very poor | Poor | Ok | Good | Excellent |
| Visual appeal: | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Don't know | Very poor | Poor | Ok | Good | Excellent |
| Content in my language: | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Don't know | Very poor | Poor | Ok | Good | Excellent |
| Downloading speed: | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Don't know | Very poor | Poor | Ok | Good | Excellent |

8. Which features/tools would you like to see added to the iKNOW Politics network? (choose as many as you wish) *

- Possibility to share post or news item to Twitter, Facebook, etc.
- More information from my country
- Online Courses conducted by others
- Women candidate profiles from upcoming elections
- members profile view (see own profile and others)
- Geo-location feature (see where other members are)
- Login system that leaves me logged in
- Other, please specify:_____

9. Are there any topics and themes you would like to see covered further in the iKNOW Politics? (choose as many as you want):

Advocacy
Civic Education
Civil Society Organizations
Coalition Building
Focus Groups and Polling
Fundraising
Lobbying
Media and Message
Volunteer Recruitment
Candidate Selection
Internal Organization
Outreach
Parties in Parliament
Party Funding
Party Regulation
Policy and Platform Development
Political Parties (general)
Women's Party Sections
Campaign Planning and Strategy
Fundraising
Media and Message
Volunteer Recruitment
Voter Outreach
Voter Education for Women
Election Observations
Electoral Systems and Laws
Quotas
Working with me
Parliamentary Committees
Constituency Outreach
Engendering Legislation/Budgets
National Legislature/Parliament
Other Elected Officials
Parliamentary Caucuses
Post conflict and Transitional Participation

Computer Skills
Crisis Management
Decision-Making
Finance and Budgeting
Leadership
Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
Networking
Public Speaking
Time Management

**10. Do you use the iKNOW Politics network for any of the following?
(choose as many as you wish)***

- To update my knowledge in areas of interest to me
 - To network with other women politicians and activists
 - To contact non-profit organizations, researchers, and experts
 - To raise awareness on my activities and achievements
 - To find tools and resources to support my activities
 - Other
- If 'Other', please specify _____

11. Do you trust information you obtain via iKNOW Politics? *

- Yes
- No, I'm always critical to such kind of information and check other sources

12. Could you describe concrete examples of how you use the resources, advice and/or exchanges provided on the iKNOW Politics network in your activities? (if not, please go to the next question)

13. Please describe how you think the iKNOW Politics network could assist you further in your activities:

14. What do you consider as the main factors that have played a role in the changes to your political activities in the past two years? (choose as many as you wish).)*

- Changes to my personal situation
- Changes to the political environment in my country/region
- Changes to my career / work situation
- Changes to information and support for my political activities
- Other, please specify: _____

15. What role do you feel the iKNOW Politics has played in the changes to your political activities in the past two years?*

-

Don't know No role at all A small role A moderate role A large role

16. How do you think the iKNOW Politics network could attract more women to use it?

17. How do you stay up-to-date with issues concerning women in politics: (choose as many as you like)*

- Media from my country (e.g. newspapers, radio, TV)
- Specialised media on women in politics (e.g. newsletters, networks)
- iKNOW Politics network
- RSS feeds from iKNOW Politics network
- Email newsletter from iKNOW Politics network
- International media
- Blogs
- Political associations
- Other

If 'Other', please specify _____

18. Could you please indicate what are the main technologies you use to communicate and network for your political activities: (choose as many as you like)*

- Mobile phone
- Personal Email
- Work Email
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Internet in general
- TV
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Other

If 'Other', please specify _____

19. Average hours of active Internet use PER DAY (please enter number)*:

20. Have you ever had a blog?*

- Yes
- No

21. Please indicate your nationality*:

List any second or third nationalities here: _____

22. Please indicate your gender*:

- Female
- Male

23. What best describes your current age range?*

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-50
- Over 50

**24. Which of the following best describes your current role(s) in politics:
(choose as many as you like)***

- Sitting Member of Parliament
- Local elected representative
- Political candidate
- Party activist
- Academic
- Civil Society
- International Development
- Young Person involved in Politics
- None of the above

If 'None of the above', please specify _____

25. This survey has been about services and activities of iKNOW Politics. Do you have any further suggestions or comments to add?

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments and feedback on iKNOW Politics.

Questions for respondents who answered "I never visit network" for question 3:

26. Why do you not use the iKNOW Politics network?*

- Not aware/recalling that network existed
- Lack of time
- Not relevant to my current interests
- I do not find the information on iKNOW Politics useful
- Other, please specify: _____

27. What would a network to support women in politics have to offer in order for you to use it?

28. What do you think are the main factors that have played a role in the changes to your political activities in the past two years? (choose as many as you like)

- Changes to my personal situation
- Changes to the political environment in my country/region
- Changes to my career / work situation
- Changes to information and support for my political activities
- Other, please specify: _____

----->>Respondents then go to question 18 and complete the survey) ----->>

Annex Five – Section Two – Interview Guide

Instructions: please use this template for interviews. If you need more space to note answers, please increase the space provided.

Remember, this is only a guide! You may approach the questions in a different order, not be able to cover all subjects or cover subjects not listed – just keep in mind that these questions are an indication of what type of information we are looking for.

Please start the interview by introducing yourself and the evaluation. Please assure respondents that the information collected is anonymous and will be treated confidentially by the independent evaluation team commissioned by iKNOW Politics.

Questions:

1. What is your interest and role in women and politics?

[If not clear for respondent, prompt main themes such as political parties, advocacy, elections, etc.]

2. How often are you visiting the iKNOW Politics website? Are you using it less/more now – compared with when you joined?

3. Do you recall when you became a member of the website?

[note: website went online in 2007]

----->>Those that answered "I never visit" go to question 15) ----->>

4. What do you find as the most useful feature(s) on the website?

5. Which of the features on the website are you not using at all?

[Keep in mind the main features: discussion circles, library of resources, e-discussions, ask the expert, events & news, take action]

6. How are you using the website?

[Explore with respondent how they are using the website – to find resources, ask questions, connect with other activists? etc.]

[If respondent are positive ask if they have done anything to promote or spread the knowledge about iKP to other women (recommended it, linked to it etc).]

7. Have you done any of the following:

- Connected with women thanks to the iKNOW website?

- Used the tools and resources of the iKNOW website?

- Shared any of your own resources with the iKNOW network?

[Ask for some examples, explanations]

8. In general how has the iKNOW website and network supported you in your political activities?

[Prompt the respondent for stories and examples as to how concretely they have used aspects of the website for their political activities]

9. Please describe how you think the iKNOW Politics website could assist you further in your activities:

- Other tools or features users would like to see on the website?

- Other platforms or networks to link to?

- Other themes/topics of content/information?

10. What could iKNOW Politics do to attract more women to use it?

11. What are the main factors that have played a role in the changes to your political activities in the past two years?

12. What role has iKNOW Politics played in these changes?

[Explore with respondent what has contributed to changes and the role of iKNOW politics in it – what are the lasting results of the support of iKP?]

13. In your country, what are the main technologies that women use for communication, to learn and network?

[e.g. are mobile phones used heavily, is Internet accessible for most women activists, what mass media (radio, TV, newspapers) are popular]

14. This interview has been about the iKNOW Politics website. Do you have anything further to add?

[This question is for respondent to have an opportunity to speak further on iKNOW Politics.]

----->Questions for non-users --- >

15. How do you find resources and information to support your political activities?

16. What websites, networks and associations support your political activities?

17. Is there any particular reason why you do not use the iKNOW Politics website?

18. What would a website to support women in politics have to offer in order for you to use it?

19. Any further comments on what you would need to support further your political activities?

Information to be completed by interviewer:

Your impressions of the respondent and your interview: (Any special context? Anything we need to know to understand the responses? Level of willingness to discuss and credibility of responses given?):

Do you, the interviewer, have any real or potential conflict of interest with the respondent (e.g. a previous work colleague, a friend, etc.):

Name of interviewer:

Name of respondent:

Position held by respondent:

Name of organisation:

Nationality:

Sample classification:

- Super members: members that are frequent (daily) users of the website;
- Identified members: members that have undertaken a specific task on the website, e.g. ask a question to an expert;
- Normal members: members that visit the website regularly (e.g. weekly);
- Non active members: members who have signed up but rarely or never visit the website.
- Non member: does not use the website

Date of interview:

Approximate duration of interview:

Other notes/comments:

Annex Six: Persons Interviewed for Program Assessment

Partners/staff:

1. Piyoo Kochar, Project manager ad-interim / network facilitator
2. Rossana Andia, Regional coordinator LAC
3. Doaa Abdelaal, Regional coordinator MENA
4. Mariam Diallo, Regional coordinator SSA
5. Merita Gidarjati, Regional coordinator AP
6. Zoila Cruz Molina (Peru), IDEA
7. Zeina Hilal (Switzerland, IPU
8. Paul Rowland, Resident Director, NDI Indonesia
9. Diane Sheinberg, Parliamentary Development Programme Specialist, UNDP

Experts:

10. Syada Greiss (Egypt)
11. Fatima Sadiqi (Morocco)
12. Inete Iliete (Latvia)

Members:

13. Aysha Al Wahaibi (Oman)
14. Mahmoud Abdel Baky (Egypt)
15. Sally El Baz (Egypt)
16. Sylvie Ndongmo (Cameroon)
17. Mamadou Malick Sow (Mali)
18. Victoria Qheku (Lesotho)
19. Desyderata Maliro (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
20. Adinda Tenriangke Muchtar (Indonesia)
21. Sari Saparwadi (Indonesia)
22. Hazel Margaretha (Indonesia)
23. Haydee Hernandez Pérez (Costa Rica)
24. Blanca Olivia Pena (Mexico)
25. Gloria Young (Panama)
26. Fabiola Natalia Dapino Picardo (Peru)
27. Lena Wängnerud (Sweden)

Non- Members:

28. Katerina Kuncova (Czech Rep)
29. Hussa (Kuwait)
30. Rana Hussein (Jordan)
31. Fouad Hamdan (Lebanon)
32. Immaculee Birhaheka (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
33. Saudatu Mahdi (Nigeria)
34. Emily Sikazwe (Zambia)
35. Ofelia Ceja Morales (Mexico)
36. Gaby Forester De-Cohen (Ecuador)
37. Caroline Reynolds (Belize)
38. Elsa de Mena (Ecuador)
39. Aurora Corazon A. Parong (Philippines)
40. Chekeba Hashemi (Afghanistan)

Annex Seven: Classification & Analysis of “Exchange” Features

This analysis covers the period January 2009 – June 2011.

Overall it is estimated that some 10% of iKP members – some 900 persons - have actively participated in the exchange features of the iKP network. This includes members who have submitted posts or made comments in the Discussion Circles; submitted a question to the Ask the Expert; and participated in the E-discussions. This figure could be higher if the interactions on social media are included. Compared to the 2007/8 period, this is a significant increase of participation where some 350 out of 3500 members were estimated to have actively participated – but remains stable at some 10% of total membership.

1. Ask the Expert/Consolidated responses

Since 2009, select answers to “Ask the Expert” are presented as Consolidated Responses and translated into the project languages. The Consolidated Responses are usually between 7 and 12 pages and are based on research done by iKP staff with support from the network of experts. iKP has published a total of 23 Consolidated responses, of which 14 have been published since January 2009 (the last Consolidated response was posted in October 2010).¹⁵ According to iKP staff, on average 10 questions are currently received per month, which is a marked increase from previous years. The majority of these questions are answered directly by email and do not appear in the Consolidated Responses. Of the some 70 experts, approximately 30% of them are active in answering questions and interacting with the network, according to iKP staff.

An analysis of the themes and keywords of the Consolidated Responses indicates the most predominant subjects to be campaign planning, electoral systems and laws, political parties, participation and quotas.

| Ask the Expert – Questions, responses and keywords (Jan 2009 - May 2011) | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Theme (Question) | Type of inquiry | No of responses | Languages | Keywords |
| Financing women candidates in Muslim countries | Advice | 4 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Algeria, Arab States, Electoral systems and laws, Fundraising, Jordan, Morocco, Political parties |
| Women’s participation in local governments | Research Comparative | 4 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Lesotho, National Legislature/Parliament, Parliaments and representation |
| Profile of women elected to local governments in Latin America | Comparative | 3 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Latin America, Local public office |

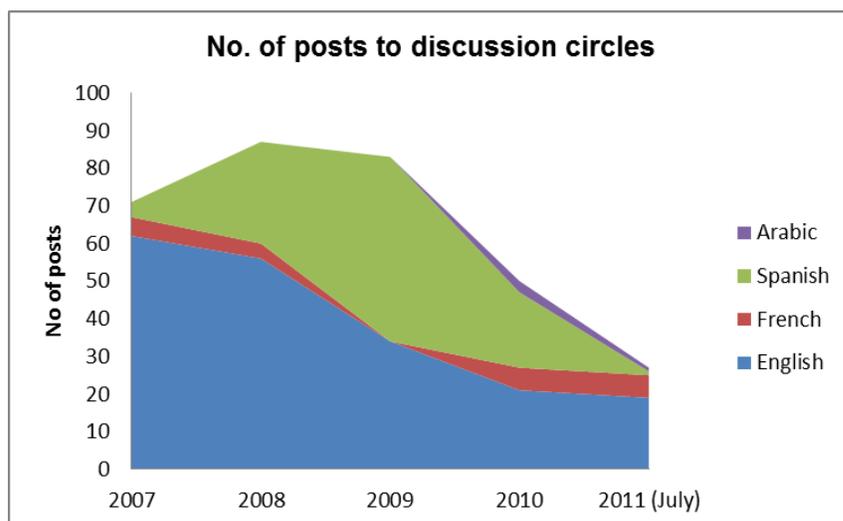
¹⁵ Questions and responses to Ask the Expert were earlier published separately and not necessarily as a Consolidated Response.

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Gender mainstreaming in the Americas | Research | 3 | English, Spanish, French | Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Electoral systems and laws, engendering legislation budgets |
| Gender quotas in African countries | Research | 3 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Burundi, Electoral systems and laws, Namibia, Quotas, Rwanda, South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa |
| Women's political participation in traditional and conservative societies | Advice | 4 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Advocacy, Australia, Campaign planning and strategy, campaigns, civic education, India, Malaysia |
| Best practices used by political parties to promote women in politics | Research Comparative | 5 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Internal Organization, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Party regulations |
| Training as a strategy to empower women in politics in Latin America | Research Advice | 5 | English, Spanish, French | Latin America, Training |
| Impact of Religion on Women's Leadership Roles in Politics and Public Life | Research | 2 | English, Spanish, Arabic | Chile, China, Cross cutting issues, Pakistan, Policy and platform development, Senegal, the Americas |
| The Involvement of Young Women in Politics | Advice | 4 | English, Spanish | Leadership, Networking, Political parties, Public speaking |
| The Prevention of Family Voting | Advice | 6 | English, Spanish, French | Civic education, Election observations, Focus groups and polling, Lebanon, Morocco, Party regulations |
| Women and referenda | Research | 4 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Campaign planning and strategy, Campaigns, Constitution and legislative reform, Election observations |
| Polling Station Management | Advice Research | 4 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Campaign planning and strategy, Campaigns, Election observations, Elections and quotas, electoral systems and laws |
| Impact of Illiteracy on Young Women's Political Participation | Advice | 8 | English, Spanish, French, Arabic | Civic education, Civil society organizations, Constituency outreach, Elections and quotas, Media and message |

2. List Circles

There are separate List Circles in the four project languages. Activity in the list circles has decreased in the past two years in terms of the number of post per language – dropping from a peak of 87 in 2008 to 50 in 2010. Although the number of post has

decreased, the number of comments per post has increased from an average of seven in 2007/8 to ten in 2009/2010.



According to iKP staff, the decline in the number of posts in 2010/11 is largely due to the malfunctioning of the e-mail alert for members of the circle when a new post/comment is posted – in addition to the migration of some discussion to social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

An analysis of the themes and keywords of the most popular list circles indicates the most predominant subjects to be leadership, elections, parliaments, quotas and the Middle East. The following tables show the most popular List Circles per language based on the number of comments per Circle.

| List Circles in ENGLISH – most popular threads (by number of comments), type and keywords | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|--|--|
| Theme (Thread) | Type | No of comments | List circles ¹⁶ | Keywords |
| Women Leadership in Elections | Discussion | 13 | Women Heads of States | Elections, leadership |
| A View of Women’s Political Leadership from iKNOW Experts | Discussion | 10 | Women in Politics in the Middle East and North Africa Region | Elections, leadership, |
| Upcoming elections in 2009 | Advice | 8 | Getting Elected! | Elections, training, network |
| Should Hillary be the VP Nominee | Statement | 8 | Women Heads of States | US, Hillary Clinton, elections, leadership |
| Creative strategies for mobilizing funds | Advice | 7 | Campaign Fundraising: How do Women Find | Campaigns, fundraising |

¹⁶ Many threads appear in several different List Circles

| | | | | |
|---|------------|---|--|--|
| | | | the Money Necessary to Run and Win? | |
| Women and Politics in the Middle East | Advice | 6 | Women in Politics in the Middle East and North Africa Region | Media, news, BBC, women in politics |
| Representation vs Participation | Discussion | 5 | Getting Elected! | Participation, representation, electoral process, barriers |
| Women in Politics and Good Governance Program | Network | 4 | Women Heads of States | Congo-Brazzaville, international conference |
| Impact of Technology on Women's Political Participation | Discussion | 4 | Getting Elected! | Technology, campaigns, mobilization |
| Set Back in Women Empowerment Struggle in Nigeria | Discussion | 4 | Women's Presence in Politics | Nigeria, crisis, leadership, corruption |

| List Circles in FRENCH – most popular threads (by number of comments), type and keywords | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Theme (Thread) | Type | No of comments | List circles¹⁷ | Keywords |
| Arab spring | Discussion | 3 | Women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World | Women parliamentarians, Maghreb, Middle East, Tunisia, leadership |
| Women of the DRC | Discussion | 2 | Women caucus | Caucus, parliamentarians, quotas |
| 50 years of DRC | statement | 1 | Democratic Republic of Congo | DRC, women in politics |
| Gégé Katana receives Human rights defender award in Dublin | Statement | 1 | Democratic Republic of Congo | DRC, women in politics, human rights |
| Women's participation in political life: Role of media | Discussion | 1 | Women's participation in political life: Role of media | Media, leadership |
| Women and decentralization in Mali | Statement | 1 | Decentralization and women's political participation | Mali, Beijing conference, decentralisation, local politics |

¹⁷ Many threads appear in several different List Circles

| List Circles in SPANISH – most popular threads (by number of comments), type and keywords | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Theme (Thread) | Type | No of comments | List circles¹⁸ | Keywords |
| Women's parliamentary caucuses | Discussion | 93 | Women's parliamentary caucuses | Parliamentary seats, female representatives, women's caucuses |
| New discussion circle about best practices for women's participation in Latin American political parties | Discussion | 44 | Best practices for women's participation in Latin Am. political parties | IDEA international, best practices, participation, political parties |
| Suggestions about municipalities that have poverty and violence in San Salvador | Statement | 4 | Women in local governments | Candidates, Latin America, El Salvador, local government |
| The discussion continues: abuse and violence against women in politics | Discussion | 20 | Abuse and violence against women | Eliminate abuse and violence, women in politics, |
| Equality in Costa Rica | Statement | 14 | Financing training for women in politics | Legal changes, international organisations, financing, training |

| List Circles in ARABIC – most popular threads (by number of comments), type and keywords | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Theme (Thread) | Type | No of comments | List circles¹⁹ | Keywords |
| Advertisement on a conference in Egypt entitled "Pathways for Women in Democratic Transitions" International Experiences and Lessons Learned | Notification | 1 | Women for Democracy | NA |
| The pros and limitations of the quota system to promote women in politics | Discussion | 2 | The Role and Impact of Women in Parliament | Kuwait Elections, Egypt, Quota system, positive discrimination, training, capacity building, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, political parties |
| The challenges facing women in political participation | Discussion | 3 | Women in Politics in the MENA region | Egypt, Challenges, Training, Parliament, Quota System, Revolution, Islam, Culture |
| Advertised award for "Youth and Technology" for Jordanian women | Discussion | 1 | Media and Political Participation | NA |

¹⁸ Many threads appear in several different List Circles

¹⁹ Idem.

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| | | | of Women in the Arab World | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|

3. E-discussions

Four e-discussions have taken place since January 2009 (3 in 2009 and 1 in 2010). Two discussions in 2009 contained “sub-topics” as listed below in *italics*. In 2007-8, 10 e-discussions were held but considering the sub-topics format is comparably equal to 2009/10. An average of 12 comments were received per discussion in 2007/8 compared to 16 in 2009/10.

An analysis of the themes and keywords of the e-discussions indicates the most predominant subjects to be legislation, participation, networks, elections and campaigns.

| E-discussion Forums: Themes, participants, comments and keywords | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------|----|----|----|---------------------------|--|
| Year | Themes and sub-themes | Participants | Comments | | | | | Keywords |
| | | | Eng | Fr | Sp | Ar | Total | |
| 2009 | Working with Men to Promote Women in Politics | 29 participants Contributors from 17 countries | 16 | 2 | 25 | - | 43 | Parties Finance Quotas Research Legislation Networking |
| | <i>Navigating political parties</i> | | 7 | - | 5 | - | 12 | Parties Finance Quotas Research |
| | <i>Balancing politics and family</i> | | 1 | 2 | 4 | - | 7 | Private-political |
| | <i>Support on legislation</i> | | 4 | - | 4 | - | 8 | Legislation |
| | <i>Networking and information sharing</i> | | 4 | - | 10 | - | 14 | Networking |
| 2009 | Women in Local Governments | 49 participants Contributors from 32 countries | 25 | 15 | 38 | | 66 | Election strategies Impact of women Networks Communication tools Legislation |
| | <i>Mayors</i> | | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 10 (+7 cross postings) | Election strategies |
| | <i>Impact of women in local government</i> | | 9 | 3 | 6 | - | 16 (+4 cross postings) | Impact of women |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---|----|---|----|----|----------------------------|---|
| | <i>Strategies for constituency building and political success</i> | | 4 | 4 | 6 | | 14 (+4 cross postings) | Networks Communication tools |
| | <i>Enabling participation</i> | | 10 | 5 | 11 | | 26 (+6 cross postings) | Legislation |
| 2009 | Role of Media and Technology in Increasing the Number and Effectiveness of Women in Politics (Regional E-discussion in Arabic) | 16 participants Contributions from 10 countries | 4 | - | - | 12 | 16 | Media Technology Campaigns Stereotypes |
| 2010 | Women's Political Participation in 21 st Century: Using Communication Technologies | 28 participants Contributions from 17 countries | 16 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 36 (+22 cross postings) | New Media Technology Campaigns |

Following is an analysis of the main types of exchange that were facilitated through the "Discuss" features of the website:

Discussion: An interaction between two or more people around an issue where feedback was clearly sought by the originator.

Notification: Posting of information about an event, campaign or other development. In most cases, this did not provoke a discussion with other members.

Statement: a point of view on an issue expressed by a member without soliciting feedback from others.

Advice: A member presenting a situation and seeking specific advice on the issue.

Network: The use of the website to support an "offline" network, e.g. carry on a debate from a meeting.

Request: A specific request for information, such as please advise on the number of NGOs working for women in Sudan.

Research: A question asked of iKP members and/or experts on a topic being researched – or presentation of research findings, usually for an academic project.

Annex Eight: Analysis of Resources

| Number of Resources Available on Website - By Type - July 2011 | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | English | Spanish | French | Arabic | Totals |
| Report / White Paper | 291 | 43 | 47 | 17 | 398 |
| Guide / Training Material | 170 | 84 | 36 | 50 | 340 |
| Website / Database | 151 | 29 | 22 | 0 | 202 |
| Academic Paper / Article | 78 | 56 | 4 | 2 | 140 |
| Case Study | 43 | 47 | 14 | 0 | 104 |
| Data and Statistics | 30 | 44 | 18 | 10 | 102 |
| Consolidated Response | 23 | 21 | 20 | 13 | 77 |
| Legislation | 14 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 32 |
| News Story | 10 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 15 |
| E-Learning | 10 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 71 |
| Totals (2008 figures in brackets) | 820 (645) | 341 (231) | 165 (92) | 155 (0) | 1481* (968) |
| % | 55% (67) | 23% (24) | 11% (9) | 10% (0) | |

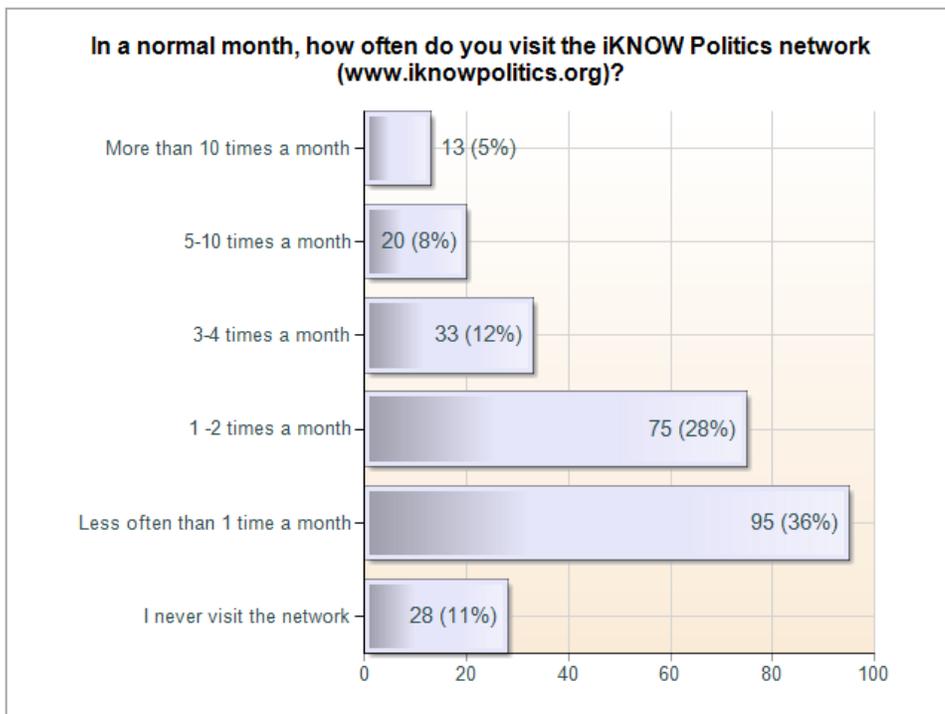
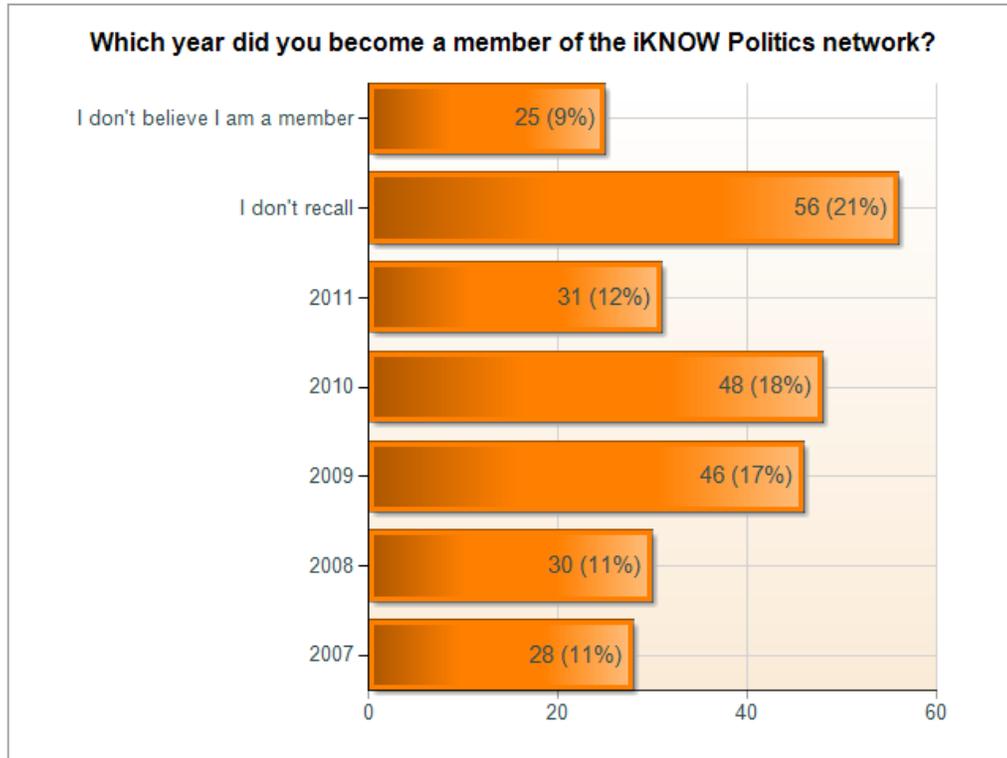
* Not including approximately 2500 news and information posts.

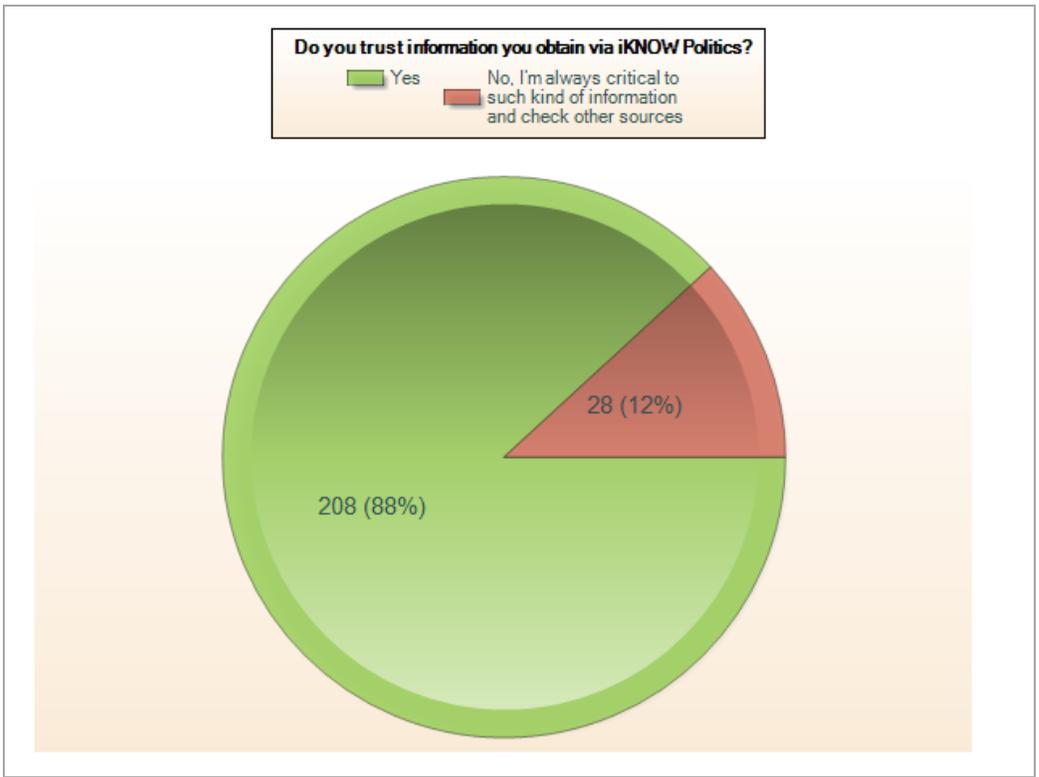
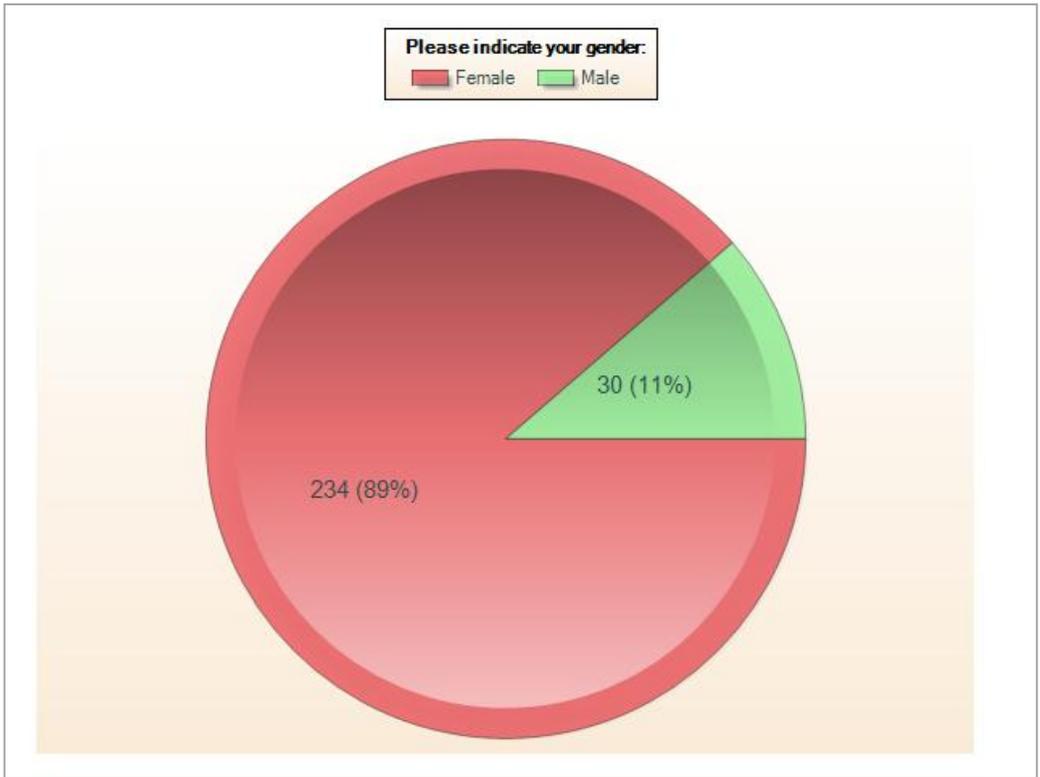
| Top Ten Issues per Pages of Resources (no. of pages) | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| English | French | Spanish | Arabic |
| Advocacy (43) | Electoral Systems and Laws (40) | Leadership (48) | Electoral Systems and Laws (16) |
| Leadership (38) | Quotas (18) | Quotas (9) | Elections and quotas (13) |
| CSO (31) | Voter outreach (13) | Electoral Systems and Laws (8) | Women's Party Sections (12) |
| Civic education (28) | Crisis management (12) | Voter education for women (7) | CSO (10) |
| Engendering Legislation Budgets (26) | Election Observations (11) | Decision-Making (7) | Outreach (9) |
| National Legislature/Parliament (25) | Campaign Planning and Strategy (10) | Advocacy (5) | Parliaments and representatives (9) |
| Quotas (24) | Leadership (9) | Policy and Platform Development (5) | Political parties (general) (13) |

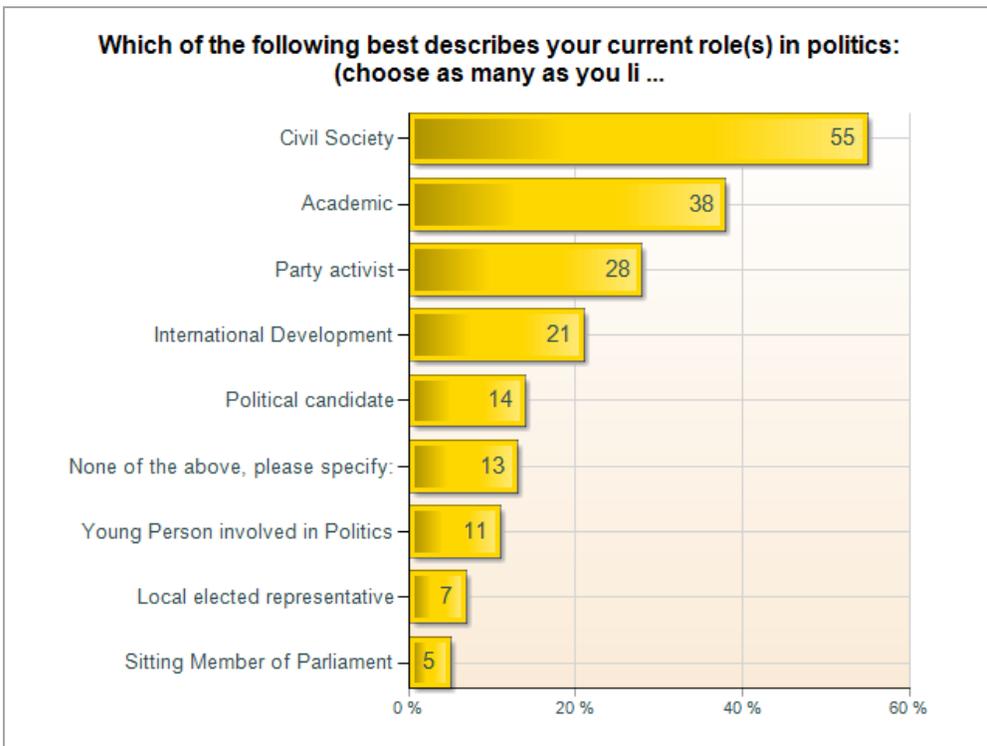
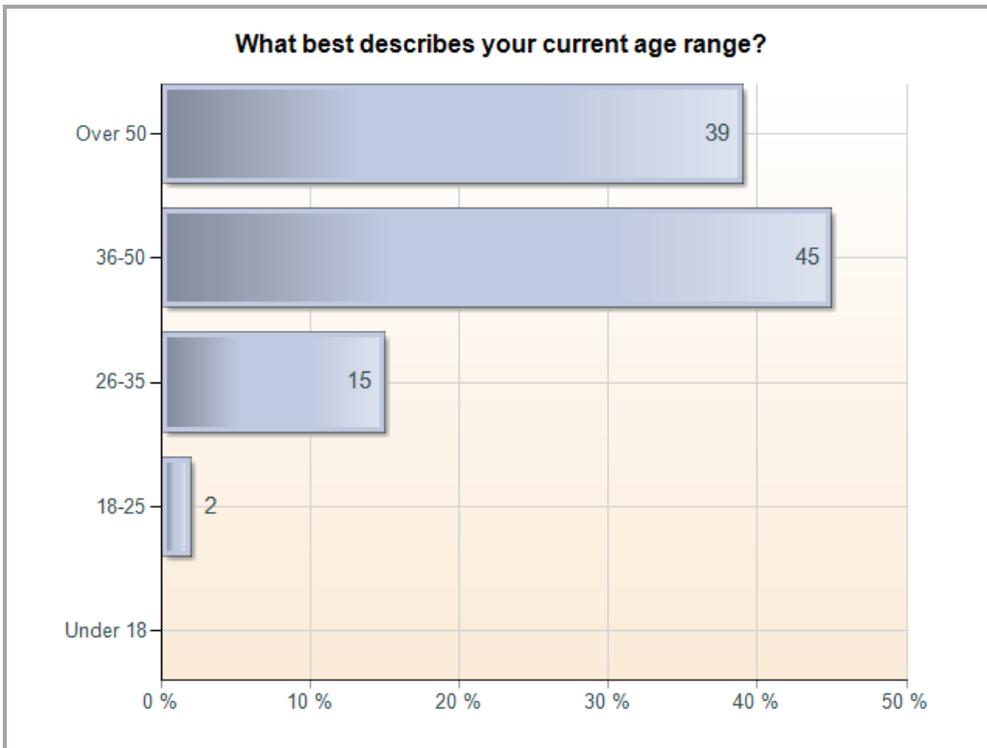
| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Electoral Systems and Laws (23) | Voter education for women (8) | Parliamentary Caucuses (5) | Parties in parliament (6) |
| Media and message (22) | Civic education (5) | Women's Party Sections (4) | Quotas (6) |
| Cross cutting issues (19) | Voter outreach (4) National Legislature / Parliament (4) | Voter outreach (4) CSO (4) | Candidate selection (5) Media and message (5) Policy and Platform Development (5) |

Annex Nine: Demographic and Usage Statistics of Survey Respondents

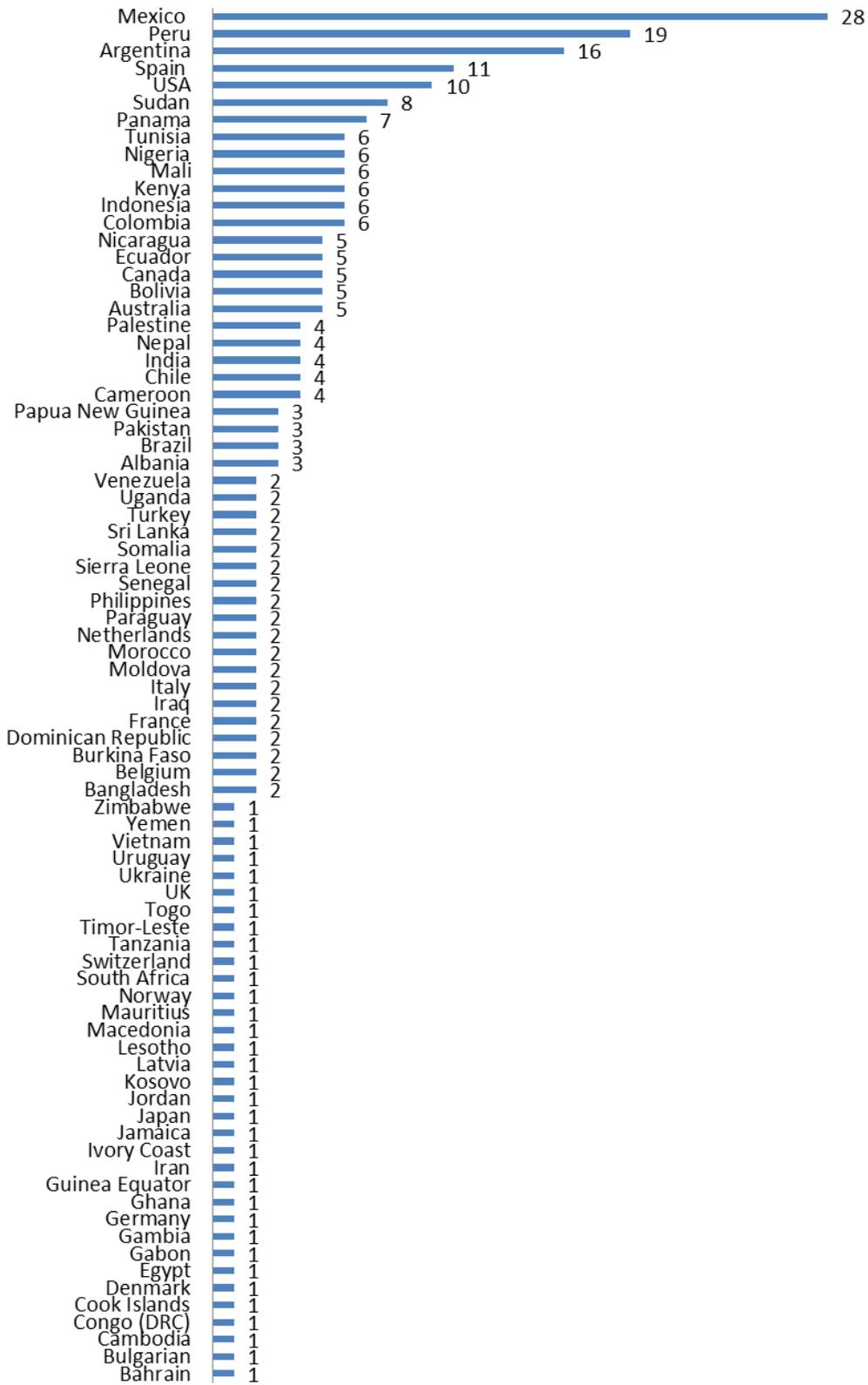
The following graphs illustrate the key demographic and usage statistics of the 264 respondents to the online survey.







Nationalities of Survey respondents (no.)



Annex Ten: About the Authors of the Report



This report has been prepared by Rosita Ericsson, Patricia Goldschmid, Glenn O'Neil and Huda Shashaa of Owl RE, Geneva, Switzerland. Specialized in the field of evaluation and measurement, Owl RE supports organizations in analyzing, assessing and evaluating activities in the communications, training/events and development fields.

Rosita Ericsson

Rosita is an independent consultant specialized in strategic use of media and communication for development. She has worked internationally with project management, evaluation, training and advisory services for government, international organizations and NGOs for the last eight years and has evaluated communication programs and strategies in Vietnam, West Africa and in Sweden. With a background in journalism, she has completed her Political Science studies with a Masters in Communication for Development at Malmo University, Sweden.

Patricia Goldschmid

Patricia is specialized in the analysis and assessment of strategic and online communications. Patricia has over 14 years experience working in project management and communications in the Insurance, Pharmaceutical, and IT sectors. She has an Executive Masters in Communications from the University of Lugano, Switzerland and is a co-founder of the Geneva Communicators Network.

Glenn O'Neil

Glenn has led evaluation, research and communication projects for international organizations and companies with a specialization in web and network analysis. Co-author of the Intelligent Measurement blog, Glenn has an Executive Masters in Communications Management from the University of Lugano and is currently undertaking a PhD in research and evaluation methodology at the Methodology Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. In the decade prior, Glenn managed communication, education and training programs for the International Red Cross in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Huda Shashaa

Huda is a freelance consultant specialized in monitoring and evaluating community development and income-generating programs in developing countries. She has 7 years working experience in non-profit management in countries like Jordan, Yemen, Sri Lanka and The Gambia. Huda has a Masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University with a concentration in economic and political development.

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