

SDC GENDERNET PARTNER LEARNING DAY

Women's Political Leadership

Friday September 18, 2020

Virtual

From 9h00-13h00





Overarching goal

To share lessons learned and good practices, namely to foster learning and practice based on cumulative experiences to date in *'strengthening and supporting **women's political leadership** in local and national political institutions and processes.*

Key objectives

- To explore different dimensions of Women's political empowerment and leadership
- To develop understanding of what is Women's Political Leadership for SDC and its partners
- To strengthen, foster practice by learning about what works, why and how in different contexts



Anchoring



Corinne Huser
Senior Gender Equality
Policy Advisor

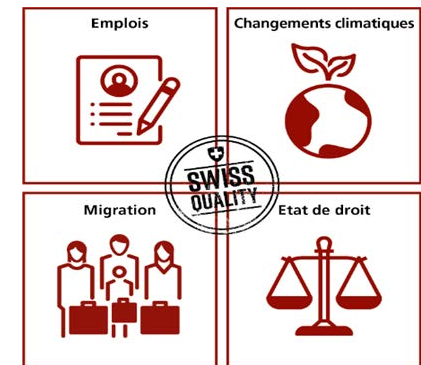
The topic of Women's Political Leadership is a strategic priority, anchored in the following key frameworks:

- The SDG Agenda 2030
- The FDFA Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights 2017 (Objective 2)
- Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024 (Objective 9)
- SDC Strategic Goal 7



Gender Equality is embedded in Switzerland's national and international commitments. The strategic goal 7 on Gender equality and the Rights of women and girls sets three strategic priorities:

- 1) *women's rights to live **free of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence***
- 2) *women's **economic empowerment***
- 3) *women's **political participation**, and gender-responsive approaches in local and national governance and peace & state building processes.*





Women's Entry into Politics: some determining factors

- 4 C's: Confidence, culture, care responsibilities, cash
- Family background can help
- Role models can help
- Political Parties are decisive
- Quotas help
- Electoral systems can make a difference
- Grassroots activism, work in CSOs & public sector as entry
- Alternative networks
- Opportunities in times of stress, crisis or transition





Women's Influence in Politics: under what conditions more likely?

- Theory of critical mass (30%)?
- Terms of inclusion
- Building strategic coalitions on specific gender issues
- Alliances & networks with domestic civil society and transnational actors
- Presence of powerful feminist women
- Education and experience (depending on context)
- Influence of women's own identity and interests
- Contextual factors

BUT New challenges: VAWP; authoritarian tendencies & backlash against women's rights



Participants Include Representatives From...



Pestalozzi Children's Foundation



The Organizing and Facilitating Team

SDC



Corinne Huser
Senior Gender Equality
Policy Advisor



Selina Haeny
Policy Advisor
Gender Equality
and Private Sector



Marie Sottas
Academic Trainee
Social Economist: gender,
migration and human rights

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Agnieszka Kroskowska
GSE Coordinator
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Franz Thiel
Advisor Knowledge & Learning
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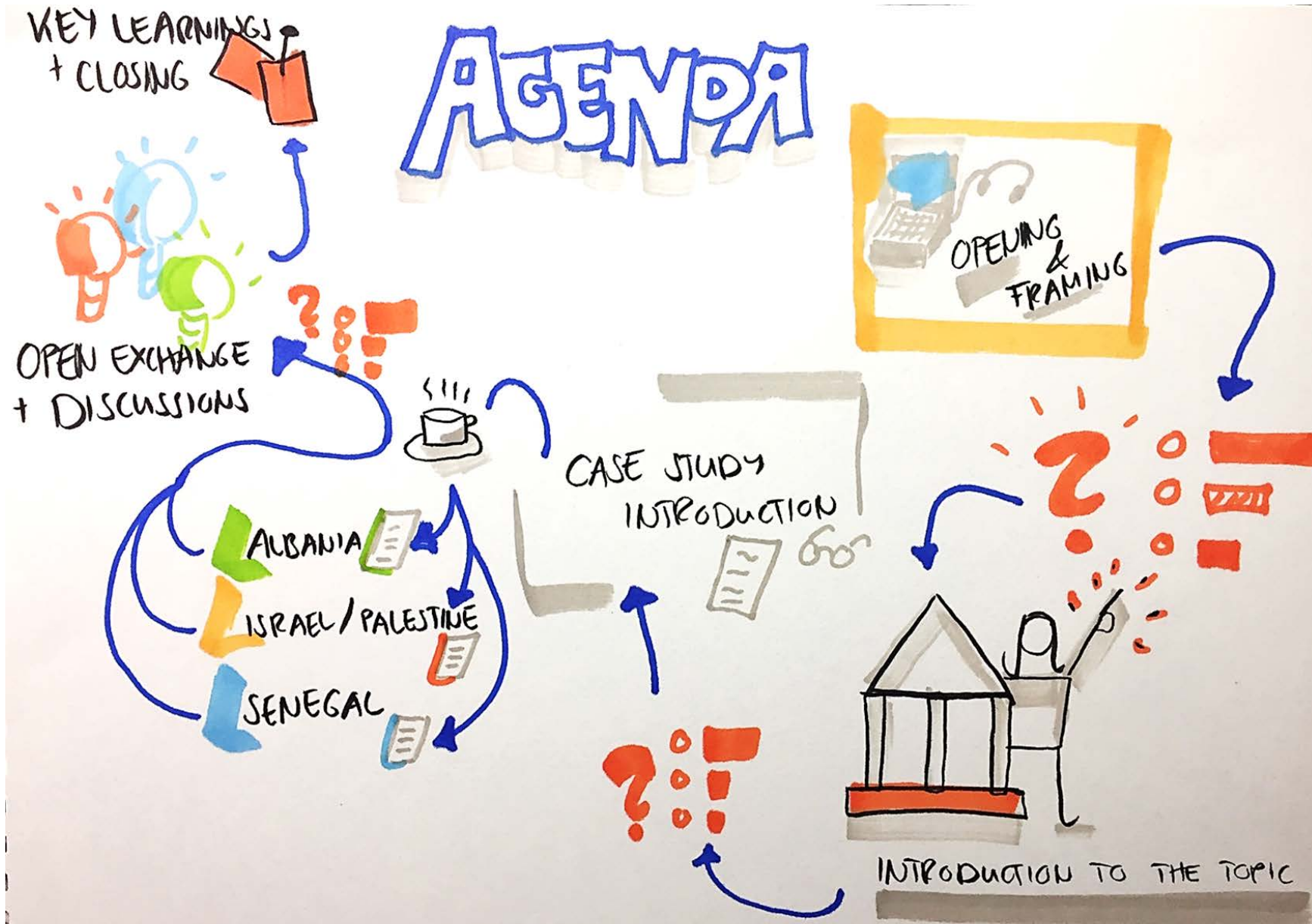


Marianne Meier
Researcher and Lecturer
University of Bern
Interdisciplinary Centre
for Gender Studies



Christine Bigler
Researcher and Lecturer
University of Bern
Interdisciplinary Centre
for Gender Studies

Agenda





SDC Gendernet: Partner Learning Day 2020



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**Empowerment and Role-Modelling
as Factors of Women's Political Leadership**



Selina Haeny
Policy Advisor
Gender Equality
and Private Sector

INTRODUCING THE CASE STUDIES



Our 3 Cases from 3 Places



Selina Haeny
Policy Advisor
Gender Equality
and Private Sector

Case 1

Leadership and
Peace Building for
Young Women

Senegal



Codou Bop
Local Consultant
For IAMANEH

Case 2

Supporting
Palestinian Women
in Local Politics

Israel/ Palestine



Rafah Anebtawi
Kayan Organization
For Cfd

Case 3

Networking across
Party Lines for
Inclusive Policies and
Local Development

Albania



Valbona Karakaçi
HELVETAS
Regional Program Advisor

Case 1 - Senegal

Leadership and Peace Building for Young Women

About the case

Where: in Senegal, Province of Kaolack and counties

When: in 2014

Key objectives: build the skills women to exercise their rights and engage collectively to increase the number of elected women in local councils, resulting in more accountable local authorities and facilitating peaceful resolutions in community and political spheres among others.

About Codou Bop is a Senegalese scholar and activist on women's and human rights. Based in Dakar, Senegal, where About Codou Bop is a Senegalese scholar and activist on women's and human rights. Based in Dakar, Senegal,, she is active with the local and regional feminist movement and has been a member of the Working Group of the African Feminist Forum. She has highlighted issues related to women's reproductive health and rights, sexuality, homophobia, women's access to land, gender-based violence, migration and citizenship and negative impact of conservative interpretation of Islam on women's human rights, She collaborates with IAMANEH as a local consultant.

About IAMANEH Switzerland is involved in the field of sexual health as well as violence against women in West Africa and the western Balkans. To find out more visit <https://www.iamaneh.ch/en/>



Case 2 – Israel/ Palestine

Supporting Palestinian Women in Local Politics

About the case

Where: in Israel, Palestinian society

When: i2016 to present

Key objectives: Strengthening local grassroots women to be politically active, and support local Arab politicians to be gender inclusive and sensitive. Engaging media and raising the awareness of the general public on women's political participation to influence political parties responsiveness.

About Rafah Anebtawi is a Social and feminist activist, with a BA in Social Work from Hebrew University and an MA in Social Work from the University of Haifa. She has served as the Coordinator of the Dept. of Community Work since 2006, before becoming the general director of Kayan Feminist Organization in 2013. KAYAN was founded in 1998 by Arab feminist women with the goal of advancing the status of Arab women in Israel and protecting their rights. Kayan takes a bottom-up approach to social change. Kayan invests in the field by empowering women to become transformative leaders on local and national levels, protecting and promoting the human and civil rights of Palestinian women in Israel, and breaking down the social and institutional barriers to gender equality. Kayan does this through two interconnected programs: the Community Program and the Legal Program. To find out more visit <http://www.kayanfeminist.org/> . Kayan is a local partner of Cfd.

About cfd is an independent feminist peace organization. It strives to achieve equality and justice for all people. In particular, cfd is committed to ensuring that women and girls benefit from equal access to resources, rights, participation in decision-making processes and opportunities for development and personal growth. cfd works in international cooperation as well as in migration and peace policy in Switzerland.. To find out more visit <https://www.cfd-ch.org/>



Case 3 - Albania

Networking across Party Lines for Inclusive Policies and Local Development

About the case

Where: in Albania, sub and national level

When: in 2011-2018

Key objectives: the Local Development and Decentralization Program (DLDP) aimed to enhance inclusive quality service delivery to citizens (men and women) strengthened capacities of local government units (LGUs) in Northern Albania, anchored Dldp products at the national level and by contributing to a conducive legal framework. This included supporting the Women in Politics Network (WiPN) since recognized as a key change agent.

About Valbona Karakaçi is a Regional Advisor for the Western Balkans at Helvetas and Strategic Advisor of Bashki të Forta (BtF), a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). She holds a Doctorate in Philosophy, and is also a lecturer and researcher for the University of Shkodra and the European University of Tirana in the field of cultural studies and communications. She has been a key go-to person for over 20 years in various international development interventions, aimed at decentralization and democratic local governance in Albania.

About HELVETAS is committed to a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner. Gender equality and social equity are a key transversal priority. HELVETAS is an independent organization for development based in Switzerland with affiliated organizations in Germany and the United States. HELVETAS supports poor and disadvantaged women, men and communities in about thirty developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. To find out more visit <https://www.helvetas.org/en/switzerland>



dldp
decentralisation and local
development programme





Selina Haeny
Policy Advisor
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BREAK OUT GROUPS



Guidance for the Break-out Groups



Selina Haeny
Policy Advisor
Gender Equality
and Private Sector



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Technical Support

Group 1 - Senegal

Leadership and
Peace Building for
Young Women

w/
Codou Bop



Selina Haeny
Facilitator/ moderator



Marie Sottas
Notetaker/ reporter

Group 2 – Israel/ Palestine

Supporting
Palestinian Women
in Local Politics

w/
Rafah



Marianne Meier
Facilitator/ moderator



Christine Bigler
Notetaker/ reporter

Group 3 - Albania

Networking across
Party Lines for
Inclusive Policies and
Local Development

w/
Valbona



Agnieszka Kroskowska
Facilitator/ moderator



Corinne Huser
Notetaker/ reporter

Guiding Questions for Break-out Groups

Key guiding questions – all groups

If we consider the case study and the different factors which can enable or inhibit a woman's political participation and success, the groups are invited to reflect on and discuss the following key guiding questions:

- 1) Women's entry and agency:** *What are/were successful strategies empowering women to run for elections? What was decisive that they were successful with their campaigning and in being elected? What was successful, decisive that they succeed in bringing their issues to the political agenda and influence decision making?*
- 2) Diversity and inclusion:** *A woman's background (age, education, finances, connections) can make a difference in her opportunities to engage successfully. What are strategies for bringing in less well-placed women, how to promote diversity of women beyond elites? What roles already established female leaders can play?*
- 3) Patriarchy, social norms:** *Engaging local and traditional leaders, men, and other persons of influence is instrumental to combat endemic patriarchal and gender bias norms. What are successful strategies for engaging these predominantly 'male' influencers in support of women's political participation and leadership? Are there common characteristics or incentivizing factors?*

Bonus question per group

- **Group 1 - Senegal**

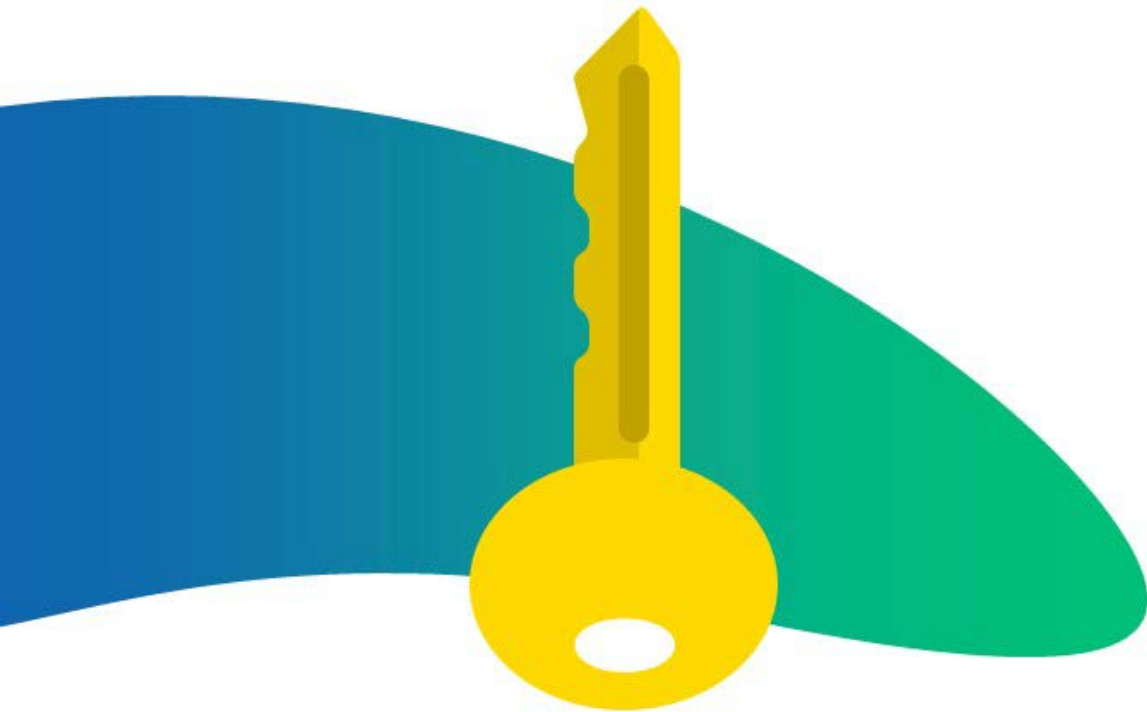
- 1) As a key constraint mentioned is **violence** accompanying election processes and violence against women in politics is an increasing challenge globally – how does this affect women and what are strategies to address this?

- **Group 2 – Israel/ Palestine**

- 1) Why were the candidates who ran independently (independent lists) more successful? What was the **role of the grassroots movement** in supporting this? Were there risks associated with running independent lists to the traditional lists?

- **Group 3 – Albania**

- 1) In times of **political polarization and tensions**, what were the successes and /or challenges to rally women to be nonpartisan, and find their strength in their solidarity despite the pressures they may face from their respective parties – and others, including their own differences between them? Strategies/Lessons in remaining politically neutral?



Key take-aways & Next steps

The SDC Gendernet Partner Learning Day 2020

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Marianne Meier
Researcher and Lecturer
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Christine Bigler PhD
Researcher and Lecturer
University of Bern
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THANK
YOU!

Additional information and resources


Topics




Women's Political Empowerment

 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Gender, Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance \(2017\)](#)



 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Socially and Gender Responsive Budgeting \(2019\)](#)



 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Gender and Unpaid Care Work \(2017\)](#)



<https://data.oecd.org/inequality/women-in-politics.htm>

 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Addressing SGBV \(2017\)](#)



<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender>


Gender Toolbox




Thematic Guidance Sheets

 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet – Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment \(WEE\) in Market Systems Development \(2016\)](#)



 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Women's Financial Inclusion \(2019\)](#)



 [SDC Gender Guidance Sheet - Engaging Men and Boys \(2019\)](#)



<https://www.v-dem.net/en/>