

Applied Political Economy Analysis (PEA)

Sample Interview Questions and Data Collection Template

These are meant to be illustrative and used in semi-formal interviews.

Sample Interview Questions:

Example of PEA that focus on Anti-corruption and Impunity

PEA Problem-level Analysis of Corruption and Impunity		
Sample Question Guide		
Foundational Factors	Causes of corruption	What kind of corruption has been most pervasive in _____ and why?
	Consequences of corruption	What factors have enabled corruption (actors and structures)?
	Key actors	What is the role of corruption in unifying or dividing people?
	Response from state	How functional is the state bureaucracy? How do capacity and resource issues affect the problem?
	Response from citizenry/CSOs Relationship between state and citizenry	What type of oversight/accountability mechanisms exist both within the State (i.e. TSC, internal controls) as well as outside of the state (media, CSOs watchdog groups, etc)?
Rules of the Game	Legal framework	What are the strengths and weakness of the legal framework on anti-corruption, transparency, oversight, and merit-based hiring practices in public administration?
	Gaps or implementation issues	Many people talk about weaknesses in implementation or loopholes. Are human/financial resources made available to properly implement? If not, why?
	Justice chain	Are there mechanisms to report corrupt practices? If so, do employees/others have protections? Whistleblower

		act, plea bargaining, alternative sentencing?
	Informal norms	What informal rules and belief systems (including political competition and patronage, etc) affect corrupt practices?
Here and Now	Reform champions and Spoilers	Who benefits from reform or lack of reform to make government more transparent, effective and accountable? How and why?
	Pathways to change	What is the nature of policy-making processes in x Country? What factors determine whose voices are heard?
	Influences	Who are the reform champions? Are they organized, empowered and influential enough to drive reform? Why/not?
		What is the role of CSOs, private sector, media, the church, and other groups in reform?
		How do key actors use their influence (private sector, parties, CSOs) What influence do they have and to whom are they accountable?
	What's working/not	When has civil society been able to hold the government accountable? What worked/didn't work?
	Issues of concern and leadership	What issues are of most concern to citizens how do they express their views and organize? What are their incentives? Who do they see as their leaders?
		How do politicians influence (co-opt/coerce) reform groups?
		How will transparency and anti-corruption issues be addressed in political campaigns?
Role of International Community	What influence does the international community have to drive reform? What are the limitations?	

Dynamics	Opportunities for reform	What are potential pathways for reform on A/C transparency (new leadership, civil service reform, institutionalization of transparency laws, collective action)?
		Who is empowered to act and what help do they need to be effective?
		Are there opportunities to build reform coalitions? How?
		What current initiatives are working/not working and how can we effectively build on them? Are these seen as legitimate? Do they have genuine constituencies?
		What entry points for change are likely to open up?
		Are there lessons learned from other countries in the region that could help us?

