

# IMPACT REPORT 2021-2023



## Partnerships for Municipal Innovation— Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL)

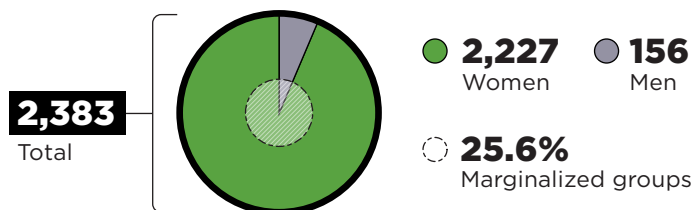
PMI-WILL is part of FCM’s portfolio of gender equality and women in local government initiatives. The 6-year project (2021-2027) is implemented in five countries over two continents, with a specific focus on five municipalities per country.



In close partnership with the Local Government Associations in countries of implementation, as well as Canadian municipal volunteers and associations, PMI-WILL is contributing to **two core objectives**:

- 1 Increasing women’s capacity to get involved and lead in local governance.**
- 2 Increasing local governments’ capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive services.**

After two years of intervention and through capacity building and networking activities, the project has reached 2,383 people (2,227 women, 156 men), of which 25.6% were from marginalized groups.



“The underrepresentation of women at any level of governance and decision-making results is a democratic deficit. This is true because diverse groups make better decisions and rightly so when it comes to a task representing the interest of over fifty per cent of citizens at the local level.”

*National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)  
General Secretary,  
Hon. Kokro Amankwah*





## Women trained to successfully compete in local elections

- ✓ On June 5, 2022, **Cambodia** held its 5<sup>th</sup> local election. With the support of PMI-WILL, the National League of the Local Councils of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC) provided training to 662 women candidates running for office. Of this number, 75% of them were elected! The national rate of women elected officials went from 20 to 22%.
- ✓ In **Sri Lanka**, capacity building activities were offered to 1,255 women candidates as well, in preparation for the next local election of which more than 40% are from marginalized groups.
- ✓ In **Ghana**, the project team identified more than 300 women as potential candidates for the next local level election (planned for October 3, 2023) and will provide them with electoral process, resource mobilization and campaign training. Several women candidates are youth, people with disabilities, people living with HIV or from low-income groups.



“I am so happy I attended this training. I never had such training before. I learned a lot about communication and public speaking. I was involved in campaign planning before, but I did not know much about it. Now, I know it very well. I know where to start and to finish, how to set voter target and budget plan for campaigning.”

*Ms. Vat Raksa, First Commune Chief, Lvea Commune, Cambodia*



## Policy change and skills built to improve the enabling environment for women in local government

- ✓ In **Zambia**, Gender Focal Points from across the country, 24 women and 25 men, learned how to apply gender mainstreaming tools to address systemic gender issues in municipalities and deepened their understanding of gender equality and inclusion in local government.
- ✓ In **Ghana**, the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) organized a media training for 21 media houses which included 11 women and 10 men, to build their capacity on gender responsive reporting. Some of the media houses have started to communicate on the importance of supporting women candidates in the upcoming local government elections.
- ✓ In **Sri Lanka**, the women councillors' national platform of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) successfully advocated for a government directive making the women's committee a mandatory advisory committee in Local Councils. The directive is now in force in the Central Province, one of nine provinces across the country.





## Seeds planted for the development of inclusive, gender-responsive municipal services



- ✓ **Four Local Government Associations (LGAs)** increased their capacity in fostering an enabling environment for inclusive, gender-responsive local governance and municipal service delivery, by starting building capacity in at least one priority area identified in their Capacity Building Action Plans.
- ✓ PMI-WILL's **25 partner municipalities** identified stakeholders from women and marginalized groups who will be engaged in assessing municipal services through a gender and inclusion lens. They will also contribute to the development of the Service Improvement Initiatives.
- ✓ All **25 partner municipalities** have established working groups responsible for planning, reviewing and monitoring project activities. In addition to local municipal staff and elected officials, in **Zambia and Ghana** these working groups also include traditional leaders and community representatives, particularly those from marginalized groups.



## Peer-to-peer collaboration fostered the exchange of best practices

- ✓ In **Canada**, four Provincial and Territorial Associations, ten municipalities, two Regional County Municipalities and four former women mayors are engaged with their project counterparts overseas. In the past two years, more than 100 Canadians have contributed directly to project activities, either in person or online.
- ✓ **All LGAs** strengthened their networking abilities by participating in regional and global events, including active participation in the Capacity and Institutions Building (CIB) Working Group of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) association. **Nine women elected officials** from PMI-WILL partner countries participated in three global networking events (Africities, UCLG-ASPAC and FCM's project in Tunisia).
- ✓ The network of women elected officials in **Benin** became a national network affiliated with the Réseau des Femmes Élues Locales d'Afrique (REFELA), therefore expanding its reach and credibility.



## PMI-WILL Local Government Partners



After two years of activities, PMI-WILL is making a difference: by bringing together agents of change at the local and national level in favour of a greater recognition and participation of women in local politics; and by contributing to making local governments more aware and prepared to deliver inclusive services to their residents.

### PMI-WILL Canadian Partners

Association of Municipalities of Manitoba (AMM)

Association of Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Cobourg, ON

Collingwood, ON

Comox, BC

County of Middlesex, ON

District of Squamish, BC

Edmonton, AB

Halton Region, ON

Kitchener, ON

Local Government Management Association of British Columbia (LGMABC)

MRC D'Argenteuil, QC

MRC Marguerite D'Youville, QC

Municipalité de Bolton-Est, QC

Nouvelle Arcadie (former Village de Rogersville), NB

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)

Truro, NS

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

### PMI-WILL Local Government Association Partners



ANCB



FSLGA



LGAZ



NALAG



NLC