



**Annual Accounts and Annual Report for 2021  
for**

**Nordic International Support Foundation – NIS**

**Enterprise Registration Number: 897554372**

# Nordic International Support Foundation – NIS

## Annual Report 2021

### The nature of the company's business operations

Nordic International Support Foundation (NIS) works to support improved security, environmental health, and stability through the realisation of the principles underpinning the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Foundation's work has a global focus, tailoring programmes to fit the needs and circumstances specific to the operating environment, ranging from conflict-affected countries to developed countries, including Norway. The Foundation has its offices in Oslo. In 2021, the Foundation carried out projects in Somalia, Mali, Burma (Myanmar) and Norway.

NIS primarily works with institutional development, social measures, education, utilisation of green technologies, grants management and awareness raising efforts, focusing on supporting the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies, environmental awareness, social equality and sustainability.

For the Foundation, the exact nature of a project is secondary to its ability to contribute to the realization of the principles upon which the SDGs are based. As a result, NIS believes there are multiple ways to support communities and institutions in transitioning towards greater equality, sustainability and stability. 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.

NIS projects seek first and foremost to support communities and institutions to become more resilient, stable and inclusive across all spheres, be it political, social or environmental. NIS works with international donors, national governments, community leaders, national civil society groups and other key stakeholders to support processes that boost communities' ability to recover from conflict, adapt to climate change impacts and sustain social and political stability. Across these many types of projects, we continually emphasise the need to deliver concrete benefits that strengthen targeted communities to achieve longer-term social and economic development goals. In order to ensure our projects are relevant in both the practical, social, environmental 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 120 projects in 4 countries in the past 10 years. NIS celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year of existence in 2021.

### Developments in funding and position

2021 was characterised by a decrease in overall turnover as a result of deep political turmoil in most of our country programs. However, our continued consolidation measures allowed NIS to keep administrative costs at an appropriate percentage of total income.

We continued to work with securing long-term financing in line with our strategy. On the whole, we believe NIS is well equipped to continue progressing in a positive direction.



2021 was a different and busy year that involved the following activities:

In **Somalia**, NIS remained focussed on implementing its multi-year programmes in cooperation with donors including the EU, Sweden, Norway and others. The largest projects remained the two EU-funded programmes, Stabilisation and Peace Dividends; and the Infrastructures for Socio-Economic Development (ISED) programme. Infrastructures built under these two programmes during 2021 included district courthouses, district administration offices, schools, sports infrastructure, flood defence infrastructure; solar streetlights, and road rehabilitation and construction. Both programmes target all of Somalia, with new infrastructure being delivered in most Federal Member States.

Progress continued under the Swedish-funded, Strengthening Somali Institutional Capacity through Diaspora (SES) programme, in addition to new works under a new Sweden-funded project to construct a new National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) for the Somali health authorities. The majority of 2021 was spent carrying out the initial assessments and planning for the construction of the NEOC building and selecting partners for design and construction.

Despite the challenging political environment resulting from the delay to the planned presidential elections in 2021, implementation of the Norwegian-funded programme, Initiative for Stabilisation, Transition and National Development (I-STAND), continued apace in 2021, with over 50 interventions taking place in over 30 locations across the country. Intervention types included solar electrification of hospitals, solar streetlights installations, road rehabilitation, waste clearing and removal, construction of sports facilities and markets, as well as TVET activities. Overall, it is estimated that there have been over 800,000 direct and in-direct beneficiaries of the I-STAND programme during 2019-2021.

The context in **Myanmar** changed dramatically in early 2021. On 1 February, the Tatmadaw (national armed forces) overthrew the elected civilian government and took power in a pre-dawn coup. The Tatmadaw issued a statement on 1 February 2022 proclaiming that its objectives in taking power were to investigate allegations of voter irregularities, incompetence on the part of the Union Election Commission, and "possible voter fraud"; to hold a free and fair election in accordance with the 2008 Constitution; and to transfer power to the winning party in line with democratic standards. As a result of political developments since February 2021, NIS programming inside the country remained paused and under review as of 31 December 2021.

In 2021, NIS **Mali** continued implementing the Renewable Energy for Peace and Stability in Mali programme. During the first 6 months of 2021, NIS ensured the maintenance of the 60 streetlights, procuring to approximately 8,820 people benefits from illumination at night. Reportedly, there has been an increase in business activity, feelings of security and interaction amongst members of the community as they benefit from the lights from 06:30 pm to 06:45 a.m. The results of 6 sample tests during the first 3 months after the installation are that, on average, 7 out of 9 business owners stay in the market 3 to 4 hours longer than before the poles were installed and feel more secure than earlier. The impact is much noticeable in Forgho where, during the first 3 weeks following the implementation, beneficiaries, specifically sellers, stayed up to midnight, partly transforming the market and the lights provided by the poles as a place for main social and cultural events (meetings, wedding ceremonies, theatre, open air cinema, traditional dance parties, sport competitions and the like).

After the installation and the maintenance of the first 60 poles, NIS started an extensive development and procurement of various solar systems, including mini grid, nano grids, Pico Pv, solar home systems and solar production systems, energy kiosks and additional streetlight solar poles. The procurement procedure took longer than expected, but without interfering in the implementation of activities planned, as it necessitated a thorough review and adaptation of the systems involved, i.e.; choose compatible technologies adapted to field realities, to determine capacities and test the quality of all elements to avoid dysfunctions in remote places. During the last three months of 2021, 7 installation companies



willing to intervene in the conflict-torn and risky northern part of Mali were contacted to undertake the installation of the systems, the training of local technicians for maintenance and reparations tasks after the official handover.

In 2021, NIS began work on its first project to be implemented in **Norway: Project, Hva nå? Endringslaben**. *Hva nå?* is an exhibition and learning project that delivers meaningful, inspiring opportunities for children and youth to learn more about the environmental and social challenges being faced around the world today. The exhibitions will be hosted in public libraries and activities will help children and youth to understand how ethics, choices, and human behaviour in all aspects of life are the factors that, more than anything, will determine how we create a more sustainable way of living for the future. The first exhibitions planned for October 2022 are focussing on the production and e-waste from mobile phones; production of t-shirts; and the use of soy as feed in salmon farming. The exhibitions show concrete, real-world and real-time examples of projects, businesses and organisations that are working to change the societal systems and behaviours that are eroding our social and natural environments today and show children and youth and how they can be a part of the solutions.

For this project, NIS has been cooperating with design students from University of Oslo, NTNU and teenage students from Elvebakken High School in Oslo, with the students taking the leads in developing the exhibition concepts based on case studies of the relevant sectors.

**Income**

The Foundation recorded an income of NOK 248 426 237 in 2021 in grants from Great Britain (FCDO), EU, Somalia Stability Fund, The World Bank, Sweden (SIDA), Canada (GAC), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australia (DFAT), UNOPS, MINUSMA, IOM, Energizing Development (EnDev), the Netherlands and Germany (GIZ). Annual results for 2021 amounted to NOK 10 271 055. .

	<b>31.12.2021</b>	<b>31.12.2012</b>
Balance Sheet total	254 603 542	231 825 311
Organisational capital	26 300 567	16 029 512
Organisational capital percentage	10,3%	6,9%

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. 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. The Foundation has a Board liability insurance in place.

**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**

In 2021, NIS was certified a great place to work. Great Place to Work® Institute Norway documented this through a comprehensive survey of NIS employees' experience of trust, pride and camaraderie at the workplace.





Absence due to sickness has been insignificant. 2021 sadly saw the death of one of our national Somali colleagues who died from Covid-19 and one of our secondees on assignment in Somalia who died as a result of a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

### **Gender Equality**

The Foundation's employees in Norway counted 9 women and 3 men in 2021. The Board was made up of 1 woman and 3 men. There were 192 employees and secondees (ca. 43% of women and 57% of men) at our country and project offices outside Norway. The Foundation aims to be a workplace with full equality between women and men in line with our adopted policies, strategies and plans of actions which are defined along the following thematic lines: organisational culture (staff composition, staff benefits, physical work environment, staff conduct, gender equality and social inclusion capacity, staff responsibilities and organisational learning), and programming (integration, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, finances, and programmatic approach). Actions are clearly assigned, and their implementation tracked through systematic status reviews throughout the Foundation.

### **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 10 271 055:

Transfer to Other organisational capital: NOK 10 271 055

**Total: NOK 10 271 055**

Oslo, 20/06-2022



**Christopher Sean Eads**  
Chair of the board



**Eric E. A. Sevrin**  
Board member/General Manager



**Kassim Gabowduale**  
Board member



**Vilde Straume Wiig**  
Board member



**Christian Martinsen**  
Board member

