

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON 2010-2015 COTE D'IVOIRE CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

This cumulative assessment examines outcomes from six consecutive NDI NED-funded programs that took place over seven years, and which addressed 12 different objectives. NDI's Central and West Africa (CEWA) team determined early on that due to the broad scope, such an assessment could best be led by a DC-based Senior Program Manager (SPM) familiar with the country and the breadth of these programs deploying to Côte d'Ivoire.

The SPM consulted with NED program staff, in-country NDI staff and NDI functional teams to better define questions the assessment would seek to answer. After reviewing the programs' timeline and objectives, NDI identified five programming themes (encompassing all 12 program objectives) for assessment:

- **Preventing or mitigating election-related conflict;**
- **Enhancing political participation of women and youth**
- **Fostering social and political dialogue and reconciliation**
- **Strengthening electoral processes**
- **Strengthening civil society**

In addition, CEWA identified two questions related to its programming that it wished to explore through the assessment:

- **How did NDI strategy adjust to a shifting post-conflict political environment?**
- **What role did NDI's presence and relationships on the ground play in NDI's ability to implement programs or to shift strategy?**

On the ground, the SPM used qualitative assessment methods, and whenever feasible, interactive approaches to draw out beneficiary and staff perspectives on three questions:

- 1) **What were the most significant changes that had taken place (2010-present) on topics of inquiry?**
- 2) **What had been the nature and degree of NDI contributions to these changes? and**
- 3) **How did NDI's local presence and relationships with beneficiaries and other stakeholders contribute, or not, to these changes?**

Most assessment exercises consisted of interactive small group discussions on these questions. The SPM developed a qualitative assessment scale for discussing NDI's contribution to a given change that was explained and provided to participants. This provided a common terminology for those participating, and also allowed for comparing one person's or group's assessment of a the contribution to another's. Discussions with NDI in-country staff utilized evaluation exercises such as timeline, outcome mapping and force field analyses.

In some cases, a key informant or small focus group approach was employed instead of the interactive workshop discussion. This allowed the assessment team to include the views of senior

political stakeholders or others whose time constraints prevented a more interactive approach. In these cases, relevant quotes were collected and evaluated against the same qualitative scale.

Qualitative Scale for Assessing Contribution to Change

- a. **Direct Attribution** describes a change where a NDI intervention is the proximate cause of a democratic development outcome
- b. **Essential contribution** refers to a situation in which, though not the proximate cause, NDI's action was *necessary* to such an extent that the change *could not* have occurred otherwise.
- c. **Major contributions** indicate that NDI played a meaningful role that assisted partners to overcome a challenge that otherwise could have seriously blocked, delayed or undermined progress. For example, a *catalyzing* contribution that provided knowledge, skills or resources that sparked a new initiative by partners; assistance used by partners to accomplish a *breakthrough* when their efforts had stalled; or a *sustaining* contribution where ongoing NDI assistance helped partners serious navigate obstacles or difficulties that otherwise could have derailed progress toward their goals.
- d. **Significant contributions** could include regular, hands-on guidance used by partners to *stay on track* or to *effectively utilize* new knowledge or skills.
- e. **Simple contributions** describe situations where NDI's contribution to a democratic outcome is *acknowledged but attenuated*, such as by providing financial assistance, independent review of research, or training and capacity-building, but without hands-on assistance.
- f. **No contribution.**
- g. **Negative contribution.**

During the assessment, partners introduced the term **insufficient** contribution as a means to acknowledge their appreciation of NDI's assistance where overall program impact was limited or unsatisfying. It was often used, for example, to describe NDI's efforts on women's political participation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Participants' statements were reviewed and categorized into 29 separate changes, reflecting the broad range of NDI's activities. For example, changes included "Civil society gained capacity to use new technologies," "Political parties sporadically seek and engage in dialogue with each other and/or civil society," and "Election-related violence has diminished." These changes were then categorized into 10 outcomes.

A numerical value was assigned to participant assessments of contributions to change to correspond with the qualitative scale. These were then averaged for each outcome to see which outcomes benefited the most from NDI assistance. Since there is no statistical validity to the average, the averages were cross-checked with medians, the category that was most cited for a particular outcome, and in some cases also by discounting statements with an "insufficient" marker. (This allowed verification on topics where the average might skew low or high owing to, for example, statements concerning the 2010 post-election violence). The four most significant contributions were selected for discussion in the assessment.

A list of outcomes and the associated changes is included as Annex D.