Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy

Annual Report 2017
Strategic Partnership (SP) Programme

Conducive Environment for Effective Policy Influencing: the Role of Political Parties and Parliaments

April 2018

Contents

1. Introduction

This document presents the Annual Report 2017 for the programme entitled "Conducive Environment for Effective Policy Influencing: the Role of Political Parties and Parliaments", implemented under the 2016-2020 Strategic Partnership (SP) with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). This programme focuses on strengthening the lobby and advocacy role and capacities of political actors, and creating an enabling environment for inclusive development, so that lobby and advocacy efforts by civil society land on fertile ground.

The core of the programme constitutes of interventions that are implemented at a country level,[1] based on a country-specific Theory of Change that was developed in 2016. In 2017, the focus was on programme implementation and setting up the next steps in terms of the International Lobby and Advocacy (ILA) efforts and the Learning Agenda. Some good progress was made in further exploring the impact of shrinking democratic space in our programmes countries and in further refining and harmonizing the PME framework of the programme.

On the partnership front, 2017 has been a difficult year. In mid-2017, NIMD started receiving some signals regarding institutional and financial problems of its alliance partner, AWEPA. Despite the reassurance from the side of AWEPA management that these issues would not affect the joint NIMD-AWEPA programme, AWEPA's Governing Council took the decision in early September 2017 to dissolve the organization due to an unsustainable financial position. NIMD immediately notified the MFA and took action to limit financial and programmatic damage to the programme.[2] The bankruptcy of AWEPA was subsequently declared on 24 October 2017.

The situation regarding AWEPA has obviously had a substantial impact on the African country programmes where AWEPA was active, as programme implementation was stopped or substantially delayed and AWEPA staff contracts were ended after a long period of (demoralizing) uncertainty. NIMD has tried to retrieve as much information as possible on programme progress in the AWEPA-NIMD countries in 2017, but unfortunately some information, including the mid-year indicator measurements for AWEPA programmes, has not become available. In addition to the effects on programme implementation, NIMD has had to invest substantial additional time and resources in managing the unforeseen situation with AWEPA in a bid to minimize the programmatic and financial damage. We are grateful to the MFA, and particularly to the colleagues at DSH and DSO, for being so supportive throughout this difficult process and for actively thinking along on the way forward.

In the following sections, an update will be provided on the programme context (§2) and the Theory of Change (§3), including a number of country cases and a summary of the main programme developments in 2017. After that, a number of cross-cutting themes and programmes will be highlighted, including ILA, the Learning Agenda and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (§4). In §5, the main changes in programmes and budgets are highlighted and explained. Finally, in §6, the main lessons learned and programme challenges are outlined.

2. Programme update

After decades of expansion, whereby the number of democratic countries steadily grew and democracy rose to become the international standard and a rarely disputed goal, democracy today experiences a setback. In many countries, democracy is receding or backsliding at alarming levels. The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index shows that between 2006 and 2017, 89 of the 167 countries covered by the Index had a declining score and not a single region recorded an improvement in the same period. Political participation rights and civil rights protection are increasingly subject to greater restrictions in many democracies, and a number of essential freedoms, e.g. to put forward divergent and competing views, are under threat. The trend of closing democratic space is also visible in the SP programme countries and has a significant impact on the role and influence of both political and civic actors in policy-making processes.

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[1] The programme is implemented in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Georgia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador).

[2] Formal letters regarding the AWEPA developments and steps taken by NIMD were sent to the MFA on 12 September and 10 October 2017.

In Uganda and Zimbabwe, for instance, a clear clamp-down on press freedom and the persecution of journalists can be detected, whilst in Honduras freedom of expression has become increasingly restricted by a number of recent deeds and policies.[3] In Guatemala, the reform process of the justice sector has made little progress in 2017, despite having taken off so promisingly in 2016 under the auspices of the Public Ministry, the Human Rights Ombudsman and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, and having the endorsement of the presidents of the three branches of government. The lack of progress is caused by highly polarized and politicized debates between the elites of the country, who seem more interested in safeguarding their historical privileges than seriously addressing an institutional redesign oriented towards true judicial independence.

In addition to the trend of shrinking democratic space, we observe that political change is increasingly happening at a local level despite the fact that nation states are still the building blocks of the international order. Key issues, such as instability and conflict, crime, and service delivery are often very prominent at lower governing levels (regions, provinces, municipalities). For that reason, our programmes are increasingly addressing these levels, through targeted interventions and collaboration with organizations already working at these levels. One example is El Salvador, where the programme supports the strengthening of local institutions by training local councillors in political and agreement building, and training aspiring politicians at local levels in our Democracy Education programme.

In addition to that, the growing inequality between the haves and the have-nots, and challenges related to inequality and exclusion (whether it affects men and women, ethnic minorities or youth) are fundamental to our objectives of inclusive and responsive politics, and receive increasing attention within our programmes. An example of this can be seen in Georgia, where our implementing partner the Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD) conducted its 'gender ranking' of political parties for the second time in 2017. The ranking was produced by combining the scores from three different criteria: electoral, institutional and programmatic components. The competitive element in the ranking helped to push political parties to change their internal procedures and increase their transparency. In El Salvador, the programme contributed to drafting the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, setting out a detailed series of actions to help the government, multilateral organizations and civil society to increase the inclusion of women in politics and protect the rights of women and girls.

In the context of this Annual Report, we would like to highlight programme developments in Ethiopia, Kenya and Guatemala (see boxes below). In the annex, we have included a number of human interest stories, that provide insight into the impact of the programmes on the lives of individuals in Georgia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Honduras.

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[3] See the Shrinking Democratic Space research paper and country cases on Kenya, Honduras and Georgia for further information.

Ethiopia

In 2017, much time and energy went into deepening and expanding political contacts and networks. Early in the year, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) and the Caffee Oromia state legislature. The MoUs laid the foundation for capacity building activities with these institutions. NIMD further worked on preparing the ground for the signing of the last of the three MoUs, namely with the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE).

Following AWEPA's dissolution, NIMD also assumed responsibility for delivering on the legislative capacity building component of the programme. Consequently, NIMD has now taken on the entire programme. Although this transition led to some delays, NIMD was able to ensure a continuation of activities for HPR and Caffee in the second half of the year. This has helped to solidify NIMD's partnership with the key programme stakeholders.

Next to capacity strengthening for political parties, NEBE and parliaments, NIMD has also been lobbying to provide both logistical and expert assistance to the dialogue process on political reforms between the ruling coalition EPRDF and opposition parties. This led, among other outcomes, to a request by HPR for support to the evaluation of the national dialogue process in December 2017. In the context of Ethiopia, this is quite a breakthrough and a clear indication of the trust generated in the first phase of the programme. It also opens up opportunities for stepped up engagement in 2018.

Guatemala

Given the political context in Guatemala, the programme focuses on inclusive political parties and strengthening of democratic institutions, such as political parties and the electoral system. In 2017, NIMD supported the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in Guatemala to design and implement a training programme for staff and political parties on their new roles and responsibilities in light of the changes in the Electoral and Political Party Law. Furthermore, the EMB and NIMD provided training for political parties and journalists, given that the new legislation provides for equal access for political parties to the media. This is an important change, as some parties benefitted much more from media attention than others, often paid for by funding from unclear sources.

Besides working on structural reform processes, the Guatemala programme has a specific focus on enhancing women's political participation. Currently only 12% of Guatemala's MPs are women and women make up only 1 % of mayors. In 2017, the Guatemala programme continued to support the political representation of women by helping women's organizations in their lobby for positive measures and quota. In addition, NIMD continued its work to build the capacity of women MPs for effective lobby and influencing, public speaking and political campaigns. As a result of this support, the women MPs managed to audit the programme of the Presidential Women's Secretariat and ensure their input in the programming and budgeting of the Municipal Women Offices. Furthermore, NIMD provided technical assistance to the Women Commission of Congress to prepare their reply on an initiative seeking to weaken the Femicide Legislation. Thanks to their intervention, this proposal was rejected.

Kenya

In the run up to Kenya's 2017 general elections, NIMD's implementing partner, the Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-K), convened multiparty workshops for local party branches on the voter registration process. The political parties agreed that the voter register needed to be audited to increase confidence in the fairness of the upcoming elections. CMD-K successfully lobbied the Electoral Commission, who contracted an international company to audit the register. As a result, the register was updated and its accuracy was verified. This defused the issue politically as parties no longer referred to the register when challenging the fairness of the electoral process. Furthermore, the programme provided capacity and technical assistance to political parties in the run-up to the elections, by promoting transparent and equitable systems for candidate selection in the preparation of party lists and the nomination of candidates. A total of 309 participants from 19 political parties were trained on how to prepare inclusive and fair party lists. By supporting a more inclusive and fair nomination process, we helped to ensure a more equitable process for all candidates, including women, to make it onto the final party lists for the elections. In addition, seven county debates were convened between citizens in the target counties and their political leaders, to promote public participation and effective voter information. It is not common practice for political leaders to engage each other on policy issues in front of the public. Debates help shape the public's preferences in choosing who to vote for on Election Day and this invites politicians to make more clear policy choices in public.

3. Update on the ToC

Country ToCs

The Theory of Change (ToC) explains the changes the programme wishes to contribute to, the strategies and interventions put in place to contribute to that change, and the underlying assumptions. All programme countries conducted a ToC review for the programme during the annual Strategic Reflection Days in September 2017, and made some revisions to their country specific ToC based on the outcomes of this process. A number of programmes concluded that there was a need to revise or adapt the Theory of Change in order for it to remain valid in light of the political context in which they are operating, or in order to reflect emerging realities in programme-implementation capacity. The main adjustments are highlighted below.

In Ethiopia, NIMD developed the programme ToC in October and November 2017 based on experiences at the start of the programme, political developments and feedback on the programme by an international sounding board. The main implication of the development of the Ethiopia programme ToC compared to the original programme design, is a substantial realignment of interventions under the three broad objectives at System, Actor and Gender & Diversity level. This led to a clearer and more realistic programme strategy; and a focused approach to initiatives to promote the political participation of women and youth. The approach involved establishing a panel of experts to provide an informed outsiders' perspective on NIMD's work. The panel critically follows programme progress at regular intervals and helps to re-direct the programme where necessary. This is a very useful innovation in NIMD's programming approach.

In Indonesia, it was not possible to generate sufficient ownership and commitment amongst the political leaders for the interparty dialogue forum comprised of young MPs. Despite various efforts, NIMD and Kemitraan, the local implementing partner, were unable to mobilize the targeted MPs to participate in the sessions. In light of the lack of progress and impact so far, a change to the country ToC is proposed for 2018. Intervention strategies will be diversified to focus on a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the topic of countering extremism, a topic identified by the local stakeholders as a key issue of national concern. The coming year will therefore be a decisive year in terms of assessing programmatic impact.

In Kenya, the programme embarked on a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) process after the October 2017 elections to analyze the new political reality, and detect the main challenges and inroads to possible solutions. A first PEA exercise was organized in November 2017. The aim was to come to a joint analysis together with the political parties represented in CMD-K. This would be the starting point of a process which might have fundamental consequences for the programme in Kenya, also in light of the institutional challenges faced by the implementing partner. The process is still ongoing, and a revision of the country ToC is foreseen in the second half of 2018 to better fit the new political reality and to counter the limited role of CMD-Kenya in applying multiparty dialogue to affect political system level change.

PME measurements

Since the start of the programme in 2016, intermediate indicators have been measured three times (early 2017, mid-2017 and early 2018). In the section below, we have highlighted the main findings from the measurements on each of the levels that the programme works on (system, actor, culture). The table in Annex 1 provides a summarized overview of the intermediate indicators that have been most frequently measured across the various country programmes. More country-specific indicators can be found under the respective country programmes in IATI. In Annex 2, we have included an overview with the results in relation to the DSO core indicators for the Dialogue & Dissent programme.

It is important to note that the data aggregation is affected by the lack of measurements for the AWEPA activities in 2017. It is therefore difficult to make a reliable comparison between the data collected in 2016 and 2017. Furthermore, the intermediate outcome indicators are formulated closely to the outputs and activities, making it

difficult to assess to what extent the programme is progressing towards the desired outcomes and impact. The midterm review and midterm outcome measurements in 2018 will provide a better picture of this. The intermediate outcomes, however, do show that the implementation of programme activities have picked up in most countries resulting, for instance, in an increasing number of interparty dialogue meetings, Democracy School graduates and political actors trained.

Progress at system level

At a system level, the programme aims to contribute to creating an enabling environment where political and civic actors can fruitfully interact and play their roles in inclusive policymaking. One important outcome that the programme is working towards is the creation of safe spaces for dialogue between relevant political and civic actors.

In 2017, NIMD supported 13 interparty dialogue platforms in which 123 Political Parties were represented. The topics discussed at the platforms included electoral and constitutional reforms, political party financing, decentralization and gender regulations. Within the framework of the platforms, there were a total of 17 policies jointly formulated (8 policies formulated jointly with CSOs and 9 in interparty setting). Five of these were submitted to parliament for consideration in three countries (Guatemala, Kenya and Benin).

System level
Interparty Dialogue Results

13 Interparty dialogue platforms.

77 Interparty dialogue meetings.

123 Participating political parties.

5 Proposals submitted to parliament.

In Mozambique, for example, the programme brought together representatives of the electoral management body, political parties, experts and civil society in a series of dialogue sessions, exchange visits and retreats, to reflect on the electoral legislation and discuss possible reforms. The interactions between relevant stakeholders marked the beginning of the debate on the legislation reform process. A process that is currently ongoing, with NIMD's support, in the framework of the upcoming 2018 municipal elections and constitutional review.

Another noteworthy example is Honduras where, in 2017, legislation was adopted in favour of transparency in political financing. To underline the importance of this legislation, an international seminar was organised together with Honduras's "Clean Politics" Unit, a newly established governmental organization that monitors and supports the implementation of the new law. The seminar shared best practises from Latin American countries with CSOs and political actors, focusing on legislation and procedures that reduce corruption and the abuse of funds. In 2018, the programme will follow up with the political parties represented in Parliament to improve their internal rules and regulations and transparency through discussions and training.

Progress at actor level

At an actor level, the programme intends to contribute to making political actors more embedded in society and more responsive to citizens, and to increase the capacity of political actors to formulate policies.

In 2017, the programme contributed to strengthening these capacities by training 476 participants, representing 79 political parties in issues related to local governance, strategic planning, non-violent communication and interparty dialogue skills.

Actor level
Capacity Strengthening Results

476 Participants in capacity building activities.

79 Political parties trained.

438 Political actors trained on the importance of the CS dialogue.

In El Salvador, for example, NIMD has been training local councillors in dialogue and negotiation skills, together with governmental organizations to help them in the transition towards politically plural municipal councils. In 2017, NIMD trained councillors from the 16 municipalities prioritized in the Government plan "El Salvador safe and without violence". In addition, NIMD also drafted a manual on dialogue and negotiation for the Municipal Councils.

In Ghana, the dialogue platform brought youth from the four main political parties together in open and positive policy discussions on issues like education and natural resource management. The youth issued a joint communiqué at the end of these sessions, which illustrates what multiparty dialogue can achieve.

In the first half of 2017, AWEPA geared its support mainly towards strengthening capacities of MPs and parliamentary staff. In Uganda, AWEPA supported and funded a training workshop for committee clerks from different parliamentary committees to operationalize the gender and equity certificate for all sector budgets. In Mozambique, regional MPs and parliamentary committee members were trained in budget approval, oversight and interpretation of the economic programmes of the Mozambican government.

Progress at culture level
At a culture level, the programme intends to contribute to creating a culture of accommodation and consultation between political actors and with civic actors. This facilitates system and actor level change. One important outcome that the programme is working towards is ensuring that politicians have internalized democratic values, and more gender sensitive and inclusive politics.

In 2017, democratic values and behaviour were promoted through, amongst other interventions, dedicated Democracy Schools in 6 countries. In 2017, a total of 611 people were trained, thereby greatly contributing to the development of democratic behaviour, values and skills at an individual level, and to the creation of trust, responsiveness and mutual understanding between political and civic actors.

Culture level
Democracy Schools Results

611 Graduates.

For example, in Myanmar, the programme organized School of Politics core courses in three regions, reaching 53 participants from 27 political parties. Through the training, the participants obtain a wealth of practical skills and theoretical knowledge to help them strengthen their political parties, prepare for the 2020 elections and improve

their policy-making skills. These trainings are followed up by regular alumni meetings and networking events where people can interact and discuss issues of common concern. As a result, the collaboration between political and civic actors increased significantly and 44% of the female participants took up decision-making roles within their parties.

Furthermore, in addition to the interparty dialogue platforms supported under the system level, NIMD supported multi-stakeholder platforms composed of political actors, civil society representatives, academics, parliamentarians, journalists, community leaders and government officials in a number of countries. In Mozambique, a dialogue meeting for 300 promising young women active in political parties and civil society was facilitated. The meeting aimed to promote the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, and influence the peace agenda, national reconciliation and defining public policies. A position paper was developed, which was circulated throughout the country by the major media outlets. As well as outlining the common position of the women, the paper will be used to lobby political parties in a bid to ensure that 50% of people on the parties' electoral lists are women.

In the first half of 2017, AWEPA geared its interventions particularly towards exposing parliamentarians to democratic and gender-sensitive norms and practices, and the inclusion of minority groups and youth. In Kenya, in support of aspiring women parliamentarians, AWEPA arranged 15 women in leadership outreach events that provided training for both aspirants and constituents on the role of women in leadership; the need for increased participation of women in the 12th parliament; peaceful campaigns; integrity; and the various roles involved in political positions. The programme also addressed anti-FGM issues in five counties through the Anti-FGM Parliamentary Caucus. Over 25 civil actors were included in these activities. In addition, public hearings were organized by MPs in several programme countries to enhance collaboration and consultation between political actors and civic actors. In Uganda, public hearings were organized on the Human Rights enforcement bill and sexual offence bill. The views collected from citizens on these specific bills were captured in a report that was tabled in Parliament and will be used to strengthen the bills. And in Zimbabwe, the Portfolio Committee on Justice Legal & Parliamentary Affairs, and Thematic Committee on Human Rights and on Peace and Security held ten public hearings on the NPRC Bill across the 10 provinces of the country. The meetings were attended by 1050 participants and led to more than 200 submissions.

4. Cross-cutting themes and programme

Within the SP programme, there are a number of cross-cutting programmes and themes, such as the International Lobby and Advocacy strategy, the Learning Agenda and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. These will be addressed in this section.

4.1 International Lobby and Advocacy (ILA)

The SP's International Lobby & Advocacy (ILA) strategy aims at lobbying for the integration of political parties and parliaments as essential actors in international development policies at various levels, including the EU and regional levels.

The EU component of ILA for the year 2017 was carried out by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). EPD focused on creating more awareness of, and support for, political party and parliamentary strengthening within EU institutions, including the allocation of sufficient donor funds. To this end, EPD engaged the development community in Brussels (practitioners, the EU and EU civil society) in discussions on the importance of political realities, and provided input on the review of the European Development Fund (EDF) framework, one of the main funding instruments of the EU. As a result, the final EDF review document included a number of the recommendations made through EPD.

In order to shape the ILA efforts at a regional level, ECDPM was commissioned to scope the possibilities for lobby and advocacy towards regional organizations in Africa, in particular the African Union Commission (AUC) and Eastern Africa Community (EAC). The objective of the study was to map the current activities of the partners and their past experiences of interacting with regional groupings in Africa, as well as their needs and interests in terms of regional lobby and advocacy, and the potential links they see between the national and regional reform agendas.

Some possible entry points for engagement with the AU were identified. These included the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), which is currently developing a programme on political parties. As a follow-up, possible cooperation with the AU and ECOWAS Commission will be further explored in 2018.

Under the ILA programme the [Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy (GPMD)](#) was supported to develop a lobby and advocacy strategy and analysis plan aimed at the United Nations System. The plan identified concrete leads with UN agencies UNDP and UN Women. These will be followed up in 2018. In addition, a scan of all participating countries was carried out to review how better interaction and collaboration between the multiparty platforms and the UN can take shape.

4.2 Learning Agenda

The learning agenda for the SP intends to ensure that programme experiences, knowledge and best practices are systematically tracked, documented and shared between the strategic partners and the local implementing organizations. This is achieved through research and development around a number of core themes, monitoring and evaluation, peer learning and a continuous reflection on the programme interventions.

In 2017, substantial progress was made on one of the core themes of the Learning Agenda, namely "Shrinking Democratic Space". A research paper was developed by NIMD, with the aim of deepening understanding of the nature of the problem and better understanding what shrinking democratic space means for our programming. Country case studies assessing the democratic Space from the perspective of political parties and party assistance providers were conducted in Georgia, Honduras and Kenya, and discussed during a strategic reflection meeting in September. An [expert meeting](#) on the subject was organised in Brussels to discuss the impact of shrinking democratic space on the approaches and strategies of democracy assistance providers. As a result, NIMD was able to position itself as a political practitioner within the broader debate on shrinking civic space.

Also, building on the general "Party-Parliament nexus" paper produced in 2016, country case studies were conducted in Benin, Mali and Uganda in 2017. These aimed to reflect on party-parliament cooperation in general and provide recommendations for our programming in those countries, and will be continued in 2018.

4.3 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2017, NIMD commissioned an external review by MDF of the SP results framework and the intermediate outcome indicators. To be able to better aggregate and compare intermediate results measurements across country programmes, MDF prepared a shorter list of the most-used intermediate outcome indicators. From 2018 onwards, these indicators will be integrated into the country programme annual plans and result tables. A selection of the original, comprehensive set of country-specific indicators stays in use for monitoring individual countries. As well as allowing us to better harmonise our indicators with the MFA/DSO indicators, the adjustment will make it easier for programmes and partners to report bi-annually on common results and communicate them to the outside world.

At the beginning of the year, all country programmes received feedback on their results measurements in 2016 and their formulated indicators for 2017. In addition, regional workshops were organised to strengthen the PME capacities of implementing partners. A ToC review was conducted by all programmes during the annual Strategic Reflection Days in September, where participants also received additional PME training. Country specific ToCs were adapted where needed (see §3).

5. Budget deviations

The Financial Report is included in Annex 4 of this report. The approved 2017 budget was € 7.199.077. This included a rollover of the 2016 under-expenditure of € 504.063. The actual expenditure in 2017 is € 6.064.021. This means 84% of our budget was used in 2017. The underspending is mainly a consequence of the problems faced within the Strategic Partnership programme due to the dissolution of AWEPA. The actual expenditure of NIMD in 2017 was € 4.459.218. In comparison to the NIMD part of the budget for 2017 (€4.525.587), this means to an expenditure of 99%. We have included an additional overhead for 2017 of € 185.955, constituting of € 84.323 for unclaimed

overhead in 2016[4] and the additional costs of € 101.632[5] that NIMD had to spend in 2017 to manage the AWEPA crisis. In the last column of the Financial Report, explanations are provided for deviations of more than 10% in country programmes and cross-cutting programmes as compared to the approved 2017 budget.

Due to the dissolution of AWEPA, no consolidated audited report is available yet. In close cooperation with both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the auditor (Dubois & Co), we decided that the best way forward in this case is to ask our auditors to prepare an audited report for the NIMD part of the costs (attached) and an Agreed-Upon-Procedures statement for the AWEPA part of the costs. This statement will be ready in the first week of May 2018.

6. Challenges and lessons learned

One of the main challenges that the programme faced in 2017, was the unexpected bankruptcy of AWEPA in October. The (unfolding) crisis has had a substantial impact on the African country programmes in which AWEPA was active, as programme implementation was substantially delayed, or completely put on hold, for quite some time. As a consequence, programme progress has not been as much as foreseen, and relevant information on the progress of parliamentary support activities has been lost. Furthermore, the absence of AWEPA causes a gap in terms of parliamentary knowledge, networks and expertise. Lastly, a significant amount of resources has not been accounted for by AWEPA nor have programme objectives been realized with these funds. In practice, this means that NIMD needs to deliver on the overall programme with fewer resources than initially foreseen at the design phase. Due to these developments, there is a risk of not being able to fully deliver on the outcomes initially set for the programme. In recent months, NIMD has been conducting feasibility studies to see how best the parliamentary component of the programme, formerly managed by AWEPA, can be integrated into NIMD's part of the programme. A further reality check in terms of programme objectives will need to take place when revising the overall ToC for the SP programme, informed by the outcomes of the MTR.

Another challenge relates to the institutional capacity of some of the implementing organizations. In Indonesia, Kenya and Mali, there are concerns related to the effectiveness, relevance and programme implementation capacity of the local partner organizations, hampering programme implementation and progress. These concerns need to be addressed and resolved in 2018 in order to move forward. The programmes in Mali and Kenya are currently undergoing a Political Economy Analysis (PEA), as a basis for revising these programmes, including the role of the local implementing organizations. In Indonesia, the programme strategy has been adapted in order to make a better fit between the capacities and expertise of the local implementing partner and the political context.

Finally, operationalizing the country ToCs remains a challenge, as does making use of the related indicator framework in such a way that it becomes a useful and flexible monitoring and steering mechanism. Currently, country ToCs are formulated at a relatively high abstraction level, which makes it difficult to use them as a tool to monitor and steer programmes. Furthermore, the ToCs are not always sufficiently internalized by the partner organizations due to capacity and time constraints. The challenge, therefore, is to operationalize the country ToCs, with concrete pathways showing how the programme interventions and activities lead to desired changes, and by elaborating and testing the underlying assumptions. In 2018, further investments will be made in supporting local partners in working with the ToC as part of the mid-term review and 2019 planning cycle. Furthermore, the Mid-Term Review and Outcome Harvesting process will be used to further reflect on the overall ToC and make adaptations where possible and relevant.

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[4] Approval from the MFA for the recalculation of the overhead was obtained on 11 October 2017
[5] Approval from the MFA for the inclusion of this amount was obtained on 14 March 2018

Annex 1: Overview of intermediate indicator measurements

Objective	Outcome	Outcome indicator	Intermediate indicator 2017
System level An enabling environment exists at national, regional and international levels for political and civic actors to interact and play their roles in inclusive policy making	1.A level playing field, for all political actors, based on trust, including civic actors wanting to influence politics	# of inclusive law making processes, including # of inclusive law making processes with active CS consultation + # consensual law making processes (KEN, MAL, HON, GUA, IND)	% of political actors who indicate that they regularly work together with other political actors **SAL - 80%** **HON - 50%**
		Trust in the political process by different groups and citizens, including % of Latino and Afro barometer respondents (IND, MMR, BEN, MALI, GHA, GEO, UGA, KEN, HON, GUA, SAL)	# of policies formulated based on consultation with interest groups, local experts, CS: **28** **GHA - 2** **UGA - 1** **GUA - 2** **SAL - 3** **MAL - 20**
		% of political actors that experience an enabling environment in which they are involved in inclusive policy making (BEN, MAL, GHA, UGA, MOZ, IND)	# of interparty dialogue meetings: **77** **MOZ- 7** **ZIM - 12** **MAL - 7**
		Extent to which civic actors experience an enabling environment in which they can influence/are involved in inclusive policy making (GHA, MOZ, MMR)	**SAL - 5** **GUA - 5** **MMR - 4** **GEO- 4** **KEN – 17** **IND – 3** **GHA – 8** **UGA - 3** **BEN - 2** % of political parties that experience that their contribution to policy processes are more effective **HON – 62,5%** **SAL – 50%**
	2.Safe (and institutionalized) space for dialogue between all relevant political (and civic) actors	# of structural changes opening up space for greater engagement by political and civic actors, including # of laws, structural changes and new mechanisms for greater engagement by political and civic actors + # of laws and	Level of participants in the dialogue initiatives **BEN - 1,5 of 5** # of functional interparty dialogue platforms

		mechanisms ensuring safe engagement between political and civic actors; (BEN, MALI, HON, GUA, SAL, GEO)	**13: BEN, MAL, GHA, GUA, ZIM, KEN, ETH, UGA, MOZ, MMR, IND, GEO, SAL** # of political parties participating in interparty dialogue platforms**: 123** **ZIM – 3** **GUA – 7** **IND- 10** **MMR – 12** **MOZ – 3** **KEN – 27** **MAL – 21** **GHA – 4** **UGA – 4** **ETH – 17** **BEN – 10** **SAL – 5**
	3. Formulation of, proposing to, and approval of jointly formulated policies in parliament securing civil and political rights	# of (inclusive) policies jointly submitted to Parliament by the ruling and opposition parties (taking part in the dialogue platforms) (UGAN, KEN, MOZ)	# of policies jointly formulated: **16** **MOZ – 5** **GHA-2** **MAL – 1** **SAL - 3** **GUA – 2** **BEN -2** **KEN-1** # of proposals submitted to Parliament: **5** **GUA -2** **BEN - 2** **KEN – 1**
		# of policies securing civil and political rights (KEN, UGA, MOZ)	
	4. A more conductive environment for inclusive participation of women(and political processes and policymaking includes the voice of women and minority groups, and gender equality agenda receives wider support in and out of parliament)	# of policies proposed by political parties that reflect national minority needs and interests (GEO)	% women participants in programme activities **GHA – 35%**
		# of concrete proposals/Bills developed on inclusiveness of women/youth (BEN, MAL, UGA)	
		# of legislative and policy initiatives initiated by Women MPs (BEN, MAL)	
Actor level	5. Political actors that voice and monitor citizen interests	# of published political documents (manifestos, election programmes, position papers, policy proposal) by political actors based on inputs from a defined support base (on	# of political actors who have been trained on the importance of the CS dialogue : **438** **MMR - 53**

Political actors are embedded in society and responsive to citizens.		improving gender equality and/or on inclusion) (MAL, UGA, KEN, MOZ, IND, MMR, HON, SAL, GEO)	**SAL-381** **BEN – 4**
		Afrobarometer score on "Public perception on how well MPs listen to the needs of their constituency	% of political actors who since the training have increased their interaction with CS **MMR - 42%**
	6. Improved capacity of local partners (based on adapted 5-Capabilities scan)	Local implementing partners increased their scores on NIMD's and AWEPA's 5-C organizational scans (MAL, GHA, UGA, KEN, BEN, MOZ, IND, MMR,HON, GUA, SAL, GEO)	
	7.Improved capability to attract and relate of political actors	# of active alliances between political actors and/or between political actors and CS stakeholders (MOZ, HON, GUA, SAL)	# of events to consult citizens on their concerns: **20** **KEN – 6** **UGA – 4** **ZIM – 10**
	8.Distinctive programmatic profiling - internal, public and in parliament- in relation to electorates and support bases of political actors	# and % of political parties that base their political and policy proposals on a distinctive profile (BEN)	# of political parties that report progress on developing capacities in policy making, management and intra/party democracy inclusion: **GEO – 4**
	9.Political actors have increased capacity to oversee, scrutinize government legislation, policy implementation and performance	# of instances oversight instruments were used (questions, interpellations, missions of enquiry, etc.) (BEN)	# of participants in capacity-building activities: **476** **MAL - 102** **GHA 27** **UGA 33** **KEN - 15** **ZIM - 181** **MMR- 53** **MOZ - 65**
	10. Political actors understand the legislative process and have increased capacity to develop and formulate policy ideas into legislation	# of Private Members' Bills moved and % adopted (BEN, MAL, UGA, KEN, ZIM)	# of political parties trained: 79 **GUA – 2** **GEO – 4** **MOZ – 3** **KEN – 27** **MAL – 21** **GHA – 4** **UGA – 4** **BEN – 14** # of participants in capacity-building activities: 476 **MAL - 102** **GHA - 27**

			UGA - 33 KEN - 15 ZIM - 181 MMR- 53 MOZ - 65
Culture level A culture of accommodation and consultation between political actors and with civic actors exists that also facilitates system and actor level change	11. Interest in consulting, collaborating, harmonizing, being responsive and a sense of trust and mutual understanding among and between political and civic actors	% of political actors who indicate that they collaborate with other political actors at least x times per year (KEN, MMR, BEN, GUA, IND, MAL)	# of consultation meetings/ # of events organised to consult civil and political actors on democratic practice: **7** **BEN - 2** **UGA - 1** **MAL - 2** **KEN - 2** % of civic actors that indicate that they experience an increased willingness-to-interact from political actors **GHA - 60%** **HON - 50%,** **SAL - 50%**
		% of political actors who indicate that collaborate with other civic actors at least x times per year (GHA, KEN, MMR, HON, GEO, BEN, MAL)	
	12.Political actors are more aware of and have internalised democratic values, rule of law and gender sensitive & inclusive politics.	% of political actors that reference the following topics in their manifesto/public statements, other publications - democratic values and/or rule of law and/or gender sensitive & inclusive politics (UGA, MMR, HON, BEN, GUA)	# of graduates from democracy and political education schools: **611** **MMR - 53** **HON - 17** **GUA - 361** **SAL - 61** **BEN - 37** **GEO – 82** The number of youth leaders participating in public discourse and activities in a positive and collaborative manner **GHA- 35**

Annex 2 Overview and results DSO indicators

To facilitate reporting on Dialogue & Dissent, the MFA has formulated a set of 6 core indicators. Below we present the results in relation to these six indicators, including a short explanation.

Improved laws, policies, norms, attitudes and Practices

1.   # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development

305 - In this, we have included all indicators that measure laws, policies, norms, attitudes, policy recommendations, formulations, and statements. Note that many indicators used in our country-specific M&E plans were not compatible with this indicator in the way they were measured, but should have been included because of their relevance. Examples include: % of political parties that experience that their contribution to policy processes are more effective; % of political actors who indicate that they regularly work together with other political actors; % of political actors who ,since the training, have increased their interaction with CS; % of civic actors that indicate that they experience an increased willingness-to-interact from political actors. For 2018, we will further harmonize the indicators.

2.   # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development

This has not been measured in 2017.

Towards improved laws, policies, norms and practices

3.   # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.

130 - In this indicator, we have include all interparty dialogue meetings and activities that our partner organizations organized with political actors in order to influence, set agendas or build capacity for more a inclusive and responsive political system. Note that many indicators used in our country specific M&E plans were not compatible with this indicator in the way they were measured, but should have been included because of their relevance. Examples include: # of political actors who have been trained on the importance of CS dialogue; # of graduates from democracy and political education schools; and # of women trained.

Civil society Engagement

4.   # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency

This has not been measured in 2017 and partly out of scope of NIMD's work.

CSOs improve their capacity and legitimacy to lobby and advocate

5.   # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities

13 - In this indicator we have included all partner organizations and NIMD country offices in 13 SP countries. They have all increased their L&A capacity, through direct training on L&A skills, dialogue facilitation, data collection,or political communication skills, as a result of which they have been better able to lobby and advocate for more responsive and inclusive political systems. For 2018, we will better record which other CSOs have benefitted from NIMD capacity strengthening work.

6.   # of CSOs included in SPs programmes

30 - In this indicator, we have included all partner organizations and NIMD country offices in 13 SP countries. The remainder of 17 is reported by Mozambique as the number of CSOs that have been involved in their activities in 2017. The number actually is much higher, but we have not been able to retrieve the data. For 2018, reporting on the number of CSOs included in the SP programme will be mandatory.

Annex 3 Human Interest Stories

Georgia, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Mozambique

Annex 4 Financial report