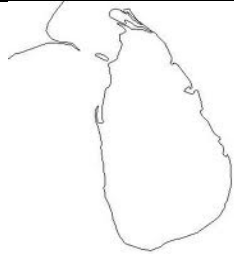


Fund for Gender Equality

GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Project Information				Sri Lanka
Project Name	Changing Minds: Nominations and Votes for Women			Programme Type: Catalytic
Lead Org	Women and Media Collective			Grant ID: 2127
Co-lead Org				
Thematic Area(s)	Political Empowerment			
Thematic Sub Area(s)	Decision Making (Increase women participation in politics at local level)			
Grant Amount	\$496,977	Grant Start Date	December 18, 2009	
Additional Gov't Funding		Grant End Date	December 31, 2011	
Total Budget	\$496,977			

Partner Agencies	
Government	Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment; International Center for Ethnic Studies; Women's Resource Center; Sarvodaya Women's Movement; Uva Wellassa Women Farmers; Viluthu, Center for Human Resource Development; Women's Development Center
Civil Society	Minority women and governance

Programme Summary
The programme will work to increase political parties' nominations of women across political party lines from 2 percent (the lowest in South Asia) to 20 percent in the 2011 Local Council elections, giving particular attention to women from minority Tamil and Muslim communities. This programme will not only contribute directly to women's political empowerment in general, but by focusing on minority women candidates, it will also play a role in fostering political stability in Sri Lanka.

DETAILED PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Contribution to Law(s)				
Name of Law	Law Type	Year Implemented	Type of Contribution	Expected Level of Contribution (High or Low)
National Plan of Action for Women	Plan	2005	Review	High
Authorities Election Amendment Law	Law	2010	Gender Mainstreaming	High

General Programme Goal
Equal representation of women in local government bodies in Sri Lanka.

Expected Programme Outcomes
44Outcome 1: Political Parties actively endorse women candidates and increase the number of women candidates in 50 nomination lists to 20%.

Main Achievements
<p>The programme has begun strategic research, advocacy and targeted outreach in support of the programme goal. Women's Media collective has implemented a series of initiatives at the district and local levels, whose long term impact, it is anticipated, will help create the necessary political momentum to strengthen support for women's political participation at the national level in Sri Lanka. After one year of implementation the programme has achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed and published a baseline survey of women's representation in selected local government bodies in the 5 target districts • Identification of potential women candidates to run in the upcoming elections. • Mobilization to gather community support to increase nominations of women to political parties. • Conducted local, national media campaign to lobby for more nominations of women candidates, including the launch of a Signature Petition Campaign at the local level (which received 30,000 signatures to date) and the preparation of videos on potential women

candidates.

- Work with and train potential candidates in the 5 districts.
- Meetings among women in politics and potential women candidates, with the three main political parties (SLFP, UNP and JVP)
- WMC along with other woman's groups filed two cases to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka against the Local Government Elections bill, which was then tabled in parliament.

Key Highlights

The programme has engaged with key stakeholders at local, district and national levels. Moreover, the programme's dynamic engagement with the media and its highly-strategic communications outlook has the potential to generate valuable lessons and good practices. It is anticipated that the programme, as structured, will help increase women's political participation at the local and district levels in Sri Lanka.