

**CLAIRE ADIDA**

Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Professor (by courtesy) of Political Science
Stanford University

Overcoming Barriers to Women's Political Participation: Evidence from Nigeria

This study, part of the EGAP Metaketa V initiative, tests whether training interventions in Nigeria designed to strengthen women's sense of collective efficacy improved their voice and agency in local political engagement, and whether trainings of their husbands to be champions of women's voice and agency augmented their effects via a randomized control trial (RCT).

The RCT was conducted with over 5,800 women in 450 communities in three southwestern states of Nigeria (Ogun, Osun, and Oyo) during 2023. In both treatment and control communities (i.e., wards), we recruited previously unaffiliated women to join women's groups (WGs): 1/3 of WGs (control group) received basic training in civic education; 1/3 (treatment group 1, T1) received civic education training in addition to intensive training in leadership, organizing, and advocacy, intended to build women's collective agency and improve their articulation of demands to policymakers and policymakers' responsiveness to them; and 1/3 (treatment group 2, T2) received the same training as treatment group 1 and their husbands were invited to participate in a parallel men's training focused on men's allyship. Using data from a baseline survey conducted in May – June 2023 and an endline survey conducted in January – February 2024, we find substantial evidence that both treatments contributed to significant improvements in not only the level of treated women's political participation, but also its quality, and leaders' responsiveness to women's priorities. Improvements appear to be driven by an increased sense of self-efficacy and group efficacy among treated women, as well as greater identification with women as a group. However, we find little evidence that T2 had statistically significantly greater effects on these outcomes compared to T1. Our findings underscore the importance and value of addressing both individual and societal barriers to women's civic engagement.

TIME

Monday April 20, 2026
12:10PM-1:20PM

LOCATION

INTS 1113