

NIMD'S APPROACH TO POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS: Q&A

NIMD works with political parties, movements and organizations in emerging democracies. This is often very sensitive work in highly complex political contexts. It means we work on a political knife-edge; to drive change within these contexts, we need to constantly strike a delicate balance. This requires a thorough understanding of the complicated political field we operate in. This is why we have developed our own approach to doing political economy analysis. Through this approach, we learn who has the power and political will to enhance the quality of democracy, and we get the in-depth understanding we need to deliver our high-quality programming.

What is political economy analysis?

Political economy analysis (PEA) is a lens to help us see how political change can happen. It allows us to zoom into the political game and its playing field. Through it, we can look beyond elections, political decisions and developments, and see *why* they occur and who drives these processes. We see the rules and incentives of the game, rather than only its players.

PEA improves our ability to react to changes in the political context, through flexible and adaptive programming, and supports us as we develop cutting-edge interventions and influencing strategies.

Our deepened understanding of political processes helps us to design effective methods to influence politics positively and democratically. This is not only important for improving the quality of democracies around the world. By doing so, we help countries take steps towards peace, stability and effective governance, which are outlined in SDG16, and which are a precondition for inclusive and sustainable development.

What is NIMD's approach to political economy analysis?

We have our own approach to doing political economy analysis. It is tailor-made to fit NIMD's Theory of Change, niche, and direct work with political actors.

Our PEA approach is a step-by-step process, which we set out in our [PEA process guide](#). It includes assembling a research team, collecting data through interviews, focus groups or desk studies, organizing a series of workshops with target groups and stakeholders, and identifying implications for our programming. A dedicated NIMD PEA team is available for support every step of the way.

The NIMD PEA approach is central to our work. It supports our teams as they structure and continuously update their political analysis and practice.

Want to know more?

Do you want to learn more about our PEA approach, or are you interested in a PEA training? Contact our Learning&Innovation Advisor Violet Benneker: violetbenneker@nimd.org.

