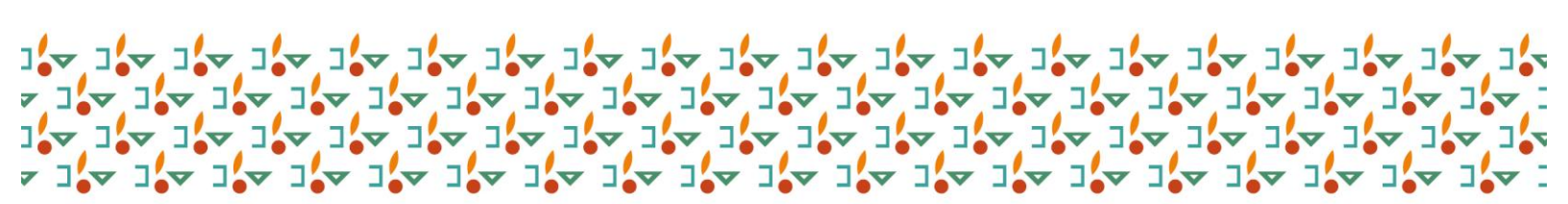


THE **POWER**  
**OF DIALOGUE**  
CONSORTIUM

Annual Report 2024





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## 1. Introduction

This document outlines the 2024 Annual Report for the Power of Dialogue (PoD) programme, which is being implemented under the 2021-2025 Strategic Partnership with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in the framework of the 'Power of Voices' (PoV) grant instrument. The PoD Consortium is composed by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the Gorée Institute (GORIN), the Centre for Mediterranean and International Studies (CEMI) and Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA). The programme, which is implemented in 15 countries<sup>1</sup> and includes regional and global components, carries the ultimate goal to 'contribute to peaceful democratic space, and inclusive, responsive and representative political decision-making at all levels.

This PoD Annual Report first provides an overview of key developments that occurred in 2024 in programme countries (Section 2) and then presents the results achieved in each country and region targeted by the programme (Section 3), as well as at the global level (Section 4). The report further reflects on other monitoring questions (Section 5) such as how the programme is addressing the issue of localization, and on how the identified risks that materialized were mitigated. Finally, this report provides a narrative overview of the financial report (section 6), for which the details are provided in Annex 1, including justification for deviations from the approved budget. Annex 2a provides an overview of the contribution of the PoD results to the Security, Rule of Law and Strengthening Civil Society frameworks, while annex 2b provides an overview of actual vs. targeted results per country. Finally, the Consortium publication titled 'The Voice of Youth at the Table' is included in this report as Annex 3 as one of the key knowledge products developed in 2024.

## 2. Key developments in programme countries

This section intends to highlight some of the main contextual changes that have had an influence on our programming in 2024.

### *Post-election tensions in Mozambique*

Following the outcome of the 2024 General Elections, announcing a large victory for the ruling party FRELIMO, demonstrations took place nationwide as opposition parties and civil society were contesting the results. These demonstrations were violently repressed by the police, resulting in deaths, injuries and thousands of arrests across the country. This excessive use of police force led to a sharp limitation of the right to demonstrate, but also to freedom of movement. This restriction continued to stay in place after the end of the demonstrations whereby, citizens from other Mozambican provinces were prohibited from entering the province and city of Maputo. In parallel,

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<sup>1</sup> Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Mozambique, Tunisia, Jordan, Iraq, Colombia, Guatemala and Myanmar.



the street barricades built by the protesters also prevented the free movement of people and goods.

The limitation on the right to demonstrate also involved a limitation of the Right to Access Information – whereby since the beginning of the demonstrations, intensified over time, internet and mobile data services have been reduced or restricted, making communication via difficult within the country and internationally. With regards to Freedom of Expression, activists, human rights advocates and defenders, television commentators and other voices against the government actions, have been threatened when they do not refer to the ruling party in favorable terms. This situation leads to many citizens avoiding to speak out in public.

These restrictions negatively affected the work of PoD partner IMD Mozambique and led them to cancel or postpone activities, including the International Conference on Women, Governance and Elections that was foreseen in the annual plan. More details on how the programme adapted are presented in the country section.

#### *Youth protests in Kenya leading to shrinking civic space.*

In 2024, the difficult economic situation and continuously increasing cost of living in Kenya spiraled the country into an increasingly overt political crisis. The country experienced a surge in public activism, particularly among the youth, who organized country-wide protests against the increased taxes included in the 2024 Finance Bill from July onwards. The protests also echoed the youths' frustrations in relation to the country's huge public debt accumulation, without any evident transformative infrastructural or social change (including reducing unemployment) to show for this. The overall feeling of a lack of perspective with an ineffective government that spends too much money on the wrong things or is accused of corruption, sparked the rising demonstrations. .

While these protests initially resulted in the withdrawal of the contested Finance Bill, the government chose to repress protesters, making use of arrests, intimidation, use of excessive force, abduction, disappearances and extrajudicial killings. In addition, the democratic space has been negatively affected by intermittent interfering with internet connectivity, as well as gradual targeting and clamping down on activism and specific civil society organizations.

PoD partner Mzalendo Trust was among the sixteen CSOs pointed out by the government for allegedly sponsoring activities against the Finance Bill. In efforts to publicly discredit their work by labelling them as "anti-government and terrorists", the government further exerted pressure by stating that these organizations were not registered Public Benefit Organizations. As a result, Mzalendo directly and indirectly engaged with various government institutions that had raised concerns to reaffirm the nature of their work, both bilaterally and jointly with other CSOs, and was so far able to limit the impact on their work. Nevertheless, this clamping down on democratic and civic space is a clear negative trend for the country and affected the operations of the PoD programme to a degree.



## Democratic resilience in Senegal

The 2024 presidential election in Senegal stands as a pivotal moment for democracy in West Africa, a region grappling with a series of military coups and shrinking civic spaces. Amid attempts by then-President Macky Sall to postpone the election and extend his term, Senegal's Constitutional Council intervened, declaring the delay unconstitutional and mandating that the vote proceed before Sall's term concluded on April 2. This decision, bolstered by widespread civil society mobilization and peaceful protests, ensured the election was held on March 24, leading to the victory of opposition candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye.

Senegal's adherence to constitutional processes and its peaceful transfer of power contrast sharply with developments in neighboring countries in the Sahel region, where military juntas continue to exercise control, drastically limiting political parties' activities, and curtailed civil liberties. The resilience of Senegal's democratic institutions, despite some challenges, demonstrates that democratic norms can withstand challenges when supported by robust internal mechanisms and public engagement. This possibly offers a blueprint for democratic renewal in the region and provided an opportunity for PoD Consortium Partner Gorée Institute to stimulate exchanges between youth and women from Senegal, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

### 3. Country-level and regional results

This section provides an overview of the results achieved during 2024 in each country targeted by the PoD programme Theory of Change (ToC), which focuses on four mutually reinforcing Long-Term Outcomes (LTOs):

- **LTO 1 - Consortium, partner networks and local civil society organizations are effective enablers of change:** Consortium partners will strengthen each other, their partner networks and local CSOs by capitalizing on complementarity. This is an enabler for the other LTOs.
- **LTO 2 - Aspiring young and women political and civic leaders are influential actors of change:** investing in aspiring young and women leaders, both to fulfil their civil and political rights and catalyze their ability to spur political change.
- **LTO 3 - Political and civic actors collaborate peacefully on the basis of trust:** focusing on facilitating and enabling trust-building, dialogue and collaboration, and ensuring shared access for all civic and political actors to inclusive spaces.
- **LTO 4 - Political and civic actors strengthen democratic space:** allowing civic and political actors to jointly advocate for the interests of their constituents, either at national level, or through the creation of external pressure point at regional and global level.



## 3.1 Sahel

### 3.1.1 Mali

Lead: NIMD Mali

LTO 1: Through the sharing of experiences and tools within the PoD network (see Section 4.1 on the PoD Learning Agenda), NIMD Mali has improved its approaches to political dialogue, women's political participation and alumni engagement. The knowledge gained has, for instance, led to the creation of the Sahel Feminist Political Leadership Academy, involving women leaders from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The first meeting of the academy, organized in 2024, provided an opportunity for participants to exchange with senior women politicians from the region, discuss common challenges and start building a network.

Alumni from the Mali democracy schools have also expanded their regional networks through study trips offered by Consortium partners. Collaboration between NIMD and the Gorée Institute has enabled alumni from Mali to participate in the Gorée Institute Youth Leadership Academy programme in Senegal, while others attended the regional academy organized by CEMI in Tunisia.

LTO 2: NIMD has supported several projects carried out by participants from the Democracy School in 2024. Alumni associations are diversifying and increasing opportunities for training and exchange with citizens on issues of democratic governance, despite a restrictive environment. Based on the results of their actions, the alumni have expanded their institutional network with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Promotion, among others.

Moreover, NIMD supported the efforts of the Consortium of Youth and Women's Organizations in reaching out to young people in rural Mali and rallying their support for the adoption of a quota law on participation of youth in decision-making bodies. As a result of these advocacy efforts, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has included the recommendation on the quota law in its action plan. The Consortium has proposed a framework for collaboration to the Ministry in order to obtain the support of a majority of young people.

LTO 3: NIMD continued to work with the CPSRE (*Comité de Plaidoyer et de Suivi des Réformes*) in 2024, through the creation of a Forum of Political Parties and Movements (FPMP). This forum has established a consultation mechanism between at least 80 political parties to discuss and harmonize their views with regards to ongoing institutional reforms, contributing to an improved collaboration between Malian political actors and establishing the CPSRE as a credible actor on political dialogue in Mali.

The work with OCGS (*Observatoire Citoyen sur la Gouvernance et la Sécurité*) also continued in 2024, as various workshops were organized with the citizens of Mopti,



Ségou, Sikasso and Koulikoro on electoral transparency and the need to involve traditional and religious authorities. Specifically, the role of the *griots* was discussed, as they play an essential role in intergenerational transmission of values and knowledge and are playing an essential role in promoting responsible behaviors within communities.

LTO 4: NIMD Mali participated in the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of ECOSOCC, with a view to expand its network of regional partners and access new entry points for advocacy with the African Union. NIMD also continued to collaborate with the CNT (National Transitional Council) by participating in regular partner coordination meetings, although no specific activities targeting the Council were organized in 2024.

### 3.1.2 Burkina Faso

Lead: NIMD Burkina Faso

LTO 1: NIMD Burkina Faso worked with the other NIMD offices in the region to produce a study on 'The role of the media in democratic renewal: how do the media influence public opinion?', which aimed at analyzing the role and space for the media to play a role in the transition processes in the region. The results of the study were also used as a framework for dialogue with media actors and civil society actors with a view to deepening the contribution of the media to addressing the country's current challenges.

NIMD also organized a training session on dialogue for its partners in Burkina Faso. The aim was to strengthen their dialogue capacities in order to enable them to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue processes in the country. At the end of the training, stakeholders were able to strengthen their knowledge of dialogue tools and processes, recognize the need for dialogue in the current context, but also identify relevant themes that could be the basis of a national multi-stakeholder dialogue process.

LTO 2: Despite the suspension of all political activities in the country, NIMD Burkina Faso was still able to implement its Democracy School, training a new cohort of thirty youth involved in political parties and CSOs. This cohort also benefited from an experience-sharing session with two senior political actors, both former Members of Parliament. NIMD also supported some activities carried by alumni, such as the 'School of Democracy and Social Cohesion (EDCS)' project, which is being implemented in two pilot high schools in Ouagadougou.

In addition, NIMD worked with CBDF (*Coalition Burkinabé pour les Droits de la Femme*) on capacity building for lobby and advocacy, targeting thirty women leaders of Burkina Faso, on the theme of peacebuilding and social cohesion. This training led to the creation of discussion groups on social media (Facebook and WhatsApp) and initiated two advocacy activities to be carried out in the municipalities of Manga and Tenkodogo.



LTO 3: As a result of the suspension of all political activities in the country, the dialogue activities planned with political actors were not implemented and NIMD had to suspend its collaboration with its partner ARGA (Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa). However, NIMD did occasionally engage in informal exchanges with political actors at national level, dialogue activities continued to be carried out at sub-national level in 2024. Local political dialogue sessions were organized in partnership with Balai Citoyen organized in Barma, establishing a Conflict Prevention and Management Committee (CGPC) and making headways in resolving a land dispute between the Ouattara family from the village of Sourkoudougou and the Sanou family from the village of Lanfièra.

LTO 4: With regard to the latter LTO, progress has been made in strengthening relations between the NIMD and diplomatic missions, in particular the Embassy of the Netherlands and the European Union delegation. In this context, the NIMD took part in several meetings organized by the Embassy of the Netherlands. With regard to the European Union, exchanges have deepened and resulted in the conclusion of a financing agreement for the implementation of the Research and Citizen Education Programme for Peace in Burkina Faso (PRECIP-BF).

### *3.1.3 Niger*

Lead: NIMD Niger

LTO 1: At regional level, in addition to the study on media and the launch of a Feminist Leadership Academy (mentioned in the Burkina Faso and Mali chapters respectively), the three NIMD offices in the Sahel also collaborated to organize regional political cafés, involving alumni from the Democracy Schools in all three countries. The following topics were addressed during the year: (i) Perspectives of young people in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger following the withdrawal of the three countries from ECOWAS to form a new alliance (AES): challenges and prospects; (ii) Rebuilding democratic governance in Africa through youth leadership; (iii) Is artificial intelligence (AI) a threat to democracy? (iv) How can NIMD alumni contribute as actors to the promotion of dialogue and social cohesion?

LTO 2: In line with the adaptation of the PoD programme to the socio-political context that emerged following the coup of July 2023, NIMD Niger focused its efforts on implementing the Democracy Schools for a new cohort, as a way to strengthen democratic culture and raise the level of civic awareness within the youth of Niger. In addition to the six training sessions, follow-up activities (i.e. discussion groups, political cafés, etc.) have helped consolidating learning.

NIMD Niger also continued to support youth organization in their lobby and advocacy efforts to make transitional reforms more inclusive. In 2024, NIMD supported the Youth Initiative for the Emergence of Niger (IJEN), whose mission is to encourage and promote the active participation of young people in the country's community development process, through the organization of awareness-raising sessions for young people from 18 neighborhoods of Niamey on their involvement in community



work. NIMD also worked with the Network for Nigerien Youth (I-Niger), to organize an advocacy campaign for women's participation during National Women's Day.

LTO 3: Anticipating on the fact that the transitional authorities would organize a National Inclusive Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder forum aimed at discussing national issues and defining a new social contract, NIMD opted to strengthen the voice of youth in the process. Therefore, NIMD supported a group of about 70 alumni from the Democracy Schools in preparing an advocacy document, taking the form a memorandum summarizing their vision and proposals for the future of country. This memorandum was submitted to the transitional authorities, with the request to include it in the set of documents that will serve as a basis for the National Dialogue. Unfortunately, the National Dialogue process did not move forward in 2024 and the transition roadmap that was supposed to emerge as a result of the dialogue is, therefore, not yet available.

LTO 4: NIMD Niger had planned to work with the transitional parliament in 2024, but this was not possible since the institution was not established. The plans to hold a meeting with ECOWAS on the situation in Niger were also canceled, as the three Sahel countries left the regional organization to form the Alliance for the Sahel States (AES).

#### *3.1.4 Regional Approach Sahel*

Lead: GORIN

LTO 1: In 2024, the Gorée Institute hosted alumni from the NIMD Mali Democracy School, on a trip that enabled them to exchange experiences on democratic governance issues between countries in the sub-region and contribute to building regional leadership among young political and civil society actors. This was an opportunity to discuss the role that CSOs have played in the peaceful transition of power in Senegal, preventing a probable electoral crisis, and how this role could be applied in a context of military transitional regime.

The Gorée Institute also completed a Political Economy Analysis on the impact of poor governance on the civic voices of aspiring women and young political actors in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Other publications were also developed in 2024, such as a policy brief under the 'Island Position' banner, as well as an analytical report of the Regional Youth Forum (see LTO 3).

LTO 2: The Gorée Institute continued to implement its Youth Leadership Academy (GYLA) for 40 youth from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The Institute also organized a workshop on political leadership in conflict prevention in the Sahel for women's rights CSOs from the region. The participants learned how to anticipate and respond to conflicts and crises, work effectively in unstable political environments, and enrich their civic engagement with political actors by using the knowledge, tools and techniques of peacebuilding, conflict prevention, lobbying and advocacy acquired during the training.



A workshop on political leadership, civic space and multi-stakeholder dialogue was also organized in 2024, to develop the capacities and improve the leadership skills of youth and women organizations from the region, as a way to prevent and/or mitigate crises through the promotion of the rule of law and the opening up of civic space. This involves their ability to monitor and analyze structural indicators and develop response options for mitigation, but also to strengthen leadership capacities in mediation and dialogue.

LTO 3: The Gorée Institute organized its annual Regional Youth Forum in Bamako, providing youth from the region with a framework for dialogue, reflection, learning and the exchange of experiences and good practices, enabling them to propose new perspectives and improve their participation in citizenship and peace processes in Africa and the Sahel. Young experts and practitioners shared their thoughts, analyses and experiences on the state of citizenship, governance, peace and stability in the Sahel and beyond.

LTO 4: The multi-stakeholder dialogue seminar and the annual symposium of the Institute have helped strengthen alliances and partnerships with civic groups at the national and regional levels. The actors involved are advocating for international structures to exert their strategic influence on governments to comply with international policies and legal frameworks regarding the promotion of women's and youth civic voices in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and political decision-making.

## 3.2 Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

### 3.2.1 Tunisia

Lead: CEMI

LTO 1: In collaboration with NIMD, CEMI has actively participated in the development of the global paper on youth political participation as well as the organization of a learning event on Youth in politics and democracy educations (see Section 4.2 below). The publication and event were an opportunity for CEMI to share lessons learned and best practices, but also to exchange on common challenges related to strengthening political participation of youth in increasingly restricted contexts.

In 2024, CEMI also collaborated with NIMD Ethiopia, through an exchange with the Ethiopian national dialogue commission and representatives of political parties, providing an opportunity for CEMI to share its experience with multiparty dialogue in the Tunisian context.

LTO 2: CEMI continued to implement the first level training cycle for mixed class of the Tunisian School of Politics (TSoP), consisting of eight training sessions for two groups. CEMI also carried out the second level class of TSoP, focusing on organizational capacities of the respective political parties and CSOs of a select group of alumni.



CEMI also organized several workshops of the Youth Council (YC), a platform aiming to reach out to youth that are not engaged in politics, through in-person interactive meetings. These sessions are helping the youth to shape their soft skills, acquire knowledge related to democratic values, pluralism and dialogue, develop new ones and discover themselves in a unique journey.

The work with the disengaged youth also took place throughout the country, as CEMI organized three additional sessions of the youth collaborative platform in different governorates. Focusing on youth participation in the local public affairs, the sessions present an opportunity for youth to exchange on the challenges they are facing, rediscover the concept of local development, acquire useful tools to meaningfully participate in decision making process on the local level.

LTO 3: In 2024, taking into account the highly restrictive political context, CEMI was committed to create safe spaces for dialogue, where all participants can securely exchange ideas and engage in peaceful, judgment-free debates - no matter how polarized their views might be. This materialized in five dialogue activities organized in 2024 (3 *couscous Politiques* & 2 *TSoP* debates), engaging over a hundred *TSoP* alumni. These dialogue activities addressed topical issues related to the national context and highlighting youth participation in public affairs.

CEMI also successfully updated its *Nouabook* platform according to the new composition of the Parliament and is in the process of collecting the approvals from individual MPs to start interacting with citizens through the platform. So far, about half of the newly elected MPs have agreed to start using it.

LTO 4: The production of CEMI's research cell has been adjusted to be oriented more on scientific journals and surveys both aiming to point out to the situation of youth in Tunisia according to the current context and to the new dynamics created affecting their participation. During 2024, CEMI research cell has carried out the first survey addressing young people's perception of the State and has produced a policy brief, 10 Policy Papers assembled in two volumes addressing topical issues related to youth political participation and one book addressing youth participation in Maghreb countries.

CEMI also continued to support the YouTube channel "Freesh", focusing on topical issues related to the economy, elections and youth engagement. "Freesh" provides attractive space for disengaged youth, using humor and sarcasm in over 200 videos and posts created in 2024, reaching a total number of 228,4 K followers on social media and total views of 4.26 million. Given the current national context, these numbers are significant when addressing the participation and interest of these categories of youth in public life and in the topics tackled.

### *3.2.2 Jordan*

Lead: NIMD Jordan



LTO 1: In 2024, NIMD Jordan continued to build the capacity of its staff members. The Programme Manager finished a course on Policy and M&E with the ILO institute in Turin, while the Country Director participated in the leadership training organized in Tunisia under the PoD network meeting on youth that was co-organized with CEMI (See section 4.2). Additionally, all team members were trained on M&E by NIMD Headquarters.

LTO 2: NIMD Jordan continued to implement its School of Politics (SoP) in 2024, training a cohort of over forty young participants. SoP participants organized the first alumni forum at the end of year, as well as several discussion sessions. as their graduation requirement. They have organized six discussion sessions, each resulting in a set of recommendations. Furthermore, SoP alumni were active during the conference of Centre for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) held on the topic of youth, democracy and media.

During the past year, NIMD noted an increased interest from political parties to send their members to the SoD, but also to participate in “Mugazana” project, also organized under PoD in 2024. This project, aimed at building the capacity of political parties in public budget analysis, was well appreciated by the political parties.

LTO 3: NIMD Jordan organized four political dinners on the following topics: Youth political participation, political parties’ economic programmes, outcome of the Jordanian Parliamentary election, and investments in Jordan. Four roundtable discussions also took place in 2024: one with the Dutch Ambassador on youth and political parties, one on the effect of the US presidential election on Jordan, and two on coordination with other democracy support organizations.

Additionally, six dialogue activities were organized by the SoP participants during the above-mentioned alumni forum, and dialogue sessions on public budget were organized with political parties as part of the “Mugazana” project.

LTO 4: As in previous years, NIMD Jordan kept monitoring the democratic space in Jordan by observing the situation, and periodic meeting with different stakeholders (governmental, political parties, experts, and civil society actors). Moreover, NIMD became more vocal regarding issues related to democratic space through providing recommendations to authorities and political parties on how to tackle the issues and how to work toward improving it.

In terms of activities, NIMD held roundtable discussions with organizations working in the field of democratic support, commissioned a study paper on the relation between civic space and the economy and supported the annual conference of the CDFJ.

### *3.2.3 Iraq*

Lead: WEO



LTO 2: In 2024, the third and fourth rounds of the School of Democracy were successfully completed, focusing on developing the leadership and organizational abilities of young leaders through collaborative workshops with experienced trainers. The program engaged 50 participants in 2024, emphasizing a balanced mix of young women and men. To enhance the reach and impact of the initiative, WEO reviewed and revised the participant selection criteria, prioritizing inclusivity and diversity.

WEO also hosted a Project Symposium in Erbil. The objective of the event was to bring together alumni from all rounds of the School of Democracy, and provide a collaborative platform to foster networking, share knowledge, and address critical issues in Iraq's democratic development. The symposium celebrated the success stories of alumni who have enacted tangible change in their communities, showcasing their transformative impact and commitment to democratic principles. A panel discussion highlighted the impact of the democratic school on the professional life of the participants, and also the challenges faced by independent politicians and parties in navigating Iraq's complex political landscape, exploring topics such as the roles and crises of political parties and their implications for the future. Additionally, the symposium featured engaging TED-style talks, focusing on the alumni experience after the School of Democracy and the role of youth in revitalizing democracy, offering fresh perspectives, and inspiring attendees to envision innovative pathways for Iraq's democratic growth.

Additionally, WEO also provided small grants and technical support to a small group of five alumni. The funded initiatives included preparing policy briefs on critical socio-political issues, conducting research projects to address democratic challenges, organizing peer-to-peer training sessions to share knowledge and inspire others, conducting and organizing democratic Dialogue sessions with stakeholders, policymakers, local authorities, politicians, and conducting democratic advocacy campaigns and awareness sessions for the communities in the different governorates. Through these efforts, WEO fostered a culture of democratic engagement, enriching the alumni network and contributing to broader community impact in Iraq.

### 3.3 Horn of Africa

#### *3.3.1 Uganda*

Lead: NIMD Uganda

LTO 1: NIMD's commitment to fostering collaboration among Ugandan CSOs has resulted in stronger partnerships and increased opportunities for joint initiatives. For instance, NIMD collaborated with AMwA and the Women Democracy Network to strengthen the advocacy capacities of women in political parties. NIMD also brought a group of youth together with the National Electoral Commission, providing them with an opportunity to share their input on the Electoral roadmap and potential reforms. NIMD also collaborated with the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA), that proved technical support at the Multi-Party Youth Forum (MYF) in the implementation of their minimum agenda.



LTO 2: In 2024, NIMD continued to work with the MYF, for instance by facilitation reflection meetings to evaluate its activities and assess its preparedness for the 2026 elections. NIMD Uganda also organized two regional youth round tables in Soroti and West-Nile, focusing on peaceful co-existence of among the youth in political parties and electoral reforms popularization in the regions. The dialogues reached out to 110 youth leaders from political parties. The dialogues were championed by MYF and facilitated by NIMD.

NIMD also conducted an Intergenerational dialogue between young people and the leaders from the different political parties to address the challenges facing the youth participation in politics. The young people used the platform to identify barriers to their participation including the heavy cost of politics. It's through these dialogues that young people under the MYF umbrella engaged the Electoral Commission on the possibility of electoral reforms.

Finally, NIMD worked with women leaders of political parties under their umbrella, the Interparty Women Platform (IWOP), who have become more pro-active in pursuing a joint agenda to address any obstacles to their political participation through their own platforms. For instance, they convened their first annual general meeting to dialogue on their preparedness ahead of 2026 elections and assess the impact of Gender-Based Violence on their political participation. This resulted in the formation of a roadmap for continuous engagement with other actors ahead of the 2026 elections.

LTO 3: NIMD facilitated training for political parties on internal Party conflict management. This training brought together leaders from the youth and women leagues and Secretary Generals from six political parties to deliberate on their roles in party decision-making processes and preparations for the 2026 general elections. The meeting fostered greater awareness and commitment among political parties to strengthen party structures, improve candidate identification processes, and address internal conflicts.

### *3.3.2 Kenya*

Lead: Mzalendo Trust and NIMD

LTO 1: In 2024, Mzalendo Trust continued to closely work with consortium partners NIMD and AMwA in implementing the project, enhancing knowledge sharing in transparent and complementary ways. As an example, that further elaborates on this result, the strong partnership enabled us to converge and leverage on our networks, build a comprehensive collaboration profile that enabled Mzalendo to reach out and engage regional bodies such as East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and Pan-African Parliament (PAP).

In a joint effort with AMWA, Mzalendo organized and convened the Pan African pre-Leadership Sawubona and Pan-African Leadership Sawubona Conferences bringing together feminist organizations and other political stakeholders from across the Continent to take stock of the progress made in enhancing women's political



participation and identify emerging challenges impeding their representation and outline strategies to be pursued.

LTO 2: As a result of the work with parliamentary caucuses such as Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA), Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), as well as the Kenya Young Members of County Assemblies (KYMCA) which operates at the sub-national level, Mzalendo initiated various capacity enhancement and advocacy measures towards amplifying inclusive processes and legislative reforms and proposals (bills and policies) addressing youth, women and Persons With Disabilities at national and county levels. As an example, Mzalendo offered technical support in the development of the KYPA's five-year strategic plan, which was launched by President William Ruto, a former member of the association. The strategic plan launches improved relations and structures with the parliamentary caucus, specifically for future engagements geared towards capacity strengthening and youth-oriented policy advocacy.

Mzalendo also conducted two workshops during the "International Youth Day" and "International Day of Democracy" celebrations, with knowledge sharing intergenerational sessions that convened young men and women to harness parliamentary processes and leverage such skills to influence decision making. The sessions equally enabled youth to deliberate about issues affecting their political environment, while leveraging on technology to improve their situation and promote good governance.

NIMD Kenya also contributed to the work of LTO2, by collaborating with KYMCA on setting-up multi-stakeholder events in different regions in Kenya to discuss policy issues and prioritize legislative agendas on issues affecting young people.

LTO 4: In 2024, Mzalendo made use of its expertise on civic tech tools as well as its credibility, to continue bridging the existing information gap amongst the actors and enable meaningful public participation in parliamentary and democratic processes. As a result, leveraging its status as the convenor of the Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network (CSPEN), Mzalendo held various in-person and virtual forums reviewing, analyzing and submitting three written memoranda on legislative proposals. Duly, we continue thriving in giving public-centered alternative views for policy direction, and thus enabling citizen-voices towards decision-making. Additionally, in a year where there has been high public dissatisfaction over Parliamentarians' conduct, Mzalendo released a very comprehensive scorecard, highlighting performances of not only the most and least active individual Members of Parliament, but also areas that citizens prioritized but seem to have been overlooked by their representatives.

### *3.3.3 Ethiopia*

Lead: NIMD Ethiopia

LTO 1: In 2024, the participation of NIMD Ethiopia staff and an alumnus of the Ethiopian Democracy Academy (EDAC) in the African Women Leaders workshop



organized by AMWA demonstrated increased collaboration between the consortium members and external networks focused on advancing gender inclusion and women's political leadership. The workshop served as a platform for capacity building, particularly in gender sensitivity and women's political empowerment, aligning with the PoD consortium's efforts to promote gender and youth inclusion.

The capacity of the staff was also strengthened through targeted training on report writing skills, with a specific focus on result-based monitoring and evaluation (RBM&E), which was also attended by a local implementing partner (3M, 3F). This initiative aimed to address identified gaps in producing structured, high-quality, and impactful reports aligned with project objectives and donor expectations.

LTO 2: NIMD Ethiopia continued to implement training sessions of EDAC and EDAW (academy for women) in 2024, and the appointments of alumni to leadership positions across various political parties increased over the period. This trend highlights the effectiveness of NIMD's programmatic interventions in slowly but surely dismantling traditional barriers and promoting inclusivity within political structures. The formation in 2024 of the EDAC/EDAW Alumni Network and the EDAC/EDAW Women Alumni Association underscores NIMD's commitment to empowering youth and women in politics. These networks are expected to provide capacity-building opportunities, facilitate experience sharing between new and seasoned political leaders, and positively impact Ethiopia's political environment. Additionally, they aim to promote a culture of dialogue among the political elite, enhance understanding of the rule of law and constitutional values, encourage peaceful conflict management, and create a platform for multiparty democracy.

LTO 3: The national elections held in June in the Benshangul-Gumuz, Afar, Somali, and Central Ethiopian regions demonstrated a significant improvement in the relationship of political and civil actors. The National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) and political parties reported that the elections were conducted in a relatively peaceful manner. This shift reflects the growing trust between political and civic actors, as evidenced by the peaceful pre-election activities, voting day, and results announcement. Political party leaders who participated and secured victories attested to the relative peacefulness of the electoral process. A crucial factor contributing to this positive outcome was the proactive role NIMD played. Considering the conflicts that previously hindered electoral participation in these regions, NIMD facilitated a critical consultation workshop in February to support the resumption of elections. This workshop engaged regional vice presidents, political party leaders, police commissioners, and presidential representatives, fostering discussions on security challenges and strategies for a safe election.

Moreover, over the course of 2024, Ethiopian political parties have engaged in periodic interparty dialogues facilitated by the NEBE and supported by NIMD. These dialogues aim to expand democratic space by encouraging open discussions on critical issues, thereby deepening mutual understanding and contributing to create consensus on fundamental national issues. In November, a significant milestone was achieved in advancing peaceful political collaboration in Ethiopia. The minutes of the Inter-Party Dialogue sessions, held under the auspices of the Inter-Party Dialogue



Forum, were printed as official documents and handed over to the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC). This step was part of broader efforts to promote transparency, institutional accountability, and peaceful political engagement. The documentation and sharing of these minutes have reinforced trust among political actors and contributed to building institutional memory, ensuring a reference point for future dialogue processes.

LTO 4: NIMD collaborated with the House of People’s Representatives (HPR) to develop a capacity-building initiative focused on enhancing organizational and policy capacities, which included implementing an automated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. The HPR secretariat plans to expand the system’s use to the directorate level, enhancing accountability and tracking progress toward its ten-year strategic plan. This transition marks a pivotal enhancement in the HPR’s capacity to manage and analyze MEL data, ultimately strengthening its overall effectiveness and contributing to the promotion of democratic space in Ethiopia.

NIMD successfully completed the development of a mobile application and Central Management System (CMS) for Caffee Oromia, designed to enhance communication and data management across the Council. This innovative platform provides Caffee members and the public with easy access to essential reports, proclamations, and minutes, thereby fostering transparency and facilitating better engagement with the community.

#### *3.3.4 Regional Approach Horn of Africa*

Lead: AMwA

LTO 1: In 2024, AMwA strengthened the technical capacity of NIMD Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to conduct a Feminist Transformational Leadership training for participants in the Sahel region to advance women’s political leadership. As a result, the three NIMD offices organized a Women’s Political Leadership Academy to set the foundation for participants to begin to interrogate the experiences of Women in Political Leadership in the Sahel region and identify pathways for advancing women’s political leadership.

AMwA also continued to support its local partners, who reported and show-cased increased institutional capacity and legitimacy. For example, Elle Parle in Uganda, Badili Africa in Kenya and Addis Powerhouse in Ethiopia developed their organizational strategic plans, differentiated roles and staff functionality to improve organizational operations and management.

LTO 2: In 2024, AMwA enhanced the Feminist Transformational Leadership capacities of a group of PoD partners from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Tunisia, Jordan, Iraq, Colombia, Myanmar, and the Netherlands. Under the theme “Why is Gender Mainstreaming not enough: An Immersion into Feminist Thought Leadership and Practice”, the space contributed to building and strengthening the consortium partner’s capacity and legitimacy to influence change and advance inclusive political processes, enhance women and youth’s political leadership, and safeguard the democratic and civic space through dialogue.



AMWA also led the development of the Outcome Document for the 40th GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign) Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming, ahead of the African Union and Member States summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AMWA, as the GIMAC Steering Committee member and co-leader of the Leadership and Governance Cluster, moderated a panel discussion on the role of leadership and governance in promoting gender-responsive policies and meaningful reforms in the education sector at GIMAC's 6th Hybrid Strategic Engagement Meeting with the African Union.

Furthermore, AMWA continued to subgrant CSOs in the region, such as the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA), who led the development of the Gender Policy which advocates for the integration of women with disabilities and integrates Sexual and Reproductive Health programs and policy documents for organizations of persons with disabilities and women's rights groups.

Finally, AMWA organized a new edition of the Sudanese reflection space titled "The International Women's Day Celebration with Sudanese Women". The event convened a group of Sudanese women living in Uganda, with the aim to strengthen solidarity for Sudanese women political and civic actors in light of the atrocities that Sudan currently faces.

LTO 4: In February, AMWA hosted the Pre-Pan African Leadership Sawubona in Addis Ababa, themed "Re-Centering Women's Political Agency and Leadership in Africa". The engagement convened women political and civic actors. In November, still in Addis Ababa, AMWA conducted the Pan African Leadership Sawubona to set in motion a collective resolution and roadmap to revamp and advance Pan-African governance and leadership that is gender transformative, intersectional and democratic with an outcome document that was developed following the Sawubona.

Finally, in September, AMWA participated in the Summit of the Future in New York and organized a series of side events.

### 3.4 Southern Africa, Latin America and Asia

#### 3.4.1 Mozambique

Lead: IMD Mozambique

LTO 1: In 2024, IMD organized an exchange visit to Kenya, in partnership with Mzalendo Trust, involving leaders of women's and youth leagues from political parties with parliamentary representation (prior to the 2024 elections) namely Frelimo, Renamo and MDM, as well as representatives of women-led civil society organizations from the central, northern and southern regions of Mozambique. The visit included exchanges with Kenyan governance institutions, political parties, parliament and civil society organizations. A round table was held with CSOs working on political participation of youth and women, to discuss good practices in the scope of inclusion,



representation and participation of these groups in decision-making spaces, both in politics and society.

LTO 2: In 2024, IMD centered most of its activities around the elections, working with political parties on the development of their election manifestos. The first example of this work is the dialogue session organized between political and civic actors on the preparation and implementation of the manifestos. This allowed some parties with no representation in Parliament (such as PODEMOS, PARENA and Nova Democracia) to present their pre-manifestos to citizens with the aim of gathering contributions from civic actors. Additionally, IMD organized a training on Gender and Youth sensitive electoral manifestos, leading to most political parties adding clear references to women's rights and interests in their manifestos. Finally, IMD also provided technical assistance on manifesto development to political parties.

LTO 3: In September, IMD organized a dialogue session between candidate parties for the 2024 General Elections and civic actors, in partnership with the Electoral Observation Platform - Peace Room. Representatives of the 4 candidates for the presidency of the republic and candidates for Parliament, namely Frelimo, Renamo, MDM and PODEMOS, presented their manifestos to the more than 300 participants, resulting from contributions from voters and civil society. During the session, participants had the opportunity to evaluate whether the competitors included material related to gender integration and whether the manifestos were sensitive to youth and the demands of people with disabilities.

Moreover, through the Women's Political Academy, IMD held awareness-raising meetings with the leaders of the MDM and RENAMO parties, with the main objective of influencing them to include more women candidate lists for the 2024 elections. IMD also participated in sessions of the Public Administration and Local Government Committee (4th Parliamentary Committee) on reforms of the Electoral Law, advocating for better representation of youth and women.

LTO 4: IMD had planned to organize an International Conference on Women, Governance and Elections, but due to the tensions following the General Elections (described in Section 2 above), this event had to be postponed to 2025.

### 3.4.2 Guatemala

Lead: NIMD Guatemala

LTO 1: During 2024, capacity strengthening activities of NIMD Guatemala, and its partners focused mainly on monitoring, evaluation and planning skills. NIMD also conducted field visits to hold several working sessions with partners in the department of Quetzaltenango, specifically with the *Mancomunidad Metropolitana de los Altos* and the *Asociación Mujer Tejedora del Desarrollo (AMUTED)*, to co-create a project proposal entitled *Tzijoniq Q'onojel: Political dialogues for the articulation of civil society and local governance in Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán*, which ended up being funded by the European Commission.



LTO 2: NIMD Guatemala, in partnership with UN Women, held some reflection and learning sessions for women *municipalists*: mayors, union members and municipal councilors, as well as those in charge of Municipal Women's Directorates. These sessions, held in Guatemala City, aimed to strengthen their technical capacities and skills for the exercise of public service in municipal governments, and exchange on the challenges faced by women in the field of municipal government.

In 2024, a strategic alliance was also established with the organization ParlAmericas, which teamed up with NIMD Guatemala to speak in sessions organized for the staff of the Congress of the Republic, in order to explore ideas and opportunities to increase citizen participation in parliamentary work, focusing on new digital technologies. These sessions, with the participation of the Directorate of Studies and Research and the Directorate of Legal Affairs, enriched the approach and the proposals presented, contributing to the creation of a more open and participatory space in the legislative process.

LTO 3: NIMD Guatemala worked on developing the mobile application called DemoCraks, a digital gamification tool designed to promote citizen participation, transparency and the strengthening of democracy. This application enables the learning of important concepts of political science and the human rights approach, to understand the importance of citizen participation, fundamental rights and the functioning of institutions.

Strategic dialogues for women's development were also implemented in 2024, in a context where women's rights continue to be a priority in the social and political agenda. The conclusion of these thematic dialogue sessions, which brought together a large number of women CSOs from across the country, are expected to be presented to President Bernardo Arévalo in 2025.

Finally, as part of its work with the Electoral Updating and Modernization Commission (CAME) of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, NIMD Guatemala organized dialogue sessions to identify and discuss possible reforms, as well as key recommendations to improve the attention of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. This document was endorsed with representatives of different civil society organizations that are part of the observatory.

With regards to regional activities, NIMD Guatemala collaborated with NIMD El Salvador and NIMD Honduras to organize a Central American meeting of women defenders in the field of water and environment in El Salvador, where the participants shared their personal experiences and the different challenges and risks they face in their respective countries.

LTO 4: In 2024, NIMD Guatemala focused its lobby & advocacy activities on women's political participation through Guate Paritaria, a proposal that guarantees fair and proportional representation of women on election lists. This was done by supporting the GuateParitaria platform in its political lobbying actions in Congress and the generation of communication materials. Moreover, the document *Agenda política de la mujer política*, elaborated by NIMD Guatemala at the end of 2023, has been shared with political actors. The objective of this document is to raise awareness of the



differentiated policies, with a gender perspective, which are needed to guarantee women's rights. In addition, a fanzine was also produced by NIMD Guatemala, to reflect the challenges faced by young people who wish to participate in politics. This Fanzine was presented and discussed in a meeting with the Embassy of the Netherlands and young people from various collectives, who shared their experiences and perspectives on youth inclusion in political processes.

### 3.4.3 Colombia

Lead: NIMD Colombia

LTO 1: In 2024, NIMD Colombia continued its efforts to establish itself as an agent of change in the ecosystem of innovation in democracy, through its work with the Open Alliance for Congress (AxC). The statutes of the AxC were signed, in which, together with eleven other CSOs, academia and philanthropies, the commitment to work together to make the Congress of the Republic a more open, transparent and participatory institution for citizens was ratified. As a result, the Steering Committee of the AxC was formed, including NIMD Colombia as a member. This body is responsible for ensuring compliance with the statutes and the continuity of its work.

LTO 2: As part of the above-mentioned work with the AxC, NIMD Colombia organized an Open Democracy School, aimed to increase of Congress staff on the legislative work, taking into account the high turnover following elections. During the second half of 2024, the Training Axis of the AxC held several meetings aimed at improving the Open Democracy School training offer in 2025. As a result of the above, the approaches and pedagogical content provided in each module were reformulated, particularly on the topics of citizen participation, innovation and collaborative governance.

LTO 3: Still in relation to the work with the AxC, technical support was provided to the Congress of the Republic, specifically on the implementation of the VIII Action Plan for an Open and Transparent Congress, the development of the Senate's four-year Strategic Plan, and as a member of the technical committee for the Reform of the Youth Citizenship Statute.

LTO 4: During 2024 and as a result of the work of the Technical Secretariat of the AxC, a Lobby & Advocacy strategy towards the Congress of the Republic was developed, focusing on promoting the positioning of the AxC. As a result, two strategic meetings were held with the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Republic, in which the collaboration was discussed.

With regards to the work with the Ministry of Interior, although the collaboration with NIMD was formalized with the signing of a MoU, the Peace Team headed by the minister's office was affected by institutional instability and the appointment of a new Minister of Interior, undermining the work that NIMD planned with this team, while an action plan to strengthen the implementation of Point 2 of the Final Peace Agreement was being elaborated.



However, for the second semester of 2024, the Directorate for Democracy, Citizen Participation and Community Action of the Ministry of Interior approached NIMD Colombia to start a new relationship, focusing mainly on strengthening the capacities of future candidates for the elections of October 2025. As a result, technical support was provided to this Directorate. In addition, NIMD participated in meetings of the specialized Technical Roundtable for Point 2, to formulate a strategy to support the National Government through the Implementation Unit of the Final Agreement.

#### 3.4.4 Myanmar

Lead: NIMD Myanmar

LTO 2: In 2024, significant progress has been achieved by NIMD Myanmar in empowering youth, women, and ethnic leaders in Shan, Karenni, Kayin, and Mon States. These individuals are increasingly influencing political processes by voicing, monitoring, and advocating for inclusivity. In Kayin State, six alumni from the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) engaged local authorities, ethnic revolutionary organizations (EROs), and multi-stakeholder groups, advocating for the reopening of the Asian Main Road for border trade. Although the road remains partially closed, their efforts resulted in reduced taxes at some checkpoints. They successfully conveyed public concerns and discussion points to EROs during bilateral meetings, despite security risks preventing the release of formal reports.

Additionally, the Mon Youth Network, established by seven youth alumni, has facilitated cross-ethnic dialogue and youth participation in political processes, particularly the state constitution drafting. Two alumni were appointed director and deputy director of Ministry of Home Affairs in the Mon State Federal Council (MSFC), enabling direct contributions to state administration. Moreover, after participating in a seminar on transitional justice, alumni from Mon State improved their data collection processes for documenting ground-level realities. This enhanced understanding has increased the efficiency and impact of ongoing transitional justice initiatives.

LTO 3: With regards to NIMD's work on multi-stakeholder dialogue, progress in Kayin and Karenni States demonstrates that democratic political actors are addressing grievances effectively through dialogue and structured collaboration, despite operating in highly unstable environments. During the dialogue sessions facilitated by NIMD Myanmar in Kayin State, political and civic leaders collaboratively formulated eight guiding principles to promote inclusivity in the state constitution building process. These principles (equal rights, representation, participation, and respect for culture and religion) provide a concrete framework for addressing grievances related to marginalization and lack of representation. Their development reflects a commitment to ensuring that diverse voices are considered in governance processes.



In Kawthoolei/Karen State, the dialogue process facilitated detailed reviews of foundational documents. Dialogue platform participants studied the third draft of the State Constitution with the Kawthoolei State Constitution Drafting Coordination Body (KSCDCB) and analyzed Federal Democracy Charters and the 2008 Constitution using eight guiding principles. In later sessions, members agreed on amendments to 10 articles of the Bill of Rights, covering critical areas such as freedom of belief, expression, assembly, and women's and farmers' rights. These proposed amendments directly address grievances tied to personal freedoms and socio-economic rights and will be presented to the KSCDCB for further stakeholder consultations.

Finally, a five-day training program on "Conflict Resolution and Governance Skills" was carried out for the Karenni Interim Executive Council, improving their understanding of public service delivery and conflict resolution strategies. Leaders such as the Director of Planning, Finance and Taxation Department) and the Director of Health Department pledged to integrate diversity and address minority grievances in their work, directly influencing governance at the subnational level.

## 4. Global level results and learning

### 4.1 Learning agenda

The learning agenda is structured around thematic learning linked to the four LTOs, and to each Consortium member's area of expertise. Each LTO has specifically formulated learning questions that operationalize learning and that guide the work of Consortium partners. Below are descriptions of contributions made to each of these learning questions:

*For LTO 1: To what extent and how are Consortium, partner networks and local civil society organizations effective enablers of change?*

As described in the country chapters above, a lot of **collaborative efforts between members of the PoD network** took place in 2024. Examples include the exchange visit of Mozambican politician to Kenya organized by IMD and Mzalendo, the support provided by AMWA to NIMD's offices in the Sahel on to their work on feminist leadership, or the experience sharing on political dialogue from CEMI to NIMD's stakeholders in Ethiopia.

With regards to the work of NIMD Headquarters specifically, support was provided to NIMD country offices in various areas. Besides the PME capacity support activities (described in section 5 below), **NIMD worked on strengthening the capacity of country offices** in the PoD programme related to Human Resources Management, Financial Management and Integrity, through supporting the development of country specific HR manuals, financial programme management tools, safety and security policies and trainings, as well as integrity policy refreshers and SEAH awareness trainings.



*For LTO 2: To what extent and how are aspiring young and women political and civic leaders becoming influential actors of change?*

In 2024, the PoD consortium jointly developed and launched **'The Voice of Youth at the Table' publication**, annexed to this report. It includes a collection of lessons learned from amplifying youth voices for inclusive democracies by the Consortium in Burkina Faso, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Tunisia, and Uganda. This publication utilizes PoD interventions as an example to study global trends and best practices for amplifying youth political participation. It is a synthesis of case studies that also offers a global perspective on youth political participation.

Through this publication, the Consortium Partners aimed to raise interest in this topic and provide the necessary knowledge on the gaps, challenges, opportunities, and ideas for strengthening youth participation in political processes, with the hope that the findings can inform those aspiring to work on youth political participation globally.

It concludes that a shift in mindset is required from all involved actors to create the new generation of political leaders. Youth participation needs to go hand in hand with adaptivity and innovative programming, co-creation of programmes, advocating for implementation for youth legislation and youth inclusion mechanisms, commitment from political leadership and an integrative lens to the broad exclusion of youth and its connection to security and economic development.

Still on the topic of youth political participation, Consortium Partner CEMI organized a **conference on 'Youth in Politics and Democracy Education in Restrictive Democratic Contexts'** in Tunisia, involving all the partners and NIMD country offices engaged in PoD. The first part of the discussion focused on re-imagining youth political participation, providing an opportunity for participants to share their success stories and exchange experiences. A deep dive in the Kenyan context provided an opportunity to discuss the non-traditional forms of youth participation, the disconnect from formal politics as well as the observed shift to the digital space.

The conference also offered an opportunity for participants to showcase some innovative aspect of their work, as a way to trigger mutual learning. Examples include the innovative youth dialogue approach carried out by NIMD Colombia, the intergenerational dialogue approach implemented by NIMD's offices in East Africa, CEMI's YouTube channel 'Freesh' targeting disengaged youth, NIMD Mali's use of comic books to sensitize youth on the cost of politics and related corruptive practices, Gorée Institute's regional mentorship programme (GYLA), NIMD Myanmar mobile application (MyDemocracy App) to engage Democracy School alumni remotely, or Mzalendo's experience with civic-tech tools.

The last part of the conference focused on Democracy Education, specifically discussing two issues: operating in increasingly restrictive environments and finding (new) ways to engage with the networks of alumni. On the latter point, some interesting recommendations emerged from the discussion, such as the need to systematically include alumni engagement activities from the design phase of any



Democracy Education programme, assign staff to alumni engagement activities, make sure to engage more than one person per political party or organization (a critical mass needs to be trained to be able to trigger change within an organization), use M&E tools such as Outcome Harvesting to monitor alumni achievements and use alumni as mentors and/or trainers for new cohorts.

*For LTO 3. To what extent and how are political and civic actors collaborating peacefully on the basis of trust?*

In 2024, the PoD Consortium continued to invest in supporting and strengthening all staff in the PoD network involved in dialogue work. We did so by continuing to strengthen **Global Southern peer-to-peer learning**. NIMD Headquarters continued to build in 2024 what was started in 2023: strengthening a more formalized southern-led peer learning structure, specifically for all the individuals in the PoD network and beyond that are directly involved in dialogue facilitation and design. This so-called "Baobab" initiative is led by six PoD network representatives, each from one region of the global PoD network: Latin America & the Caribbean, MENA (the director of the PoD Consortium partner CEMI), West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and Asia.

The different learning activities that the Baobab network organized in 2024 have been fully co-created and implemented by the six regional representatives, including regional peer-to-peer exchanges. The representatives also had the opportunity to be participate in a mentorship training, with a view to help them become established dialogue mentors for potential dialogue mentees within the PoD network and beyond. The mentee trainings initially scheduled to take place in 2024 have been postponed to 2025.

*For LTO 4: To what extent and how have political and civic actors strengthened democratic space?*

This section highlights all the work done by the Consortium, supported by NIMD Headquarters, around the positioning and International Lobby & Advocacy activities in support of the objectives of PoD:

#### *HLPF side event on youth political participation*

In September, NIMD organized a side event to the High-Level Political Forum in New York on 'Bridging the gap between young people and politics', hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations. This event provided an opportunity for NIMD to present the findings from the PoD Consortium publication 'The Voice of Youth at the Table' (see LTO 2 above) and share some lessons learned about youth political participation. The event also included a Q&A session with NIMD staff and Democracy School alumni – a report of the discussion can be accessed [here](#).

#### *Event on youth political participation in the Netherlands*



In February, NIMD joined forces with the youth wings of Dutch political parties to organize an event on youth political participation at the Nutshuis in The Hague. This event brought together Dutch political parties, NGOs, and other (youth) organizations that are concerned with political participation of youth in the Netherlands and worldwide.

#### *Afrika Dag 2024*

NIMD organized a session focused on the PoD work in Uganda at the Inspiration Market of the Afrika Dag in November. The panel discussion, involving former NIMD Executive Director Thijs Berman and NIMD Uganda Country Director Primus Bahiigi was titled '25 Years of Getting Rights Right' and touched on the newly enacted Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda, the reactions that it triggered globally, and whether this was the start of a serious trend of backsliding concerning the rights of Ugandans.

#### *Democracy Drinks*

In 2024, NIMD continued to play an active role in organizing regular Democracy Drinks in The Hague, which is part of a global event series that brings together advocates and defenders of democracy to participate in knowledge sharing and collaboration. Over 50 cities worldwide participate, with The Hague edition organized by The Hague Humanity Hub, The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, and The Netherlands Helsinki Committee. The topics of the sessions organized by NIMD included the role of youth in the 2024 European elections and a discussion around Ubuntu - a path to wellbeing through community.

#### *Involvement in peer networks*

To enforce the PoD L&A work, NIMD continued to be an active member of Partos (Dutch membership body for organizations working in international development), the Human Rights coalition (BMO) in the Netherlands; and the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) in Brussels.

## 4.2 Adaptive programming

The Midterm Review Evaluation report from 2023 praises the political savviness of PoD staff in-country and how this is instrumental in being able to make adaptations to the PoD programme, making it more relevant and effective. At the same time there were recommendations to better document and harmonize reporting on these adaptations, especially in rolling out more formalized processes, tools and methods. In response to these recommendations NIMD further invested in adaptive programming tools and methodologies.

#### *Regular adaptivity sessions around planning and reporting*



An integral part of the adaptive programming approach has been holding regular (roughly every 3 months) reflective sessions with country teams. These sessions, whereby country teams from the PoD network are interviewed to reflect on the past period and share their adaptations, serve as key moment to also discuss successes, challenges, and support needs. These sessions have proven to be effective tools for risk assessment and the creation of strategic adaptations, as well as new or updated political economy analyses.

### Case studies

NIMD Headquarters developed case studies on Colombia and Myanmar, to document how these country programmes were or have been dealing with rapidly changing contexts, and to use these lessons for the PoD network. NIMD had the opportunity to share some preliminary insights from these case studies with other democracy support organizations during the EPD Conference organized in Brussels in June, whereby one of the main lessons for 'embracing adaptive programming' was the need to shift mindsets from questioning 'are we doing the things right?', to, 'are we (still) doing the right thing?'

### Learning events

In 2024, NIMD continued to organize expert sessions to discuss existential threats to democracy as the background to changes and challenges that the PoD programme needs to adapt to. One event focused on "Artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and disinformation: An emerging threat to democracy" facilitated by Todd Helmus of the RAND Corporation and a second event "Global Dimensions" facilitated by Prof. Jan Aart Scholte of Leiden University.

## 5. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

### 5.1 Global PME

For the global Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation processes, the main focus was on the follow up on the recommendations of the external Mid-Term Review (MTR) with regards to the Outcome Harvesting, continued capacity support, and the regular monitoring reporting.

#### Outcome Harvesting database.

One of the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review included improving quality and use of the outcomes harvested through trainings and ensuring there was a better functioning database. To that the end for the MEL team invested in capacity to compile and (re)code all harvested outcomes in a better database. Furthermore, VoicesthatCount, a consultancy firm specialized in participatory and narrative based monitoring, was contracted to build an Outcome Harvesting dashboard for NIMD to



easier navigate the large number of outcomes harvested under the PoD programme. At this moment we are putting the finishing touches on the database and dashboard, and we expect it to have it operational in Q2 of 2025 in time for the End Term Evaluation.

### Capacity support

- Online events

In March, NIMD organized the first *community of practice* session on feminist MEL in which all MEL focal points of PoD got acquainted with the [Partos paper on Feminist MEL](#) and Akina Mama wa Afrika shared their experiences with a feminist approach to MEL. The idea of the *community of practice* sessions is to have an informal space for MEL focal points to share experiences and discuss issues outside of the formal reporting cycles to connect and nurture each other.

Regular check-in sessions were organized with the MEL focal points of the PoD to bilaterally discuss issues around MEL. Country Directors are sometimes also present. This allows for the NIMD the Hague MEL team to have a better understanding of the country context and provide personalized support to the country teams when needed.

In addition, a Q&A session on annual reporting was held on in January 2024. Seeing as this is already the fourth year of the programme and most MEL focal points have worked on multiple reporting cycles already, the Q&A session was short.

- In-person MEL Training

The MEL coordinator at the PoD secretariat within NIMD Headquarters facilitated a regional training for all the (new) PoD MEL focal points of NIMD offices in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as PoD partner Mzalendo in March. A MEL training for new staff working on the PoD programme at the NIMD Jordan office was also organized in March.

In September, a one-day Outcome Harvesting training was provided to the Kenyan Young Members of County Assemblies (KYMCA) a third-tier civil society organization working on the PoD programme in Kenya.

The Francophone countries within PoD have also expressed a need for an update and re-alignment on Outcome Harvesting and general MEL system, but this could not be held in 2024 due to maternity leave. MEL support for the Sahel and other French-speaking MEL focal points will be a focus of 2025.

- Capacity exchange in other forums

The MEL focal points of PoD Consortium Partners participated in the information sessions on the end term evaluation and the updated IOB evaluation criteria for the Strengthening Civil Society Policy Framework organized by the Ministry in July and September. NIMD also attended various workshops organized by Partos (AI webinar, learning session MTR follow up, Feminist approach to OH, ETE preparation meeting)



and EPD (use of AI, developing an evaluation approach for Democracy Support organizations to better aggregate results and learnings).

### End term Evaluation

During the second half of 2024, the first preparations for the end term evaluation were made. These included discussions on the content and the drafting of the ToR with the consortium partners. As well as compiling the steering group and the (external) advisory group. Given the overwhelming number of applications for the midterm review, the ToR for the End term evaluation was sent to a select group of consultancy firms. We expect to make a final selection by 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2025.

## 5.2 Localization

Since the start of the programme, the PoD partners continued to conduct capacity strengthening activities for local CSOs. For instance, AMwA continued to work closely with its partners in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia. In Kenya specifically, AMwA collaborated with national partners but also provided sub-granting to organizations like Badili Africa and the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK). In Ethiopia, AMwA sub granted to Ethiopia Women's Disability Association and Addis Powerhouse. AMwA provided technical and financial support to these partners as well as to the Network of Women in Politics in Uganda. Through this process, the partners capacities were further enhanced to localize the implementation of PoD, but also for these organizations to gain ground, relevance and legitimacy in their respective countries and beyond. In the case of Sudan, AMwA worked through its AWLI Alumni to map-out other Sudanese women political and civic actors in Sudan or Uganda or elsewhere to hold space together. This included the Reflection and Healing Space, providing psychosocial support, publication of their work, engagement in regional platforms, engagement in hybrid fora and the publication of the Documentary Hagana Kamil. AMwA also collaborated with SIHA Network and Women's International Peace Centre, both of which work with Sudanese women.

Collaboration with local CSOs also continued in the Sahel through the work of the Gorée Institute and the NIMD country offices. As an example, in Burkina Faso, NIMD adopted a co-creation approach with its local partners, holding regular bilateral meetings with CBDF and Balai Citoyen in the framework of the annual planning for 2024. As a result of these discussions, each organization developed their concept notes and proposed budget for the activities they foreseen to implement in 2024. Regular meetings continued to take place throughout the year and NIMD Burkina Faso, similarly to several other PoD partners, involved the local partners in the process of monitoring intermediate outcome indicators and harvesting the main outcomes of the programme.

The PoD network also invested in institutionalizing local actors that are beneficiaries of the programme. This is for instance the case of the MYF, NYC, and IWOP in Uganda, for which NIMD facilitated reflection meetings, exposure, trainings, fellowships, and



dialogues that enhanced their strategic planning, decision-making, and organizational cohesion. During the implementation period, the NYC and IWOP have independently organized two major activities with limited support from NIMD a clear sign of transition to sustainability. These have further developed long term strategies that guarantee existence even after the project intervention.

On the same line, PoD partners also worked on institutionalizing the informal networks created as part of the programme, such as the democracy schools' alumni networks. In Ethiopia, NIMD supported the establishment of the EDAC/EDAW Alumni Network and the EDAC/EDAW Women Alumni Association. These networks have evolved into the Ethiopian Visionary Leaders Association (EVLA), which aims to create and sustain dialogue platforms. EVLA's expected impact includes offering capacity-building opportunities, facilitating experience sharing, and fostering dialogue among members. By promoting constitutional values, peaceful conflict management, and multi-party democracy, EVLA exemplifies the sustainability of NIMD's efforts and its commitment to empowering youth and women in political leadership.

### 5.3 Risk management

A number of risks identified in the 2024 annual plan ended materializing over the year, some of which have affected programme implementation. This was for instance the case in the Sahel, where the rapid reduction of the democratic space led the country teams to constantly monitor the situation and regularly adapt their intervention, the actors they are targeting (and their willingness to participate in activities that they consider sensitive), or even the vocabulary used in their communication (i.e. words like 'political' and 'democracy' become increasingly sensitive). The diplomatic tensions between Mali, Niger and Burkina – who have exited ECOWAS to form the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) – and the international communities have also led to increase scrutiny of the work of organizations funded by Western countries, ranging from requests to regularly report to the authorities on their activities, to arbitrary arrests of CSO activists.

This is also the case in Tunisia, where the democratic space continued to shrink in 2024. Specifically with regards to political participation of youth, the marginalization of intermediary bodies and the reduction of their field of action contribute to the marginalization of the demands of young people. Indeed, for lack of space to express their grievances, of framework to receive them, of vehicles to help them reach public decision-makers, young people are no longer interested in political parties anymore and their response to the difficulties they encounter in their environment are becoming radicalized and less tolerant. In order to maintain the attractiveness of its programmes and to keep our young participants engaged in public affairs, CEMI has developed listening skills over the years and adopted participatory approaches when it comes to discussing contextual challenges and its impact especially in youth political participation. In this regard, and as a response to the context, CEMI developed a new training programme "Organizations Organizational Capacitating – OOC" to help political parties and CSOs meet their new needs, that have emerged with the challenging context, and reinforce their capacities and structures in order to



overcome the challenges they are encountering, regain their roles and provide what youth are seeking.

Similarly in East Africa, the political context also posed a possible risk to the implementation of PoD due to the shrinking civic space across the region. Some of the risks identified during the planning phase became evident, in the form of the growing intolerance against political and actors, religious fundamentalism, militarism and 'unconstitutionality', targeted violence including sexual violence, increased surveillance, closing shrinking space and the increasingly restrictive NGO regulatory environment. However, AMwA and its partners continued to mitigate the risks by continuously building each other's capacities, engaging in joint lobby and strengthening new and existing partnerships at local, regional and global levels. AMwA also strengthened its security protocols and developed contingency plans.

Finally, another risk that materialized in several PoD countries is the difficulty to collaborate with political actors in general, and with political parties specifically. For Instance in Uganda, NIMD had difficulties to manage high expectations from the political parties: many of the parties, for historic reasons, still expect NIMD to provide capacity strengthening in a number of areas like manifesto development, research and fundraising, even though these are not priority areas of interventions under PoD. The NIMD office continued to engage the political parties through other avenues like reflections and retreats that kept them engaged and also addressed some for the gaps through the youth and women members of the parties that are key participants to our interventions.

In Guatemala, NIMD also continued to face difficulties in working with political parties. Although NIMD's mission is to promote democracy and strengthen political institutions, in a context as complex as Guatemala's, party dynamics are often marked by political interests, corruption and polarization. This makes it difficult to implement effective training and capacity-building strategies at grassroots level within political parties. In addition, the lack of political will to address the need for reforms and resistance to inclusive participation, especially of historically marginalized groups such as women and youth, has been a significant challenge. However, NIMD has continued to work to create spaces for dialogue and collaboration with those parties that show a willingness to move towards a more inclusive and participatory democracy, and despite the obstacles along the way, we have created links with strategic allies that have allowed us to maintain these links with these actors.

## 6. Notes on the financial report

Overall, the total costs for 2024 are **EUR 6,451,539**. The updated budget for 2024 was estimated at EUR 6,957,386. This means there is 7% underspending i.e. EUR 505,847 compared with the approved budget. The slight overall under-spending is mainly driven by the difficult political contexts in several PoD countries (i.e. Sahel countries, Mozambique and Tunisia), which prevented the Consortium from



implementing all planned activities. The specific reasons for deviations between the approved budget and the actual costs are explained below, per cost category, per country and per LTO.

### Deviations in cost categories

		Original Budget 2024	Updated Budget 2024	Actuals 2024
	<b>I. Direct staff costs</b>			
IA	A. Staff costs	€ 667.719	€ 717.589	€ 598.942
IB	B. Local staff costs	€ 1.466.924	€ 1.381.664	€ 1.276.618
IC	C. Consultants and advisers	€ -	€ -	€ -
<b>I</b>	<b>Subtotal I</b>	<b>€ 2.134.643</b>	<b>€ 2.099.253</b>	<b>€ 1.875.559</b>
	<b>II. Other direct programme costs</b>			
IIA	A. Activity costs	€ 2.011.495	€ 2.457.519	€ 2.222.068
IIB	B. Costs of consortium partners and local NGOs	€ 486.256	€ 481.646	€ 510.331
IIC	C. Activity-related travel costs	€ 323.680	€ 394.484	€ 401.515
IID	D. Project office costs (if applicable)	€ 355.682	€ 380.086	€ 333.751
IIE	E. Equipment and investments	€ 10.848	€ 26.385	€ 16.793
IIF	F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	€ 390.587	€ 438.129	€ 358.563
<b>II</b>	<b>Subtotal II</b>	<b>€ 3.578.548</b>	<b>€ 4.178.248</b>	<b>€ 3.843.020</b>
	<b>Total of I and II</b>	<b>€ 5.713.191</b>	<b>€ 6.277.501</b>	<b>€ 5.718.580</b>
	<b>III. Overheads / indirect costs</b>			
IIIA	A. Costs of support staff	€ 255.505	€ 230.708	€ 271.382
IIIB	B. Not directly allocable administrative costs	€ -	€ -	€ -
IIIC	C. Other non-allocable costs	€ 429.613	€ 449.177	€ 461.577
<b>III</b>	<b>Total of III</b>	<b>€ 685.118</b>	<b>€ 679.885</b>	<b>€ 732.959</b>
	<b>Total of I, II and III</b>	<b>€ 6.398.309</b>	<b>€ 6.957.386</b>	<b>€ 6.451.539</b>
	Contingencies (max. 5 %)	€ -	€ -	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 6.398.309</b>	<b>€ 6.957.386</b>	<b>€ 6.451.539</b>

Figure 1: Budget vs. actuals 2024 per cost category

IA Staff costs: Underspending at NIMD HQ due several staff taking maternity or parental leave that limited time-writing, and some long term sick leaves in 2024 for this specific budget line.

IB Local staff costs: Underspending mainly coming from GORIN (-32%); Niger (-24%); AMwA (-19%); Jordan (-18%) and Ethiopia (-16%) mainly due to readjustments of core staff costs to additional funding streams.

IC Consultants and advisers: N/A

IIA Activity costs: This underspending is driven by two main factors. On the one hand, there is some underspending in NIMD HQ office on IIA4 Consortium interventions



because the nature of most of the actual costs originally foreseen under this line ended up being travel related costs. So in the end these were reported on budget line IIC. On the other hand, the political situation in the Sahel countries and tense political context in Mozambique were such that certain planned activities could not be implemented or were postponed to 2025. Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger had an underspending of 16%, 18% and 15% respectively on the line IIA2 - Country Specific intervention whilst Mozambique had an underspending of 24%.

IIB Cost of consortium partners and local NGOs: While NIMD HQ coordination activities have been implemented according to target budget, there occurred an overspending at NIMD HQ level due to higher hourly fees as salaries have been adjusted for inflation correction in line with the new agreements under the CAO RIJK, of which NIMD uses the corresponding salary scales. This agreement only materialized in the course of the year.

IIC Activity-related travel costs: This budget line is on target with only a 2% overspending

IID Project office costs: Underspending mainly coming from GORIN (-29%); Niger (-8%); Mali (-31%); Jordan (-37%), Colombia (-78%) and Ethiopia (-6%) mainly due to spreading staff costs over additional funding streams

IIE Equipment and investments: Underspending mainly coming from GORIN (-54%); Niger (-34%); Burkina Faso (-62%); Kenya (-26%) and Myanmar (-58%) mainly due to spreading staff costs over additional funding streams

IIF Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing: Underspending at NIMD HQ due to high maternity leaves in 2024 on this specific budget line.

IIIA Costs of support staff: There is an overspending at NIMD HQ level due to higher hourly fees as salaries have been adjusted for inflation correction.

IIIB Not directly allocable administrative costs: N/A

IIIC Other non-allocable costs: This budget line is on target with only a 3% overspending.



## Deviations per Country

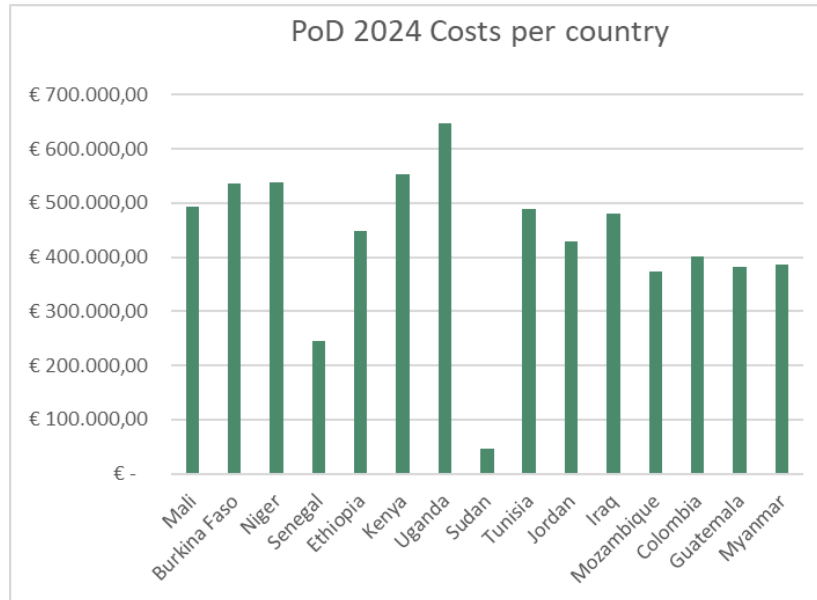


Figure 2: Actuals 2024 per country

## Deviations per LTO

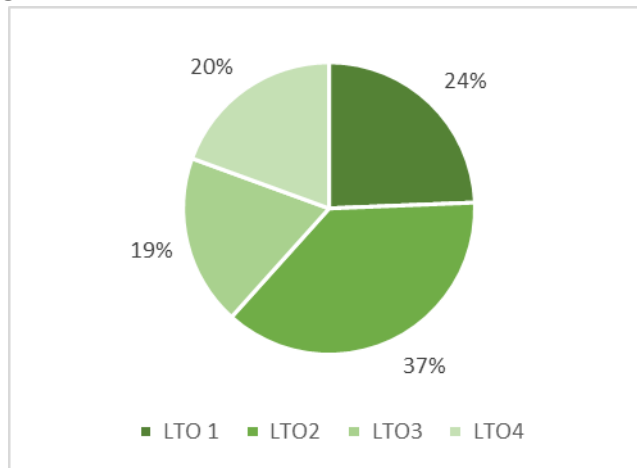


Figure 3: Actuals 2024 per Long-term Outcome 1-4



## 7. List of annexes

Annex 1 – PoD Financial Report 2024

Annex 2a - Overview of the contribution of the PoD results to the Security, Rule of Law (SRL) and Strengthening Civil Society (SCS) frameworks

Annex 2b – Overview of deviation from targets per country

Annex 3 – ‘The Voice of Youth at the Table’ publication