

Third Annual Reports: Web Updates

GTF158 Oxfam Great Britain

Oxfam's Raising Her Voice programme promotes the rights and capacity of poor and marginalised women to engage effectively in governance at all levels through increased voice and influence and greater institutional accountability. This year alone, 45 project partners and over 330 coalition members in 17 countries globally have worked to ensure that 252,389 marginalised women have been able to articulate and claim their basic rights. Raising Her Voice projects achieve this by supporting women's leadership, working with public institutions and decision-making forums and supporting networking, lobbying and advocacy that result in tangible improvements in women's lives. Projects use innovative and varied media and communications work both to challenge attitudes and beliefs about the role of women in public decision-making and to disseminate learning and best practice.

The programme consists of a pan-African element in eight countries, nine country components in South/East Asia, Central/South America and Eastern Europe/CIS, and a global component on learning and cross-fertilisation between projects.

In its third year, project highlights include:

- **In Pakistan**, Raising Her Voice Women Leader Groups have worked with the national database registration authorities to support 30,152 women to register for identity cards. A total of 107,546 women have now been supported to travel freely, vote and participate in politics;
- **In South Africa**, Raising Her Voice partners have worked with 6 local NGOs and 30 women activists to *'make us aware of our power and how to interrupt the various power sites that seek to oppress us. Personally I have been involved in various activities that seek to address issues of poverty and violence and [the project] has helped in raising many women's voices as well as mine;'*
- **In Guatemala**: *"before [Raising Her Voice] women didn't participate in meetings but now we are involved in school boards, where all members are women, and the COCODE [development councils], where half of the members are women;"*
- **In Papua, Indonesia**, women's groups have been supported to engage in local processes for development planning. This has helped them to ensure that government budgets of IDR 10M–15M (£750-1000) for health services and women's economic empowerment programmes in each village are spent as they should be;
- **In the Gambia**, Parliament adopted the Women's Bill this year, paving the way for the implementation of comprehensive policies and services to support women's fundamental rights;
- **In Armenia**, Raising Her Voice partners successfully overturned an amendment to the Law on Temporary Disability Benefits that threatened to stop social security payments for women on maternity leave;
- New legislation to stop domestic violence, female genital mutilation and trafficking was passed in **Uganda**. **In Chile**, laws were introduced to prevent Femicide as well as pass marriage law reforms that ensure women's legal equality with their husbands. **In Bolivia**, provisions for the creation of special violence against women courts were included in the Judicial Body Law.
- **In Honduras**, a 50% quota for women's participation in politics was accepted by the National Electoral Tribunal and the main political parties.

For further information on this programme, please visit <http://raisinghervoice.ning.com/>