

Annual Report 2019

Strategic Partnership (SP) Programme

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

April 2020

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1. Introduction

This document presents the Annual Report 2019 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 Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). It focuses on strengthening the lobby and advocacy roles and capacities of political actors, and creating an enabling environment for inclusive development, so that lobby and advocacy efforts by civil society fall on fertile ground. The programme is implemented in 12 countries.¹ In addition, a pilot was started in the Sahel region this year.

The past year marked another year of democratic setbacks, severe restrictions to civic space and a decline in civil liberties, including media freedom and freedom of speech, around the world. Sharp regression was particularly visible in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, with decline and/or stagnation visible in the other regions such as the MENA region. The global democracy score is currently at its lowest levels since records began, according to 2019 Democracy Index of the Economist Intelligence Unit and the CIVICUS monitor.

Many political systems around the world thus remain highly exclusive, shaped by unequal power relations, and driven by the political and economic interests of male-dominated elites. The rights of young people, women and other marginalized groups are largely overlooked. The closing of democratic space makes it impossible for citizens – particularly youth, women and other marginalized groups – to make their voices heard.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic will further worsen this situation. In our programme countries, we already see the negative effects of the, often disproportionate, Corona-related measures on democratic decision-making; the protection and promotion of human rights; inclusion; and civic space. As a result, NIMD, together with its partners, needs to re-adjust the Theories of Change that underpin our programming to take these new developments into account. To inform our thinking, we have already started to roll out a crisis analysis tool. This will enable us to make a first inventory of the main trends and impacts and inform the reorientation of our programming in 2020 where necessary.

Despite these trends, the worldwide support for democracy and demand for change are overwhelming. Citizens voice their discontent in referenda and elections, when and where possible. Moreover, they build new social movements, organize mass demonstrations and, in some cases, resort to political violence. Young people often drive these movements like in Ethiopia, Honduras and Tunisia. They call upon leaders to open up political systems, promote dialogue between citizens and the state, and ensure accountable, responsive and inclusive decision-making. This offers hope and opportunities in dire times.

In the following sections, a summary of the main programme developments in 2019 is provided (§2), as well as an update of the Theory of Change (§3). Subsequently, a number of cross-cutting themes and programmes are highlighted, including International Lobby and Advocacy, the Learning Agenda, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (§4). In §5, the main changes in programmes and budgets are highlighted and explained.

¹ Benin, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda, Zimbabwe and El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (regional programme).

2. Programme update

This section presents a selection of results achieved in the programme countries over the past year, in relation to the overall programme objectives identified in the Theory of Change. The first of these objectives is to strengthen the policy influencing capacities and responsiveness of political parties, parliaments, parliamentarians and civil society actors as drivers for inclusive social change. This is done through trust-building and inclusive dialogue. A prime example of success on this objective in 2019 is the work of NIMD's dialogue platforms on the Public Order Management Act (POMA) legislation in Uganda and the Food Safety Bill in Myanmar's Shan State.

Another key objective of the programme is to develop the capacities of a selected number of southern partner organizations and country offices to autonomously and effectively advocate for effective policy influencing in partnership with civil society. Here, the work of NIMD with partner organizations that are actively connecting civil society with political actors is highlighted, as well as efforts to support country offices to become more independent.

Finally, this section reflects on progress made on Gender Equality and Inclusion, which is earmarked as the most important cross-cutting theme for all country programmes. As emphasized in the programme ToC, it is important to tackle this issue through strategies that combine capacity strengthening of actors with advocating for change in national legislation, as well as fostering and advocating for a more open political culture. Example of NIMD's work in this field are also provided in this section.

Trust-building and inclusive dialogue

In 2019, NIMD worked on improving the trust and collaboration between political actors in **Myanmar**, through the multiparty dialogue platform (MDP) in Shan State. The MDP was set up by the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) with support of NIMD. In June, the 12 MPs representing the political parties taking part in the MDP jointly signed the Shan State Law of Food Safety in Basic Education School Bill and submitted it to the Shan State regional Parliament. This came after a number of dialogue meetings and joint lobby efforts by the platform members towards Shan State Parliament and the public. The bill was sent to the Parliament in June 2019 and passed into Law in early 2020. This is a pioneering and inclusive law-making process for sustainable and inclusive development, with legislative input from Shan State Parliament and CSOs. Moreover, it was the first multiparty effort at state/regional level legislation in Myanmar. These are important experiences in democratization processes, particularly in countries where there is a lot of distrust amongst various actors such as parties, civil society, and the Government.

The work on inclusive dialogue also bore fruits in **Uganda**, where NIMD's country office managed to create an inclusive environment for political dialogue under the umbrella of the Interparty Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD). One of the areas where parties sought dialogue concerned the Public Order Management Act 2013 (POMA). The dispute was about whether political parties need to notify the police (or ask them permission) before holding public activities under this act. The ambiguity around this point in POMA created fear among many opposition parties that the police could shut down their legitimate activities. In the dialogue platform, parties were able to work on an equal footing

to identify, devise and formally propose solutions for the issues around POMA. These consultations culminated in a high-level summit with party leaders in 2019, where agreement on detailed regulation for implementation of the law was reached amongst the six political parties. The proposed regulation is now being reviewed by the Ministry of Interior, before the Minister tables it in Uganda's Parliament, in order for it to become part of the body of Law.

Gender equality & inclusion

In 2019, support was provided to aspiring and established women politicians across the SP programme countries. In **Honduras**, NIMD's country office implemented three editions of the 'Candidate Academy', aimed at improving the performance of the legislative work of women members of the National Congress. In addition, three thematic tables were developed, with the involvement of parliamentarians and experts, in the areas of gender-sensitive budgeting, human rights and the gender agenda. The objective of the Academy is to empower women parliamentarians. These parliamentarians have been using the skills and knowledge they have learned to push the gender agenda in the National Congress and advocate for electoral reforms to guarantee greater participation of women in politics.

In **Kenya**, NIMD's partner CMD-K (Centre for Multiparty Democracy – Kenya) continued to provide support towards strengthening the institutional capacities of women's leagues in Kenyan political parties. This included working with these leagues to strengthen their engagement with male champions for gender equality, to work together towards an all-inclusive national reform process. Ten cluster workshops between male champions for gender equality and leaders of women's leagues were organized at the national level. The objective of these workshops was to take stock of progress of the implementation of gender action plans developed in 2018, as well as re-affirming a commitment to gender equality in political leadership. The sessions also provided a platform for male champions and leaders of women's leagues to build consensus on the minimum that each party should push for regarding inclusion in the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) process, in order to ensure increased women's representation and participation in public leadership.

NIMD also worked on several lobby and advocacy initiatives, which aim to sensitize political actors to gender-based violence. In **Indonesia**, NIMD's partner Kemitraan organized a screening of a movie called '27 Steps of May', which had a significant impact in spreading awareness of sexual violence. Ministers and government committee members responsible for education, women's empowerment, and the prevention of sexual violence were joined by rape survivors for the screening and subsequent discussion. They sent a collective message to the public on the urgency of putting in place comprehensive protection to prevent sexual violence. They also sent a collective message to the Parliament and the Government to speed up the deliberation around the Bill on the Prevention of Sexual Violence, an umbrella regulation to protect the rights of women.

Expanding in the Sahel region

The past year saw NIMD developing its Sahel strategy, a process driven by NIMD's country office in Mali. As a first step, Political Economy Analysis (PEA) and Cost of Politics research was conducted in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in cooperation with the Clingendael Institute, who helped NIMD to sharpen and refine its PEA approach. These studies combined desk research and stakeholder interviews with a participatory validation workshop in each country. The main findings showed that citizens feel relatively little ownership of the political system and take very little responsibility for it, hence the need for a new social contract, in which the state offers added value to its citizens in return for respect for its rules and regulations. Based on the findings, NIMD acquired a better understanding of the functioning of the democracies in the Sahel and developed a Theory of Change for the region, later adjusted to reflect the different national contexts. This Theory of Change focused on the creation of opportunities, incentives and external pressure points for political actors to get engaged and become committed to change. In parallel, NIMD recruited resident representatives in Burkina Faso and Niger, who will start working and implementing programme interventions at national level in 2020.

Capacity strengthening of CSOs for Lobby & Advocacy

In 2019, NIMD started supporting a **Kenya**-based civil society organisation called Mzalendo, which focuses on monitoring the work of the national Parliament. In the framework of this partnership, Mzalendo organized public participation on four important bills, covering subjects such as free speech, budgeting, public participation and protections for whistleblowers. The interactions involved on- and off-line dialogue between citizens, CSOs and MPs, creating a lively public debate that, in turn, inspired and pushed forward the debate on the floor of Parliament. The online activities on Twitter earned an average of 15,000 daily impressions. With 68% of participants in Mzalendo's activities being under 25 years old, the campaign provided a good example to Kenya's Government on how they can involve this key demographic.

In **Mozambique**, NIMD's local partner, the Institute for Multiparty Democracy (IMD), played a significant role in connecting the national Parliament with CSOs. For instance, in August 2019, IMD supported the members of the 4th Committee of Parliament of Mozambique in holding several consultation meetings with CSOs, experts and citizens on electoral reforms. By ensuring that the parliamentary committee passed the necessary reforms, with input from society, before upcoming elections, IMD helped defuse some of the conflict and contribute to more peaceful electoral conduct on all sides.

During the past year, NIMD also paid special attention to strengthening the capacities of its country offices, particularly in regions that are no longer on the priority list of the Netherlands MFA. For example, the country office in **Guatemala** was supported in developing an institutional manual, a Monitoring & Evaluation manual and updated internal regulations, as well as setting up a Human Resources Department and putting in place related policy. These improvements were driven by the

recommendations of the audit that was carried out on request of the Swedish Embassy in Guatemala, and helped secured Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funding for a multi-annual project. This project will focus on leadership for underrepresented groups, such as women, youth, indigenous people and representatives of the LGBTQI+ community, through the development of skills that allow them to participate in decision-making spaces.

3. Update on Theory of Change

Country ToCs

The Theory of Change (ToC) explains the changes that the programme aims to contribute to, the strategies and interventions put in place to achieve this contribution, and the underlying assumptions. In line with the recommendations from the Mid-term Programme Review, all programme countries conducted their ToC review during the Regional PME Meetings in September 2018, through the development of **actor-based pathways of change** for each key programme actor.

This approach allowed country teams to strategically plan their 2019 interventions. The actor-based pathways have been regularly revised over the course of the annual planning and reporting cycle in 2019. A large number of country teams concluded that their country-specific ToC remains valid in light of the political context in which they were operating in 2019.

PME measurements

In line with NIMD's SP result monitoring framework, the organization monitors outcome indicators at the baseline (2016), midline (2018) and endline (2020) of the programme. In addition, NIMD monitors intermediate indicators biannually (at middle and end of each calendar year).

In the section below, we have highlighted the main findings from **intermediate indicator measurements** in 2019 on each of the levels that the programme addresses - system, actor and culture. The table in Annex B provides a summarized overview of the intermediate indicators that have been the most frequently measured across the various country programmes. More country-specific indicators can be found under the respective country programmes on the IATI platform. Annex C presents an overview of results in relation to the DSO core indicators for the SP programme.

The results show that the implementation of programme activities has been increasing since 2017. In most countries, this has resulted in an increasing number of dialogue platform meetings and agreements reached during these meetings. (as presented in Table below).

Table 1: Comparative results overview 2017-2019

Indicator	2017	2018	2019
Number of dialogue platforms	12	12	11
Number of dialogue platforms meetings held	66	78	108
Number of agreements reached as a result of dialogue platform meetings	58	65	81
Number of proposals submitted to the parliament	5	19	12
Number of political parties participating in dialogue platforms	75	304	231
Number of political parties trained	119	221	286
Number of democracy schools	6	6	5
Number of democracy schools graduates	611	830	731

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 2019, NIMD supported 11 interparty dialogue platforms, in which 231 political parties were represented. The topics discussed at the platforms included electoral and constitutional reforms, political party financing, decentralization and gender regulations. Within the jointly agreed framework of the platforms, there were a total of 12 policy proposals jointly formulated and submitted to parliament for consideration in 6 countries (Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, Ethiopia, Honduras).

In Ethiopia, for instance, NIMD continued supporting the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) in its role of organizing elections and. In addition, NIMD works in coordination with NEBE to help political parties refine their organizational capacity and policy-drafting skills. Through the Ethiopian dialogue platform, four policies were jointly formulated and presented to the Parliament in 2019.

Another noteworthy example is Uganda, where two policies were formulated through the NIMD-supported Interparty Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) and presented in the Parliament: the electoral reform proposals and review of the 2013 Public Order Management Act (see section 2 above).

In Honduras, Electoral Political Reform was presented in the Parliament toward to the end of 2019, as a result of joint work with several CSOs and timely NIMD-advice during the second part of the year.

System level Interparty Dialogue Results



102 Interparty dialogue meetings.

231 Participating political parties.

14 Proposals submitted to parliament.

Progress at actor level

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

In 2019, the programme contributed to strengthening capacities of the 23,641 people who participated in NIMD supported capacity-building activities, representing 690 CSOs and 286 political parties. Capacity building focused on issues related to local governance, strategic planning, reducing political violence, women's political participation and interparty dialogue skills. On average, 43% of participants were woman and 28% were youth (below 25 years of age) in these activities.

Actor level Capacity Strengthening Results



286 Political parties trained.

10,148 Women taking part in programme activities.

6715 Youth (<25 years) taking part in programme activities.

Progress at culture level

At 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 2019, NIMD continued to promote democratic values and behaviour through, amongst other interventions, dedicated Democracy Schools in four countries: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Myanmar. 731 aspiring leaders 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.

Furthermore, in addition to the interparty dialogue platforms supported under the system level, NIMD supported 75 multi-stakeholder platforms meetings in 2019, composed of political actors, civil society representatives, academics, parliamentarians, journalists, community leaders and government officials in 10 countries.

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 & Advocacy

ILA at the European level

NIMD's international lobby and advocacy (ILA) agenda aims to promote issues arising in SP programme countries to the international stage. The European Union (EU) is an essential supporter of many of the objectives that NIMD and its partners pursue, and therefore an important actor to lobby. The agenda is operationalized by highlighting individual issues and country cases in Brussels. This is combined with an overall policy-influencing agenda targeting overall support for democracy, inclusive politics and political actors within the policy instruments of the European Commission.

Over the last four years of targeting the EU, NIMD has seen a significant improvement of both responsiveness to issues raised from countries, and the texts of the policy instruments related to democracy, and parties and parliaments specifically. After a long lobby trajectory by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and its members (see also previous annual reports), 2019 was a milestone; in October, the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU adopted the Council Conclusions on Democracy. This was the first democracy-focused document agreed by EU member states in a decade, and only the second such document in the history of the Council.

In the final text, the EU commits to putting an emphasis on supporting “the capacities of parliaments and (in a non-partisan manner) political parties, on national and sub-national levels, to play their essential role in democratic societies.” Besides the initial lobby by the EPD network, an important driver was the research and paper that was commissioned through the NIMD ILA programme, which reviewed the EU's support for democracy over the last ten years.² Earlier in the year, NIMD also gave input to the formal review of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the principle instrument for our work, which resulted in the official conclusion that “support to democracy also needs to be broadened, particularly when it comes to political parties and Parliaments”.

After the new Council Conclusions and the start of the new budget, the new **Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights** was drafted. We know already that there are three new concrete areas of focus in

² See <http://epd.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Louder-Than-Words-Review-Book.pdf> and <https://carnegieeurope.eu/2019/09/17/toward-new-eu-democracy-strategy-pub-79844>

the final version. These were not there before, and their existence can be traced back directly to the ILA efforts of NIMD's SP programme:

- *Increase the meaningful participation of women and youth, in all their diversity, in all spheres of public life, including by advocating for their inclusion on political parties' lists for winnable seats and building candidates' capacity.*
- *Increase the capacity of political parties and oversight agencies, especially in conflict-affected and transitional settings. Support cross-party alliances and multi-party dialogue on policy issues of common concern.*
- *Develop pluralist party systems and political parties' capacities in a non-partisan manner, assisting in the application of international standards on transparent party financing, internal democracy and inclusivity in the selection of candidates and office-holders. Support the development of cross-party codes of conduct aimed at preventing electoral violence and parliaments' capacity to protect and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms.*

ILA at the United Nations level

2019 was also important for NIMD's UN-level ILA. **SDG16** was under review during the **High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** in July. In the run-up to this, NIMD participated in the Rome preparatory Summit and co-authored and signed the Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+. During the HLPF, NIMD participated in the review and, as the Secretariat of the Global Partnership for Multiparty Democracy (GPMD), organized a side event together with UNDP and UN Women.

The side event, a high-level round table, highlighted the importance and potential role of political parties in achieving the SDGs. The focus was particularly set on participation and inclusion in decision-making (SDG16), equality (SDG10) and gender (SDG5). Further, the event emphasized the need to work more with political parties in order to achieve the full 2030 Agenda. Representatives of 12 different UN agencies and diplomatic missions, plus representation from Civil Society and academia attended the round table.

The GPMD members present during the HLPF, also observed their nations' Voluntary National Reports in order to provide them with insight into how they can engage at their country level and participate in the process. A strategy note was developed as a result of this, which identified key areas on which GPMD can and should engage in UN processes internationally and nationally.

ILA at the ECOWAS level

NIMD's ILA efforts on the level of ECOWAS were paused, as all focus within the West Africa programmes went into the PEA process and the exploration and start-up of programming in Burkina Faso and Niger. The reengagement with ECOWAS is foreseen as part of the 2020 SP Annual Plan.

4.2 The Learning Agenda

Shrinking Democratic Space

Over the past three years, the Shrinking Democratic Space project has resulted in seven country cases that looked at how the space for democratic processes in those countries was influenced and affected. Last year, NIMD invested in a meta review of these studies and analysed the common thread. The final report suggests democratic space is closed in three ways:

- *Restricting civic space (particularly freedom of expression, assembly and association) with various legal, administrative, extra-legal and political measures.*
- *Changing of the rules of the game to create an uneven playing field for political contestation.*
- *Undermining the separation of powers, notably the independence of the judiciary*

Based on the final report, a high-level event was planned to publish these findings and, at the same time, influence the drafting of EU policy instruments. This was held in February 2020, and was attended by high-level representatives of the European Parliament, DG Development, External Action Service and several CSO networks. It put the concept of shrinking democratic space solidly on the agenda, and contributed to successful references in the EU Action Plan on democracy and human rights (see section above on ILA at the European level).

Party Parliament Nexus

NIMD commissioned an in-depth analysis report on the existing research on political parties and parliament in Africa. This review serves as knowledge resource for SP programmes. It presents insight into structural issues around parties and parliaments in Africa, such as type of electoral and parliamentary system and influential historical factors.

Bilateral support and in-depth interviews were conducted in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Benin to deepen the initial findings. The report will be the basis for a webinar for all NIMD programmes in 2020. Based on the outcome of this webinar and any needs identified, further tools will be developed. This will support programmes in their work on the key objective of achieving broader participation and greater inclusion in democratic processes.

Learning and cross-fertilisation between country programmes

Four regional meetings for NIMD country offices and local partners were held in Benin, Tunisia, El Salvador and Indonesia in September 2019. Programme staff from all countries convened regionally to jointly review progress and adapt the programming for the remainder of the year. They also shared knowledge and innovative tools that had been produced within NIMD's network. These shared learning sessions covered, for instance, the findings of the 'cost of politics' research in Africa, the 'Shrinking Democratic Space' research in Latin America, and a political context analysis in the MENA region. By presenting different successful approaches and sharing unintended failures, the country teams were able to adapt and enrich their planned interventions for the final year of implementation of the SP programme.

The regional meetings also provided an opportunity to jointly reflect on the draft NIMD Multi-Annual Strategy 2021-2025, as well as the prospects regarding the Netherlands’ MFA Policy Framework for Strengthening Civil Society over the same period. The meetings also allowed reflection on experiences with actor-based pathways of change (progress, obstacles and challenges). Lastly, they offered a chance to enhance understanding of outcome harvesting as monitoring tool and increase understanding of the potential consequences of a PEA for programming.

4.3 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome Harvesting for monitoring results

In 2019, NIMD continued to invest in implementing the recommendations from the programme Mid-Term Review by developing NIMD Outcome Harvesting (OH) for a monitoring approach. In the second part of 2018, the NIMD PME team developed an OH template and guidance. This was tested in countries toward to the end of 2018 and in the first part of 2019. The pilots provided promising results in using this approach to document programme (intermediate) outcomes that cannot be captured with the programme indicator framework. These can be used during reflection and revision weeks for programme steering and adaptation. The approach has been rolled out to all programme countries during PME regional meetings in September 2019. All programme countries conducted and submitted OH as a part of 2019 Annual Reporting process. An example of harvested outcomes from Kenya and Myanmar is presented in box below:

Country	Outcome description	Significance	NIMD's contribution
Kenya	From the 7th to 9th March 2019, the media started to extensively cover the inaugural People Dialogue Festival organized by CMD Kenya at the National Museum of Kenya.	The PDF was organized to celebrate the benefits of the “handshake” and to promote multi-party dialogue. By engaging with the media, CMD was able to draw attention of the public to the importance of political party dialogue. This event showed to the public that political parties find it important to constructively engage in dialogue. And this helps towards the attainment of the CMD Kenya project objective of promoting multiparty dialogue and political parties’ formulation of policies.	CMD Kenya organized the inaugural PDF to emphasise the importance of issue based collaboration in a democracy. CMD Kenya Secretariat sent out invites to the media houses, made press release and gave expert opinion to the media houses, organized face to face discussions on what PDF seeks to achieve.
Myanmar	On 11 June 2019, during the 15th session of Shan State parliament in Taunggyi, Shan state, the 12 MPs of Multiparty Dialogue Platform (MDP) signed together a Shan State Law of Food Safety in Basic Education School bill and submitted it into the Shan State parliament.	Shan State Law of Food Safety in Basic Education School is the first pioneering legislative initiative developed by 12 parliamentary parties together for Shan State parliament and it was the first multiparty effort on state/region level legislation in Myanmar. The bill is important because of the quality of foods in Schools is not clean and safe for kids. The significance also lies in the fact that the bill is a joint elaboration (by all parties), shows their accommodative behaviour and joint development and lobbying for the bill, and that joint learning on the legislative process took place. These are all new experiences in Shan State, a conflict ridden state where there is a lot of distrust amongst various actors (parties, civil society, government, military, EAO’s etc).	The Multiparty Dialogue Platform in Shan state has met 11 times for a dialogue session since May 2017. The Multiparty Dialogue secretariat is formed by the team from MySoP, and they organized and facilitated dialogue sessions in three parts of Shan State, Shan East, Shan North and Shan South. During this process, MySoP has invited trainers from local and international backgrounds to lead the discussion on this thematic issue (of food safety) for the Platform to examine. MySoP then created exchange visit opportunity to Indonesia in June 2018 to focus more on food safety issues. MySoP team translated laws on food safety from Thailand, India and China into Myanmar language for sourcing more views on food safety. MySoP provided update minutes from every dialogue session to dialogue participants, party leaderships, the Chief Minister and the Speaker of Shan parliament.

Regular PME activities

The actor-based pathways of change were developed for key programme actors in 2018, and further revised and adapted in 2019 through the mid-year review and annual planning.

Standardized intermediate outcome indicators were further integrated into the 2019 country programme annual plans and result tables. Partners report on common results twice yearly and communicate them to the outside world through the IATI platform. In order to complement the

quantitative data reporting done in IATI, and to identify progress and impact, NIMD continued to invest in the development of human interest stories as a qualitative approach to provide insights into programme results (see Annex D).

In 2019, NIMD also implemented specific PME-related recommendations from the programme Mid-Term Review. These included an improvement of the qualitative aspect of results monitoring and reporting at output level. This is also the case for the development of gender-inclusion specific indicators in order to measure programme results on women's political participation.

5. Budget deviations

The Financial Report is included in Annex A of this report. The approved budget for 2019 was € **7,206,721**. This is based on the updated 2019 Annual Plan, integrating the underspending from previous years, as approved by the MFA. The actual expenditure in 2019 is € **6.541.027** . This means **91%** of our budget was used in 2019.

In the last column of the Financial Overview (Annex A), explanations are provided for deviations of more than 10% in country programmes and cross-cutting programmes, as compared to the approved 2019 budget. Explanations are also included for budget-line-level deviations of more than 25%.

Annex A: Financial Overview

Annex B: Intermediate outcome measurements

Annex C: SPDD indicator measurement

Annex D: Human Interest Stories (Mali & Myanmar)