

Nordic International Support Foundation – NIS

Annual Report 2019

The nature of the company's business operations

Nordic International Support Foundation (NIS) carries out peace and reconciliation activities in war and conflict zones, as well as institutional development, social measures and conflict resolution. The Foundation has its offices in Oslo. In 2019, the Foundation carried out projects in Somalia, Mali and Burma (Myanmar).

NIS implements a large range of projects together with donors and key national stakeholders to assist countries and communities to successfully emerge from conflict. Escaping conflict requires a broad mix of activities targeting peacebuilding, state building, reconciliation processes and community recovery efforts. As a result, NIS believes there are multiple ways to support communities and institutions in transitioning away from conflict. Our projects include constructing, rehabilitating and installing economic and community infrastructure such as solar streetlights, stadiums and markets, roads, government buildings, solar electrification to hospitals, health clinics and government buildings. In addition, NIS works with creating vocational training facilities and curricula, managing secondees to government institutions and managing grant-making programmes supporting peace-building and social cohesion. For NIS, the exact nature of a project is secondary to its ability to help a country emerge from conflict.

NIS projects seek first and foremost to support communities and institutions to recover from the negative effects of conflict, regardless of the type of intervention. NIS works with international donors, national governments, community leaders, national civil society groups and other key stakeholders to support processes that facilitate recovery from conflict through a variety of means: improving public service delivery, rehabilitating social and economic infrastructure, supporting the functional recovery of national institutions, designing programmes that target gender and social inclusivity, and managing grant-making bodies that support peace-building and strengthening social cohesion. Across these many types of projects, we continually emphasise the need to deliver concrete benefits to conflicted-affected communities: infrastructure must support increased community activities of all kinds; grants must support relevant actors with strong local relationships; and support to institutions must help boost their ability to deliver on their mandates. In order to ensure our projects are relevant in both the practical and political dimensions of our work, NIS lays a great deal of emphasis on continuous contact with stakeholders, carrying out extensive community engagements tailored for the given context.

NIS has completed more than 105 projects in 4 countries in the past 8 years.

Developments in funding and position

2019 was characterised by continued growth and consolidation. Our administrative costs increased compared to 2018 as a result of the implementation of several internal consolidation and capacity-building measures. We continued to work with securing long-term financing in line with our strategy. In Somalia, NIS secured a new three-year grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as a new multiyear grant with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Our focus on governance, compliance and systems continued with equal strength and dedication. On the whole, we think NIS will continue to progress in a positive direction in a context of increased financial predictability.

2019 was a busy year that involved the following activities:

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In **Somalia**, NIS signed two new multi-year programmes. First, in July 2019, NIS was awarded a three-year grant from the Government of Norway for the implementation of the Initiative for Stability and National Development (I-STAND). The I-STAND programme was developed to contribute to improved stability in Somalia through increased trust in the Somali government. It was developed building on the achievements and experience from the Bilateral Labour-Intensive Stabilisation (BLIS) programme that NIS implemented from 2016 to 2019. The I-STAND is closely aligned with key priorities and stabilisation frameworks of the Somali government. It seeks to support the implementation of government policies across a range of sectors, all working in different ways to achieve greater stability and better prospects for the country's longer-term development goals. These stabilisation initiatives aim at contributing toward a more inclusive post-conflict society which sees the value of diversity and gender equality. The main activities carried out in the second half of 2019 under the I-STAND programme related mainly to the reconstruction of the Mogadishu national Stadium, cobblestone road construction in Baidoa town and the procurement of over 500 solar-powered streetlights to be installed across several towns around the country.

The second new multi-year programme is the Somali Experts Secondment for institutional capacity building (SES) and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). This project aims to support the efforts of the Swedish government in seconding high-capacity Somali Diaspora and local experts to a range of national institutions in Somalia for the implementation of the Somali National Development Plan (NDP). By helping to provide high-capacity Diaspora experts to weakened government institutions, this programme seeks to boost their capacity to function and implement government policy. While the provision of experts under a single programme will not remedy all of the capacity constraints faced by government, this programme will help to build the core competencies necessary to achieve longer-term and more ambitious development goals in the years ahead.

Work in support of **Myanmar's** formal peace process, as well as efforts to strengthen social cohesion and women's rights continued apace in 2019.

NIS' Paung Sie Facility (PSF) project concluded phase II of its work in 2018, with 2019 seeing the start of Phase III covering up to end-2022. The PSF retains its three donors, UK, Sweden and Australia, for Phase III and will continue its efforts with a new theory of change focused on mitigating conflict, catalysing leadership and influencing structures to support social cohesion.

In support of the Myanmar peace process, the Joint Peace Fund (JPF) was established in December 2015 for a period of at least six years, as a multi-donor fund to support national efforts to achieve a final and lasting settlement of ethnic armed conflict in Myanmar. NIS manages the Technical Secretariat and provides overall support to the governance of the JPF, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). In 2018, the JPF underwent a Mid-Term Review (MTR) process to review the Fund's progress and achievements over the first half of the project. Over the course of 2019, the JPF implemented the recommendations from the 2018 MTR. JPF also continued to build on its work of 2018 in supporting initiatives to broaden participation in the peace process and to make it more inclusive.

January 2019 saw the commencement of Global Affairs Canada Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project, launched as part of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, to support the capacity and activities of women's organisations and movements, advance the protection of women's and girls' rights and achieve gender equality. NIS is implementing the five-year WVL programme in Myanmar, characterised by support to women's rights organisations in the form of multi-year funding; institutional capacity-building support; and network and alliance building, to foster an enabling environment in which broader collective action can coalesce to further women's rights issues in Myanmar.



The Local Insight Service (LIS) was set up in January 2019, as a three-year project with funding from the UK Government, under the auspices of the Department for International Development (DFID), and is administered via NIS Foundation. Its principal aim, initially, is to provide localized, timely, relevant, conflict-sensitive information that can help DFID and its partners improve programming at a local level.

In 2019, NIS Mali signed a new with the Energizing Development Fund (Endev) in close cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for the eighteen-month, Renewable energy for Peace and Stability in Mali programme. The programme focusses on the delivery of solar-powered streetlights, solar PV production and solar-PV home systems in northern Mali. The programme includes the extension of nano grids and establishment of new nano grids in 3 villages, installation of 80 solar streetlights in markets in Gao, creation of energy kiosks, provision of home solar systems and extensive training of local technicians in the targeted communities.

All the necessary preparations for the expansion of the Solar Street Lights Programme in Gao and Timbuktu were undertaken in 2019. This infrastructure, financed by the Norwegian government via MINUSMA, will be installed in the two biggest cities of the North of the country during the first two quarters of 2020.

The Foundation recorded an income of NOK 257 230 097 in 2019 in grants from Great Britain (DFID), EU, Somalia Stability Fund, The World Bank, Sweden (SIDA), Canada, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australia (DFAT), UNOPS, MINUSMA, IOM, Energizing Development (EnDev) and Germany (GIZ). Annual results for 2019 amounted to NOK 7 336 238.

	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
Balance Sheet total	163 573 392	130 487 845
Organisational capital	9 918 124	2 309 311
Subordinated loans	0	2 317 500
Total eligible capital	9 918 124	4 626 811
Eligible organisational capital percentage	6,1%	3,6%

We aim to continue consolidating our organisational capital in the future, and the Board has made plans to do this.

The Foundation is not exposed to much market risk and has a low credit risk related to donors. We are working actively to lower liquidity risk related to new projects and control currency risks. We will continue to focus on these two areas in the future.

No other circumstances have occurred after the end of the accounting year which are relevant to the accounts, including the Covid-19 outbreak. The annual accounts present a fair and true view of development in the Foundation, for the result in the accounting year and the position at the end of the accounting year. The Foundation's liquidity is satisfactory in relation to operations.

Going concern

The annual accounts have been presented under the going concern assumption. Further plans and progress form the basis for this assumption.

Work environment and personnel

The working environment is considered to be good, and continuous measures are being taken for improvement. An organisational staff survey encompassing the entire organisation was undertaken in 2019. The level of participations was very high (99%) and the results overall positive. Improvements


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within selected focus will be identified and implemented going forward. This type of survey will be undertaken on an annual basis going forward.

Absence due to sickness has been insignificant. 2019 sadly saw the death of one of our consultants on assignment in Somalia who died as a result of personal health related matters.

Gender Equality

The Foundation's employees in Norway counted 6 women and 4 men in 2019. The Board was made up of 1 woman and 2 men. There were 149 employees (ca. 46% of women and 54% of men) at our country and project offices outside Norway. The Foundation aims to be a workplace with full equality between women and men.

Discrimination

The Foundation strives to provide its employees with equal opportunity and hinder discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, skin colour, religion, sexual orientation or functional abilities. We work actively and methodically to promote the objectives of anti-discrimination in our activities. These activities include e.g. recruitment, salary and working conditions, promotions, opportunities for skill enhancement and protections from harassment.

Report on the Environment

Environmental risks are systematically included in the Foundation's risk mitigation strategies for all its activities. Where relevant and appropriate, the Foundation prioritises the use of renewable energy.

Net Earnings and Allocation of the Annual Results

The Board proposes the following allocation of the annual results which amount to NOK 7 608 812:

Transfer to Other organisational capital: NOK 7 608 812

Total: NOK 7 608 812

Oslo, 24/06-2020



Toril Nicolaisen
Chair of the board



Eric E. A. Sevrin
Board member/General Manager



Christopher Sean Eads
Board member