

IMPLEMENTER DIALOGUE

Political Economy Analysis (PEA):
A meaningful tool for program design and implementation

Friday, 19th June 2020
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Co-organized: International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL)

Venue: virtually accessible

Background and Concept

In October 2019, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), in cooperation with the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL), convened a first Implementer Dialogue focused on adaptive programming¹ for security and rule of law interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Undertaking an adaptive programming approach provides the opportunity for development practitioners, program implementers, and policy and decision makers to better inform program design and implementation, to test pathways for change and amend project resources, and ultimately to advance global development outcomes and policy reforms in the field of security and rule of law.

The October 2019 dialogue identified that traditional security and rule of law programs have failed to situate these interventions within an understanding of the prevailing political and economic context in the respective environment. As such, there has been a shift over the last years to engage more steadily and analytically with the political nature of change, for example in interventions seeking to strengthen institutional integrity in the justice sector, or improve access to justice for women and marginalized groups. Conducting a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) is one tool that can be utilized to understand and support the design and implementation of politically feasible programs, by setting informed objectives of what can be achieved, over what timeframe, and the risks involved. To this end, the dialogue drew on the experience and expertise of invited participants, who in turn shared insights into various analytical tools and approaches, including the PEA, as well as a Gender Political Economy Analysis (GPEA) and the problem-driven iterative adaptation-based approach (PDIA) as a model for learning and defining local solutions for local problems. These approaches

¹ Adaptive programming is the ability to flexibly develop and adjust programmatic objectives, activities and resources to achieve a program's strategic aim(s) in reflection of political, economic and societal developments as well as programmatic experiences and lessons learned.



contribute to contextual understanding, including on incentives, relationships, and distribution and contestation of power between different groups and individuals.

The outcome of the dialogue included awareness on the importance of having a flexible program design and delivery model that allows implementers to adapt outcomes and outputs throughout the implementation phase of an intervention. Within fragile and conflict-affected settings, a static results framework is often not compatible with a complex and ever-changing operating environment. Understanding context-specific political and economic realities is required in order to be realistic about what is programmatically viable and to leverage opportunities for solutions and change. Justice centered programs, in particular, should be designed to accommodate and adapt to political challenges and opportunities, and should include continuous political engagement.

To build on these outcomes, IDLO and KPSRL are organizing a follow-up Implementer Dialogue to learn from experts about the relevance and importance of engaging with the PEA for security and rule of law strategies and programs, as a continual and iterative process. The Implementer Dialogue will deconstruct how, when, why and with what purpose the PEA can be used as an analytical tool and framework for program design and implementation, identifying key challenges, opportunities, experiences and risks. The current global COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for such a tool even more relevant. The dialogue will provide an opportunity to share IDLO's experience of engaging with its own institutional guidelines on PEA, which were recently piloted and applied in Morocco, Somalia and the Sahel region.

Objective

This dialogue aims to convene development practitioners, implementers and policy makers in order to disseminate expert knowledge and practical experience on adaptive programming, with a specific focus on engaging with the PEA as an analytical tool to formulate high-impact and high-quality security and rule of law programming.

The following questions will be addressed:

- PEAs as an iterative process: How to determine the right timing and the right strategy to feed into program design, planning, reviews or other decisions?
- How to make sure that PEA is a living and breathing process woven into everyday practice?
- How do we ensure that the PEA remains relevant in the environment of constant political change - and therefore also how do we ensure that programs remain relevant?

To ensure an open and pragmatic exchange, the dialogue will be held under *Chatham House Rules*.

Proposed Agenda

Introduction by Host (from IDLO and KPSRL): General introduction on IDLO and KPSRL, introduce expert speakers by name & affiliation, introduce purpose and objective of the panel discussion, brief overview of the agenda, and discussion rules/functions (i.e. use chat to ask question or request to make an intervention). [5 minutes]

What is PEA? (presentation by one of the speakers): Purpose of PEA's for SROL interventions. Introducing PEA as a dynamic process rather than a static output. The measure of success is not the conduct of the study/exercise itself, but the extent to which findings are integrated into strategies and programs, and ultimately contribute to improved results on the ground. [25 minutes]

Storytelling panel discussion (led by the Moderator): which is made of complements made by the 2 others speakers (each one building on previous intervention on "*what is PEA*"), and reflections from the field practitioners (IDLO Morocco, Somalia, Sahel PEA experiences to the extent possible). Speakers would reflect on their own experiences while trying to integrate PEAs into their daily work/feed into program design, planning, reviews or other decisions) [60 minutes].

Q&A with the audience ending with a summary and thanks by the Host [30 minutes].

Registration

Please register to participate in this dialogue by contacting the IDLO Program Development team via vwitula@idlo.int or the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law via Messina Laurette MANIRAIZA (M.Manirakiza@kpsrl.org).