

The studies suggest this work has paid off. The more rigorous of the two, conducted by Dr. **Mitch Seligson** of the University of Pittsburgh, is based on a 1998 national sample of 2,877 respondents and two smaller surveys of nine municipalities in which Chemonics works. The study shows that Bolivians in those municipalities, including women, attend local meetings and participate in community-development activities more often than the national average. It also indicates that these citizens feel they have more influence over community decisionmaking, and have greater confidence in the judicial system.

The findings of the Swiss NGO survey mirror the University of Pittsburgh findings. Both are "an exciting validation of the project's democracy-building model and methodologies, and clearly show an impact on the way Bolivians view their own roles in building a more democratic society," Kraljevic said.