



EXPERIENCES IN INNOVATING LEARNING

Lessons from KPSRL 2021-2024

Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law

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List of Acronyms

ARC	Addressing Root Causes
AC	Advisory Committee
CPs	Consortium Partners
CSPSS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State building
DSH	Department for Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid
EOI	Expression of Interest
FCAS	Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings
GDPR	General data protection regulation
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisations
IPR	Intellectual property rights
IOB	Department for International Research and Policy Evaluation
KMF	Knowledge Management Fund
KPAC (22/23/24)	Knowledge Platform Annual Conference (in 2022 / 2023 / 2024)
KPSRL	Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NIMD	Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy
PLI	Programmatic Learning Instrument
RBF	Results-Based Framework
SRoL	Security and Rule of Law
TED	Team Europe Democracy
TOC	Theory of Change



Executive Summary

The internal endline evaluation of the KPSRL 2021-2024 reviews the evolution of the approach on and practice of programmatic and organisational learning inside the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL). It also evaluates the KPSRL's contribution to policy and practice change across the sector of cooperation in Security and Rule of Law (SROL). This endline evaluation aims to establish a record of the KPSRL's legacy, focusing in particular on the lessons learned through a period of intense internal reforms. It also proposes recommendations aimed at the work of future knowledge platforms.

Evolution of thinking and practice

The KPSRL Theory of Change (TOC) as originally formulated in 2020 set the KPSRL's ambition for learning outcomes to creating an enabling environment for learning. When the KPSRL updated its TOC in 2023, the learning outcomes were instead expressed as processes of learning and active participation with clearer connections to SROL policy and practice changes. Inside these processes, the Secretariat took a more pro-active role in mobilizing network participants around co-created and longer-term processes to maximize impact.

The KPSRL's practice of funding and partnerships for knowledge projects has evolved, at least partly, from highly structured, formal, and accountability-based processes to more participatory and flexible ones. Contrariwise, its approach to learning and knowledge uptake has become more structured in longer-term learning trajectories and knowledge uptake processes.

The process of internal change described above has been a conflictual one. It pitted more and less radical interpretations of key concepts, such as participation, on whose importance all stakeholders agreed (for example, stakeholders might agree that participation is important but have different opinions about the moments to open for participation and the identity of the individuals who should participate), and confronted actors that, according to their roles, were more or less focused on innovation or perceived risks. This happened within a landscape of deep uncertainty on the future of the SROL sector.

Effectiveness and impact

The KPSRL's performance in producing outputs was strong in 2021, dipped slightly in 2022 as the KPSRL Secretariat focused on processes of internal reform, and returned to strong in 2023 and 2024.

A similar pattern is visible at the outcome level. The KPSRL has been successful in maintaining active participation by network participants and supporting them in identifying and filling knowledge gaps.

This end-lined evaluation collected 51 stories of change at the intermediate outcome level (organisational change), 21 of which have progressed to the impact level (policy and practice changes).

These stories have revealed that learning covers a wide diversity of change processes that involve a change in the learning organisation itself. Learning goes far beyond acquiring academic knowledge: we learn by doing, nuance pre-existing ideas, scale up innovations, become aware of other ways of working or get inspired by stories.

Through its instruments, the KPSRL has generated a tapestry of many, sometimes small-scale, stories of change. This is consistent with significant KPSRL contribution to SROL sector-wide change on the decolonisation/localisation agenda. The KPSRL generated less significant contributions regarding the closing of the civic spaces, the inward turn of major donors, and the trend toward increased militarisation of international relations.

The KPSRL contribution happened following many combinations of factors, and the following have been especially important:

- Developing new tools and methodologies.
- Creating safe spaces for adopting risky practices.
- Connecting SROL stakeholders with people with lived experiences of SROL issues.
- Peer learning.
- Understanding origins and dynamics of violence or barriers to positive change
- Filling capacity gaps in specialised issues related to learning.

Elements of the KPSRL Secretariat's organisation and approach have contributed to change processes, such as a reformed annual planning process, systematic internal learning, effective, and equal, but not burdensome participation and co-creation.

Translating complex theoretical and academic insights into practical insights and building coalitions for change remain the two largest barriers to change in the context of KPSRL activities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are relevant for knowledge platforms, knowledge institutes, learning networks and communities of practice.

1. TOCs for knowledge platforms and networks should consider **setting the processes of learning and knowledge uptake as the outcomes** to which they are held accountable, rather than only aiming to strengthen networks and creating the enabling environments for learning.
2. **Learning goes much beyond capacity building or adaptive management**, and should be appreciated in its complexity and multiple pathways. Adaptive management and linked approaches, such as political economy analysis (PEA), are useful but better at adapting to contexts that organisations and programmes cannot change. They are not as capable to **develop, sustain, and work towards shared visions of an inspiring future**. A wider vision of learning should present to organisations across the sector the options available and allow them to choose the right approach (and mix and match different approaches) in different cases.

3. Knowledge platforms and institutes interested in **decolonised learning** should explore: co-creation, real participation, inclusive and decentralised governance structures, appreciation of one's biases, and pluralist definitions of knowledge(s).
 - a. Whenever possible, **co-create a longer-term learning agenda and trajectory** with the teams and organisations going through the learning processes. This should include explicit testing and experimentation to learn on key challenges. The language used should be practical (easy to understand and concise), and accurate (corresponding to the situation described).
 - b. **Mixing different forms of knowledge(s) ensures stronger learning** (academic, applied, contextual, indigenous, experiential, procedural, etc.). Scientific forms of knowledge have many strengths but are not necessarily always more objective if the underlying theories and assumptions used by researchers to identify what is real, true, or just are not questioned and have a direct influence on the research's results (it is not always the case that unquestioned assumptions have a direct influence on research results: this depends case by case). That is because i) scientific forms of knowledge are produced by individuals with all their biases, histories, and perspectives, and ii) despite the fact that peer review is a strong point of these processes, often peer-reviewers in scientific processes share the same underlying assumptions with their peer researchers and so do not question them, iii) knowledge production happens inside a fraught society which influences what can be said, by whom, and how, and set purposes for knowledge production that are not solely about representing "truth" or reality.
4. The **level of active participation to networks and platforms** (including knowledge ones) **should be equitable but not burdensome**. This amounts to opening doors for participation (and keeping them open) and energizing the pace of interactions inside the network but should not require participation from those who don't want to participate (or can't) in order for the network to be successful.
5. Even without a funding instrument for programmatic learning, knowledge platforms and networks should retain internal capacity and willingness to **support network participants to design and execute their own learning activities**. Learning and knowledge management is as much part of the core business of a knowledge platform (and also of knowledge institutes more broadly) as thematic knowledge.
6. The **translation of complex academic insights into practical, context-adequate insights remains a challenge**. Future knowledge platforms should consider this challenge explicitly, develop adequate knowledge uptake approaches to facilitate translation, but also be clear with participants about the additional work that they should expect to do internally to translate insights that are relevant at a sector wide level for the specific case of their organisations. worry knowledge
7. Knowledge platforms and knowledge institutes should **give as much attention and resources to processes of knowledge uptake and coalition building for change as to knowledge generation**, and support knowledge generated directly by the knowledge users as much as this is possible.



1 Introduction

1.1 Background on the project

The Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL) was established by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 2012 to strengthen the evidence base for security and rule of law (SRoL) policies and programmes. The KPSRL has gone through three iterations since then. This report focusses on the last iteration (2021-2024), which was managed by a Consortium comprised of the Clingendael Institute's Conflict Research Unit, Saferworld, and the International Development Law Organization and provided oversight and financial accountability.

The KPSRL has been supported by an Advisory Committee that served as a representation of the KPSRL network, drawn from network participants and selected experts in the field. KPSRL network is comprised of all people and organisations that actively engage in KPSRL activities, events, and projects.

The primary objective of the 2021-2024 phase of the KPSRL has been to improve the quality and impact of SRoL policy and programmes, contingent upon the ability of those who shaped SRoL policy and programmes to generate and incorporate new evidence, insights, and solutions into their work and decisions.

Strengthening learning has been, thus, the goal that the KPSRL seeks to achieve at the outcome level. To fulfil its role in enhancing learning, the Secretariat of the KPSRL has explicitly extended its focus to understanding how learning and “knowledge uptake” happen within the network and pursued a strategy of “knowledge brokering” as a practical and applied activity.

The KPSRL's main instruments have been:

- Thematic convenings (roundtables, webinars), at times linked in trajectories.
- Knowledge Management Fund (KMF) - a small grants mechanism that supports events, research and innovation.
- Programmatic Learning Instrument (PLI) - a pilot initiative supporting cross-programmatic learning in SRoL sector.
- A podcast Fragile Truths.
- The Annual Conference (KPAC).

1.2 Purpose, scope, and structure of the internal evaluation

This internal endline evaluation (henceforth “endline evaluation”) aims to:

1. Reflect on the learning journey(s) that the KPSRL has embarked on since 2021 with a focus on the KPSRL’s practice as learning facilitator.
2. Consolidate the KPSRL’s main achievements in the period 2021-2024.
3. Share those main achievements with external audiences.
4. Provide inputs to an ongoing KPSRL trajectory dedicated to “learning about learning”, to which this end evaluation provides the case study centred around the KPSRL’s experience.
5. Provide inputs to the post-2025 future of the KPSRL network.

The focus of the endline evaluation has been on the DAC criteria of effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, to which it has added a self-reflection on the evolution of thinking and practice.

The evaluation has covered the entirety of the interventions undertaken by the KPSRL in the period 2021-2024, and all investments made under it.

Part one explores the evolution of thinking and practice on learning inside the KPSRL. Part two evaluates the KPSRL’s performance at intermediate outcome and impact levels, explores contribution patterns and the meaning of results achieved. Part three, entirely written based on participatory sense-making moments with KPSRL Secretariat and stakeholders, explores implications and recommendations for the future.

The annexes contain the trail of evidence underlying this piece:

- Annex one contains the KPSRL TOC.
- Annex two the evaluation matrix.
- Annex three and four the complete lists of KMF and PLI projects.
- Annex five the list of stories of change at intermediate outcome and impact level.
- Annex six a detailed review of progress against output and outcome indicators.



2 Methodological note

2.1 Approach

The KPSRL's theory of change (TOC) was revised in 2023, and so it is the revised TOC that has guided the endline evaluation. This internal evaluation traces change processes from output to outcome to impact levels and explicitly considers the evidence on whether the causal mechanisms set forth by the updated KPSRL TOR have operated as expected.

The endline evaluation has taken a qualitative, realist approach to the analysis of performance and causation. It has assumed that KPSRL stakeholders could perceive and report cases of social change and causal relationships albeit imperfectly and within their own ideological frameworks. Triangulation has been the strategy for reliability, combining a literature review of all KMF and PLI reports, event reports and notes, post-event surveys, annual reports and the mid-term review (MTR), a survey of network participants (N=145), and interviews and workshops with Secretariat and Consortium Partners (CP) staff.

As much as possible, this endline evaluation has balanced different forms of “knowledges”, meaning forms of knowledges that are based on triangulation of people’s judgements, reconstruction and testing of causal networks, and measuring and quantification of abstract concepts and state of the world but also forms of knowledges that are based on expressing how it felt to go through a certain experience. The endline survey collected both perceptions expressed in quantitative form and stories of contribution, the literature review containing quantitative indicators, and KPSRL staff and CPs were invited to submit more personal stories of their experience with the KPSRL.

The key benchmark of success for the endline evaluation is successful utilisation - the extent to which its findings prove useful for improving future practice and build clarity and trust with the sector stakeholders by transparently reporting on results and trends. To this end, the sense-making will target, amongst others, the current Transition Group that is discussing the future of the KPSRL network.

2.2 Limitations

This evaluation has been conducted internally to the KPSRL Secretariat because the contract for the 2021-2024 phase of the KPSRL did not foresee funding for an external evaluation. This internal quality has likely led to findings that are more positive than an external evaluator might have found, despite this not being the intention. In partial mitigation, the endline evaluation has checked that its insights are broadly in line with those of the MTR conducted by external evaluators and emphasised the data emerging from the survey of network participants.

Despite efforts to triangulate data sources, many of the stories of change reported at the intermediate outcome and impact level have been reported from one source only. Triangulation has been weakened by the absence of qualitative interviews with network participants due to budgetary constraints. The absence of interviews with network participants has also likely resulted in some stories of contribution not being identified and reported on. The stories of change, therefore, should not be read as the complete, perfectly accurate representation of contribution created by the KPSRL. Instead, they are a useful, but partial picture that must be carefully interpreted in formulating conclusions.

2.3 Evaluation questions

Part one of the endline evaluation: evolution of thinking and practice on learning.

1. How did thinking and practice of learning facilitation evolve in the KPSRL?
2. What have been the main drivers and consequences of this evolution in thinking and practice?
3. What contradictions, dilemmas, and open questions remain in the way in which the KPSRL Secretariat, CPs, and AC conceptualise learning facilitation?

Part two of the endline evaluation: effectiveness and impact.

4. What are the main trends in performance against the KPSRL TOC?
5. Did the KPSRL contribute to changes in policymaking and practice across its network?
6. What are the main factors driving or impeding changes in policymaking and practice across the KPSRL network?
7. In spotlight, is the 2021-2024 set-up of Secretariat, CP management, and AC effective to contribute to results?

Part three of the endline evaluation: conclusions and recommendations.

8. What are the practical implications emerging from an analysis of thinking's evolution and actual contribution for the Secretariat's future roles in knowledge generation and uptake, learning partnerships, and event organisations?
9. How are the trends in performance expected to evolve under different scenarios for the post-2025 future of the KPSRL?



3 Evolution of thinking and practice on learning

3.1 The evolution of the KPSRL TOC

Key points:

- **The original KPSRL TOC conceptualised its outcomes in terms of environment and structures for learning. The updated TOC conceptualised its outcomes as processes of knowledge generation, interrogation, and uptake**

This section explores how the KPSRL TOCs, original and updated, conceptualise the outcomes of a knowledge platform.

The original TOC was part of the proposal submitted to DSH in late 2020.¹ That TOC did not contain a definition of “learning”, expressed learning outcomes and process in a static way, and left an unbridgeable contribution gap between learning outcomes and goals of influencing policymaking and programming.

The original TOC’s silence on defining “learning” was problematic because it could not offer an anchor to structure the KPSRL network and enabling environment in a way that was conducive to effective learning. By noting that the most of learning events the KPSRL held in early 2021 focused on exploring adaptive management, points to the fact that the KPSRL’s initial understanding of learning was heavily influenced by the concept of adaptive management through political economy and context analysis. Learning was often understood as the ability to understand (political/changing) contexts and adapt action to them to improve programme and policy effectiveness.² To complement this focus on adaptative management, the KPSRL also worked on funding original research, and sharing good (and bad) practice for wider consideration and uptake.

The original TOC formulated its outcomes as: “network strengthening” and “enabling environment for learning”.³ “Network” and “environment” are about structures to sustain and facilitate learning, infrastructures that connect network members for the purpose of learning. Internal

1 KPSRL proposal to the Dutch MFA, 2020.

2 KPSRL annual report 2021. As for the logic that allowed the KPSRL to establish its network and learning environment, the original TOC identified three outputs which it expected to jointly, but without sequencing or coordinating then, contribute to outcomes: organising learning events, funding new ideas, and working on developing learning agendas.

3 KPSRL proposal to the Dutch MFA, 2020.

discussions between the KPSRL Secretariat and the CPs clarified that the KPSRL Consortium held itself accountable to the donor for building and maintaining these infrastructures for learning and not for actual learning taking place in and through these structures.⁴

Under the original TOC, KPSRL network participants were mostly responsible for utilising the network and enabling environment for learning. They were proposing ideas for learning events, KMF projects, and KPAC sessions. They were responsible for taking up the knowledge products that other network members had generated. The KPSRL Secretariat kept a hands-off approach to shaping broader, coherent learning trajectories out of the varied ideas emerging from the network. The exception was the KPSRL's involvement as learning partner for the Addressing Roots Causes (ARC) programme of the Dutch MFA, where the KPSRL Secretariat facilitated the development of a global learning agenda and participated in the set up and facilitation of learning groups to implement the learning agenda.

The hands-off approach was consistent with the recommendations of the 2019 MTR of the KPSRL's previous phase (the KPSRL did not conduct an endline evaluation in 2020) because the evaluators of that MTR put an emphasis on networks as spaces of autonomous action by members.⁵

Despite (and probably because) its good intentions of creating that space of autonomy, the original TOC created a contribution gap between the outcomes for which the KPSRL was responsible and actual learning by the KPSRL network participants and the sector, and consequently also the KPSRL's objective of improving policymaking and programming in the SROL sector. This might not have been as much of a problem were it not for the fact that the original TOC contained a long list of barriers connected to organisational cultures, incentives, funding availability, and broader policy priorities expected to prevent network members from taking advantage of the infrastructures for learning. This resulted into a logic short-circuit in which the TOC limited the action of the Secretariat to creating a network and environment for learning, assumed that learning would happen through autonomous action by network members, and also expressed many factors preventing this autonomous action.

The KPSRL tasked the 2022/2023 MTR conducted by Transition International (TI) to review its practice and develop an updated version of the TOC and accompanying Result Based Framework (RBF), which TI completed in May 2023.⁶

The updated TOC has substituted the static concepts of “network strengthening” and “enabling environment” with process-oriented concepts, has tasked the KPSRL Secretariat with facilitating actual learning processes at the outcome level, and remained silent on a definition of learning.

It was with the development of the Resource Guide for Nexus Practitioners in 2024 that a more systematic framework emerged to understand learning in the SROL sector. It was defined as a process of change - conscious and intentional - mostly operating through reflection on practice or knowledge(s). The process encompasses multiple methods in practice and is organic

4 As the contract between DSH and the KPSRL consortium clarifies that the KPSRL consortium is responsible up to contribution to outcomes

5 Zijderduijn, Mike, and Irma Alpenidze. Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL): Final MTR Report. 2019.

6 Updated TOC.

(even if the aid sector often emphasises linear language and logic of project management). It is also demanding, meaning that there are no shortcuts to learning through just receiving and consuming information.⁷

The updated TOC has replaced “network strengthening” with active participation by network participants. “Real participation” connected to co-creation as an approach through which the KPSRL Secretariat discussed and co-shaped the KPSRL learning activities and processes with network participants. Active participation introduced a proactive role for the KPSRL Secretariat, but not proactive in the sense that the KPSRL Secretariat singlehandedly shaped learning trajectories and events, which was the problem that the 2019 MTR had tried to avoid by suggesting a hands-off approach. It was proactive in the deeper sense of stimulating network participants to work with each other and with the KPSRL Secretariat.

This has led to a slowly evolving practice through 2022 and 2023 through which the KPSRL Secretariat has expanded both:

- The channels through which it consulted the network: the KPSRL already conducted surveys of network members to shape the annual thematic headline guiding its grant making and event creation and interviews, to shape the theme of Annual Conferences. After 2022, these moments expanded and additional surveys to gather preferences about the location of KPACs were added.
- The level of coherence and ambition of its planning processes to capture more inputs from network participants. For example, the KPSRL accompanied the annual headline with an indicative calendar of events that meant to implement it as a coherent trajectory. Another example has been the inclusion of work on “advocacy” to offer coordination and scaffolding for network participants to come together and collaborate on advocacy activities and co-create a new narrative for the sector.

The updated TOC has replaced “enabling environment for learning” with outcomes processes of knowledge exchange, interrogation, and generation. Knowledge exchange, interrogation, generation, and use constitute “learning” by KPSRL network participants, even if the updated TOC does not define “learning” explicitly. This projects the ambition and attention of the KPSRL Secretariat beyond building enabling spaces and towards accompanying network participants in learning journeys that start with the identification of knowledge gaps and move all the way to using knowledge to close those gaps.

The updated TOC has also introduced an intermediate outcome level in the effort of closing the contribution gap, by identifying processes of organisational change and effective advocacy as the intermediary step between learning and policymaking and practice change at the sector-wide level.

Finally, the updated ToC has clarified the direction of change and impact sought by the KPSRL consortium. Following its newly formulated goal statement, not all policy and practice changes have counted as policy and practice improvements. Only changes that have furthered a locally led and people centred approach and valued justice and peace can be seen as policy and practice improvements.



7 Puljek-Shank, Dr. Randall, Valery Perry, Dr. Monroy Santander, and Dr. Michelle Parlevliet. Improving Your Programmatic Learning Journey: A Resource Guide for HDP Nexus Practitioners. Published by the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law, [Year of Publication]. <https://kpsrl.org/sites/default/files/Resource%20Guide%20for%20HDP%20Nexus%20Practitioners.pdf>.

Concerning these changes, the updated TOC clarified that they could involve governments other than the Netherlands and multilaterals (e.g. the EU). This has covered an enhanced focus on connecting with and being present at processes in Brussels, especially through active participation and advice to the Team Europe Democracy network, in Berlin at policy roundtables of the German Government, in Stockholm for SIPRI's peacebuilding conference, in Washington DC for summits hosted by the World Bank, and in Geneva for the Geneva Peace week.

3.2 The KPSRL Secretariat internal learning process

Key points

- The KPSRL's thinking and practice has evolved from a highly structured, formal, and accountability-based way of working to a more participatory and flexible one. Contrariwise, its approach to learning moments has become more structured in longer term learning trajectories and processes of knowledge uptake.

This section covers the learning achieved through the internal reform activities of the KPSRL on i) funding for knowledge generation and programmatic learning, ii) learning events and trajectories, and iii) knowledge uptake.

3.2.1 Evolution of the funding approach

The reform process for the Knowledge Management Fund

The KMF, as the KPSRL inherited it from the previous phase, aimed to generate or consolidate new knowledge or evidence in the SROL sector, and required applicants to fit a thematic focus set by Secretariat. Applicants could engage with two funding windows every year for three project streams: events, innovation, and research. They submitted Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and, if shortlisted, full proposals. KMF projects lasted nine-months and had a maximum amount of EUR 20,000. Grantees were required to bring 20% of the project value in additional funding or in-kind contribution, an accountability measure to incentivise them to commit to their projects. KPSRL staff evaluated KMF proposals according to publicly accessible evaluation criteria set in advance, without communicating personally with applicants as a measure to ensure fair competition. There were guidance and information sessions held for short-listed candidates to support their full proposal writing process. Then, the KPSRL Secretariat accompanied the grantee in the execution of their projects, but mostly with a focus on contracting and project management, plus identifying opportunities for uptake. Contractual conditions were standard across projects as almost never did the KMF disburse more than 40% of funding upfront regardless of the situation of the grantee.

In 2021, the KPSRL Secretariat realised that the KMF ensured open but not inclusive access. Its procedures for proposal preparation meant that large, international or Dutch non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with experience in proposal writing and familiarity with 'buzzwords' in Western policy circles were much more likely to obtain KMF funding compared to organisations based in partner countries.

In consultation with its AC and CPs and with flexibility from the Dutch MFA, the KPSRL introduced reforms to facilitate access of applicants based in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations (FCAS) and to a lesser extent de-emphasis accountability-based requirements.⁸

- The Secretariat scrapped the requirement for KMF applicants to be relevant to a thematic headline, ensuring that KMF applicants from FCAS could submit proposals relevant to their situations.
- The Secretariat also scrapped the requirement for applicants from FCAS to provide a contribution of 20% of KMF in additional funding or in-kind contribution, relaxing the request that grantees without other sources of funding performed unpaid work.
- It also relaxed the unwillingness to distribute larger funding tranches upfront (with freedom to provide 60% or 70% funding upfront for small organisations).
- It became more flexible in allowing projects to run for longer than the usual nine months if they had good reasons for it.
- The KPSRL Secretariat began accepting proposals in languages other than English, even though its documents remained in English.
- An information session was added before the application deadline, so potential applicants could learn more about the fund, its aim and its procedures.
- A more proactive approach to uptake (financial and logistical support of uptake activities such as launch/dissemination events)
- Finally, the KPSRL Secretariat has added interviews with applicants at the proposal stage, a measure that has allowed applicants less skilled in writing funding proposals in English to make stronger cases.

In short, the KMF’s idea of what a fair procedure is changed over time: from equal treatment to an equitable and evened playing field, and from measures to ensure that grantees respect the standard contractual terms to measures that take into account the situation of each grantee.

An internal evaluation of these reforms found that removing accountability-based requirements had not affected the successful completion rate, though projects tended to last longer.⁹ Findings on results in expanding access of grantees based in contexts affected by conflict and instability are presented in the section on results.

The KPSRL Secretariat collected information on participatory grant-making processes, but could not introduce them because the MTR of 2023 worried that the KPSRL network participants might not be interested in participating in jointly selecting proposals.¹⁰ By 2024, concerns about the willingness of network participants to participate in co-creation processes had fallen away and participatory grant making was included in a proposal for the 2025-2026 phase (unfortunately, DSH decided not to fund the 2025-2026 phase of the KPSRL for reasons unrelated to the topic of participatory grant making).

Designing the Programmatic Learning Instrument

In parallel to the KMF reform process, in 2022 the KPSRL designed and implemented the Programmatic Learning Instrument (PLI) with the objective “to learn on the concept of programmatic

8 The Secretariat has evaluated and confirmed the effectiveness of these reforms in the second half of 2022. See annual report 2022.

9 Evaluation of KMF reform, 2022 (internal document). Findings also included in the Annual Report 2022.

10 Information on participatory grantmaking was collected from literature and interviews with participatory grant-makers.

and cross programmatic learning through developing the network’s understanding of concepts and methods for programmatic learning”.¹¹ The PLI therefore had originally the mandate of facilitating learning on how programmatic learning works.

The KPSRL initially introduced rigid criteria for selecting PLI projects. It decided to only consider programmes by Dutch Embassies or DSH in FCAS still in the design phase as target for PLI funding. Dutch Embassies and DSH were considered as safe partners to try out the new PLI formula, and the Dutch Embassies were also a target group that the KPSRL aspired to involve more.

However, these criteria proved too rigid in practice. They limited too much the pool of potential partners and prospective projects, and the actors in this pool were often not enthusiastic about investing in learning more about programmatic learning. This was one reason why the MTR remarked that network participants did not understand the value proposition of the PLI on programmatic learning.¹² For example, the KPSRL had reached out to all the Dutch Embassies based in FCAS with a proposal to partner for the PLI, but ultimately only the Embassy to Somalia proved a viable partner.¹³ Even the collaboration with the Embassy to Somalia mostly worked well because it was based on a pre-existing partnership on learning.

In response to these developments, the KPSRL Secretariat offered more flexibility to its potential PLI partners to balance the objective of learning about programmatic learning with the objective to learn about thematic SROL issues that they considered important, such as localisation, programme sustainability, and equitable partnerships. In the end, the PLI was able to respond better to thematic learning needs emerging from its partners but also to produce a knowledge product on collaborative learning that is unique in the SROL sector and has a high potential from a legacy perspective.

The KPSRL Secretariat also expanded the channels through which the PLI received and approved project proposals adopting multiple entry points, from calls for proposals for learning partnerships with specific objectives, to re-routing to the PLI some KMF proposals that were a good fit for the PLI’s objective to learn about learning, to partnerships for co-hosting KPAC24.

The PLI contracting processes, documents, and procedures built on the KMF’s ones. Initially, the PLI adopted the model of co-penholdership between an INGO and a national NGO for co-created projects. But the KPSRL trialled other approaches to co-creation as well. For example, the project with Media INK did not use a co-penholder ship model for co-creation but rather relied on the fact that Media INK was a formal partner in all three consortia that were involved in the co-creation process. The insights is that co-creation has a formal side, which concerns contractual arrangements and the mechanisms for transferring and managing funds, and a process side which is about how to unlock active participation and inputs into co-creating the knowledge project. Initially, the KPSRL selected an INGO to lead the formal side of co-creation processes, but soon found out that this is not necessary, and that the factor that makes co-creation work is the relationship among participating organizations rather than the capacity of any one organisation to meet accountability standards.

11 This objective was set during a workshop among KPSRL staff, CP staff, and Dutch MFA staff.

12 The other reason was that it took some time for the KPSRL Secretariat to improve its communication on the value proposition of the PLI.

13 PLI design documents 2022, and PLI umbrella learning journey (internal documents).

It was more flexible than the KMF in project lengths and values. PLI projects ranged from EUR 20,000 to EUR 250,000 with an average size of EUR 100,000. They varied from a year to almost three years in length.

The KPSRL Secretariat also set a framework for an internal learning journey that had the objective to learn from the implementation of the PLI to improve its design for the next phase of the KPSRL. The learning journey found that the added flexibility was overall beneficial. In one case, however, flexibility had a mixed effect. The PLI project in Iraq ended up being significantly larger than all others, at EUR 223,000, more than a third of the entire PLI budget.¹⁴ This happened at the very early stages of negotiating the partnership while the Secretariat still applying rigid criteria that limited the pool of partners. In this case, being flexible on project amount but not on project partners in conjunction with a “tough” negotiating counterpart penholder led to a larger project budget than would have been cost-effective.

The experience with co-creation of PLI projects also allowed the KPSRL Secretariat to get acquainted with the practicalities of project co-creation, and this flowed into other areas of the KPSRL’s work such as the advice on learning provided to network participants and the KPSRL approach to co-creating learning events.

The PLI also allowed the KPSRL Secretariat and the PLI grantees to gain experience in shaping longer-term learning trajectories. PLI projects were asked to co-create plans for their trajectories, explicitly setting objectives, questions, approaches, and activities for learning.

3.2.2 Evolution of the approach to learning events

The KPSRL events evolved i) from stand-alone events to parts of longer-term learning trajectories, ii) from panel-based events to events that used a broader range of facilitation, exchange, and co-creation methods, and iii) from events where INGOs were mostly sharing and leading to a more diverse base of active participants.

In 2021, the KPSRL portfolio consisted mainly of stand-alone events emerging from ideas submitted from network participants.¹⁵ This approach had the advantage that events were relevant to at least some network participants since they emerged from network participants themselves. It also allowed the KPSRL Secretariat to focus on implementing its interventions without spending too much time and focus on planning. The downside was that events did not build on each other, and this diminished their potential for impact.

From early in 2022, the KPSRL Secretariat began balancing network participants’ ideas with a long-term view of trajectories where events built on each other to a common goal. Initially, this caused frictions as network participants did not always appreciate the request to look further into the future and it took time for the KPSRL Secretariat to find the right balance between receiving ideas from the network and shaping longer term trajectories. For example, the annual thematic headline of 2022 on reimagining social contracts had been shaped with increased inputs from the network. But network participants did not find relevant some of the events that emerged from the headline. For instance, they remarked that some of the discussions remained too abstract and did not include enough distilling of practical implications. For 2023, the KPSRL



¹⁴ PLI internal journey, 2022 (internal document).

¹⁵ Internal learning event conducted in 2022.

Secretariat took on board critiques from network participants, and strengthened the way in which network participants’ inputs were included in the planning process for the 2023 thematic headline on inclusive social contract.¹⁶

The KPSRL Secretariat also collected regular feedback on satisfaction with the facilitation methods employed in learning events. Through post event surveys, the KPSRL Secretariat found that it relied too much on panel structures followed by break-up groups or Q&A and began introducing a broader variety of participatory methods, such as world café’, fishbowls, workshops formats, and intimate conversation formats.¹⁷ The driving idea has been that KPSRL network participants are more likely to learn and engage when they share their experiences with each other, rather than when they listen passively. Through further feedback from network participants to these innovations, the KPSRL Secretariat further nuanced the picture. Post-event surveys showed that more participatory methods were broadly appreciated but not always rated better than the more passive panel structure. It was the variety that mattered, as well as matching the right method with the situation. Alternating participatory and passive events and, for larger events, allowing participants to pick sessions with more or less active set-ups that fitted their energy levels and confidence seems to best fit the evidence.

3.2.3 Evolution in the approach to knowledge uptake

At the start of the current iteration, guidance on knowledge uptake was present only for the KMF.¹⁸ The MTR confirmed that this was a gap and found that stakeholders wished for the KPSRL Secretariat to engage more in translating complex insights, theories, and data into “and so what” insights that they could practically implement.

When asked for advice on learning, the KPSRL Secretariat began stressing the importance of designing clear objectives and trajectories from the outset, with interconnected sequences of events held together by the same objective, approach, and thematic focus.

The KPSRL Secretariat began work to close the gap in knowledge uptake in 2023. The PLI study on country-led knowledge brokering was a collaboration with the three other thematic Knowledge Platforms of the Dutch MFA, and offered first insights on a more locally-led, complex-aware approach to knowledge uptake.¹⁹ The KPSRL then mapped the process through which it structurally enters into dialogue with producers of knowledge on the best pathways for the uptake of their knowledge products. This includes audience, formats and methods for distilling processes, implement uptake trajectories, and follow up on impact.²⁰

The KPSRL made knowledge uptake a focus for 2024 and 2025 to ensure uptake of the findings of a wide variety of research and events during that iteration. In 2024, the KPSRL Secretariat focused its knowledge uptake work on four thematic areas: i) people-centred approaches, ii) locally led development, iii) roots of disagreement, and iv) learning about learning. It developed a methodology for a series of distilling papers that aimed to summarise all work done by the KPSRL on these themes into short papers of ten to fifteen pages. The papers included



16 Systematic feedback on events was collected with post-event surveys.

17 Annual report 2023, and internal concept note on KPAC24.

18 Internal KMF guidance on knowledge uptake.

19 PLI study on country led knowledge brokering.

20 Internal guidance on knowledge uptake, currently available only on Miro.

a backward look at the main insights contained in the KPSRL sources, a rapid review of the broader literature, and a forward-looking exploration of practical implications.

3.3 A conflictual, imperfect process of learning

Key points:

- The KPSRL learning and reform trajectory was the result of conflictual forces inside an environment with fundamental areas of uncertainty.
- The KPSRL generally moved towards a more equitable, inclusive, and effective platform with many hiccups and stops.²¹

The body of knowledge is constantly changing for SROL, or for overarching issues such as decolonisation/localisation and partnerships on international cooperation. New pieces of work are produced and published constantly in different places and forms. In the experience of KPSRL staff, keeping track of and ‘brokering’ all academic research proved impossible.

The KPSRL staff never knew perfectly the interest and absorption capacity across the network for thematic and methodological issues. Therefore, every new activity involved an almost anxious wait for the reaction and responsiveness of network participants. However, the KPSRL Secretariat had set monitoring tools such as post-event surveys through which to explore in detail complaints (and positive feedback) about the relevance and quality of themes and events, and could rapidly improve practice in case of a setback.

Learning processes proved not to be rational, linear, and simple processes moving from generating knowledge to uptake into policymaking and programming processes. Policymaking processes have increasingly revealed themselves to be shaped by other factors aside from the content of knowledge and learning processes.

The objective of learning better proved harder to pin down into effective, tangible learning processes and activities with a demonstrable added value to practitioners, and even harder to facilitate outside organisational boundaries.

With the decolonisation of development debate, the concept of knowledge(s) itself came under critique. Decolonial theory revealed the hierarchy of knowledge implicit in the sector, which places at the bottom “simple”, unreliable reflections from those who live through situations of conflict and instability and at the top complex research processes mostly led by Northern-led academic or research institutions. Decolonial theory also pointed to the fact that academic methods of triangulation of multiple data sources are still affected by the unquestioned assumptions, ideologies, and worldviews that shape what people consider important, real, or trustworthy. It also revealed how terminology/jargon used can serve as a way to maintain this hierarchy of knowledge in place.

In some cases, the KPSRL staff found new ways forward, such as the introduction of events that focused on lived experiences in the Fireside-peace chat series and in KPAC23 and KPAC24. Or an event on the role of art in peacebuilding. Yet, a layer of scepticism lingered on the viability to move beyond these hierarchies of knowledge.

²¹ Stories of changes collected for this end evaluation from KPSRL staff and CPs.

Concepts such as equitable partnerships, real participation, or decolonisation/localisation have multiple, constituent dimensions, and piece-meal reforms were always open to conflictual interpretations: did the reform fall short to truly implement the concept, or did it achieve what it could in the context? This pitted more and less radical, progressive, and conservative interpretations on direction, scale, and possibilities for change against each other, with the KPSRL Secretariat more willing to trial new ideas and management team more focused on managing reputational risks with the donor. At times, stakeholders accepted imperfect compromises as valuable and sometimes not. Change was a conflictual process.

Finally, the future of the KPSRL and the sector overall remained shrouded in uncertainty from 2022 when the MTR began to address the shape of a possible new phase of the KPSRL until late in 2024 when DSH communicated that it would not renew the KPSRL for a next phase. This uncertainty has affected the Secretariat's room for manoeuvre and energy, even if it did not result from anyone's ill intentions or bad faith.



4 Effectiveness and Impact

4.1 Trends in performance at output and outcome level

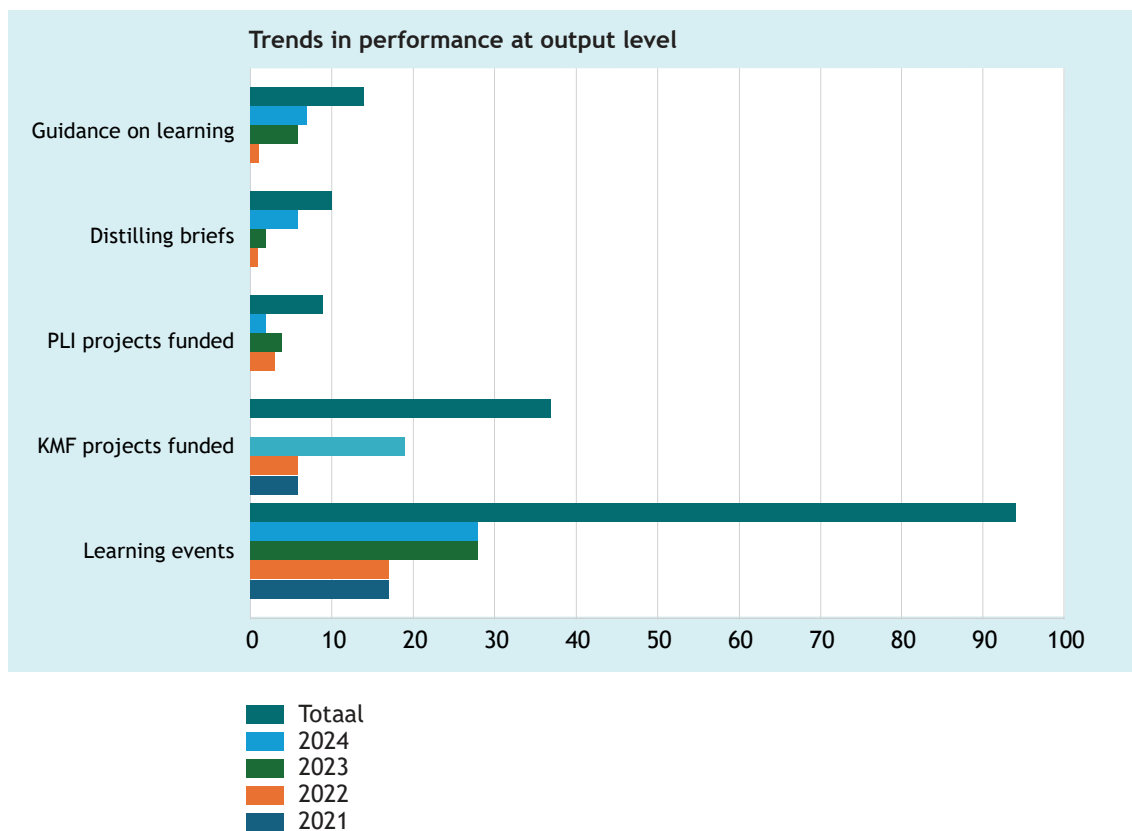
4.1.1 Performance at the output level

Key points:

- The KPSRL performed strongly at the output level in 2021, dipped slightly in 2022, and returned to strong performances in 2023 and 2024.
- In 2021, the KPSRL Secretariat continued seamlessly implementation of the same approaches of the previous phase without conduct of inception-like activities of context analysis, reflection, and reforms.
- These activities happened in 2022 instead, including deeper reforms of the KMF, the design of the PLI, and the introduction on new event series and ways of partnering with network participants.

Figure 1 provides summary trends on learning events, KMF projects, PLI projects, learning briefs, and learning and uptake guidance. Deep blue represents values for 2021, pale blue, orange for 2022, green for 2023, azure for 2024, and purple the totals.

Figure 1 Trends in performance at the outcome level



A brief overview of the KPSRL outputs

1. The KPSRL Secretariat organised 94 learning events open to network participants, of which 20 in 2021, 17 in 2022, 28 in 2023, and 28 in 2024. Annex three contain the complete list of KPSRL events.
2. The KPSRL Secretariat funded a total of 37 KMF projects, of which 12 in 2021, 6 in 2022, and 19 in 2023. Annex four contains the complete list of KMF projects.
3. The KPSRL Secretariat funded . It has funded a total of nine PLI projects three PLI projects in 2022, four in 2023, and two in 2024. Annex five contains the full list of PLI projects
4. The KPSRL Secretariat has published ten learning briefs, a growing trend that started with one in 2021, one in 2022, two in 2023, and six in 2024. Annex six contains the list of learning briefs.
5. The KPSRL provided methodological guidance on uptake and learning fourteen times, once in 2022, six times in 2023-, and seven-times in 2024.

Learning events

Overall, KPSRL events have:

- Explored SROL practices emerging from implementation of Dutch MFA programmes.²²
- Supported localisation and decolonisation reform processes across the SROL sector.
- Explored the concept and implications of inclusive social contracts for the SROL sector, focusing on inclusivity, authoritarian trends, and polarisation of political opinions.
- Been a vehicle to connect experiences of living and working in FCAS with policy and programming spaces (since 2022).
- Covered learning about learning, including processes of adaptive management, political economy, and co-creation of knowledge.
- Explored mental health support in conflict situations and SROL support as part of a feminist foreign policy.

Starting from 2023, the KPSRL Secretariat focused on shaping a coherent trajectory for the thematic headline on inclusive social contracts with more and better prepared and linked events and this accounts for the increase in the number of events: once a plan was in place it was easy to add additional relevant events falling under it.

The KPSRL adapted the format of its events to the context and the learning objectives. In 2021 most events took place online because of restrictions connected to the Covid pandemic. Starting from 2022, the KPSRL returned to in person events, many of which took place in the Hague, but some in Sweden, Switzerland, Burundi, Kenya, Somaliland, Senegal, and Uganda. The Annual Conference of 2021 and 2022 were completely hybrid, to accommodate Covid restrictions, whereas KPAC 2023 and 2024 took place mostly in person and spread two events and multiple days: one in a partner country (Kenya and Senegal) and one in the Hague. The KPSRL continued to hold open webinars on Zoom to reach a broader audience in 2023 and 2024. It also held closed doors events for policymakers, especially at the Dutch MFA.

The post-events surveys conducted from 2021 to 2024 allowed to identify **recurring factors for the successful hosting and facilitation of events.**

1. Amount of preparation into the shaping of a varied and time-efficient agenda.
2. Participants have equal speaking authority.
3. Online sessions are short, no longer than one hour and a half.
4. Venues are fit-for-purpose, not excessively formal unless this is needed.
5. Speakers do not take up too much time in presentations or panel discussions. Instead, sessions include adequate dialogue time.
6. Adequate methods are employed to ensure interaction, such as world café' and fish-bowls.
7. Network participants are not overburdened with requests for inputs in advance (providing strategic points for input).
8. Participants are involved in developing recommendations emerging from events.
9. Events and communication material use as little jargon as possible.



²² Such as the Addressing Root Causes (ARC) programme, the SROL programme of the Dutch Embassy to Somalia, and the Mine Action programme of DSH

PLI and KMF projects

The KPSRL made progress on the design and implementation of PLI projects, rapidly scaling up design and implementation in 2023 after a slow start in 2022.

Only one KMF project has been unsuccessful in delivering the expected outputs.²³ All PLI projects have been completed as planned.

The KMF has funded a variety of learning questions emerging from network participants, including novel approaches to security sector reforms, peacebuilding, legal aid, learning about learning, feminist foreign policy, business operations in FCAS, and human rights.

Nine lead KMF grantees out of 37 were based in the Netherlands, ten in other countries of the majority world (Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Romania, the UK, and the US), and the rest between middle- and low-income countries (Eswatini, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Serbia, Somaliland, South Africa, Tunisia, and Uganda). Nevertheless, Europe-based grantees were at times part of the diaspora from conflict or instability affected countries, including from countries whose residents are inaccessible to international funding for SROL (such as Afghanistan and Myanmar). Contrariwise, some KMF grantees formally based in partner countries were national offices of international NGOs.

The PLI has funded projects that held regular learning events inside Dutch funded SROL programmes, the consolidation and creation of knowledge through research projects by programming partners, and the employment of learning officers inside these programmes. Thematically, the PLI projects funded learning on the locally led development approach, relationships with counterpart governments, sustainability, and research on the concepts of programmatic learning and country-led knowledge brokering.

Guidance and advice to network participants

The approach to producing learning briefs on thematic issues was formally introduced in 2023, after unsystematic forays in this area in 2021 and 2022.²⁴ In 2024, the KPSRL Secretariat introduced the dedicated series of distilling briefs. With the updated TOC of 2023, the KPSRL also introduced a role for the Secretariat to provide guidance to network members on learning, but almost immediately DSH asked the Secretariat to de-emphasize work in that area since DSH did not perceive it as the most relevant form of KPSRL activity.²⁵

Reflecting the fact that the TOC intervened later to systematise the approach in this area, the learning briefs have taken a variety of forms. For example, in 2021 the KPSRL Secretariat conducted a meta-evaluation of programmes managed by DSH under the Dialogue and Dissent funding window (learning brief downloaded 33 times).²⁶ In 2022, the KPSRL produced

23 The unsuccessful KMF project aimed to involve Afghanistan-based stakeholders in reflections on a new Afghan social contract, but this proved ultimately unfeasible in the aftermath of the Taliban take-over of Afghanistan.

24 A meta-evaluation was produced in 2021 and a report for the annual trajectory on social contracts in 2022.

25 Annual plan 2024.

26 Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law, and Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. “Learning from Evaluation: A Meta-Analysis of the Dialogue & Dissent Strategic Partnerships with DSH.” January 18, 2022. <https://kpsrl.org/publication/learning-from-evaluation-a-meta-analysis-of-the-dialogue-dissent-strategic-partnerships-with-dsh>.

two event reports for regional and global learning events of the ARC programme. In 2023, the KPSRL summarised the insights that emerged from the 2022 trajectory on social contracts (downloaded 70 times), contributed to a newspaper article on the state of democracy support, and summarised the discussions that were held at KPAC23 in Nairobi (downloaded 40 times). In 2024, the KPSRL produced two distilling papers on the themes of localisation and people-centred approaches to development.

The methodological guidance on learning also took a variety of formats, adapting in this case to the contexts in which network members asked for advice and guidance. In 2022, the KPSRL Secretariat provided a short informal guidance note to the Dutch Embassy to Somalia and its programming partners on the quality of evidence that can emerge from programming. Alongside this, it held informal exchanges with the Land-at-Scale programme of RVO and the University of Utrecht to shape their approach to learning. In 2023, the KPSRL Secretariat contributed to shape a Broker-led study that provided insights on country led brokering to four thematic knowledge platforms of the Dutch MFA: KPSRL, INCLUDE, Share-Net, and the Netherlands Food Partnership. Furthermore, the KPSRL provided methodological inputs to the Team Europe Democracy (TED) network when TED called for inputs during its inception phase. Finally, the KPSRL has provided methodological support to DSH in the identification of its learning questions through its staff member embedded inside DSH. Finally, the KPSRL Secretariat has held fluid conversations with at least other five network participants on their internal uptake and learning processes, such as GPPAC, Free Press Unlimited, International IDEA, Interpeace, Clingendael.²⁷

The KPSRL also expanded its approach to connecting with international partners, slowly building connections in Brussels, Berlin, and Stockholm. It also introduced a new approach to the Annual Conference and held it for the first time in a partner country (Kenya).

4.1.2 Performance at the outcome level

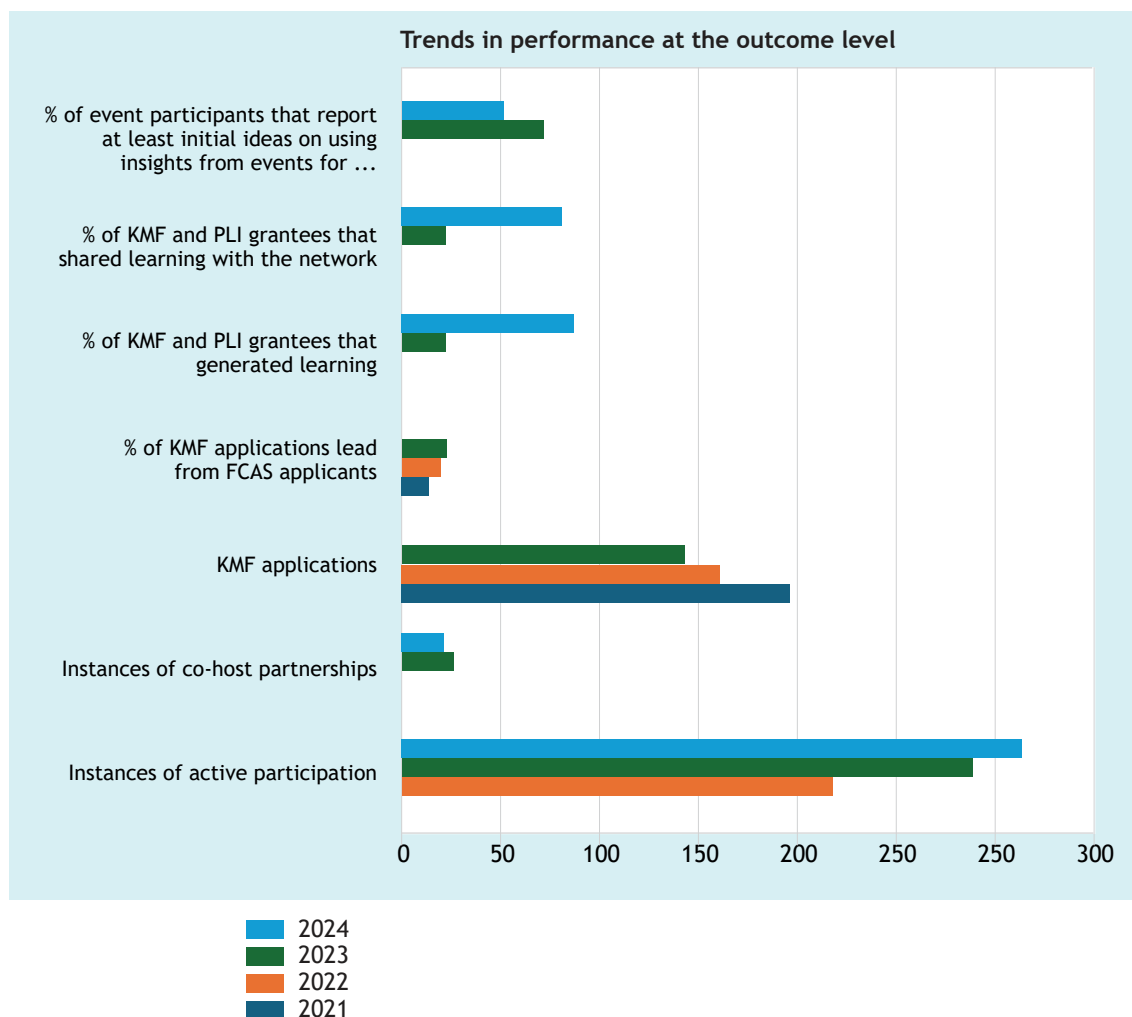
Key points:

- Active participation in the KPSRL decreased between 2021 and 2022 and then rose from 2022 to 2024.
- Multiple lines of evidence confirm that KPSRL events and projects have been effective avenues to interrogate and generate new knowledge on SROL.

Figure 2 presents a performance trends at the outcome level. Deep blue represents values for 2021, pale blue, orange for 2022, green for 2023, azure for 2024, and purple the totals.

²⁷ This happened through short, informal meetings, listening to their problems and concerns and sharing experience and resources.

Figure 2 Trends in performance at outcome level



The KPSRL Secretariat revised its outcome-level indicators in 2023 during the update of the TOC and RBF, therefore values for 2021 are sometimes not available. For example, data on active participation is not available for 2021 because in 2023 the KPSRL Secretariat has shifted from monitoring passive participation to monitoring active participation.²⁸

Active participation to knowledge processes

The annual report 2022 and the MTR identified a trend of participation fatigue when measuring passive participation. However, the data on active participation (defined as providing inputs to the KPSRL Secretariat or sharing information as speaker or co-host at events or podcast episodes) shows a consistent growing trend from 2022 to 2024.²⁹



28 Passive participation was defined as acts of consumptions of KPSRL learning activities, especially being a participant to KPSRL events and downloading KPSRL learning briefs and KMF knowledge products.

29 Instances of real participations are measured as KPSRL network participants acting as speakers or co-hosts at KPSRL events, as active participants to co-creation/participatory workshops, and providing direct inputs for the thematic headline and the annual conference.

The MTR made sense of the 2022 figures in terms of a cost-benefit analysis that linked participation to an implicit cost-benefit analysis by participants that balanced the costs in time and resources with the benefits of participation. Continuing this line of argumentation leads to conclude that the KPSRL has been able to re-design participation to ensure that the balance between costs and benefits was better. This was done by:

- Conducting post-event surveys after each event to collect rapid feedback on participants' satisfaction with events, with easy to track quantitative indicators of satisfaction and qualitative comments on weak points and suggestions to improve.
- Taking seriously the feedback rather than remaining defensive.
- Experimenting with different approaches because it was not always clear about how to move forward in implementing feedback, therefore experimenting was the only possibility.
- Combining preparation and facilitation tasks by the KPSRL Secretariat as a service to participants (to reduce costs of participation) with inputs from participants on the direction and key choices of the process (to maximise the benefits of participation).

The dip in participation between 2021 and 2022 also reflected the internal reforms of the KPSRL which absorbed more of the Secretariat time than in 2021 or 2023. Among these reforms were the KMF reform process, the design of the PLI, the design of the new series of events "Fireside Peace Chat" dedicated to lived experiences of working in FCAS, and an expansion in the networking activities of the Secretariat.

As the number of instances of active participation has grown, the KPSRL network has also changed. Originally, the KPSRL network was constituted by a closely connected core of active Dutch NGOs and DSH. Starting from 2022, the KPSRL Secretariat made conscious efforts to diversify the KPSRL network with events targeted to university students, outreach to activists, and efforts to expand participation in partner countries. By 2024, staff of Dutch INGOs and DSH remained the core of KPSRL participants to activities connected to Dutch funded programmes, but alongside them, KPAC23 and KPAC24 had a large participation of regionally based SROL practitioners, and the Fireside Peace Chats attracted university students based in the Hague.

Researchers have been less represented in the KPSRL network for the entirety of the current phase. They were already only 12,3% of participants to KPSRL events in 2021.³⁰ This trend continued, and the KPSRL's emphasis on forms of knowledge other from scientific research did not help in attracting more researchers (even though it attracted some academics that were experimenting with the same methodological choices).

75% of endline survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "the KPSRL is attracting the right mix of participants".

The MTR found that the main reasons network participants engaged with the KPSRL was to access helpful learning/evidence (4.2 out of a five-point scale), to network with SROL actors (4.0) and to share what they know (4.0). Access to decision makers and funding were less important, probably because the large INGOs that constituted the core of participants already had alternative channels for that. The endline evaluation found that motivation to participate strengthened across the board and that the order of priorities partly shifted. Sharing knowledge, experience, and recommendations became the most important reason for participating



30 Compared to 14,9% of policymakers and 50,1% of practitioners (18,5% were included in the "other" category). Annual report, 2021.

(4.35), followed by networking (4.34), and accessing evidence and learning opportunities (4.3). This tracks with the Secretariat’s pivot towards “active participation”.

Knowledge interrogation and generation

The number of KMF applications received stands in as an imperfect measure of efforts by network participants to identify knowledge gaps. KMF applications have consistently remained high, with a total of 506 applications divided into 196 applications in 2021, 161 in 2022, and 149 in 2023. The KMF funded only 37 applications, less than 10% of the total, meaning that most of the identified knowledge gaps have gone unmet by the KMF. It is plausible, however, that network participants whose KMF applications were rejected could have sometimes found other ways to fill the identified knowledge gaps, including through internal resources.

The KPSRL has expanded access to the KMF to applicants from partner countries. Applications from entities established in FCAS have grown from 14% in 2021 to 23% in 2022. In 2023, 42% of applicants were based either in FCAS or in low-income partner countries (LICs).

The KMF and PLI reports and workshops with grantees show that both instruments have been effective in generating learning and sharing it with the broader network. 87% of KMF and 81% of PLI grantees reported to have shared generated learning with the KPSRL network. PLI projects’ longer timeframes and budget were an advantage in including uptake events as was the support provided by the Secretariat staff for the uptake process (for example organising dedicated events for uptake with KPSRL network members). KMF reports have mentioned generating insights on current SROL issues, but also on the process of learning itself. As an example, Penal Reform International has reported that they have learned on the process of including people with lived experiences in policy processes as much as about prisons’ conditions and opportunities for reform in Armenia.

Responses to a post-event survey show that participants to KPSRL events gained at least initial ideas for reforming their organisations and practices.³¹ These ideas took many forms, not necessarily: “I have heard something that I had never heard before, which answers a burning question and I can directly apply it to my daily work”. The ideas ranged, instead, from nuancing solid pre-existing working knowledge, to expanding participants’ knowledge of who they can connect with to know more or collaborate with, to adopting entirely new lenses, perspectives, or methods. More intimate and longer participatory workshops have been more effective in generating actionable recommendations compared to shorter events in the format of webinars. Figure 3 provided some examples.

³¹ Annual report 2024 and 2023. For 2023, 72% of respondents to post-event surveys reported that they had at least an initial idea on how to put in practice insights gathered at KPSRL events, and in 2024 it was 52%.

Figure 3 Comments from participants to KPSRL events on how they plan to make use of insights they got from these events.

From a KPAC23 participant:

“Building on some of the ideas shared at KPAC23 in Nairobi, I’m interested in exploring how we can use mutual capacity assessments and mutual accountability frameworks to strengthen power-sharing with our partners”.

From a participant to a webinar on working in and on authoritarian regimes, thematic headline for 2023:

‘I believe we have come out with clear set of arguments on why and how to stay engaged in the support of rule of law even in closing autocratic spaces and why it matters to take collective action explaining it in the Global North.’

From a participant to the launch of a KMF report on mental health support in the case of atrocity crimes:

“We are currently working on something similar, so this meeting was aligned with our own discussions and adds extra momentum. I would like to improve our practices, but it is difficult to make an internal change w/o having some standards which i could refer to.” (the event showcase standards for mental health support in the case of atrocity crimes)

The surveys conducted for the MTR and endline evaluations allowed to triangulate the findings presented above. Over 50% of the respondents to the MTR survey answered 4 or 5 out of 5 points to the question “To what extent has engagement with KPSRL enabled you to learn (e.g. enabled changes in your knowledge, skills or attitude)?” The average was 3.4. When the question was repeated at the endline survey, 48% answered 4 or 5 out of 5 points, and the average was 3,5.

Figure 4 presents some example from the comments with which the survey respondents have explained their answers.

Figure 4 Comments from survey respondents on how and what they learned through participation to KPSRL

“I would not say that our organisation or myself have fundamentally changed due to our engagement with KPSRL. Instead, this engagement has allowed us to refine our skills and reinforce our unique contributions to the field. This improvement is attributed to the access we’ve had to other experts, including both practitioners and decision-makers, who share similar interests and goals.”

“The research that is supported by the KPSRL has given me a lot of new insights and access to knowledge that I would otherwise not have easily found.”

“KPSRL has deepened our knowledge and enhanced our capabilities of relevant and innovative strategies in promoting rule of law and security in a fragile and conflict effected situations in Nigeria.”

“I worked in a security mechanism and attending last year’s conference in Nairobi, learning from the conference guide me on how to navigate on my role of protection of women, girl, boys, elderly, PLWD and other vulnerable groups on how to amplify the voices.”

“I learned key resilience skills from a Lebanese speaker in KPSRL event in The Hague back in 2022. She was kind enough to spend some time talking to me after her presentation, and she focused on very specific skills to resist authoritarian responses to civil society in mass media, which is an emerging trend (swiftly becoming a huge social issue threatening civil society activities) in Mexico. I brought her experience back to my organization, we discussed how we could adapt the Lebanese strategies in Mexico, and that lead to an amazing brainstorm to improve how we respond to governmental attacks.”

“KPSRL has allowed me to engage in enriching discussions on complex issues I already knew about. In this sense, it has deepened my knowledge, but not really created new areas of learning as such.”

“Particularly the theme of the social contract has added new insights in my work on land governance.”

4.2 Change at the intermediate outcome and impact levels

Key points:

- The endline evaluation has collected 51 stories of change at the intermediate outcome level, 21 of which have progressed to the impact level (annex five contains all the 51 stories of change).³²

The reported changes related to:

- The policy making of DSH in the Dutch MFA.
- Specific working practices and approaches inside a programme or organisation in the SROL sector.
- The behaviour of communities in partner countries.
- Content of educational curriculum.
- Perceptions of a concept across the network.
- Enhancing an organisation’s reputation in the sector.³³

KMF and learning events have generated the highest number of stories of change, followed by KPSRL advice on learning and the PLI.

³² The endline evaluation has not captured all the stories of change to which the KSPRL has contributed. Rather, it has captured the stories that emerged through data collection methods that have identified the contributions of those who have taken the time and interest to fill in the survey, as well as of the KPSRL Secretariat, Consortium partners, and KMF and PLI grantees.

³³ Through the production and consolidation of externally published knowledge.

- 21 stories of change emerged from KMF project. This finding confirms the KMF as an effective instrument of change.³⁴
- KPSRL events have generated 15 stories of change, eight of which related to long-term trajectories, which are combinations of learning events, and seven by standalone learning events. This means standalone events do have scope for change as well.³⁵
- Advice and capacity support provided by the Secretariat was a much smaller part of the KPSRL portfolio and generated eight stories of change, confirming the effectiveness of this intervention strategy.³⁶
- The PLI generated seven stories of change out of a portfolio of nine projects.

Stories of change involved most frequently DSH’s programming partners, followed by DSH itself and the Dutch Embassies.

Below four stories of changes, chosen as examples of their variety.

Creating pathways for more equitable partnerships in Somalia and beyond

The PLI project awarded to the Somali NGO allowed the programming partners implementing the Dutch SROL programme in Somalia to develop and consolidate their thinking and learning on four issues of relevance to their and the MFA’s work. The NGO coordinated the three international NGOs to make sure that each organization had the opportunity to work on and share the issue on which they were strongest. The Somali NGO drafted a paper on equity, diversity, and inclusion in consortia partnerships, leveraging their privileged position in three different consortia. One of the INGOs worked on sustainability thinking, building on their strong approach to hand over to the Somaliland Ministry of Justice the management of their Alternative Dispute Resolution Centres. The second INGO worked on cross-cutting issues, given their keen interest in mainstreaming gender and mental health. The third worked on links with local government.

The MFA leveraged the deliverables of the PLI project by providing additional funding to the Somali NGO to create workshops for policymakers using the content of the study on equity, diversity, and inclusion produced with PLI funding. The NGO implemented workshops at the embassies of Rwanda, Yemen, Sudan, and Ethiopia and with policymakers in The Hague working on an equitable partnership approach for a new tender. In parallel, one of the INGO’s staff reported that insights from the study on equity, diversity, and inclusion are slowly travelling up its organizational hierarchy from their Somaliland office to regional and headquarter offices.

The PLI funded study on sustainability influenced discussions and practice of other programming partners inside the Dutch SROL programme in Somalia on the topic.

34 However, it should not be overemphasized because the reporting of KMF grants has been better suited to capture stories of change compared to post-event surveys, and there were many more KMF projects than PLI projects.

35 Of course, the overall number of standalone events is higher than the overall number of trajectories.

36 But also the fact that network participants who ask for support are clearly those already engaged in processes of internal reform.

Improving the UN's ability to learn from evaluations

The KMF grant “Why does the UN not learn from evaluations” by a US-based researcher provided inputs for organizational change processes inside the UN. The project identified the barriers in the UN system that systematically prevented the UN from applying the lessons raised by evaluations. To meet these barriers, the project proposed that the UN re-contextualized its role, being in support rather than in lead, redefined what a successful transition meant, such as handing over government tasks to authorities, and became a platform for populations to have a dialogue with contextual benchmark. Additionally, it proposed that the UN uses all technical tools and joint planning across agencies to support a transition over time. Some UN colleagues and recent transition missions endorsed the paper, but some rejected it in support of the more traditional approach, especially thematic experts on SRoL. The paper was not meant to lead to direct operationalization and reform, and the fact that it informed some discussions when the Office of the Secretary General pushed reforms on these areas was enough of a success. Aside from this, its content flowed to a flagship course for UN staff.

Moving the LLD needle with Dutch INGOs and the MFA

Two Dutch INGOs mentioned that the KPSRL contributed to their internal reflections on the localisation agenda. They received inputs through general webinars, the meta-evaluation on dialogue and dissent which offered feedback on their practices as compared to those of peers, and also through the voices of Global South partners in the localisation trajectory.

One INGO's staff also mentioned that the Unboxing Localisation trajectory had a likely influence on the Dutch MFA's tender call on peacebuilding, in demanding that tenderers organise partnerships between INGOs and NGOs more equally than in the past. This was also confirmed by the survey.

Restoring relationships with the Kenyan police

Using KMF funding, a Kenyan NGO was able to rekindle the relationship with the National Police service, and implement targeted police intervention in a sub county of Nairobi county. The county was chosen because of the many cases of forced disappearances and extra judicial killings that police have been accused of. Research gathered from the pilot done in 2019-2020 pilot had shown that trauma and exposure to traumatic events was a leading cause of violent behavior in the police service, this also deeply impacted their intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships, to be have effective change, it was paramount to deal with the root cause. Awareness created by the implementation of the program allowed the officers to humanize themselves, and others, gaining a clear understanding that their behaviour was attributed to their life experiences and there was something they could do about it. This new knowledge helped them not only know themselves better, but also acknowledge that their superiors and the civilians they serve had undergone the same. This led to officers being tolerant, and more willing to listen, it also enhanced their coping mechanisms and reduced substance and alcohol addiction which greatly ails the National police service.

KPSRL stakeholders have generally judged the stories of change as important. In 2023, the MTR (N 50) had found that 30% of survey participants felt that the changes resulted from engaging with KPSRL were very or fairly significant. By the time of the endline evaluation (N 35), this percentage shot up to 71%.³⁷

Conversely, the percentage of survey respondents who experienced disappointments or feeling that they had not learned was one in five, down from one in four when the same question was included in the MTR survey.

4.3 KPSRL contribution to change at impact and outcome level

Collecting signs and stories of change is not enough to conclude that the KPSRL has contributed to them. This section brings together the evidence that supports KPSRL’s contribution. Table 1 summarises the evidence on the KPSRL contribution at intermediate outcome and impact level.

Table 1 Summary of evidence on KPSRL contribution

EVIDENCE	DOES IT SUPPORT KPSRL CONTRIBUTION?
Evidence 1 - Temporal patters of the stories of change	Yes, stories appear more frequently in 2023 and 2024
Evidence 2 - Self-assessment by network participants	Yes, see % of network participants that report to have perceived KPSRL contribution in the text below.
Evidence 3 - Tracing uninterrupted connections between outputs, outcomes, and impact	Yes, through a trend of increasingly positive performance at output and outcome level that connects to the stories of change.
Evidence 4 - Review of the validity of the assumptions in the updated TOC	Yes, for most assumptions (assumptions that have not been found valid are highlighted below).
Evidence 5 - Analysis of contribution claims contained in the stories of change	The stories of change contain explanations about the mechanisms through which contribution has operated. Often, these explanations include the KPSRL’s role.

³⁷ MTR and endline surveys.

Evidence line 1 | Temporal pattern of the stories of change

The number of stories of changes has steadily increased from 2021 to 2024, consistent with the pattern of contribution arising from the KPSRL as it moved towards the end of its implementation phase.

Evidence line 2 | Self-assessment by the KPSRL network participants

The endline survey directly asked whether respondents believed that the KPSRL had contributed to the stories of changes. 32% of respondents rated the KPSRL contribution as very significant, 21% as significant, and 15% as fair, making up a total of 68% of stories where they judged that the KPSRL contributed at least partly.³⁸ The MTR survey obtained similar results.

Evidence line 3 | Tracing uninterrupted connections between outputs, outcomes, and impact

The tracing of outputs and outcomes between 2021 and 2024 yields results that are consistent with the presence of an uninterrupted chain of connections between the KPSRL activities and the KPSRL intermediate outcome and impact. As seen in section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2., the KPSRL experienced a small dip in performance at output and outcome level during 2022 because it focused on internal reforms. Performance returned to strong and rising levels in 2023 and 2024.

Evidence line 4 | Review of the validity of the assumptions in the updated TOC

Secondly, a review of the assumptions contained in the updated TOC show that most of them have held true as expected.

Table 2 maps the evidence on the validity of the TOC assumptions on the connection between KPSRL outputs and outcome I, **knowledge exchange and interrogation**.

- Knowledge participants value diversity in knowledge exchanges in 2023 and 2024.
- KPSRL events were a safe space throughout implementation.
- Participation by network participants in KPSRL planning processes make learning events more relevant.
- The only assumption that did not hold true was: “distilling and disseminating key messages and findings in a digestible form and in the form of practical implications”... leads to learning. The evidence showed that distilling and disseminating key messages is not sufficient to guarantee that the KPSRL network will take them up.³⁹

38 The stories submitted by the 32% of survey respondents who denied KPSRL’s contribution have been excluded by the 51 stories of change considered here.

39 For example, the distilling papers on LLD and PCA were - for now - only launched to a select audience at KPAC24. The absence of a clear audience group defined by attendance to a coherent trajectory or even a single but important event such as KPAC prevented the distilling papers from being widely consulted. Further defining the audience and opportunities for uptake is a key task for 2025.

Table 2 Evidence on mechanisms and assumptions for outcome I - knowledge generation and interrogation

MECHANISMS AND ASSUMPTIONS	DO WE SEE EVIDENCE FOR IT?	
	2023	2024
Network participants will value diversity in knowledge exchanges.	Yes. Source: stories of change related to KPAC23, where the diversity of participants to KPAC23 in Nairobi was clearly connected to the event’s success.	Yes. Highly diverse events, such as the workshop of the Collaborative Study and KPAC24, were highly appreciated, both in terms of different methods used and different identities represented among participants.
KPSRL events are a “safe space” for learning.	Yes. Source: survey data shows that KPSRL event participants consistently rate KPSRL events as safe spaces.	Yes. Source: survey data shows that KPSRL event participants consistently rate KPSRL events as safe spaces.
The Secretariat distils and disseminates key messages and findings in a digestible form and identify practical implications.	Yes. Source: efforts to distil the insights emerging from work under the thematic headline 2022 in an analytical paper on social contract and to distil the main insights emerging from Nairobi Hub of KPAC23 in time for the Hague Hub of KPAC23 helped to ensure the discussions progressed.	Efforts to consistently distil results of long-term trajectories continued and scaled up in 2024, with distilling from the localisation trajectory, locally-led and people-centred approaches to development, and preparations for distilling on learning about learning and roots of disagreement and polarisation. Distilling directed to clear audiences was a success, when measured in terms of reach. For example, reports of KPAC23 and KPAC24 that were directed to KPAC participants showed 50 downloads and 56 downloads. Distilling directed to the public has not successful yet. After an informal launch at the KPAC market stand, the two distilling papers were downloaded only 11 times combined.
The network participates in identifying focus themes and exploring of interest and relevance.	Yes. Source: identification of theme of “Margins and Centres” for KPAC23 was done through participatory discussions with key network members. Around 60 network members responded to surveys for identification of thematic headlines 2022 and 2023.	Yes. Source: 67 network participants proposed ideas for the thematic headline of 2024 and 19 for KPAC24. There were no instances where network participants complained that KPSRL activities were irrelevant to their needs (KPSRL network participants could have remarked about irrelevance in post-event surveys, as they did, for example, in 2022.

Table 4 maps the evidence on the TOC assumptions for how outputs were expected to contribute to outcome II, **knowledge generation**.

- The assumption that PLI projects allowed network participants to allocate time, resources, and spaces for learning continued to be valid in 2024 as in 2023.
- Determining the effectiveness of providing support on “how to learn” to network participants was more challenging, because the KPSRL Secretariat received fewer demands for support on “how to learn”. That reflected DSH’s position that the Secretariat should not

focus on these areas of work, and so not develop and advertise this practice. To map its own learning journey and improve methodologies, the KPSRL Secretariat has internally continued to learn about “how to learn” and taken along interested participants on this trajectory.

- Motivation of network participants to share knowledge depended also on how prestigious an event was, as events like KPAC24 generated much more motivation than online webinars, and that meant that motivation cannot be assumed in the same way across the board of activities and events (as the TOC currently does).

Table 3 Evidence on mechanisms and assumptions for outcome II - knowledge generation

MECHANISMS AND ASSUMPTIONS	EVIDENCE FOR IT	
	2023	2024
Financial and technical support helps network participants to allocate time, resources, and ‘space’ for learning, and builds their motivation.	Yes. Source: PLI grants are particularly effective in creating time and space for programme-based staff to consolidate and share learning emerging from practice since they are larger and more connected to programming practice compared to the KMF. The KMF allowed grantees to try out new ways of learning in a safe space, so it removed the barrier of being risk averse of trying new methods.	Yes. Source: PLI grants remained effective in creating time and space for programme-based staff to consolidate and share learning emerging from practice. Once learning was identified and crystallised into products, further sharing and dissemination became easy (see the case of Media INK and its partnership with DSH to organise learning activities based on the knowledge products produced by the PLI).
Network members welcome the opportunities to generate learning.	Yes. Source: PLI’s projects showed that programming partners welcome the opportunity to generate learning from practice when they are given the opportunity to set the agenda for learning.	It was not possible to collect data on the network participants’ willingness to generate learning because the KPSRL Secretariat did not open a KMF window for 2024, and had limited opportunities for further KMF funding.

MECHANISMS AND ASSUMPTIONS	EVIDENCE FOR IT	
	2023	2024
<p>Some network participants receive support from the Secretariat on “how to learn”, which builds their capacity for learning, and some on thematic learning.</p>	<p>Yes. Technical support for learning is part of the package offered by the Secretariat to PLI partners, especially in terms of defining a learning agenda at the start of the programme. So far, all PLI projects are showing signs of contribution and impact.</p> <p>Two successful trajectories at programming level featured a central role for technical support on how to learn by the KPSRL Secretariat: the bilateral SRoL programme to Somalia and to the centrally funded demining programme.</p> <p>In other instances, network members reached out to the Secretariat demanding technical support, showing that there is a demand in the network for this type of support. Cases include GPPAC asking for Secretariat staff to sit on the reference group for its MTR and IDEA asking Secretariat staff to support with the implementation of its learning agenda.</p> <p>Alongside this methodological support, most of the KPSRL learning events, especially the ten on the social contract, were squarely about thematic learning or about methodological learning about the locally led approach or the people centred approach.</p>	<p>Compared to 2023, the KPSRL Secretariat was asked to provide fewer instances of support on “how to learn”. A substantial part of the guidance provided took place in the context of the Collaborative Study of the PLI, the partnership with the Dutch Embassy to Somalia, and in two workshops where PLI and KMF grantees discussed how they moved from generating knowledge to influencing policymaking and practice.</p> <p>“Support”, for a programme such as the KPSRL, does not necessarily mean technical support as in the context of consultancy services. It can mean (and has meant) the facilitation of meetings in which participants discuss their experiences on a horizontal basis.</p>
<p>Through its support to projects and network members, the Secretariat learns about ‘what works’ in terms of learning methodologies and re-applies this to its learning support.</p>	<p>Yes. Source: support provided to programming partners, such as IDEA and the programming partners of the bilateral SRoL programme to Somalia and of DSH centrally funded demining programme, built on lessons identified by reflecting on the Secretariat’s role as learning partner for the ARC programme. Insights put back into practice related, for example, to how to set up and facilitate communities of practices.</p> <p>The way in which the Secretariat explains the PLI instrument to PLI partners has changed through learning collected in the PLI learning journey, the conscious reflection of the Secretariat on its role as PLI funder. Learning revolved how to identify and facilitate PLI projects, how to understand co-creation, and the flexibility granted to programming partners in planning.</p>	<p>Yes, as recognised through post-event learning reflections, and on broader work done for the endline evaluation and for the learning about learning distilling.</p>

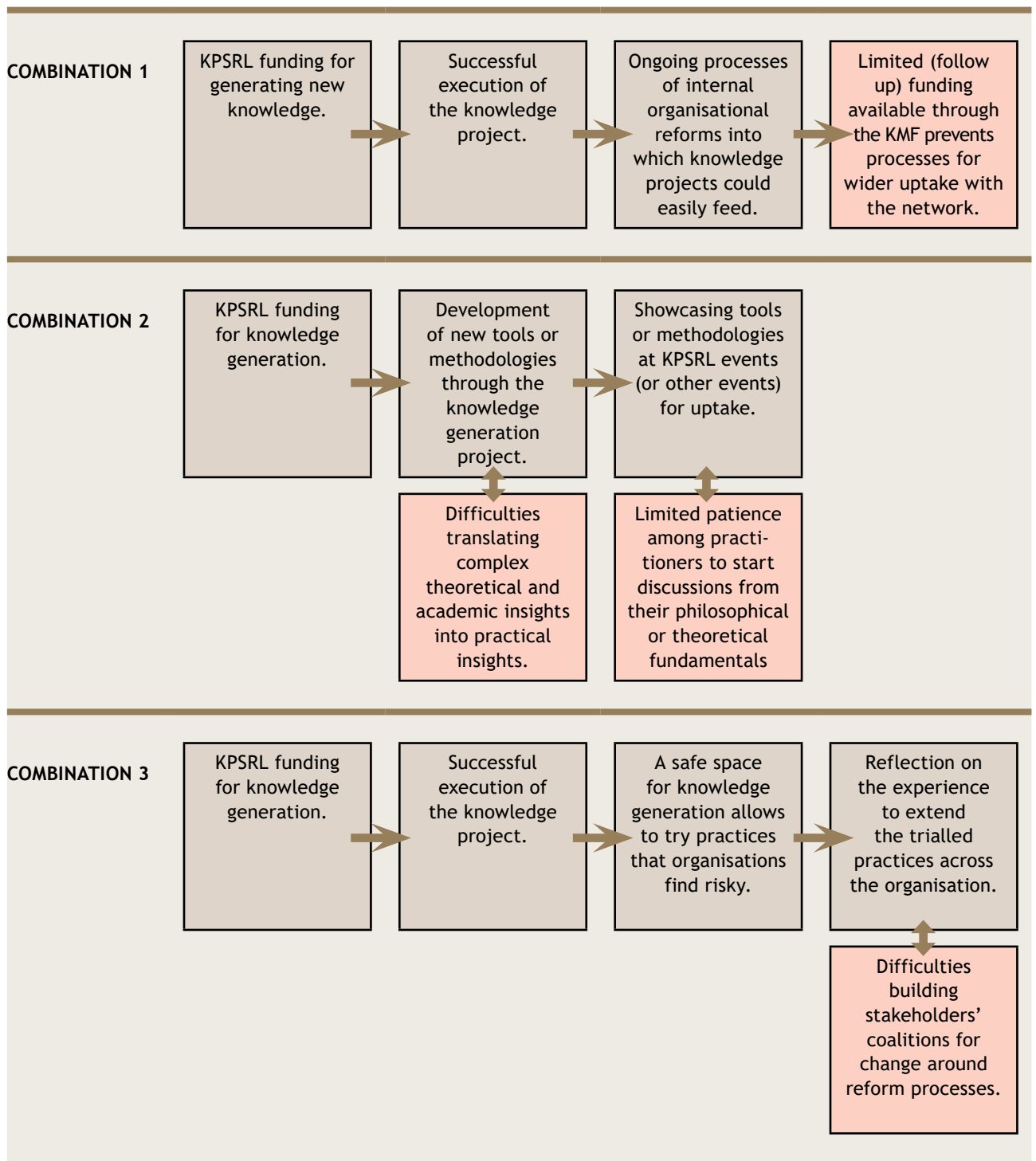
MECHANISMS AND ASSUMPTIONS	EVIDENCE FOR IT	
	2023	2024
	Source: the Secretariat used a small amount of PLI funds (less than 10% of total) for non-pilots’ projects dedicated to learning about learning. This led to understand better what country-led learning and co-created learning requires, and to the Secretariat to become a more flexible donor in the PLI projects.	
Network participants are motivated to contribute to the pool of knowledge within the network and to share their own learning.	<p>Yes. Source: KMF stories emphasise that KMF grantees share their findings through many channels, formal and informal.</p> <p>Thematic events and KPAC23 also saw vibrant participation, with no cases registered where network participants who had been identified as knowledge sources had refused to share their insights with the network.</p>	<p>The validity of this assumption is dependent on the context, on the trajectory for which it is made.</p> <p>The KPSRL Secretariat received 44 proposals for KPAC24 compared to 23 spots available, showing motivation of the network to contribute.</p> <p>But the KPSRL Secretariat received only two proposals, when it opened a similar call for proposal for the overall thematic headline.</p> <p>It seems that motivation of network participants to share depends also on how prestigious an event, as events like KPAC24 generate much more motivation than online webinars.</p>
Network participants wish to break down silos and work in a more collaborative way.	<p>Yes. Source: the approach of working holistically and across sectors was one of the key themes explored at KPAC23. KPAC23 participants were strongly in favour of it.</p> <p>Additionally, the 2023 calendar of events included multiple events at the boundaries of the KPSRL sector, including at the boundaries between SROl and democratisation, SROl and food security, SROl and climate change, SROl and feminism, and SROl and trade support.</p>	<p>Mostly yes. Source: KPAC24 left space for pushing sectoral boundaries of discussion, and the calendar of KPSRL continued to include events at the boundaries of the SROl sector, such as events on democratisation, feminism, and mental health support, albeit to a lesser extent compared to 2023.</p>

Evidence line 5 | Analysis of contribution claims contained in the stories of change

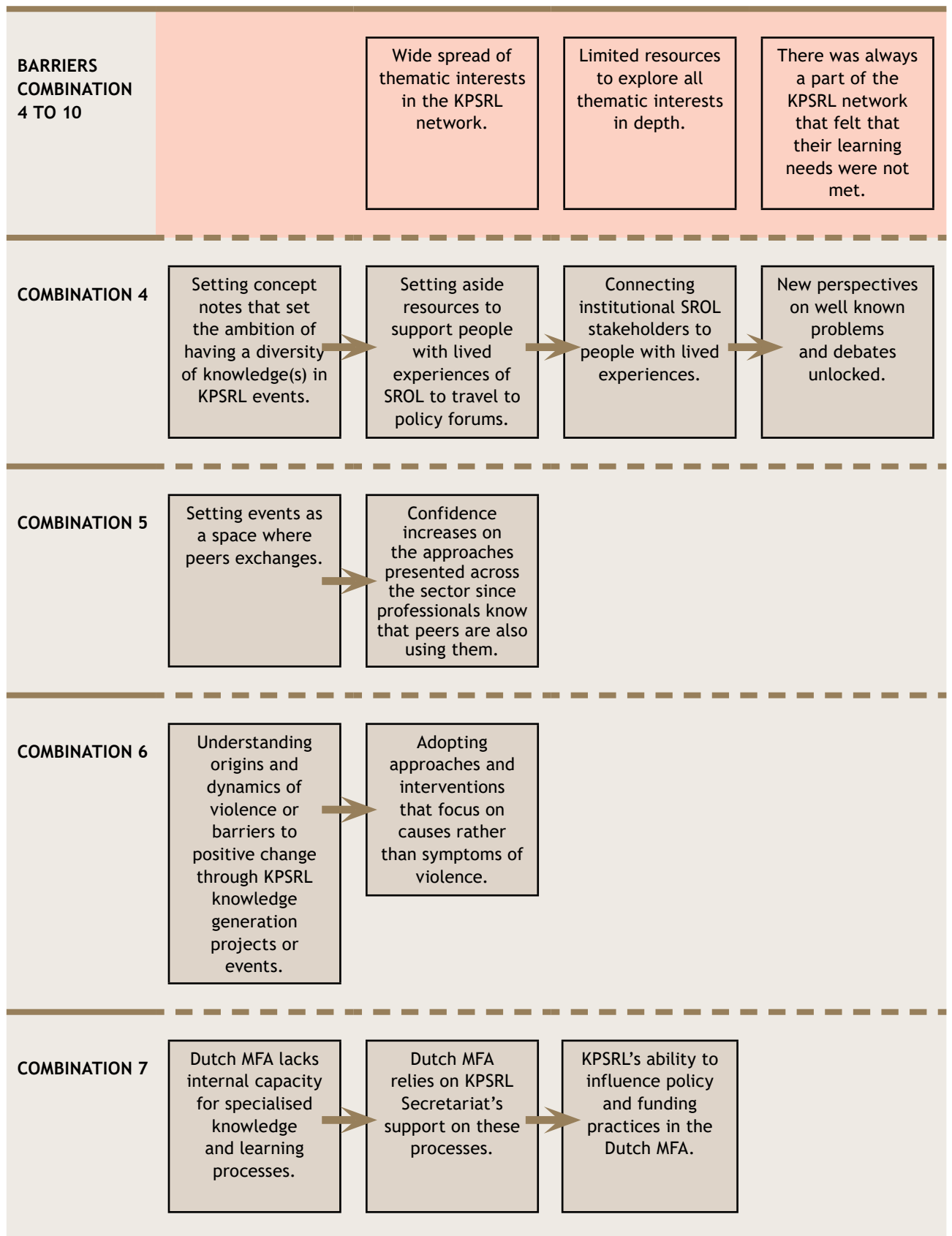
The stories of change contain explanations about the mechanisms through which contribution has operated. Often, these explanations include the KPSRL’s role.

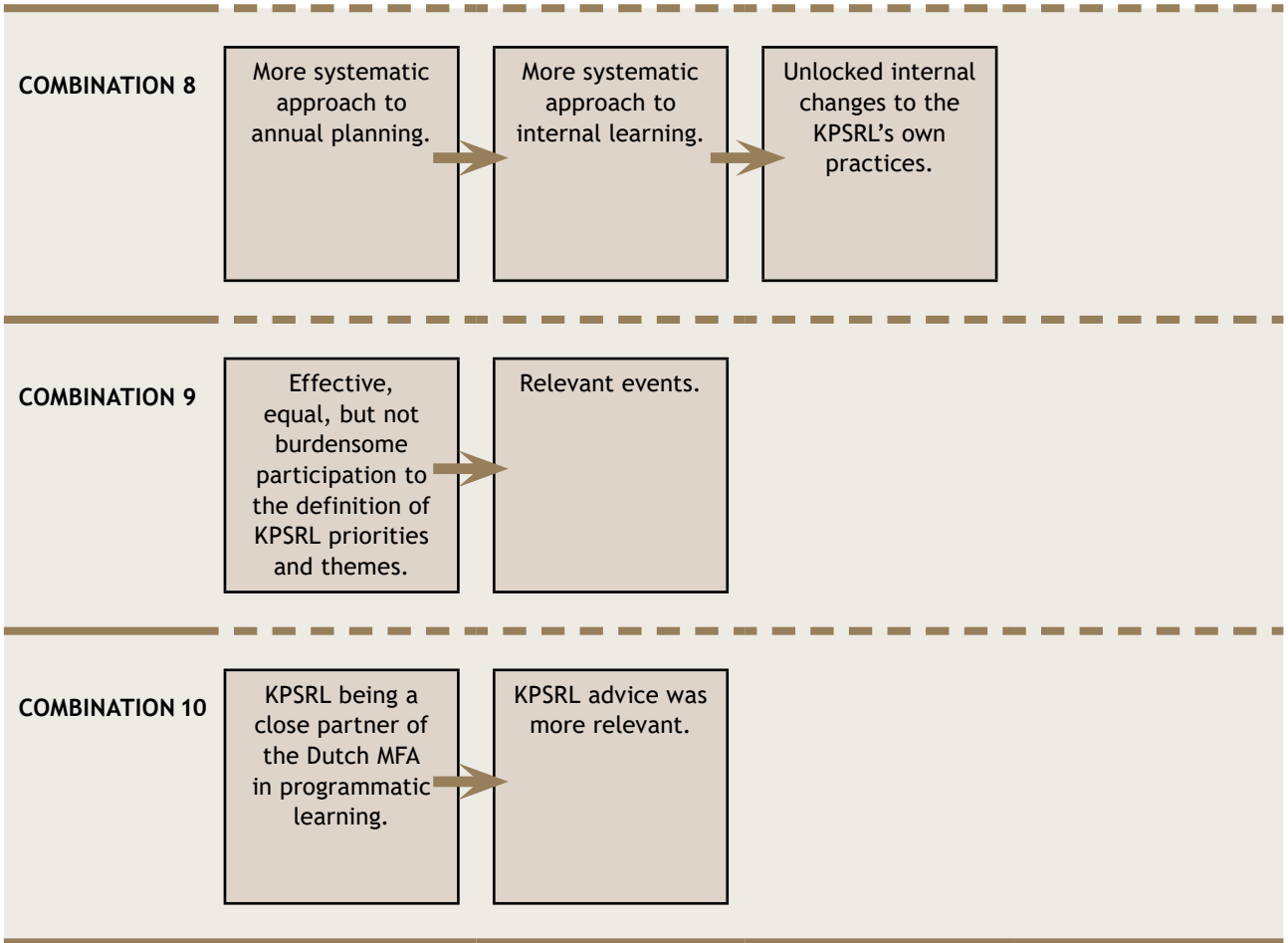
Table 1 presents an overview of mechanisms for change most frequently mentioned in the stories, as connected in ten combinations of factors that seem associated with change and four combinations of barriers preventing change.

Table 4 Mechanisms of contribution: factors and barriers to change



Combinations of factors for change
 Barriers to change





Factors for change

KPSRL's contribution from knowledge generation and consolidation activities has been significant whenever these activities built on already ongoing processes of organisational reform or policymaking. Excluding some of the PLI projects, KPSRL's funding was not large enough to support long-standing processes of organizational change and this is especially true of the KMF.

Learning connects to policy and practice change through multiple pathways including: i) the development on new tools and methodologies, ii) the creation of safe spaces for adoption of risky practices, iii) connections between diverse stakeholders, iv) peer learning, v) understanding the origins and dynamics of violence or barriers to positive change, vi) filling capacity gaps.

KMF has been particularly suited to developing new tools and methodologies since these processes require dedicated, paid staff time. Showcasing at KPSRL events has also been a pathway for the spread of new methodological tools.

The KMF has allowed grantees to introduce inside their organisations ways of working that were perceived too risky to introduce in mainstream programming. This was the case, for example, of the co-creation methodology or approaches to connect with people with lived experiences (for example in the stories of change involving Radboud University, the International Institute for Statelessness, and Penal Reform International).⁴⁰

Connecting institutional SROL actors with people with lived experiences of conflict and instability or country-based stakeholders was one of the most frequent pathways to impact in the second half of this KPSRL phase. As an example, SEMA mentioned that it copied the format and idea of KPAC23 for their flagship event in Uganda. Events that adopted the approach of placing lived experiences central tended to receive the highest scores of participants' satisfaction. For example, the 2023 event "Role of the arts in SRoL" or the 2024 launch for a KMF report on mental health were the highest rated KPSRL events.⁴¹

Learning from peers at KPSRL events and annual conferences has contributed to impact through copying what peers were doing, but also through re-assuring practitioners that their actions were reasonable. For example, Cordaid staff reported that the KPSRL events organized around the Covid crisis of 2021-2022 reassured them that they were responding in a reasonable way to the crisis, because peers were introducing similar measures.

The KPSRL offered additional capacity on learning to the Dutch MFA on four cases (explained in the relevant stories of change): the update of DSH's policy-level TOC in 2021-2022, the development of connected learning questions 2023, the role of programmatic learning partner for the Somalia SROL programme and DSH's mine action programme.

Elements of the KPSRL Secretariat's organisation have contributed to internal change processes: i) systematic, participatory, but flexible annual planning, ii) internal learning and capacity for methodology development, iii) effective, equal, but not burdensome participation from network participants.



40 Stories of change (see annex seven).

41 Post event surveys.

The KPSRL Secretariat reformed its annual planning process in 2023, focusing on explicitly building connections among events and trajectories during the year and combining initial efforts in December-January with systematic and regular updates of the annual plan as elements initially shrouded in uncertainty became clearer (an approach inspired by the adaptive management approach).

Work on internal learning included monthly and quarterly learning events through which the staff could make sense of their experiences. This contributed to rapid reforms of the KPSRL, team building, and to the MTR's finding that the KPSRL Secretariat collected systematic and complete monitoring data. The same MTR, however, reported that KPSRL staff and CPs preferred less learning meetings even if that would slow the pace of learning. During 2023 and 2024, learning meetings were held mainly to co-create new methodologies as needed by the KPSRL's changing practice, including the approach to hosting KPACs in partner countries, the approach to distilling papers, and the approach to developing communiques. Internal work to develop new methodologies as required was generally successful.

An example of methodological innovation

In shaping KPAC23 in Nairobi, the KPSRL had to adopt a new approach for theme selection, programme, funding some regional participants to travel to Nairobi, and logistical organization of Conference venue. In 2024, the challenge of hosting KPAC24 was an even greater challenge due to higher costs, language barriers, the sensitive political situation across the Sahel, and ambition for a more inclusive and co-created event. This necessitated updating the approach to KPAC again. The KPSRL Secretariat introduced:

- A proper process of consultation to identify Dakar as the location for KPAC24.
- An open call for co-hosts (whereas no such call was done in 2023).
- On-going engagement with the co-hosts in English and French also through early visits to Dakar.
- Shaping the call for proposals collaboratively with the co-hosts.
- Introducing new session formats that relied less on panels.
- Co-selecting winning proposals for sessions with the co-hosts.
- Significantly expanding support provided to network participants to travel to Dakar.
- Introducing a methodology for developing in real time a communique for KPAC24.
- Introducing, with mixed results, a translation system based on artificial intelligence.

Evidence of successful KPSRL internal learning also comes from comparing the barriers that respondents to the MTR and endline survey mentioned. Most of the barriers mentioned by the MTR in 2023 have not been mentioned by the respondents of the endline evaluation in 2024.

Table 5 Most barriers mentioned in the MTR were not mentioned in the endline evaluation

MTR SURVEY BARRIERS	ENDLINE SURVEY BARRIERS	REASONS FOR CHANGE OR NO CHANGE
Limited relevance of KPSRL themes and events.	Not mentioned.	More inclusive annual planning, stronger co-creation approaches.
Lack of follow-up to stand alone events.	Not mentioned.	Introduction of learning trajectories.
Openness of participants to KPSRL events to share failures and be candid.	Not mentioned.	Some KPSRL events had an explicit focus on sharing failures.
Time and internal capacity for and openness to learning processes.	Not mentioned.	Network participants internalised the call to invest more on learning. ⁴²
Translating complex theoretical and academic insights into practical insights.	Mentioned.	Insights from specific knowledge products and experiences not made sense of in a way that is relevant to the entire network. Partial success of distilling series.
Building coalitions for change.	Mentioned.	Coalition building takes more resources and time that would often be available. No resources for KPSRL Secretariat to accompany network participants in long-term and deep reform processes. A coalition building process has been tried with the Narrative Group, but not in a way that was pro-active enough. The coalition building remained at the level of sharing ideas and sharing comms.
Limited funding available for KMF.	Mentioned.	KMF funding amount remained EUR 20,000. In discussion with DSH, part of KMF funding moved to staff costs to cover increased inflation costs.

The KPSRL has contributed to this gradual shift by consistently raising the profile of investments in learning and leading by doing in prioritisation of learning about learning.⁴³

Barriers to learning

Translating complex theoretical and academic insights into practical insights remained an important barrier in the endline survey as it had been in the MTR one. Respondents felt that KPSRL resources or events at times lacked actionable recommendations, insights were general and not context specific or contrariwise too specific and not amenable to being applied to other contexts. They felt that knowledge was not always shared in a digestible format, for



42 For example, GPPAC hired their first learning officer in 2023, whereas International IDEA developed its first learning report in 2024.

43 Interviews with CPs for the annual report 2023.

example through long, technical reports. Indeed, many of the knowledge products available online have been accessed by fewer than ten times.

The KPSRL has introduced the distilling workstream in 2024 to respond to this challenge but with mixed success. The distilling papers have brought together insights and recommendations from all relevant KPSRL projects and events on four key topics (people centred approach, locally led approach, learning about learning, and roots of disagreement) into easy-to-read papers. Yet, the two completed distilling papers are still searching for their target audience (they have been downloaded only nineteen and twelve times respectively by 25.02.24).

Another way to respond to the challenge of translating complex theoretical and academic insights into practical insights was the introduction of a third day on the programme of KPAC23 and KPAC24. The third day was conceived as a sense-making moment through which participants could translate the disjointed insights generated by thematic sessions on day two into more coherent conclusions and recommendations. This approach was also met with mixed success. Day three allowed the distilling of core messages from across the multiple themes touched on day two but could never get to the practical level of actions that individuals attending to KPACs could take on the Monday morning after KPAC (that had been the ambition shared by some KPSRL network participants).

It might be that the barrier of translating complex theoretical insights into practical insights was never fully solved because there is a limit to how practical learning and discussions can be at sector wide level, or because additional work is required by network participants internally to adapt the inputs coming from the wider sector to their own specific objectives, questions, and approaches.

Building coalitions for change remained another large barrier to change in the endline survey. Respondents reported that securing the buy in for reforms from stakeholders internal to an organization remained a challenge, especially in the case of complex, bureaucratic organizations. The problem was even larger when stakeholders to be convinced belonged to different organisations or multiple levels of government.

Building coalitions tended to take more time and effort than expected even when efforts were considered to be successful by those involved. For example, Amnesty International considered its efforts in creating a stronger network of actors working on countering authoritarianism in El Salvador as successful (as part of a KMF process), but the longer than expected process of coalition building prevented it from actually leveraging the newly formed coalition to create and implement a counter-narrative to El Salvador's turn to authoritarian government (which had been the original goal of the KMF project).

The KPSRL Secretariat worked more effectively at the inter-organisational level rather than at the intra-organizational one. It did not have the resources nor the mandate for getting deep into processes of organisational reform of any network participants except for DSH and connected Embassies. However, in some cases KMF projects supported internal processes of changes in network participants (for example the KMF project awarded to the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy (NIMD) supported NIMD's internal localisation policy).

The KPSRL Secretariat worked on solving this challenge in the case of building a coalition for more effective advocacy among Dutch NGOs active in SROL which resulted in more coordinated advocacy, some better communication and the opening of KPAC24 The Hague flowing from

those discussions, but concrete joint action remained difficult and it did not lead in any change in government policy.

The endline survey confirmed that KPSRL's network participants have spread their interest over many topics. Coordinating interest on a handful of themes that the KPSRL can delve deeper into remained a challenge. Fifteen themes have scored high enough to justify investing time and resources in unpacking them. The areas of greatest interest have been in peacebuilding lessons sharing, inclusive governance/peace processes, mainstream gender in peace and security, asymmetric power and learning from specific contexts.

The KPSRL structure was a barrier to the KPSRL becoming more locally led, especially the fact that the KPSRL Secretariat was based entirely in the Hague, and the KPSRL Consortium did not include any organizations headquartered in partner countries. The KPSRL tackled this challenge by funding a comparison of the experiences of Dutch knowledge platforms through the PLI which revealed how other Dutch knowledge platforms had proceeded much further in localization and decolonising the platform. For example, Share Net, the Dutch knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health and rights, has moved to decentralise the Secretariat into seven hubs established in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and The Netherlands. As another example, INCLUDE had moved towards co-creating conferences in partner countries before the KPSRL did. The topic of governance reform was included in the MTR and tackled with further consultations with the AC. The results of this process was the inclusion of partial governance reforms in the initial proposal for the KPSRL phase 2025-2026 submitted to DSH in 2024. Governance reforms included decentralising the Secretariat in hubs in East and West Africa, but no change in the KPSRL consortium structure.



5 Conclusions

5.1 Evolution in thinking and practice

The KPSRL TOC has evolved to focus on active processes of learning and active participation, with increased attention for understanding and defining learning and its connections to policy and practice change.

Below the guiding role of the TOCs, the KPSRL's practice of funding and partnerships has partly evolved from highly structured, formal, and accountability-based processes to more participatory and flexible ones. Contrariwise, the KPSRL's approach to learning became more structured into longer-terms learning trajectories and knowledge uptake processes.

Internal learning and change has been conflictual, pitting more and less radical interpretations of key concepts, and more and less risk adverse actors inside a landscape of deep uncertainty on the future of the sector.

5.2 Effectiveness and impact

The KPSRL's performance in producing outputs was strong in 2021, dipped slightly in 2022 as the KPSRL Secretariat focused on processes of internal reform, and returned to strong in 2023 and 2024. A similar pattern is visible at the outcome level. The KPSRL has been successful in maintaining active participation by network participants and supporting them in identifying and filling knowledge gaps.

The end-lined evaluation collected 51 stories of change at the intermediate outcome level, 21 of which have progressed to the impact level, and these stories have revealed that:

5.3 On learning as a change process

The MTR had concluded that: “the cases of change it reviewed were examples of how, in many instances across the annual conference and events, the KMF, PLI, and support to DSH learning/policy processes, KPSRL appears to be succeeding in generating learning that is leading to SRoL policy and programme change”. The endline has confirmed the possibility of learning as a pathway for change. But what can be concluded about what sort of pathway for change learning is?

Learning has shown to be a polyvalent pathway of change that takes many forms and shapes. Learning can affect capacities, skills, and internal beliefs and one's mental state (a belief is a set of assumptions of a state of the world, whereas a mental state can be the confidence

in one's practice and believes). Learning can be done through (without the ambition of being exhaustive) :

1. Practice (learning by doing).
2. The development of new tools and methods.
3. Space and time to reflect on and interpret personal experiences.
4. Showcasing working innovations for imitation and scale up.
5. Peer feedback which builds confidence on a chosen approach.
6. Adaptations through exploration of context, stakeholder interactions, or analysis of causal relationships at play in an intervention.
7. The iterative process of reforming organizational elements, such as policies, tenders, rules of procedures.
8. Consolidating information from past action or from different sources, such as through literature review or co-creation workshops.
9. Expanding the set of options under consideration by becoming aware of other ways of working even without direct adoption of innovations.

“Learning” has covered a wide diversity of change processes but involved a common element as well: a change first in the learning organisation itself rather than only in the external world. Learning as a process of change involves internal changes in the entity going through the learning process in a way that other types of interventions do not involve. This means that learning is a process that one does on oneself. Instead, other processes are primarily done to the external world, such as advocacy, which is directed to policymakers and decisionmakers, service provision that is directed towards people with a need or a right to the service, and provision of capacity building that is directed to those whose capacity it is relevant to build. All of these interventions aim to influence the world outside of an organisation, the idea that TOCs express by saying that outcomes begin outside an organisation's sphere of control.

Because learning is first and foremost a process of internal change inside learning organisations, knowledge generation processes can have learning outcome at different levels. They can generate change with the KMF grantees themselves when they learned a new approach by implementing the knowledge generation projects and they can generate learning in an audience group external to the KMF grantee through knowledge uptake processes. Conversely, an organization can successfully create a new knowledge product as a service to others but not generate any learning outcome if that knowledge product and process did not have a changing effect on the internal organizational capacity and uptake in other organizations was not successful.

Intrinsically motivated learning is a change that works more easily and successfully when one applies it to themselves first. The KPSRL has supported this type of learning process because programming partners have often led KPSRL-funded learning processes. In those cases knowledge moved relatively easily towards influencing the programming partners' own programming practices.⁴⁴ Certainly, processes of organizational learning and adaptation were never obvious in those cases either, especially when organisations had a complex, hierarchical structure.

The KPSRL did not heavily target support to knowledge institutes to produce knowledge for the wider sector, but that did happen at times. For example, the KMF funded projects by Clingendael, the London School of Economics' think tank, the Institute for Social Studies (ISS, and Radboud University). In these cases, additional processes of knowledge uptake with external



⁴⁴ See annex 7 with the list of stories of change.

audiences of programming partners and policymakers are key, and research institutions did not always place as much attention to them as to knowledge generation through research.⁴⁵

In any case, some researchers were embedded inside programming partners and some programming partners acted like knowledge institutions in sharing findings widely to external audiences, so the lines between the two categories often blurred. The PLI has been particularly successful in blurring the lines between researchers and practitioners. For example, Media INK acted as facilitator of knowledge generation by the consortiums of which it was part for the Dutch bilateral SROL programme to Somalia. In that case, the successful uptake of research findings by DSH has required a dedicated, demanding, and long series of internal seminars and workshops that DSH funded separately.

5.4 On the scale of learning and KPSRL contribution

Taken together, the 51 stories of change show many small-scale, but significant change processes. The MTR ultimately found “limited evidence of other organisations shifting towards integrating learning culture or of inspiring practices that can help mitigate/overcome SROL challenges at scale”. The endline evaluation confirms this MTR finding, if interpreted in the sense that change did not progress to the SROL sector-wide level nor to radical level inside any specific organization.

One could interpret this finding through the lenses of a theory that regards sector-wide change as exceedingly rare; a theory of piece-meal, slow change. Through this lens, the many small-scale changes inside network participants to which the KPSRL contributed to should be interpreted as the right level of ambition. As success compared to the possible. Organisations would not survive as functioning organisations if they constantly went through deep internal reforms. The normal situation is one in which some organizations inside the SROL sector give a limited mandate to some of their staff to update or innovate in particular areas and processes whilst most processes continue as usual.

One could also interpret the same finding through a second theory that explains that sectors can deeply change at scale and in rapid times, for example in the aftermath of major moments of crisis or when political momentum is present. Major crises moments reveal the inadequacy of what were mainstream and unquestioned practices and policies.⁴⁶ Looking at the KPSRL contribution through this theory points to consider that the SROL sector experienced four major crises moments between 2021 and 2024:

1. Calls decolonise and localise development on the back of the Black Lives Matter movement.
2. Ongoing for almost a decade now, is the closing of civic space in SROL partner countries.
3. Resurgence of military conflicts since early 2022.
4. The inwards turn of major donors, away from international cooperation. This is a situation that became particularly acute from 2024 onwards.

45 For example, the output of the Clingendael KMF was downloaded only ten times: <https://kpsrl.org/publication/storm-over-the-nile-understanding-the-arabic-twitter-discussion-on-the-civil-war-in-sudan>

46 See for example, “Learning to Change - The case for systemic learning strategies in the humanitarian sector” for the humanitarian sector.

The second, third, and fourth crisis could also be seen as different dimensions of the same crisis of the (neo)-liberal and social democratic model or world order. It aligns with the rise of the far-right and authoritarian-revolutionary movements.

The stories of change show that the KPSRL has contributed to major (but not radical) learning, policy and programming shifts in the SROL sector on the decolonisation/localisation agenda. The decolonisation/localisation agenda was by far the single, largest theme of the KPSRL 2021-2024 involving multiple events and KPACs in all years, PLI and KMF projects granted for organisations' efforts to change their internal practices in this area (in the case of the PLI, eight out of nine projects touched the decolonisation/localisation agenda). The stories of change show KPSRL contribution to organizations that try to mobilise resources and attention for this topic, to groups and networks across the sector that aim to come together for discussing this topic, and to entities who are developing and sharing methodologies and approaches for this new way of working.

The stories of change tend to show that the SROL sector has taken up a moderate interpretation of the decolonisation/localisation agenda. The focus on “decolonisation”, for example, has often been left aside in favour of the more moderate “localisation” or ‘locally led development’. Insights and demands based on this agenda have only slowly travelled up complex organizations' hierarchies or made inroads into administrative and financial departments. This finding has been confirmed by the post-event survey for KPAC24 Dakar, the last post-event survey conducted in 2024. The survey tested this hypothesis by asking respondents directly whether they believed that the new ideas emerging from KPAC24 could contribute to radically reforming the sector. Only 15% of the survey respondents believed that the ideas discussed by KPAC24 could radically change an organization or the sector.

But why should the KPSRL strive for a contribution to radical change? After all, that it is stated nowhere in its objectives or its TOC. It should, because the critiques that emerged from the decolonisation/localisation agenda were both radical in their content and justified in their demands. Stopping short of radical change means that the sector will continue to drag unresolved issues into the future, for example on equitable partnerships.

The KPSRL has responded to the closing of the civic spaces and the turning inwards of major donors with dedicated learning trajectories, but its contribution to sector change has been smaller compared to the case of the decolonisation/localisation agenda. These are broader societal and political trends, and the KPSRL network, which is constituted mostly of NGOs that are not based on strong ties anymore with Dutch citizens or access to public distribution media, is not well suited to influence them effectively.⁴⁷ At the sector level, organisations can mostly adapt to these trends rather than directly influence them.

The KPSRL has dedicated two thematic headlines to inclusive social contracts, with work on polarisation, inclusion, and democracy support that closely connects to the closing of civic spaces. It also funded KMF projects on the topic (but no PLI projects). A story of change collected with KPAC23's post event survey identified KPSRL contribution's in providing a clear case for remaining engaged in settings where the civic space is closing. Another story of change collected by the MTR reported that the KPSRL re-introduced the concept of social contract as a



⁴⁷ Exceptions are organisations like VNG, which is a network of Dutch municipalities which have direct ties to Dutch citizens, or NIMD, which is an expression of Dutch political parties which have ties to the Dutch electorate.

tool for practitioners to think about the causes of the closing civic space. The KPSRL worked on strengthening collaborative advocacy efforts for continued investments in non-military forms of security cooperation, offering a regular space to a group of Dutch INGO to coordinate their advocacy efforts, and supporting the development of joint messages.

The KPSRL has contributed even less to learning on the resurgence of military conflicts, but here perhaps inactivity has had a deeper meaning. The KPSRL has gradually grown more disconnected with the ‘hard security’ community and accordingly positioned itself in a space that refuses to contribute to a resurgence in militarism and aims to keep people-centred and locally led change on the agenda. Nevertheless, security sector reforms remained on the programme at KPAC22 and KPAC23, and the KPSRL Secretariat visited SSR roundtables in Berlin and opened KPAC24 The Hague with a reframing of resilience in NL/EU.

The KPSRL did not host events dedicated to the Ukraine-Russia war nor to the Palestine-Israel conflict, and only a couple of KMF projects touched on the migration/refugee crisis.

Using this theory of crisis moments as a lens, the KPSRL contribution appears a partial success, and its partial failure appears linked to the fundamental design of the KPSRL platform as a professional network with no capacity or pro-active initiatives for interacting with the Dutch public or Dutch political actors such as political parties. Given the way the KPSRL had been designed, there was no possibility that the KPSRL could have been successful to inspire radical change at scale on the major, critical issues of the sector.

Frank Geels’ model of socio-technical transitions offers a third and intermediate way to interpret the KPSRL contribution. This is a theory of how social innovation happens at sector level through i) the development of successful niches for innovation, ii) changes in practices, processes, skills, and technologies in the sector, and iii) influencing the underlying structural causes that shape a sector.⁴⁸

- For the decolonization/localization issue, work on the civic space, and inward turn of major donors, the stories of change are consistent with the SROL sector completing the first stage of Geels’ model of transitions, the establishment of successful “niches” that are safe spaces to incubate new practices.⁴⁹
- The SROL sector has made inroads in reaching the next stage of the transition, the one that Geels calls “regimes”, the sets of practices, processes, skills, and technologies embedded in institutions. The SROL sector has moved forward with this stage of the transition especially for the decolonisation/localisation issue.⁵⁰
- The SROL has been less successful in influencing the final stage of the transitions, the one that Geels calls “landscape”, the macro-factors that influence the sector. For the SROL sector, this could include donors’ funding, the underlying ideas and dominant approaches in the SROL field, the public stance towards cooperation on SROL. Two main factors have prevented contribution at the last stage. The same two factors already mentioned above have prevented the SROL sector from reaching this stage. First, at least in the Netherlands, the inability to connect with the Dutch public. Second, a reluctance of established

48 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048733307000248>

49 KMF and PLI project reports contain explicit reports that they have allowed grantees to test out new ways of working in a safe way. Post-event surveys consistently rated KPSRL events as safe spaces as well.

50 Many stories of change have mentioned that KMF or PLI projects or participation to events contributed to the creation of new tools and methodologies and influenced practices and policies.

organizations in the field to consider radical, fundamental changes in the underlying ideas and dominant approaches to SROL.

Bringing together insights from these three theories, the KPSRL has contributed to many small-scale changes inside a dominant sectoral regime that it has only partially successfully challenged and inside a broader political landscape that it has been unable to influence and that has progressively closed the space for sector-level change.



6 Recommendations

The following recommendations are relevant for knowledge platforms, knowledge institutes, learning networks and communities of practice.

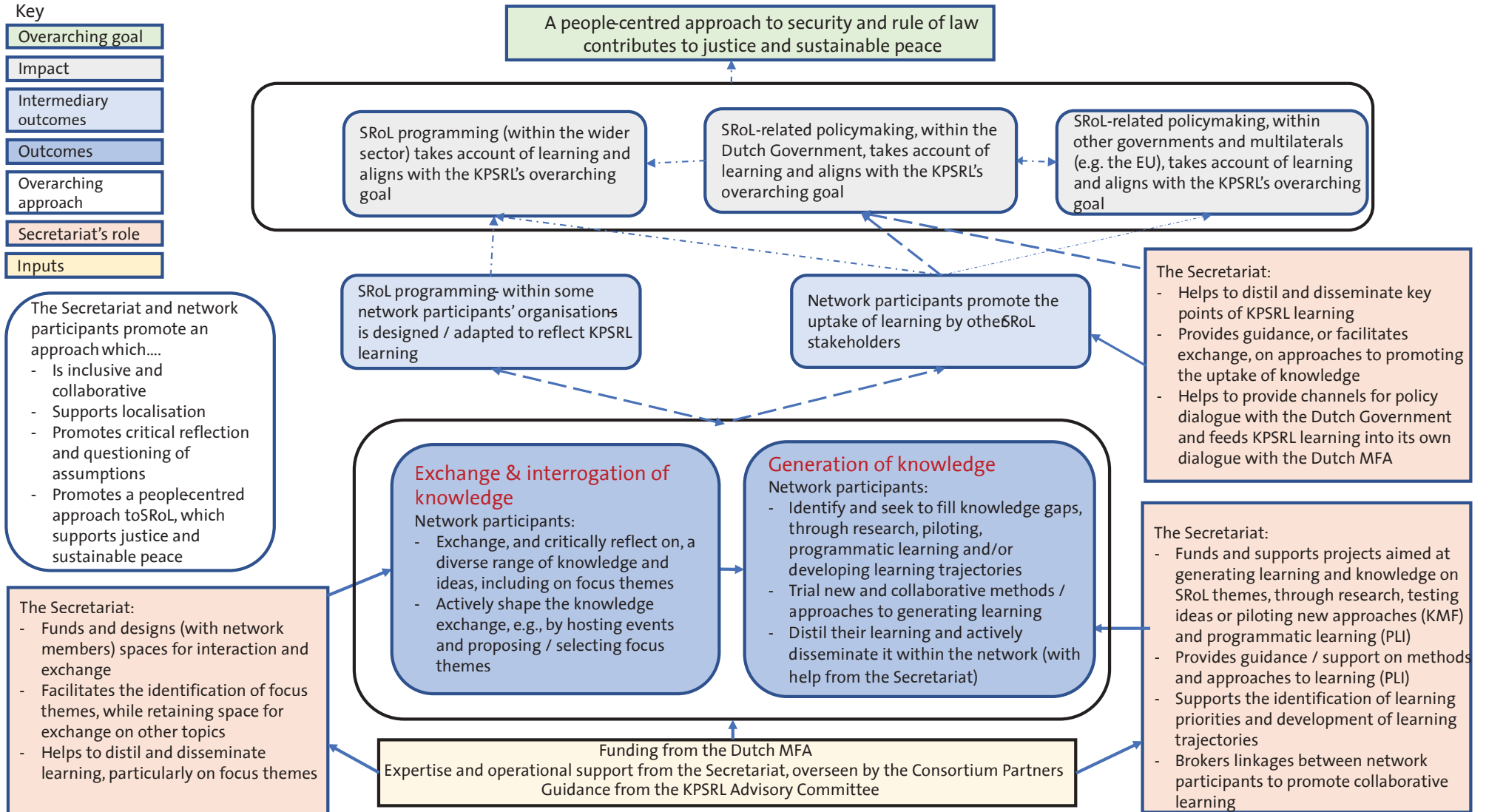
1. TOCs for future knowledge platforms and networks should consider **setting the processes of learning and knowledge uptake as the outcomes** for which they are accountable, rather than only aiming to strengthen networks and creating the enabling environment for learning.
2. Learning goes beyond capacity building or adaptative management. It is a **pathway of change and an enabler for long-term vision**. It should be appreciated in its complexity and multiple pathways through which it operates.
 - a. For example, adaptative management and linked approaches such as political economy analysis (PEA) have experienced a sector-wide hype and attention, but are limited to adapting to contexts, rather than compelling change within them, and not well suited to develop shared visions of a future to which to aspire. A wider vision of learning should allow to choose the right learning objectives and approaches to different cases.
3. The **pillars for more decolonial knowledge platforms and networks** are: co-creation, active participation, inclusive and decentralised governance of learning trajectories, appreciation on one's biases, taking into account the many forms in which knowledge(s) comes and strong internal learning approaches.
 - a. Active participation is participation that can truly set the direction of a process as well as influence key choices. Arnstein's Ladder of Participation remains an useful model to distinguish active participations from more passive forms.
 - b. Mixing different forms of knowledge(s) (academic, applied, contextual, indigenous, experiential, procedural, etc.) ensures stronger learning. Scientific forms of knowledge are not necessarily always more objective if the underlying theories and assumptions used by the researchers to identify what is real, true, or just are not questioned and have a direct influence on the research results (it is not always the case that unquestioned assumptions have a direct influence on research results: this depends case by case). That is because i) scientific forms of knowledge are produced by individuals with all their biases, histories, and perspectives, and ii) despite the fact that peer review is a strong point of these processes, often peer-reviewers in scientific processes share the same underlying assumptions with the researchers and so do not question them, iii) knowledge production happens inside a fraught society which influences what can be said, by whom, and how and set purposes for knowledge production that are not about representing "truth" or reality.
 - c. Whenever possible, co-create a longer-term learning agenda and trajectory with the teams and organisations going through the learning processes. This should include explicit testing and experimentation to learn on key challenges. The language used should be practical (easy to understand and concise), and accurate (corresponding to the situation described).

4. The level of active participation to networks and platforms (including knowledge ones) should be equitable but not burdensome. This amounts to opening doors for participation (and keeping them open) and energizing the pace of interactions inside the network, but should not require participation from those who don't want to participate (or can't) for the success of a network.
5. Even without a funding instrument for programmatic learning, knowledge platforms and networks should retain internal capacity and willingness to **support network participants to design and execute their own learning activities**. Learning and knowledge management is as much part of the core business of a knowledge platform (and also of knowledge institutes more broadly) as thematic knowledge.
6. The **translation of complex academic insights into practical, context-adequate insights remains a challenge** that future knowledge platforms should consider this challenge explicitly, develop adequate knowledge uptake approaches to facilitate translation, but also be clear with participants about the additional work that they should expect to do internally to translate insights that are relevant at a sector wide level for the specific case of their organisations. worry knowledge .

Knowledge platforms and knowledge institutes should **give as much attention and resources to processes of knowledge uptake and coalition building for change as to knowledge generation**, and support knowledge generated directly by the knowledge users as much as this is possible.

Annexes

Annex 1 | The KPSRL Theory of Change



Annex 2 | Evaluation matrix

QUESTION	APPROACH	DATA SOURCES
EVOLUTION OF THINKING AND PRACTICE		
How did thinking and practice on learning facilitation evolve in the KPSRL Secretariat, CPs, and AC?	Thematic analysis of lived experiences / experiential knowledge as reported by Secretariat staff, CPs, and AC members through short written essays (max 2,000 for Secretariat staff, and max 1000 words for CPs and ACs. Essays will be complemented with follow up, short interviews to clarify the essays' content. At the internal day of the KPSRL Secretariat in June 2024, all essays will be presented to the KPSRL Secretariat staff, which will then be accompanied in a joint analysis process to create an overall learning trajectory for the Secretariat as an institution.	Annual plans / reports in the section where they cover reflections from the Secretariat. Written essays. Key informant interviews.
What have been the main drivers and consequences of this evolution?		
What contradictions, dilemma, and open question remain in the way that the KPSRL Secretariat, CPs, and AC conceptualise learning facilitation?		
EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT		
What are the main trends in performance visible in 2024 (against the TOC)?	Review of monitoring and evaluation data connected to performance against the KPSRL TOC to create trend lines for the main available indicators.	Annual reports Monitoring data more broadly
How can these trends be expected to evolve under different scenarios for the post-2025 period?	Joint sense-making during the Secretariat internal day in June 2024.	Sense-making by the KPSRL Secretariat staff
Did the KPSRL contribute to changes in policymaking and practice across its network?	Contribution analysis will be employed to create a causal model that connects events that constitutes changes in policy and practice to events or processes that are perceived as their causes. Multiple events and processes will be allowed to co-contribute to the same event, in different configuration. Alternative explanations will also be highlighted where appropriate. An initial, tentative model will be constructed based on the review of causal information contained in annual reports and the MTR and will be enriched through joint sense-making.	Annual reports MTR Joint sense-making
Can we identify the main factors driving or impeding beneficial changes in policymaking and practice across the KPSRL network?		
In spotlight, is the current set-up of the Secretariat, CP management, and AC effective to contribute to results?		
Were those changes beneficial?		Sense-making by the Secretariat staff

QUESTION	APPROACH	DATA SOURCES
COHERENCE		
Did the KPSRL take advantage of all opportunities to shape a coherent practice internally (through coherence across the KPSRL instruments) and externally with other entities and sectors?		
IMPLICATIONS		
What are the practical implications for the Secretariat’s roles in knowledge generation, learning partnerships, and event organisation that should be included in the proposal for the next phase of the KPSRL?	Joint sense-making during the Secretariat internal day in June 2024, and joint sense-making with CPs at the end of July/early August.	Sense-making with Secretariat staff and CP / AC staff

Annex 3 | List of KPSRL events 2021-2024

Table 6 List of KPSRL events in 2021

EVENT	WHY	HOW
ARC MTR roundtable	KPSRL committed to facilitate the ARC learning agenda	Connecting with the evaluators conducting the MTR and offering them a platform for sharing and discussing findings
Informing SRoL policies in a news freak era	Aim to cover better harder security topics, which were missing from our agenda	A KMF grantee organisation reached out to the Secretariat with the idea
Practice Lab on Localisation	Localisation was a new topic in early 2021, which was interesting for the KPSRL community	KPSRL took the initiative together with MFA, Mercy Corps, and Mama Cash. Facilitation of the event was outsourced.
Savage Order	The KPSRL wanted to try out the format of the book event. Additionally, the theme aligned well with the interests of the community	The book event came about through personal contacts of the HoS with the author and with the American Bookshop in the Hague
Political Accommodation Methodology	The event was linked to the ARC partners: it was about sharing a methodology that one of the partners was using	The Secretariat took the lead in organising the event as the contact point with ARC.

EVENT	WHY	HOW
The Virus and the Violence	The KPSRL had an agenda to host a COVID-related webinar.	Mercy Corps approached the Secretariat with the opportunity to share a report that they had prepared with the wider community.
Climate Change, Access to Justice, and Rule of Law	KPSRL found that the topic was relevant because of interest in DSH and because it built on research that DSH had organised through the KMF	Radboud had been in touch at an earlier moment with the idea to host an event on the topic. IDLO moved the agenda forward together with CRU and Radboud.
Inclusive Governance Desk Review	Christian identified together with DSH staff that the topic was relevant for DSH.	The KPSRL used the DSH learning budget to contract ECDPM to conduct a dedicated research and share it inside DSH.
ARC Learning Event VSLA	Connected to the ARC learning agenda: an ARC grantee shared their methodology and experience on VSLA.	The Secretariat organised the event together with the ARC grantee as a niche but open event.
Master Classes on ToC	It fit with the role to facilitate DSH theory of change process.	DSH asked for support and the KPSRL delivered the classes
Time to Decolonise Aid	It fit with the localisation reflection that was on going in the community.	Peace Direct had drafted a report on decolonising aid. The KPSRL had read the report and reached out to the authors.
Meta-evaluation D&D	The session fit with the MFA ambition to learn about adaptive programming and partnerships. And that also fit with the KPSRL priorities.	The Secretariat and DSH co-created the idea with members of the community. The Secretariat conducted the meta-evaluation directly.
ToC consultation meetings	It fit with the role to facilitate DSH theory of change process.	DSH staff identified which meetings to have. The KPSRL connected DSH staff with colleagues in CRU and in the Embassies and participated to the reflections.
The Frontline of Peace Book Event		Severine, the author, was already in town for a book event, and the KPSRL supported that as an intro to the conference.
Afghanistan Round-table	The idea was responding to the events happening in Afghanistan, but after a bit of the dust of the emergency response had settled	DSH and the Secretariat co-created the idea, and then the Secretariat pushed so that the event would happen
Somalia SRoL programme	The KPSRL has committed to be a learning partner of the Somalia Desk because it is interested in learning and disseminating on this pilot project	There is a calendar for these events, which happen quarterly. The Somalia desk is in the lead, and the KPSRL support on agenda identification.

Table 7 List of KPSRL events in 2022

EVENT	SPEAKERS
1. SROL lessons from Afghanistan to Sahel.	2 speakers. Dr. Willemijn Verkoren and Dr. Niagalé Bagayoko, a Dutch and Malian researcher.
Somalia - 4th learning session.	7 different speakers, all from the programming partners of the Dutch Embassy.
ARC (Addressing the Root Causes) regional learning event in Burundi	14 speakers (8 from ARC INGOs, 5 from ARC in country partners, and 1 from KPSRL).
ARC regional learning event in Kampala, Uganda.	14 speakers, from the ARC in country programming partners, 2 ARC INGOs, and 2 from KPSRL.
Somalia 5th learning session	5 speakers, Embassy staff and external partners of the Embassy (Oxfam and Diaconia).
Event on climate change and conflict at the MFA	2 speakers: MFA and KPSRL.
Kick off social contract trajectory.	2 speakers. Laila al Zwaini (independent Dutch-Iraqi researcher) and Amal Bourhous from SIPRI.
UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) event.	3 speakers from UNDP, IDLO (International Development Law Organization), and MFA.
KPAC23	3 opening speakers (VERA AL-MAWLA, MOE SASAKI & GRAEME SIMPSON). 15 sessions, each with a session lead and at least 2 other speakers. 8 speakers for the closing session.
KPAC side event	Each AC member shared something. And the MFA also presented.
Hargeisa	10 speakers, from Embassy and knowledge partners.
ARC global end event	19 speakers, mostly from the ARC programming partners and from Clingendael.
Fireside chat event 1	1 speaker.
Fireside chat event 2	6 speakers.
Fireside chat event 3	1 speaker.

Table 8 List of KPSRL events in 2023

EVENT	DATE	TYPE
1. 7th learning event of the SROL programme in Somalia	4 April 2023	Closed invitation zoom meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.
2. Intro to the thematic headline - social contracts	13 April 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
3. Fireside peace chat - Micheal Swaine	1 May 2023	Open in person event in the Hague.
4. ISI Myanmar KMF event	10 May 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network, part of update for KMF projects.
5. Quarterly session of DSH mine action programme.	11 May 2023	Closed invitation zoom meeting targeted to the programming partners of DSH mine action programme.
6. MFA brown bag lunch - Iraq social contract	6 June 2023	Closed invitation meeting targeted to MFA staff.
7. The nature of authoritarian regimes	13 June 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
8. Georgia - polarisation in the Eastern European Neighbourhood.	19 June 2023	Closed zoom meeting targeted to organisations working on democratisation in Georgia, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
9. Jasmine Foundation KMF event - Local public administration reform in Tunisia	20 June 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network, part of update for KMF projects.
10. SROl and Feminist foreign policy	26 June 2023	In person meeting open to the KPSRL network members in the Hague, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
11. Preserving SROL as a priority for the NL	1 July 2023	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROl.
12. Authoritarian regimes II	7 July 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
13. Roundtable - The Iraq social contract	19 July 2023	Closed invitation meeting targeted to MFA staff.
14. 8th learning event of the SROL programme in Somalia	30 August 2023	Closed invitation zoom meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.

EVENT	DATE	TYPE
15. Preserving SROL as a priority for the NL II	1 September 2023	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
16. Polarisation in the Eastern Neighbourhood - Moldova case	7 September 2023	Closed zoom meeting targeted to organisations working on democratisation in Moldova, part of “Just Social Contract” thematic headline.
17. Unboxing localisation V	6 September 2023	Trajectory in collaboration with CSPSS to connect voices from the Global South to the Dutch MFA localisation trajectory.
18. Quarterly session of DSH mine action programme	28 September 2023	Closed invitation zoom meeting targeted to the programming partners of DSH mine action programme.
19. IOB, launch of the “Inconvenient realities” report	5 October 2023	Open zoom meeting targeted to the entire KPSRL network.
20. The role of art in SROL	7 October 2023	Open in person event in the Hague.
21. Food systems and SROL	17 October 2023	Closed in person event in the Hague, targeted to Dutch MFA staff and staff of large Dutch NGOs.
22. Preserving SROL III	31 October 2023	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
23. KPAC Nairobi	9 November 2023	Annual Conference of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of law, held in Nairobi.
24. 9th quarterly learning session of the Somalia Embassy	12 November 2023	In person meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.
25. Unboxing localisation VI	14 November 2023	Trajectory in collaboration with CSPSS to connect voices from the Global South to the Dutch MFA localisation trajectory.
26. Demining Side Event Geneva	24 November 2024	Advocacy event for the programming partners of the Dutch centrally funded mine action programme.
27. Integration of mental health and psychosocial approaches in accountability mechanisms for atrocity crimes	30 November 2023	Closed in person event in the Hague, targeted to experts and practitioners working on mental health and psychosocial support in the SROL sector.
28. KPAC the Hague	7 December 2023	Annual Conference of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of law, held in the Hague.

Table 9 List of KPSRL events in 2024

EVENT	DATE	TYPE
1. Narrative group for SROL IV	24 January 2024	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
2. PLI Propel Validation Workshop	5 February 2024	Open doors event part of the PLI Propel project
3. Fireside Peace Chat - Global Cycles of Conflict in DRC and Abroad	13 February 2024	Open in person event in the Hague.
4. PLI Collaborative Study Sense-making Workshop	19-20 February 2024	Closed door workshop part of the PLI Collaborative Study Project
5. Global workshop of the narrative group	5 March 2024	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
6. Narrative group for SROL V	6 March 2024	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
7. 10 th learning session of the SROL programme to Somalia	14 March 2024	Online meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.
8. Learning session of DSH demining programme	14 March 2024	Closed invitation zoom meeting targeted to the programming partners of DSH mine action programme.
9. Still Engaging, But Differently: Shifting the Power to Locally Led Peace Initiatives	7 May 2024	Session at the SIPRI forum
10. Integration of mental health and psychosocial approaches in accountability mechanisms for atrocity crimes	16 May 2024	In person launch of a KMF report, targeted to the entire KPSRL network.
11. PLI Propel learning session: Making learning work: Digital tools for SROL	4 June 2024	Open doors event part of the PLI Propel project
12. Narrative group for SROL V	5 June 2024	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
13. KMF learning event	18 June 2024	Online workshop with KMF grantees to reflect on their experiences in feeding back knowledge to policy and practice.
14. Fireside Peace Chat w/ Elizabeth Spehar	19 June 2024	Open in person event in the Hague.
15. Symposium/Conference Concept Note: Advancing Electoral Integrity - Enacting Transparent Legal Structures for Somaliland's National Elections	June 2024	In person event organised in Somaliland

EVENT	DATE	TYPE
16. Global Cycles of Conflict: The Armed Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Abroad	8 July 2024	Open in person event in the Hague.
17. Closing event: Supporting Civic Engagement on Democratic Reform and Rule of Law in the EU's Eastern 18. Partnership Countries	11 July 2024	Closed zoom meeting targeted to organisations working on democratisation in Eastern Europe.
19. Narrative group for SROL VI	16 September 2024	Advocacy trajectory targeted to the largest Dutch NGOs active in SROL.
20. 11 th learning session of the SROL programme to Somalia	June 2024	In person meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.
21. 12 th learning session of the SROL programme to Somalia	22 September 2024	Online meeting targeted to the programming partners of the bilateral programme to Somalia.
22. Children's Rights, Crimes Against Humanity and Access to Justice: Research, Practice and Experience	5 November 2024	Open in person event in the Hague.
23. FFP session Afrikadag: "Implementing FFP in fragile and conflict-affected settings: navigating political resistance and unintended effects"	November 16th, 2024	Open in person event in the Hague.
24. KPAC24 Dakar	19-21 November 2024	Annual Conference of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of law, held in Dakar, Senegal.
25. Improving your Programmatic Learning Journey: A Resource Guide for HDP Nexus Practitioners	25 November 2024	Open door event part of the PLI Collaborative Study project
26. PLI Plan International - Reshaping Partnerships	5 December 2024	Closed door event part of the PLI Plan International Project
27. From knowledge to impact: PLI experiences	9 December 2024	Online workshop with PLI grantees to reflect on their experiences in feeding back knowledge to policy and practice.
28. Lunch lecture at Clingendael on shaping large scale conferences	2 December 2024	Internal learning event for Clingendael staff
29. KPAC24 The Hague	12 December 2024	Annual Conference of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of law, held in the Hague.

Annex 4 | List of KMF projects 2021-2024

TITLE	ORGANISATION	WINDOW	COUNTRIES: OF GRANTEE VS RESEARCH	STATUS ⁵¹	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵²
Shifting the Power Balance: Effective Options for Financing Local Peacebuilding	GPPAC	Window I of 2021	Netherlands / Global	Two	GPPAC's report and video . 10 downloads.
Trust-building in Security and Rule of Law Partnerships	Berghof Foundation	Window I of 2021	Germany / Global	Two	Publications available here
Taking a Long Hard Look at Ourselves: Investigating Power Inequalities Under the Power of Voices Funding Instrument	NIMD	Window I of 2021	Netherlands / Global	On - Taken up internally	Download available on the KPSRL site at this link : 20 downloads.
Jeunesse urbaine, fracture générationnelle et réinvention du lien politique en Afrique subsaharienne	GRIP	Window I of 2021	Belgium / West Africa	One - Taken up by social movements	Available at this link
Re-envisioning Security and Rule of Law Responses in the Great Lakes Region in East Africa: Local Partnerships as Pathways to Improved Programming	Centre for African Research	Window I of 2021	Uganda / Uganda	One - Taken up by local government	Available at this link . 4 downloads.
Imagine Madaniya!	Re-Orient	Window II of 2021	Netherlands / Middle East (grantee member of the diaspora)	Two	Link to a session at the Annual Conference available at this link
Informal Justice Court 2.0: From Experiment to Model by Rebalancing Power Asymmetries	Public Interest Law Partnership	Window II of 2021	Nigeria / Nigeria	One - Taken up by local government	Download available at this link : 16 downloads
Enhance Community Resilience on Countering Violent Extremism in Mandera Triangle	YAPAD	Window II of 2021	Kenya / Kenya	Two	Download available at this link : 27 downloads.

51 1) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up; 2) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, not taken up; 3) Completed, generated learning, not shared learning; 4) Completed, not generated learning; 5) incomplete.

52 Downloads in this annex as of 15-04-2025.

TITLE	ORGANISATION	WINDOW	COUNTRIES: OF GRANTEE VS RESEARCH	STATUS ⁵¹	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵²
Assessing the Impact of the European Union’s Border Externalisation Agenda on Peace and Security in Libya from an Intersectional Perspective	Tamazight Women’s Movement	Window II of 2021	Libya / Libya	Two	Download available at this link : 25 downloads. Also came with a video .
Engendering Inclusion of Ex-Combatants in Post-Conflict Policy Programming Contexts in the Case of Northern and Eastern Uganda	Francis Okodel	Window II of 2021	Uganda / Uganda	Two	Link not available online
Justice and Peace for Who? Local Justice and Peace Interventions for Peaceful Coexistence Among South Sudanese in Palorinya, Palabek & Rhino Camp Settlements	International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI)	Window II of 2021	Nairobi / Uganda	Three	Download available at this link : 2 downloads available
Reforming Somali Customary Justice: Pathways to Adapting Xeer Procedures and Practices	Sababi Institute	Window II of 2021	Somaliland / Somalia	One - Taken up by donors	Downloads available here and here : 14 & 65 downloads
Youth and the social contract in Pakistan: A summary of the main insights emerging from the testing in Pakistan of a social contract analytical framework for the youth	Giancarlo Mezzera	Window I of 2022	Italy / Pakistan	Two	Download available here : 14 downloads
Foundations for a new Afghan social contract	ISLAF	Window I of 2022	Germany / Afghanistan (diaspora)	Five - incomplete	Knowledge product not produced
The Capacity-Building of Dalit Parliamentarians and Dalit Organisations to Address Political and Democratic Rights	Dalit Welfare Association	Window I of 2022	Nepal / Nepal	One - learning taken up by the Dalit organisation in Nepal	Download not available.
Power Dynamics in Foreign Aid	Radboud University	Window I of 2022	Netherlands / Global	One - Taken up by Radboud itself for what concerns progress learning	Download available here : 26 downloads

TITLE	ORGANISATION	WINDOW	COUNTRIES: OF GRANTEE VS RESEARCH	STATUS ⁵¹	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵²
Re-imagining the Social Contract of Citizenship in a Federal Democratic Post-coup Myanmar	Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion	Window I of 2022	The Netherlands / Myanmar	One - Taken up by ISS for what concerns the process	Downloads available here
Encountering the Local State: Reimagining the Social Contract through Security Provision in Tunisia	Jasmine Foundation	Window I of 2022	Tunisia / Tunisia	One - Learning taken up by donors in the region	Download available here . Just project information, no documents.
Muamko Mpya - Healing the Uniform: Healing-Centred Policing	Green String Network	Window II of 2022	Kenya / Kenya	Two	Download available here :
Designing a Network and Roadmap for Improved Practices among Data Scientists who Work in Peacebuilding	Build Up	Window II of 2022	USA / Global	Three	No download available.
Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Approaches into Justice and Accountability Mechanisms for Atrocity Crimes.	An Michel	Window II of 2022	Belgium / Global	Two	Download available here : 358 downloads.
Knowledge Management and Gender Dynamics in Eswatini	Women Unlimited	Window II of 2022	Eswatini / Eswatini	Two	Download available here
Breaking Down Barriers between Investors, Businesses and Local Communities in Fragile Settings: How to Apply a Human Security Approach to Improve Company-Community Relations through People-Centered and Integrated Solutions and Improved Environmental and Social Governance standards.	LSE IDEAS	Window II of 2022	UK / Global	Two	Download not available online.
Violent Extremism and the Need for Reimagining Social Contracts: Lessons from Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation	Window II of 2022	South Africa / Mozambique	One - Taken up by peacebuilding mission	Download available here : 31 downloads

TITLE	ORGANISATION	WINDOW	COUNTRIES: OF GRANTEE VS RESEARCH	STATUS ⁵¹	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵²
Putting Localisation into Practice - Unpacking the Role of Networking Organisations in Locally-Led Peacebuilding	Peace Boat	Window I of 2023	Japan / Central Asia	Two	Download available here , but promoted through their own website .
Shifting Discourse in Rule of Law Development Policy	THRIVE Institute	Window I of 2023	Netherlands / Global	One - Completed and learning has been taken up through conversations internal to the MFA.	Download available here , downloaded 10 times.
Narratives to combat repression in El Salvador: Strengthening the ability of local organisations to construct counter-narratives that support the protection and promotion of human rights	Amnesty International	Window I of 2023	Mexico / El Salvador	Three	Download not available online.
Forest Defenders Conference 2023	Not 1 More	Window I of 2023	UK / Turkey	Two	Download not available.
Navigating Trade-Offs and Leveraging Opportunities: Implementing Feminist Principles in Fragile Settings	The Broker	Window I of 2023	Netherlands / Global	One, Recommendations influencing discussions in Geneva and New York, even though Dutch gov is rolling back the feminist policy.	Download not available online.
Adding Seats to the Table	Penal Reform International	Window I of 2023	Netherlands / Armenia	One- Taken up by Penal Reform International, in its organisational plan.	Download available online at this link and this link . 16 downloads.
Building Bridges for Peace: Learning from Community-Based Participatory Action Research to Promote Socio-Economic Integration and Cohesion in Farmer/Herder Conflicts	Youth Initiative Against Violence and Human Rights Abuse	Window I of 2023	Nigeria / Nigeria	One - Taken up by community in Nigeria.	Download not available online

TITLE	ORGANISATION	WINDOW	COUNTRIES: OF GRANTEE VS RESEARCH	STATUS ⁵¹	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵²
Widening collective understanding of role of Judicial Committee of local government: building capacity for ensuring rule of law in Nepal	Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research (NCCR)	Window I of 2023	Nepal / Nepal	One taken up by local stakeholders in Nepal (they set up a group to continue learning on Judicial Committees).	Publication available in Nepal at the KPSRL office
Rule of law resilience in Moldova	Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development.	Window I of 2023	Romania / Moldova	One. Government to government exchange, with follow up on podcast.	Blog available here , report here and policy paper here . 4 & 8 downloads.
Storm Over the Nile: The Arabic Twitter Discussion on the Conflict in Sudan	Clingendael Institute (Conflict Research Unit)	Window I of 2023	Netherlands / Sudan	Three.	Download available here , 10 downloads. Also available on Clingendael website here .
Strengthening local resolution pathways for peace-building	ZOA Ethiopia	Window I of 2023	Ethiopia / Ethiopia	Two.	Download not available.
Applying international criminal justice toolkits in terrorist contexts: a case study of ISIS in Northern Iraq.	Case Matrix	Window I of 2023	Iraq	Two.	Download available here , 11 downloads.
Innovation in Conflict Resolution: Leveraging Operational Experience to Refine a Multidisciplinary Concept and Methodology for Enhanced Knowledge Impact and Collaborative Learning	Multidisciplinary Institute for the Resolution of Conflicts	Window I of 2023	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Serbia	Two, because it is a pilot.	Download available here . 3 downloads.

Annex 5 | List of PLI projects 2021-2024

PROJECT	ORGANISER	SIZE (EURO)	PERIOD	COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT	STATUS ⁵³	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵⁴
Learning Trajectory SROL programme in Somalia	Media INK	100,000	December 2022 - December 2024	The Netherlands / Somaliland	One. On-going, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. Somalia consortia and DSH partnership policy.	Available here (10 downloads), here (7 downloads).
Strengthening Localisation and Inclusion in Iraq	Halo & IHSCO	260,000	December 2022 - June 2024	The Netherlands / Iraq	One. Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. New DSH call on mine action.	Available here , downloaded 25 times.
Localisation in Humanitarian Mine Action Learning Path Project - Afghanistan	Danish Refugee Council	120,000	December 2022 - September 2024	Denmark / Afghanistan	One. Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. New DSH call on mine action.	Available here , downloaded 7 times.
Reshaping Partnerships	Plan International	51,648	December 2023 - December 2024	Sweden	One. Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. Generated a blueprint of ideal partnerships for internal reform in Plan, to be piloted in new projects.	No knowledge product available online.
Exploring the Role of Tools for Programmatic Learning	Propel	22,415	September 2023 - September 2023	The Netherlands / Egypt	One. Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. Somalia consortium. More difficult to make progress on policy.	No knowledge product available online. Two cases on programming, policy, and one of the partners/ Media INK.

53 1) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up; 2) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, not taken up; 3) Completed, generated learning, not shared learning; 4) Completed, not generated learning; 5) Incomplete.

54 Downloads in this annex as of 15-04-2025.

PROJECT	ORGANISER	SIZE (EURO)	PERIOD	COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT	STATUS ⁵³	DELIVERABLE & DOWNLOADS ⁵⁴
Research on Country-Led Knowledge-Brokering	The Broker	12,500	November 2022 - July 2023	The Netherlands	One. Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up. By the KPSRL and maybe by the Broker. Knowledge platforms being discontinued.	Available here , downloaded 12 times.
Improving Your Programmatic Learning Journey: A Resource Guide for HDP Nexus Practitioners	Collaborative study team	106,333	August 2023 - July 2024	Global	Two. Completed, generate learning, shared learning, not taken up.	Available here , downloaded 46 times.
Support to REPAOC members to attend KPAC24	REPAOC	14,000	November 2024 - December 2024	Senegal	One. Completed, generated learning, not shared learning, not taken up.	No knowledge product available online.
Support to regional participants to KPAC24	Goree'	26,000	November 2024 - December 2024	Senegal	One. Completed, generated learning, not shared learning, not taken up.	No knowledge product available online.

Annex 6 | List of distilling briefs and learning guidance 2021-2024

TITLE	AIM	PROCESS	YEAR	TARGET AUDIENCE	STATUS ⁵⁵	DOWNLOAD ⁵⁶
Learning from Evaluation: A meta-analysis of the Dialogue & Dissent Strategic Partnerships with DSH	Learn on how to do adaptive management in practice	Set a framework to evaluate adaptive management and learning processes. Meta-evaluation and comparison among four evaluations.	2021	Programming partners of the Dutch MFA	2	34, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/learning-from-evaluation-a-meta-analysis-of-the-dialogue-dissent-strategic-partnerships-with-dsh
Report of the regional ARC symposia of 2022 in Burundi and Uganda	Report on the discussions held at the ARC regional learning events	Review of notes from learning event	2022	ARC programming partners	3	Not available online (shared with event participants)
Report of the global closing event of the ARC symposium	Report on the discussions held at the ARC global closing learning event	Review of notes from learning event	2022	ARC programming partners	3	
Reimagining Social Contracts: An analytical paper of KPSRL discussions in 2022	Report on and deepen insights from discussions on the concept of the social contract held in 2022	Review of notes from KPSRL learning events and knowledge projects.	2023	SROL sector	3	74, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/reimagining-social-contracts-an-analytical-paper-of-kpsrl-discussions-in-2022
Annual Conference (KPAC23) Report	Report on the insights generated by KPAC23	Review of notes from KPAC23's sessions	2023	KPAC23 participants	3	50, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/annual-conference-kpac23-report

55 1) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, taken up; 2) Completed, generated learning, shared learning, not taken up; 3) Completed, generated learning, not shared learning; 4) Completed, not generated learning; 5) incomplete;

56 Downloads in this annex as of 15-04-2025.

Peace Nexus Special - Spring 2024	Share with the broader sector concerns related to the turn towards authoritarianism	Interview with a journalist	2024	International development sector	2	Available here: https://www.viceversaglobal.com/peace-nexus-special-magazine/
Pathways to Locally Led Development	Summarise the insights generated from the localisation trajectory.	Review of notes from learning events	2024	Participants to the Unboxing localisation trajectory	3	33, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/pathways-to-locally-led-development
Blijf betrokken bij de wereldwijde crisis van de rechtsstaat	Propose a new narrative for remaining engaged in cooperation for SROL.	Co-creation of narrative	2024	Dutch public	3	28 (English copy of Dutch text on page itself), available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/blijf-betrokken-bij-de-wereldwijde-crisis-van-de-rechtsstaat
KPSRL Distilling Series - People Centered Approach	Bring together KPSRL's 2021 - 2024 efforts for easier uptake.	Review of notes from learning events and review of the broader literature	2024	SROL sector	3	24, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/kpsrl-distilling-series-people-centered-approach
KPSRL Distilling Series - Locally Led Development	Bring together KPSRL's 2021 - 2024 efforts for easier uptake.	Review of notes from learning events and review of the broader literature	2024	SROL actors	3	18, available here: https://kpsrl.org/publication/kpsrl-distilling-series-locally-led-development
KPAC24 Public Statement	Communicate the core message of KPAC24	Co-creation during KPAC24	2024	SROL actors	2	Available here: KPAC24 Public Statement Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law

Annex 7 | List of stories of change

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
1	<p>The KMF grant “why does the UN not learn from evaluations” reported in its final narrative report to have provided inputs for organisational change processes inside the UN. The project identified the barriers in the UN system that systematically prevented the UN from applying the lessons raised by evaluations. To meet these barriers, the project proposed that the UN re-contextualised its role, being in support rather than in lead, redefined what a successful transition meant, such as handing over government tasks to authorities, and became a platform for populations to have a dialogue with contextual benchmark. Additionally, it proposed that the UN uses all technical tools and joint planning across agencies to support a transition over time.</p> <p>The grantee reported that some UN colleagues and recent transition missions endorsed the paper, but some rejected it in support of the more traditional approach, especially thematic experts on SRoL. The paper was not meant to lead to direct operationalisation and reform, and the fact that it informed some discussions when the Office of the Secretary General pushed reforms on these areas was enough of a success. Aside from this, its content flowed to a flagship course for UN staff.</p>	KMF final report	2021	Inside the UN system	Intermediate outcome	NT
2	<p>A KMF grant led an INGO to unlock further, larger funding resources to identify human rights violations in Syria. The KMF project allowed an INGO to test and develop new, participatory methods to identifying human rights violations remotely, without sending staff on the ground. This methodology proved attractive to the US State Department and the EC, who agreed to fund its implementation.</p>	Interview with KMF grantee	2021	In the relationship between INGO and its donors	IO / IM	NT
3	<p>The KMF project “social media and radicalisation in Kenya” developed and evaluated a tool to track and recognise tension in online conversations, and monitored conversations around the Kenyan elections and Somalia (ideology and religion). Learning took place at the level of the students involved in the project, some of which have also discussed the approach with other CSOs around the world, for example in Thailand. Six Kenyan University adopted this approach to digital peacebuilding. The KMF project helped the grantee unlock further funding from UNESCO in Kenya to link personal experience in participating to conversations connected to radicalisation to better policy and laws by Kenyan government institutions. The KMF project allowed the grantee to develop a tool that is unique in Kenya.</p>	Interview with KMF grantee	2021	In the practice of Kenyan universities	IO / IM	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
4	<p>The KMF project “learning from evaluations of transitional justice led to insights that became part of the curriculum or activities of university courses at a university in the US. Additionally, practitioners that the KMF grantees had shared the report with contacted the grantee after the workshop, also across the thematic silos dividing the transitional justice and human rights communities. The grantee used the KMF insights in the programming of a implementing consortium in the Western Balkans, and a consultant conducting an evaluation of a USAID transitional justice programme in South America replicated the study methodology. Finally, a report of a UN organization on the possibilities for breaking down the silos between transitional justice and the human rights communities cited the KMF paper as supporting argument.</p>	Interview with grantee	2021	Inside a US univer- sity, inside of a programme in the Western Balkans, inside an evaluation of USAID activities in South America	IO/IM	NT
5	<p>The KMF project “Citizen satisfaction with the police in Uganda” delivered feedback from citizens to the police stations from which the data originated and with central SRoL institutions. The central institutions read the report with interest, with a focus on monitoring the performance of the police stations across the country. The KMF project did not manage to influence the Ugandan sector-wide plan for the justice sector-wide because the planning process was delayed, and several donors withdrew support due to election violence. However, it led the Ugandan institutions to fund regular, quarterly monitoring on citizens satisfaction. Instead, the central institutions have not yet taken up recommendations to increase funding for policy stations or change parts of their operations based on citizens’ feedback. The grantee recognised that change takes a long time in the Ugandan SRoL sector.</p>	Interview with grantee	2021	Inside the central institutions of the policy function in Uganda	IO	NT
6	<p>The KMF project “Violence from local communities against NGOs at the EU human-itarian border” found that the humanitarian border put in place by the EU on the Greek Islands, conflating a hard border to keep migrants out and a humanitarian programme to keep migrants alive but incarcerated, led to a violent reaction from both the Greek and the migrant communities. This understanding of the origins and dynamics of violence against INGO staff led INGOs active on the Greek Islands to improve security measures for their staff. It found, also, an influx of right wing, white nationalist activists who travelled to the islands and mobilised local communities and their youth against the migrants. Following the KMF project, the grantee continued to research the topic as connected to other parts of the EU external border, for example with Serbia, the Canary Islands, and Ukraine. He has not yet managed to share the findings with NGOs operating at other locations in the EU humanitarian border, for example Lampedusa, or Spain.</p>	Interview with grantee	2021	Inside INGOs active on humanitarian support to migrants in the Greek Islands	IO/IM	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
7	<p>A Dutch INGO reported that they felt more confident on the connection between COVID and conflict after hearing peer organisations' experiences at a KPSRL event. The event put them at ease that they were doing reasonable activities compared to peers and provided them with material to conduct additional internal reflections and external publications.</p>	<p>Interview with event participants</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Inside a Dutch INGO</p>	<p>IO</p>	<p>NT</p>
8	<p>Two Dutch INGOs mentioned that the KPSRL contributed to their internal reflections on the localisation agenda. They received inputs through general webinars, the meta-evaluation on dialogue and dissent which offered feedback on their practices as compared to those of peers, and also through the voices of Global South partners in the localisation trajectory.</p> <p>One INGO's staff also mentioned that the Unboxing Localisation trajectory had a likely influence on the Dutch MFA's tender call on peacebuilding, in demanding that tenderers organise partnerships between INGOs and NGOs more equally than in the past. This was also confirmed by the survey.</p>	<p>Interviews with event participants, and with KPSRL staff</p>	<p>2021-2023</p>	<p>Inside two Dutch INGOs</p>	<p>IO/IM</p>	<p>T</p>
9	<p>The KPSRL contributed to an increase in capacity, including skills, of Ministry staff (2-3 individuals) in drafting policy level ToCs, providing a grounding in key concepts for policy-level TOCs and on thematic concepts that could be included in it. The process led to the actual development of a new TOC.</p>	<p>Interviews with Ministry staff and reports from KPSRL staff</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>	<p>Inside a donor's Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>IO/IM</p>	<p>T</p>
10	<p>The Somalia learning trajectory helped encourage flexible programme adaptation supporting relief and social contract development, providing and maintaining additional spaces, and updating guidance. Contribution happened through support with the organisation of regular learning events, and through support in organising practice to identify and accept adaptations. Adaptations resulted in making practice more effective and suited to the changing context of Somalia.</p> <p>Additionally, the quarterly sessions and KPSRL advice informed the discussions on the potential next phase of the SROL programme to Somalia, which, however, remains uncertain due to change in funding priorities inside the Dutch Government.</p> <p>This was also confirmed by the survey, and a workshop with KPSRL staff.</p>	<p>Interviews with Embassy staff and with implementing partners, survey, and workshop with KPSRL staff.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>	<p>Inside the Dutch SROL programme to Somalia, with ripple effects for practice in The Hague</p>	<p>IO/IM</p>	<p>T</p>

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
11	<p>KPSRL collaboration with a land-oriented programme contributed to reconceptualising their learning activities, including the organisation of their annual conference. By co-organizing a session on improving social contract between communities and local government, the programme had a better insight into programming land governance interventions in more sustainable ways.</p>	Interview with staff of the land programme	2022-2023	Inside this programme's learning activities	IO/IM	NT
12	<p>An MFA policy officer shared the view that at their 2022 retreat, it was observable that 'learning has become part and parcel of colleagues' approaches' and this 'ha[d] been a result of the platform'.</p>	Interviews with MFA staff conducted at part of the MTR	2022	Inside MFA	IO	NT
13	<p>Participants to KPAC23 identified a mentality shift inside MFA participants towards learning from people with lived experiences of conflict, instability, and marginalisation and local partners, and towards innovative learning methods. Senior MFA staff participated in person to a learning event in Nairobi, Kenya, and could experience directly the insights that emerge in connecting with people with lived experiences. This shift was important because many KPSRL stakeholders had a feeling that for most of 2023 the Secretariat's pursuit and prioritization of "lived experiences" was not fully appreciated by MFA counterparts until KPAC Nairobi.</p>	Interviews with participants to KPAC23	2023	Inside MFA	IO	T
14	<p>KPSRL staff reported that the KPSRL contributed to identify the three overarching learning questions on which DSH committed to learn at policy level, even though the implementation of these questions is a slower process.</p> <p>KPSRL's experience a programme (directed at root causes of conflict) learning facilitator contributed to at least one question: the dilemma of moving from local to national level contribution. That question's formulation follows closely from the programme's final global learning event of December 2022 in the Hague, which was in turn influenced by the findings its MTR, and discussions at the programme's regional events in Uganda and Burundi.</p>	Interviews with KPSRL staff and review of learning reports	2023	Inside MFA	IO	T
15	<p>A CP reported that they saw a likely connection between a peacebuilding tender and learning about learning emerging from the programme (directed at root causes), especially the realisation that effective learning requires dedicated funding, a learning partner present from the beginning, and a learning agenda developed in a participatory way.</p>	Interviews with CPs and workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	Inside MFA	IO	NT

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16	<p>During a donor’s Brown Bag Lunch on Afghanistan, they discuss the dilemma between remaining engaged with authorities that do not align with their values (e.g. on women’s rights) and risking legitimization them. The donor’s staff reported that the findings from the PLI grant to an INGO on locally led development in Afghanistan nuanced the assumption that the Taliban is an amorphous regime with one policy line and revealed that including women’s participation in demining interventions is possible at local level, since local officials do not necessarily follow the central policy and are eager to deliver to their communities.</p>	Interviews with KPSRL staff	2023	Inside a donor’s policy towards Afghanistan	IO	NT
17	<p>MFA staff is in the process of using findings emerging from the PLI grants on localised mine action in Afghanistan and Iraq in an upcoming subsidy scheme on mine action.</p>	Interviews with KPSRL staff	2023	Inside MFA’s programming on mine action	IO/IM	NT
18	<p>PLI funding allowed a Somalian NGO to dedicated time to respond to the MFA’s demands to share learning emerging from the Somalia programme, a programme which trialled new ways of working in adaptive management, with the MFA’s Hague-based staff and the Yemen and Sudan Embassies.</p> <p>The PLI funded studies on sustainability and locally led development influenced discussions and practice of other programming partners inside the bilateral SRoL programme. Indeed, an INGO’s staff confirmed that insights from a Somalian NGO’s PLI study on locally led development are slowly travelling up the INGO’s organisational hierarchy from the Somaliland office, directly involved in the bilateral SRoL programme, to regional and headquarter offices.</p>	Interviews with PLI grantee	2023	Inside MFA and inside the consortia of the SROL programme to Somalia	IO	T
19	<p>A knowledge institute reported in their final KMF report that the KMF grant allowed them to trial new ways of working in connecting with people with lived experiences of living in Myanmar during the authoritarian unconstitutional change, and the repression that followed. This experience led to new insights into the challenges and opportunities of this form of cooperation.</p>	Final KMF report	2023	Inside a knowledge institute	IO	NT

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20	<p>An intergovernmental organisation received inputs from the KPSRL Secretariat on the content and practice of its internal learning agenda. The shape of the organisation’s learning agenda flowed from the Secretariat’s conception of these types of documents, as shared by one of the CPs of the KPSRL. Additionally, the KPSRL Secretariat offered further advice to the organisation’s learning staff on how to shape learning reports and learning conversations. The collaboration with the intergovernmental organisation failed to materialise in a dedicated PLI project or long-term collaboration.</p>	Interview with KPSRL staff and CPs	2023	Inside an intergov- ernmental organi- sation	IO	NT
21	<p>An INGO reported that they have engaged in internal discussions on the dilemma that effective SRoL interventions produced local results, but programmes and donors aimed at creating change at national scale. Concomitant discussions in the KPSRL network offered inspiration to the INGO on how to formulate learning questions on this theme in the INGO’s MTR.</p> <p>The INGO also credited the KPSRL for raising the visibility of knowledge and learning investments. A key KPSRL learning program was the first of their programmes that had a learning component, a practice that the INGO have since rolled out in all programmes.</p> <p>The INGO was however exploring the risk that making the case for learning created barriers to funding for local organisations, which were more focused on accessing funding for implementing activities rather than learning.</p>	Interviews with CP	2023	Inside an INGO	IO	NT
22	<p>A KMF grant helped an organisation representative of rights and interests of Dalit people in Nepal (Dalit is the Hindu caste of untouchables) to develop new strategies to engage Dalit and non-Dalit in the fight against caste discrimination. The change in strategy was connected to discussions, made possible by the KMF grant, on the philosophical origins of discrimination in Hindu ideology and how this ideology could be more effectively counteracted.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Dalit organisation was unable to shape a new Parliamentary bill on Dalit’s rights during the KMF project.</p>	Final KMF report	2023	Inside the Dalit organisation	IO	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
23	<p>Staff at a Dutch university reported that the KMF grant led to internal learning-by-doing on how to do co-creation and knowledge valorisation with Southern partners.</p> <p>Additionally, the university’s staff learned how to think along with practitioners and policymakers to identify the most pressing questions and topics for research (“This is the strength of the KPSRL.” They wrote in the KMF report).</p> <p>The KMF grant has also led to a new long-term research project inside the university on populism and foreign aid in Africa.</p>	Final KMF report	2023	Inside a Dutch university	IO	NT
24	<p>A knowledge institute reported that the KPSRL Secretariat introduced new methodological ideas on methods never tried before in that institute. These new ideas did not change the preferred method of analysis used by the institute, which remained political economy analysis, but served as inspiration to better root research on collaboration with partner researchers and local people.</p> <p>The staff also reported that they built on KPSRL’s approach to learning agenda in their work with an intergovernmental organisation. The institute adopted the KPSRL’s approach to build learning agenda by clarifying what an organisation aims to learn and only then moving to technical issues of learning questions, approach, methodology, and action plans.</p>	Interviews with CPs	2023	Inside a knowledge institute	IO/IM	T
25	<p>The project realised the first formal interaction in Armenia between state officials and people who have been involved in the system. Both People with Lived Experiences (PwLE) and public stakeholders stressed their appreciation for the roundtable meeting and interest in joining similar events.</p> <p>In addition, PwLE who joined the project had more self-confidence and a will to continue raising their voice.</p> <p>The 10-point plan contributed to SRoL policies on a broader level. Based on our experience in Armenia and other regions, we developed a plan for PwLE, NGOs, public officials, and other stakeholders who wish to create a platform to enable fruitful and meaningful engagement between these parties in FCAs.</p>	Final KMF report	2024	Inside PwLE and inside the prison institutions in Armenia	IO	NT

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	<p>We hoped that this piece of knowledge could contribute to ongoing efforts to include PwLE in reform discussions and support the development of better justice systems across regions. We hoped the 10-point will be used by actors involved or working in the justice sector to ensure that the limited resources channelled to FCAS are used in a manner that meet the needs of people who will be impacted by them.</p>					
26	<p>A KMF project helped an INGO to strengthen local peacebuilding efforts by demonstrating the value of a participatory approach. This approach included all stakeholders in the community and led to more effective solutions. Additionally, the project documented its learnings, which can inform future peacebuilding efforts.</p> <p>The project broke new ground by empowering local stakeholders in peacebuilding. Traditionally, outsiders design and implement solutions, but this project brought together community members, government officials, and NGOs. This local conflict resolution mechanism led to several benefits. First, the peacebuilding strategies were more likely to address the community's specific needs and cultural context. Second, by feeling invested in the process, the community was more likely to uphold the solutions after the project ended, promoting long-term sustainability. Finally, empowering locals reduces dependence on external actors, allowing the community to manage future conflicts more independently.</p>	Final KMF report	2024	Inside an INGO's peacebuilding project in Tigray	IO/IM	NT
27	<p>An activist group used KMF funds to organise a conference of forest defenders in Turkey. As a result of the Conference, they reported strengthened connections made across countries, such as UK--Turkey connection; Turkey--Cambodia connections. Guinea-Bissau activists learned from this event to hold their own Forest Defenders conference next year. In short, new partnerships emerged from the Conference.</p>	Final KMF report	2024	Inside the network of forest defenders	IO	NT
28	<p>The KMF project researched the experience of local governments in Nepal in running local-level judicial courts and created a manual to inform practice on this topic, as well as inputs for municipalities to identify the capacity constraints in the operations of their courts and addressing these concerns. The project reported that the understanding of Nepali stakeholders on the need to learn and exchange on the topic increased.</p>	Final KMF report	2024	Inside local government in Nepal	IO	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
29	Using KMF funding, a Kenyan NGO was able to rekindle the relationship with the National Police service, and implement targeted police intervention in a sub county of Nairobi county. The county was chosen because of the many cases of forced disappearances and extra judicial killings that police have been accused of. Research gathered from the pilot done in 2019-2020 pilot had shown that trauma and exposure to traumatic events was a leading cause of violent behavior in the police service, this also deeply impacted their intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships, to be have effective change, it was paramount to deal with the root cause. Awareness created by the implementation of the program allowed the officers to humanize themselves, and others, gaining a clear understanding that their behaviour was attributed to their life experiences and there was something they could about it. This new knowledge helped them not only know themselves better, but also acknowledge that their superiors and the civilians they serve had undergone the same. This led to officers being tolerant, and more willing to listen, it also enhanced their coping mechanisms and reduced substance and alcohol addiction which greatly ails the National police service.	Survey	2024	Inside police officers in a county of Nairobi, Kenya	IO/IM	NT
30	Partly as a result of support of KMF, the KMF grantee at a UK university had been able to develop the Human Impact Pathway, which was a way to solidify the experiences gained during an applied research project on Human Security & Business funded by the UN. The change in practice has not yet taken place, but with the HIP, they reported to be now in a very good position to support companies to improve their social impacts and contribute to sustainable development, especially in the most fragile countries.	Survey and interaction with KMF grantee	2024	Inside a UK university	IO	NT
31	Building on KPAC23, this survey respondent adapted the theme to guide not only their annual dialogue event but to include it in feedback modes, ie to carry out an extensive research on variances in public service delivery. They were yet to register the changes, so far they were working on generating reports on public service delivery in hard to reach areas for example in refugee settlements.	Survey	2024	Inside a programming organisation	IO	NT
32	A survey respondent reported that they were able to change their programs with some of the lessons learnt from other participants in KPSRL 2023.	Survey	2024	Inside a programming organisation	IO/IM	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
33	<p>Nigeria is bedevilled by high level of conflicts and insecurities. The grantee organization was a law and justice organisation aimed to promote peace, conflict resolution, security and promote justice sector reform to address the situation.</p> <p>The grantee reported that being part of the KPSRL strengthened the organization in promoting rule of law and security in fragile and conflict affected areas in Nigeria</p>	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO	NT
34	<p>A survey respondent reported that learning from the Ministry wide evaluation really helped to shape their thinking for the bid they then won under the recent competitive grant process.</p>	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO	NT
35	<p>One survey respondent reported that they used inputs from the KPSRL in their work on identifying cases of S/GBV perpetrated by men in uniform (military personnel). People were open to share few incidences after creating a safe space and conduct a stakeholders meeting. Then we were able to organize meetings with the right offices in follow up of the shared information. This helped us to identify victims that were affected during military confrontation and were not reported. It was great to have identified the victims. However, their perpetrators were never found.</p>	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO	NT
36	<p>A survey respondent reported that the way they measured and captured peace and impact has been influenced by being part of these conversations and KPSRL conferences.</p> <p>The commitment to sharing and de-branding how we understand impact to ensure others could participate was also influenced by KPSRL and their approach to engaging everyone in conversation.</p> <p>The respondent reported that the field tends to brand and hold things per organization, so this was a big decision and one influenced by the space and conversation that KPSRL created that really held to honest and open conversations about our impact, what works in the field and doesn't.</p>	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO/IM	NT
37	<p>The survey respondent reported that they take gender into consideration across their work after they participated to KPSRL events on the topic.</p>	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO/IM	NT

N	STORIES	SUBMITTED BY/ COLLECTED THROUGH	DATE	PLACE	LEVEL: INTERME- DIATE OUTCOME (IO) OR IMPACT (IM).	RELIABILITY: TRIANGU- LATED T, OR NON- TRIANGULATED NT
38	Engaging in a KMF project with KPSRL improved the grantee’s knowledge about specific themes and enabled their team to learn, adapt and apply this knowledge in a wide spectrum of other topics that lasted beyond the timeline of the project. They improved their application of human security in several topics, incorporated Trainers of Trainers as a tool in the majority of their trainings so that their trainees turn into agents of change in their surroundings. They also built a solid network of coworkers and colleagues across the region from other countries involved in the same project.	Survey	2024	Inside a program- ming organisation	IO/IM	NT
39	At the beginning of the story, the context was marked by intense conflict between farmers and herders in Riyom LGA of Plateau State, Nigeria. This conflict resulted in the destruction of lives and properties, perpetuating a cycle of violence and mistrust. The underlying causes of the conflict were not well understood, and there was little communication or cooperation between the two groups. By the end of the KMF project, significant progress had been made towards building peace and fostering sustainable coexistence between farmers and herders. The two communities had come together to engage in dialogues and understand the complexities of their conflict. The key driving factors of the conflict were identified through systems thinking workshops and community participatory action research. This improved understanding facilitated the implementation of joint farming cooperatives and the return of sustainable peace in the region. The motivation and desires that sustained the actors included a shared commitment to peace, a desire to end the cycle of violence, and the recognition of the mutual benefits of cooperation. Both farmers and herders wanted to secure their livelihoods and live in a stable and peaceful environment. The project participants were driven by the hope that through dialogue and cooperation, they could create a better future for their communities. The change happened due to the support from KPSRL and the KMF, which enabled the implementation of the Building Bridges for Peace project. The project employed a systems thinking and community-based participatory action research approach, allowing the communities to take ownership of the process and actively participate in identifying and addressing the root causes of the conflict. The use of systems thinking workshops helped stakeholders understand the interrelated factors driving the conflict, fostering a collective impact model that promoted socio-economic integration and cohesion. The initial systems thinking workshop, which unearthed the key driving factors of the conflict and helped improve the understanding of stakeholders.	Survey	2021	Inside a community	IO/IM	NT

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	<p>The community participatory action research, which engaged both farmers and herders in the process of identifying and addressing the root causes of the conflict. The establishment of joint farming cooperatives, which provided a practical example of cooperation and mutual benefit, further promoting trust and collaboration between the two groups. 5d. The return of sustainable peace in the region, marked by reduced violence and increased communication and cooperation between farmers and herders.</p>					
40	<p>The SROL narrative offered a platform through which Dutch NGOs could coordinate their response to the critical evaluation Inconvenient Realities.</p>	Interviews with KPSRL staff	2024	In the advocacy of Dutch INGOs	IO	NT
41	<p>Sababi</p>	KMF final report	2023	In programming partners	IO/IM	NT
42	<p>The KPSRL saw the need to connect different EU-related actors working on EaP countries in times of huge change in the political dynamics in the region. KPSRL's contribution was in organizing a session on EaP engagement together with Team Democracy Europe. As a result, we could see the appetite to continue conversation in TED, to look beyond the mere technical approach of democracy support towards engagement with wider society & beyond "usual suspects".</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In the desire of TED actors	IO	NT
43	<p>At the start of the LLD trajectory, the KPSRL saw chaotic and dispersed discussions around the value of LLD. The KPSRL's contribution was to connect many local actors to donors/INGOs in the Unboxing trajectory, discussing different themes. The result was a clearer sense of what LLD entails, a wider network to reach out to and a LLD Unboxing deliverable. The KPSRL identified the remaining open questions around the political side and effectiveness of LLD (which is now an MFA learning question).</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In the network of actors working on LLD	IO	NT
44	<p>At the start of the story, there was little cross-department coordination in the MFA on the concrete practice of LLD. The KPSRL's contribution, achieved through the collaborative study around the PLI, brought together different departments - something they expressed to be quite unique and of added value.</p> <p>As a result, the departments were able to identify and share concrete cases of how tenders were set up, and what is needed to be a better LLD partner as MFA. The PLI project delivered a paper with input from MFA on the topic, with concrete recommendations to be followed up on. This paper can be used as a starting point to further this discussion across departments.</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In the Dutch MFA - across departments	IO	NT

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45	<p>In 2023, the Dutch MFA engaged in operationalizing its learning questions, and the KPSRL contributed to this work by working out different potential pathways, from more intensified to more ‘light’ approaches.</p> <p>The MFA’s conclusion was to take a ‘lighter’ approach: constantly integrating the learning questions in programming/country visits etc., but no thorough and structured collection of results - simply discussing them a few times in the year.</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In MFA	IO/IM	NT
46	<p>At different points in time, KPSRL network participants asked for KPSRL advice on how to organise their internal learning approaches. This included GPPAC, Clingendael, PRIO, and International IDEA. The KPSRL’s advice helped them shape their collaborative learning approaches, strengthen their proposal writing, and refine their learning strategies.</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In programming partners across the KPSRL network	IO/IM	NT
47	<p>Through the exposure to the Fireside Peace Chats, The Hague Humanity Hub (THHH) realised the utility of informal, intimate “fireside chats” and replicated that format/ title in their own separate event at their Talent Fair at THUAS.</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	The Hague Humanity Hub (THHH) and its series of events	IO	NT
48	<p>The KPSRL realised that there was little coordination in the advocacy efforts of the SRoL sector. The KPSRL’s contribution was to bring together actors at different moments throughout the year around political developments & evaluations to coordinate a shared narrative.</p> <p>Following the joint development by the Narrative Group of a narrative article, some of the organisations participating to the advocacy group, such as NIMD, have incorporated in their communications include elements developed through the narrative trajectory. Other organisations used the narrative group to expand the reach of their communication initiatives.</p> <p>Generally, now programming partners are more aware of each other’s initiatives.</p>	Workshop with KPSRL staff	2024	In the advocacy of programming partners	IO	NT

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49	<p>A KMF project aimed to explore tools to ensure resilience, rule of law and stability in Moldova, enabling sharing of challenges, experiences and good practices between security and rule of law practitioners (police officers, prosecutors, security experts, and civil society organisations) from Moldova and Romania.</p> <p>As a result of the project, the stakeholders in Moldova are engaging in designing a common communication strategy for the sector and are collaborating in jointly writing proposals for EU tenders on the theme of anti-corruption. They have also strengthened their personal connection.</p>	Workshop with KMF grantees	2024	In the work of anti-corruption practitioners in Romania	IO/IM	NT
50	<p>A KMF project aimed at developing a pilot strategy on summarising evidence holdings for different justice actors, and to support the Commission for Investigating and Gathering Evidence (Duhok, Iraq) to legally, safely and ethically summarise their evidence holdings for engagement with transitional justice actors using the pilot strategy.</p> <p>The project summarised frameworks for collecting and consolidating evidence adopted within partners for different purposes and helped the partners to transition from a breadth of diverging expectations to a consolidated outcome.</p>	Workshop with KMF grantees	2024	In the work of the Commission for Investigating and Gathering Evidence in Iraq.	IO	NT
51	<p>The PLI Somalia project allowed the programming partners implementing the Dutch SROL programme in Somalia to develop and consolidate their thinking and learning on four issues of relevance to their work. A Somali NGO worked on equity, diversity, and inclusion. An intergovernmental organisation worked on sustainability thinking. An INGO worked on cross-cutting issues. A second INGO worked on links with local government.</p> <p>The MFA has leveraged the paper on equity, diversity, and inclusion produced with PLI funding on equitable partnerships for a capacity building programme directed at policymakers. The Somali NGO has implemented workshops at the Embassies of Rwanda, Yemen, Sudan, and Ethiopia and with policymakers at the MFA that manage Peaceful Societies' grants around an equitable partnership approach. This is currently changing the approach to equitable partnership implemented under the Peaceful Societies' tender.</p>	Interview with PLI grantee	2024	In the work of policymakers at DSH	IO/IM	NT

Annex 8 | Bibliography

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Annex 9 | List of individuals consulted in interviews

Sever Dzigurski - Head of the Secretariat of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (2022-2024).

Christian Kuitert - Policy officer, Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (2021-2024).

Messina Manirakiza - Programming officer, Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (2021-2024).

Megan Price - Head of the Conflict Research Unit, the Clingendael Institute

Micheal James Warren - Customary and informal Justice advisor at the International Development Law Organisation

Rob Parker - Saferworld Europe - Director of policy and communications - Saferworld.

Annex 10 | Survey tool

Tool 1. Survey among all KP participants

The purpose of this survey is to understand the experience of participants in the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law in its current phase (January 2021 to the present).

Profiles

- 0.a I am from:
 - Civil society/non-governmental organisation
 - Government/state-affiliated institution
 - Regional/International multilateral organisation
 - Research/Academic institution
 - Foundation
 - News/media/journalism/opinion
 - Political party
 - Other (please specify)

- 0.b Sex:
 - Male
 - Female
 - Other

- 0.c Age:
 - Below 20
 - 21-30
 - 31-40
 - 41-50
 - 51-60
 - Above 60

- 0.d Country of residence:
 - The Netherlands Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium
 - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, CAR,
 - Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Rep of Congo, DRC, Egypt,
 - Ethiopia, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea
 - Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan,
 - Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Marshall Islands, Micronesia,
 - Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria,
 - Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone,
 - Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan,
 - Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tunisia, Turkey,
 - Tuvalu, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, US, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen,
 - Zimbabwe Other (please specify)

Relevance

- 1.a Why do you participate in KPSRL activities/processes?
 - Access to learning opportunities and evidence that may improve policy, programming, capacities, relationships
 - 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
 - Network and build relations with other Security/Rule of Law actors
 - 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
 - Share knowledge, experience and recommendations with others
 - 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
 - Access to decision-makers (for example for advocacy or policy influencing purposes)
 - 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
 - For fundraising purposes
 - 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5
 - Other (Please specify)
- 1.b To what extent are KPSRL activities and instruments relevant to key SRoL related policy, practice or learning agendas in your working context?
 - Annual conference/KPSRL learning events
 - Very irrelevant ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 Very relevant / Do not know
 - Knowledge Management Fund projects/studies
 - Very irrelevant ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 Very relevant / Do not know
 - Programmatic learning Instrument and KPSRL advisory role on programmatic learning processes
 - Very irrelevant ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 Very relevant / Do not know
 - Policy-related reviews or learning processes
 - Very irrelevant ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 Very relevant / Do not know
 - 'Fragile truths' podcast
 - Very irrelevant ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 Very relevant / Do not know

- KPSRL website and online resources

Very irrelevant 1 2 3 4 5 Very relevant / Do not know

Please explain (skippable)

Engagement and communication

- 2.a Is KPSRL attracting the right mix of participants (from different locations, professions, disciplines, stakeholder groups etc)?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 To a large extent / Do not know

- 2.b How would you rate KPSRL's accessibility and relevance for participants from fragile or conflict affected situations?

Not accessible 1 2 3 4 5 Very accessible / Do not know

- 2.c Please explain (skippable)

Learning and learning relevance

- 3.a To what extent has engagement with KPSRL enabled you to learn (e.g. enabled changes in your knowledge, skills or attitude)?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 To a large extent / Do not know

- 3.b Please explain

- 4.a How interested are you in the following security and rule-of-law related learning themes KPSRL has been covering?

- Access to justice/legal empowerment

Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

- Adaptive programming

Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

- Asymmetric power

Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

- Climate change

Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

- Decolonisation

Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

- Demining
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Gender, peace, and security including justice for women
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- How learning happens across the wider development sector
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Human security
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Inclusive governance
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Land governance
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Learning from specific countries/regions
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Localisation
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Mental health
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Peacebuilding/conflict resolution lessons sharing
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Post COVID adaptation
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Social contracts
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know
- Transitional justice
Very uninterested 1 2 3 4 5 Very interested / Do not know

Outcomes and impacts

- 5.a Has anything changed in your own, your organisation's, or other actors' work because of your or their engagement with the KPSRL?
- Yes No Don't know
- 5.b If yes, please briefly describe the story of change (you can briefly describe 1) the situation at the start of the story and 2) at the end of the story, 3) the motivation and desires that sustained the actors making the change, 4) the reasons why the story of change is important, 5) key turning points in the story during which someone changed beliefs or behaviours, 6) factors and actors supporting or hindering change).
- 5.c If yes, how significant is this change?
- Very insignificant 1 2 3 4 5 Very significant / Do not know
- 6.a To what extent has your engagement with KPSRL contributed to this change as compared to other factors?
- No KPSRL contribution 1 2 3 4 5 Very significant KPSRL contribution / Do not know
- 7.a Are there areas where you have not learned from KPSRL activities or where you have experienced any other disappointment or negative outcome(s) to which KPSRL has contributed?
- Yes Somehow No Do not know
- 7.b If yes/somehow, which ones?
8. What is your biggest disappointment with the project so far?

Challenges

9. What barriers do you face applying learning from KPSRL-related processes in your own work?

Annex 11 | Survey demographics

The endline survey was answered by 145 individuals in the KPSRL network. A response rate is not available because the survey was shared through the KPSRL social media rather than sent to determined number of individuals. Below we present the diversity of respondents by type of organisation (Figure 5), gender (Figure 6),

Figure 5 Survey responses by type of organisation

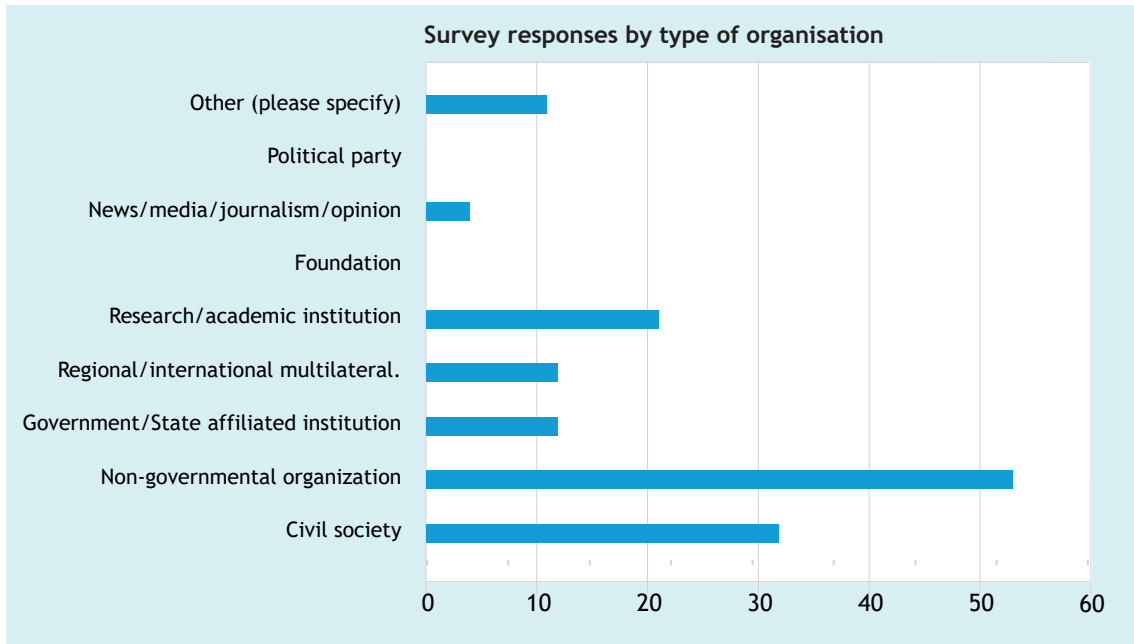


Figure 6 Survey responses by gender

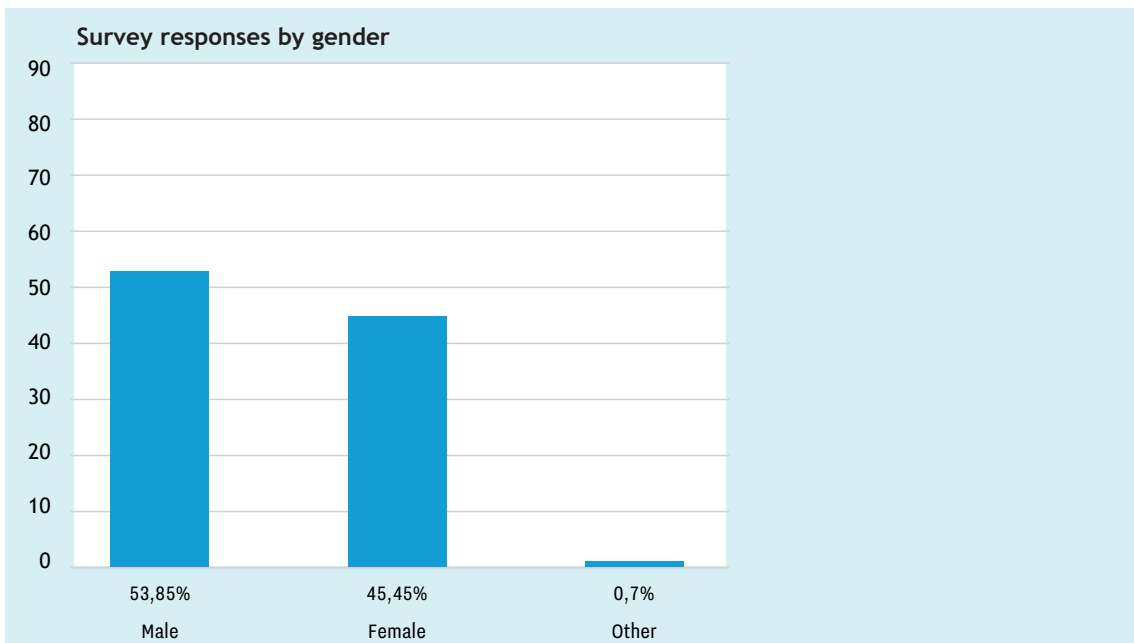
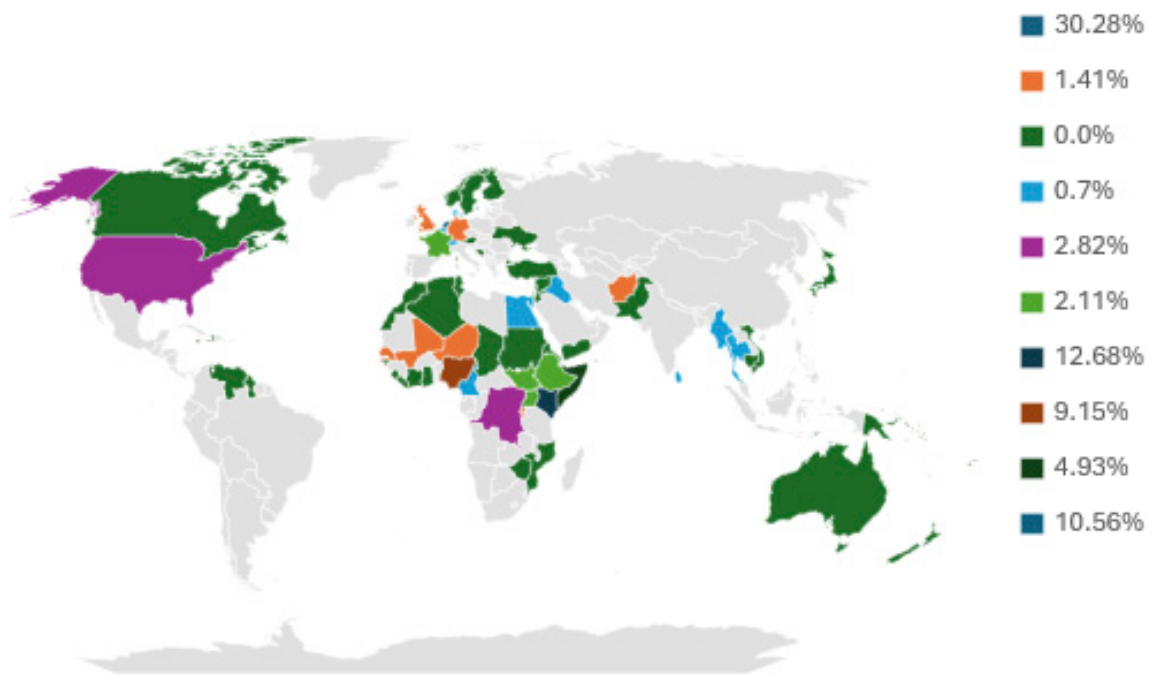


Figure 7 Survey responses by countries



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