

**KIOS - THE FINNISH NGO FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011  
Summary**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS) was established in September 1998 by eleven Finnish non-governmental organisations working with human rights and development issues. KIOS provides financial support for projects of local civil society organisations that work to promote or protect human rights in developing countries. The overall goal of KIOS is to promote human rights in developing countries as they are defined in the treaties and instruments of the United Nations and in other equivalent regional human rights instruments.

During 2011 the work of KIOS was based on a new strategy for the years 2011-2015. During this period the geographic focus areas of KIOS are Eastern Africa and South Asia. In Eastern Africa KIOS funding focuses on:

- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Kivus)
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Rwanda and
- Uganda.

In South Asia the funding focuses on:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka and
- Tibet

In addition to the general strategy, KIOS is drafting country strategies to improve the effectiveness of its work. During 2011 the country strategies were completed for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Kivus) and Tibet.

During the strategy period for 2011-2015, one of the focuses is the strengthening the rights of the most vulnerable groups, especially in post-conflict and fragile states. In addition to project funding, KIOS supports the capacity building of its partner NGOs in human rights expertise and project administration.

In 2011, KIOS funded 28 projects of which 14 (50%) were in East African focus countries and 12 (43%) in South Asian focus countries. 2 were outside the focus countries. In euros, the funding to African focus countries was 384 558 €, to Asian focus countries 368 200€, and 48 800 € outside the focus countries.

KIOS receives financial support for its activities from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the foundation was 1.5 million euros in 2011.

With its sister foundations, Abilis and Siemenpuu, KIOS organized an international seminar on 4.-5.10.2011, titled: *Minority and Indigenous Peoples' Rights*.

## **2. PROJECT FUNDING**

The focus in project funding during 2011 was in the implementation of the new strategy. Since 2007, KIOS has worked proactively in making itself better known in focus countries. Internet, seminars, monitoring trips to focus areas and existing contacts with embassies and NGOs have been important ways of networking. In 2011, KIOS also aimed at increasing small organizations' possibilities to apply funding, and in cooperation with partners, trained small organizations in Kenya.

During 2011, KIOS continued developing a project database, an effort started in 2006. The cooperation with the service provider was ended and the source code acquired for KIOS. Siemenpuu Foundation withdraw from the project at this point.

### **2.1 Appraisals and funding**

Through carefully working through the appraisals of each application, KIOS wanted to ensure the success and effectiveness of the supported projects, as well as guarantee an equal and open appraisal for all applicants. KIOS put special emphasis on the reliability, expertise and previous experience of the applicant organisation. Administrative skills, such as capacity to plan and execute human rights projects and to manage donor funding are equally important.

### **2.2 Approved projects**

In 2011, KIOS registered altogether 294 funding applications from 16 countries. The amount of applications decreased from the previous year, because of the better awareness of about the current focus areas of KIOS. In addition, KIOS received around 1000 enquiries about project funding.

The Executive Board of KIOS discussed 285 project applications (371 in 2010), out of which 28 (35 in 2010) were approved. Around 10 % of the applications were approved (9% in 2010).

The trend of KIOS funding has been towards larger projects. During the first years of its operation, the project funding was less than 20 000 € per project. In 2011, the average amount of funding for a project was around 28 600, which is however, exceptionally a smaller average than the previous year (37 700 € in 2010).

12 of the approved projects were from Asian focus countries (and two from other Asian countries), while 14 were from African focus countries. The board of KIOS had set a goal that in 2011 at least 80% of the projects would be from the focus countries from Africa and Asia, defined in the new strategy, and 20% could be from other areas. The goal was achieved as 90% of the funded projects are from the focus areas.

A great number of the projects receiving a positive funding decision aimed at prevention of human rights violations through awareness raising, training and lobbying, or provided legal aid for victims of human rights violations. The organisations receiving funding were mostly small and medium sized

organizations that monitor the human rights conduct of the governments and perceive international human rights agreements as important tools for a change in their societies.

### **2.3 On-going projects at the end of 2011**

At the end of 2011, KIOS had 66 on-going projects in 20 countries. The countries with the largest number of on-going projects were Uganda (12 projects), Kenya (8 projects), Pakistan (6), and Bangladesh (5).

KIOS also applied for additional funding from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Afghanistan fund, announced in 2010. KIOS received 35 000€, which was channelled for the Foundation of Solidarity and Justice. The organization implemented a project in Herat concentrating on the rights of women.

### **2.4 Monitoring**

In addition to formal reporting periods, KIOS stays in close contact with the organisations throughout the project period and gives them, for example, information and training. Monitoring trips are also a crucial part of monitoring the projects and evaluating new applicants. In 2011, KIOS staff made monitoring trips to Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan and Uganda.

### **2.5 Evaluation and quality assurance**

During 2011, two large long-term projects were evaluated. The field work of the evaluation was completed in December 2011, and the final report will be completed early 2012. The two evaluated projects were implemented by organizations WOREC and PPCC. In addition, a post-evaluation questionnaire was sent to the partners that had completed projects 2 to 5 years ago. The analysis of the data gathered will be completed during spring 2012.

## **3 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES**

Adequate resources, networking and impact of partner organisations are part of the vision of KIOS. The first *KIOS – Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme* started in Kenya in 2008. The core idea of the programme was to offer capacity building for the small organisations. The small organizations' need for closer project monitoring and guidance was also acknowledged. One of the objectives of this partnership programme was to increase the capacity of small human rights organisations through enabling wider networking, and ultimately also strengthening the Kenyan human rights movement. During 2011 the second phase of the partnership programme continued. Pilot NGOs participated in the project, and their capacity was enhanced by training, networking and intensive mentoring.

In addition, the first regional KIOS conference for the African partner organizations was organized in Kampala, Uganda. The conference was also realized as a partnership project.

## **4 COMMUNICATIONS**

The communications of KIOS are focused on two areas: the focus countries in the South, and Finland. In Africa and Asia the main target groups are potential applicants, current partners and other actors in the human rights field. In reaching the target groups, the website ([www.kios.fi](http://www.kios.fi)) is the primary channel of communication. The website has been published in English, French, Spanish and Finnish. The website

was visited approximately 76 000 times during 2011. KIOS published news about approved projects, changes to application guides, monitoring visits and shared newsletters of partners.

During monitoring visits to focus countries, KIOS was made known by NGO meetings and specific information events where KIOS was presented to various NGOs.

The seminar organized by KIOS, Siemepuu and Abilis draw media attention widely, as visiting partners were interviewed by Finnish media. The human rights issues of Tibet were featured in TV-news as the Tibetan guest, Dhardon Sharling was interviewed.

## **5 QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

The Board of KIOS approved a document regarding quality management in May and a workshop on the same topic was previously arranged to the staff. KIOS continues to develop its monitoring and evaluation systems. KIOS has also participated in the quality management working group aimed to NGOs that are receiving funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Impact assessment is challenging in human rights work and focus should be targeted to results, and to reflecting how well the project is matching to strategic goals. The country strategies aim at increasing contextual knowledge and to advance strategic planning.

Drafting of a security manual was started in 2011. The manual is going to be finalized in 2012 and its purpose is to mitigate security risks especially during monitoring visits in focus countries.

## **6 NETWORKING AND WORK IN FINLAND**

### **6.1 Networks**

Networking with human rights and development actors is a part of the daily work of KIOS. Networking is also central during monitoring visits. During 2011, coordinator Sanna Juntunen attended in the general meeting of EurAc in London. Coordinators Katja Ippola and Kristiina Vainio attended the Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders conference arranged by Frontline Defenders. KIOS also supported the networking of human rights defenders by supporting the participation of 9 human rights defenders in the Dublin Platform.

### **6.2 Work in Finland**

The work of KIOS in Finland concentrated on communication and networking, aiming at informing the civil society actors and wider audience about the work of KIOS and the human rights situation in developing countries. The main target groups in Finland were the founder organisations of KIOS, authorities and other professionals of the development cooperation field. Also for Finnish contacts, the KIOS website was the most important means of communication. KIOS also attended the World Village –festival in Helsinki. In addition, the representatives of KIOS participated actively in events organized around the preparation of development policy programme and human rights policy programme.

### **6.3. Cooperation between the foundations**

KIOS collaborated closely with two other foundations working on development cooperation: Abilis Foundation, which supports projects empowering disabled persons in developing countries, and Siemenpuu Foundation, which supports environmental projects in developing countries. All three

foundations benefited from the cooperation in terms of developing common practices of administration, participating in happenings and meetings together as well as sharing office spaces together with Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association.

The three foundation together organized an international seminar on 4.-5.10.2011, titled: *Minority and Indigenous Peoples' Rights*. In addition, foundations in cooperation followed the drafting of the new development policy programme.

## 7 ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Each founder organisation of KIOS appoints one representative to the Executive Board. In 2011 the Executive Board held 6 meetings, and a country strategy meeting on 1.12.2011. The Annual Meeting was held on May the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Chairperson of the Executive Board was Mrs. Anne Romar from the Service Centre for Development Cooperation and the Vice Chairperson was Mr. Jani Seikkula from Finnish Refugee Council.

Founder Organization	Member	Deputy Member
Amnesty International, Finnish Section	Jussi Förbom	Päivi Mattila
Finnish League for Human Rights	Kristiina Kouros	Susan Villa
Service Centre for Development Cooperation	Anne Romar	
FinnChurchAid	Eija Alajarva	Anna Salmivaara
Finnish Refugee Council	Jani Seikkula	Kim Remitz
Finnish Peace Committee	Teemu Matinpuro	Karim Maiche
Committee of 100 in Finland	Hanna-Mari Savolainen	Eekku Aromaa
The Finnish UN Association	Helena Laukko	Heikki Pietilä
UNICEF Finland	Eija Oksanen	Aino Sarkia
UN Women Finland	Elina Multanen	Anni Valovirta
Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association	-	-

In 2011, KIOS had a staff of five: an executive director and four project coordinators. Five interns and a temporary assistant coordinator worked at the office during the year. Staff members took part in several trainings and seminars during the year.

## **FINANCES**

According to the agreement between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and KIOS, the funding received for the year 2011 was 1 500 000 €. In addition, 302 648 € was transferred from the previous years.

KIOS allocated 801 558 € for human rights projects. Project administration costs were 319 453 € and the general administration costs 99 774 €.

## **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

In 2012 KIOS will develop its working methods and strengthen the strategic planning. Completing the country strategies will strengthen the implementation of the new strategy. In project funding the new focus areas will be emphasized. Funding from the Ministry for KIOS will be 1 600 000 € in 2012.