



ANNUAL REPORT

2016



KIOS Foundation funds and supports Asian and African human rights organisations. Human rights are the foundation of sustainable peace and development.

KIOS Foundation is a consortium of eleven Finnish organizations working for human rights and development issues. KIOS was founded in 1998.

Founding organizations are Amnesty International Finnish Section, Committee of 100 in Finland, Finn Church Aid, Disability Partnership Finland, Finnish League for Human Rights, Finnish Peace Committee, Finnish Refugee Council, UN Association of Finland, Kepa, Finnish National Committee for UNICEF and The National Committee for UN Women in Finland.

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KIOS strategy 2016-2020

MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS is to strengthen the role of human rights in developing countries. The foundation funds NGO projects promoting human rights and the development of democracy in East Africa and South Asia. The foundation also actively engages in human rights policy advocacy and communication activities. KIOS was founded in 1998, and it is a non-political and non-religious human rights foundation. KIOS performs unique work in Finland by funding human rights organizations based on their own project ideas and proposals in developing countries. Human rights-based approach is the starting point for all activities of KIOS.

Human rights are a precondition for lasting peace, reduction of inequalities and the prevention of both societal conflicts and human suffering. The activities of KIOS are founded on human rights as defined in the human rights treaties and instruments of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Additionally, other regional human rights instruments and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are taken into account.

KIOS Foundation was founded by eleven Finnish civil society organizations working on human rights: Amnesty International Finnish Section, Disability Partnership Finland, Finnish League for Human Rights, KEPA, Finn Church Aid, Finnish Refugee Council, Finnish Peace Committee, Committee of 100 in Finland, Finnish National Committee for UNICEF, Finland National Committee for UN Women and UN Association of Finland. KIOS' work is financed by Finland's development cooperation funds, and the emphasis of the activities is in the focus countries selected by the KIOS Executive Board.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Human rights work and its funding have become increasingly challenging in recent years. Similarly, the ability of human rights defenders to operate has deteriorated in many countries. In many of the KIOS' focus countries, states have limited and hindered the activities of civil society by, inter alia, enacting laws constraining civil society organizations' ability to receive foreign funding, restricting freedom of assembly, and by freezing the funds and assets of civil society organizations. However, civil society's human rights work also supports the development of rule of law as well as preconditions for development more broadly. Furthermore, it supports public

discussion in developing countries on the promotion of human rights and of the challenges related to that.

In some countries extremist movements lacking respect for human rights are on the rise. At the same time, many states appeal to national security and the threat of extremism while using, inter alia, counter-terrorism laws in contravention of human rights conventions to restrict civil rights. Economic development does not always guarantee the realization of human rights. It is essential that special attention will be paid to the protection and promotion of the human rights of women, children and vulnerable groups of people. The development of information technology brings both challenges and opportunities for human rights work.

Societies in the Global South are badly affected by climate change as the citizens of developing countries have limited means to adapt to its consequences. The phenomenon may have unpredictable indirect consequences on human rights issues. Research predicts that climate change will particularly weaken the situation of vulnerable groups of people. Climate change may lead to an increase in armed conflicts and disputes over natural resources.

The work of the organizations working on human rights is risky in many countries and they need support for promoting their security. Strengthening the capacity of the organizations is important in order for their work to be more effective and as risk-free as possible. With its own work, KIOS wants to further and support the development of new global partnerships.

VISION & VALUES

The vision of KIOS is a world, in which equal human dignity and universal human rights of all human beings are recognized, and in which the states are committed to human rights in their legislation and its practical implementation. The states' administration is transparent and in accordance with democratic principles. Civil society is a significant, independent sector, and the states are not trying to restrict its activities. Media is able to operate freely. The rights of women, children and vulnerable groups of people are protected and promoted.

In addition to the vision, the activities of KIOS are guided by the following values:

Commitment: KIOS is committed to achieving the set goals in a responsible manner and committed to those projects it has accepted. KIOS works courageously towards the set objectives regardless of the challenges posed by the working environment, nevertheless, in a responsible manner and ensuring security.

Quality: KIOS' activities are of high quality, professional and strategic. KIOS' activities are driven by a constant pursuit to efficient use of resources.

Civil society ownership: A key feature of KIOS' approach is the partners' strong ownership of their projects. KIOS functions, above all, as an enabler of the work of the organizations working on human rights, and supports the empowerment of its partners.

Strategic goals of KIOS

1. Strengthening the effectiveness of organizations working on human rights
2. Enhancing the security of human rights defenders
3. Promotion of human rights work and its prerequisites in developing countries
4. Competence development

Interview with the chair of the KIOS board



Tuomas Laine served as the Chair of the KIOS board in 2012-2016. The Board of KIOS is elected from the founding organizations, and it has the responsibility of overseeing the activities and of managing the funds of KIOS.

Who are you and what is your background?

I am a 34-year-old researcher and PhD student in economics from Helsinki. At the moment, I am working as a researcher at the University of Tampere. I have done volunteer work for human rights organisations almost 10 years now in various roles including board chair, vice chair, treasurer or as a board member.

How would your friends describe you?

My friends describe me as an open minded and warm- hearted person.

What is your organization Amnesty like in a nutshell?

Amnesty International is the largest human rights organization in the world, that campaigns for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. Amnesty investigates human right violations, campaigns and mobilizes millions of supporters around the world to protect and promote human rights.

Why do you think the work of KIOS is important?

The support of KIOS to small and medium size human rights actors is crucial. KIOS funded projects promote human rights from the grassroots up to the national level. KIOS funding is an unique instrument, that enables citizens to participate, drive change, raise the awereness and promote human rights in developing civil societies.

What are the biggest challenges for the realization of human rights?

There are several challenges, and it is difficult to name just one, but if I have to name one, awareness of human rights in every level of the society, plays a major role and key for the future progress.

What is the role of human rights in development?

All people should be entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. I believe development without human rights will lead to unstable civil societies and significant welfare losses.

How do you see the role of individuals in the work for the realization of human rights?

The words of Albert Einstein underlines pretty much how I see it: "The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

How do you see the role of civil society organizations in the future?

I believe the role of civil society organizations will not only grow in the future, but new forms of action will arise. I hope people will have more opportunities to participate in a variety of ways.

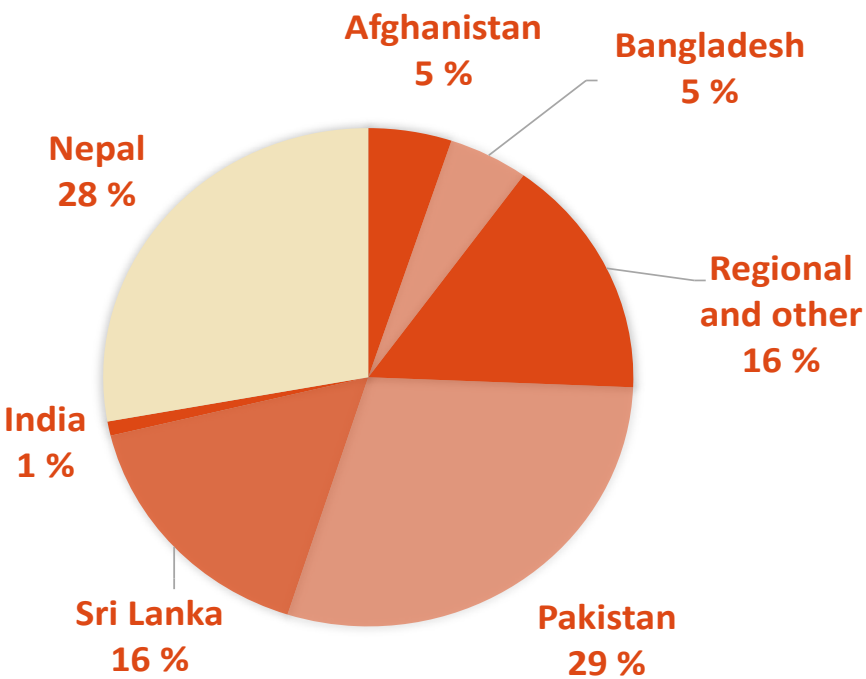
In which human rights and development issues have you seen positive development in recent years?

Prominant progress can be seen in a number of global human rights and development issues, including reduction in the number of people living under extreme poverty and child mortality. In Finland, there has been clear improvements in the rights of minorities like LGBTI and persons with disabilities.

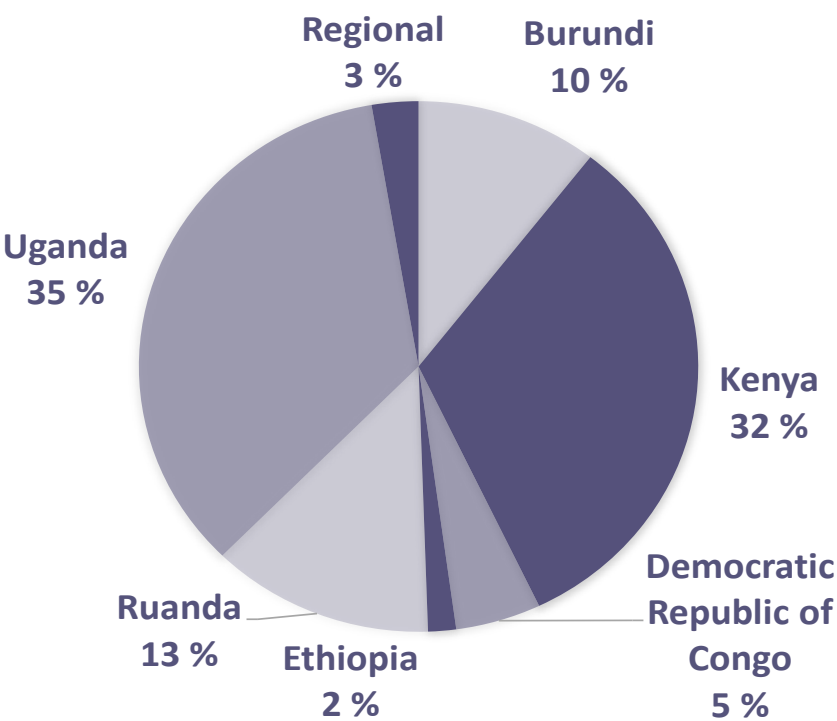
KIOS Expenses in 2016



In 2016, KIOS funded projects in South Asia with 398 645 EUR



In 2016, KIOS funded projects in East Africa with 371 248 EUR



Human rights focus of KIOS supported projects

In 12 countries, KIOS supported total of 60 projects, of which 10 were new



*Human rights focuses of KIOS supported projects overlap.

Over 40 % cut in KIOS funding

– the necessity of human rights work remains

The work of KIOS was hit with a 41% budget cut in the beginning of 2016. Overall, the Government of Finland reduced the development cooperation funds of the Finnish NGO field by almost 50%.

In 2015, KIOS received 1 900 000 euros from the development cooperation funds of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, whereas in 2016, the amount received was 1 120 000 euros. The majority of KIOS' funding is channeled to human rights organizations in East Africa and South Asia.

The vice chair of the KIOS Board in 2016, Henna Hakkarainen, commented that she is afraid that the budgetary cut in human rights funding would send a contradictory message to countries that violate human rights: "There is a risk that states interpret that Finland no more cares about human rights."

The Executive Director of KIOS, Ulla Anttila, feels the same. "The situation is very contradictory. Finland has in various official statements emphasized the role of civil society in advancing human rights," she says and continues: "It is difficult for our partners to understand, why the official Finland emphasizes the human rights work of the civil society, but at the same time cuts its funding drastically,"

As the need for human rights funding remains great and the work of the civil society invaluable, KIOS continues partnerships with multiple human rights organizations in the Global South. Despite the severe cuts, KIOS makes an effort to strengthen the human rights movements in both of KIOS focus regions: East Africa and South Asia.

Surely, painful decisions have also been made, and KIOS has been forced to let go of some of its fruitful partnerships in the Global South due to lack of sufficient funding. In 2016, KIOS initiated ten new

projects mostly with long-term partners, when in comparison in 2015 KIOS had initiated 26 new projects. In addition, in the Helsinki offices, the number of KIOS staff members was decreased and fixed-term contracts were not renewed.

In order to maintain and further develop its work, KIOS has started mapping alternative possibilities for funding and developing its own fundraising.

There is a significant demand for the kind of work KIOS does, a need for direct support for local human rights initiatives in the Global South and a need for working with brave individuals and organizations to enhance the rights of all.

Furthermore, there is a need to find new ways of supporting human rights work and human rights defenders and to advocate and to raise awareness on these issues, also in Finland. Together with KIOS partners in Finland and abroad, KIOS does its best to answer to these calls.

There Is No Development Without Human Rights



On 1st of December 2016, KIOS launched a publication in Finnish, "No development without human rights – perspectives on the CSO human rights work in Asia and Africa" .

The publication raises the voices of seven human rights defenders from Africa and Asia. The information on human rights and narratives by these human right defenders highlight the significance of human rights for development, and bring up the results of human rights work in developing countries.

The publication can be downloaded in Finnish at www.kios.fi/stories

Human rights defenders are under a serious attack

– there is need for support



Andrew Anderson has been Front Line Defenders' Executive Director since 2016. With KIOS invitation, he visited Finland for the first time in December 2016. He discussed the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) and the donors at the KIOS publication launch on 1st December 2016. KIOS launched a booklet in Finnish highlighting stories from human rights defenders in South Asia and East Africa.

Human rights defenders are under a serious attack in many countries today. Anderson mentioned Bangladesh as an example of a country where the situation of human rights defenders has greatly deteriorated

“Human rights defenders often face threats because they are good at what they do. Their work makes a difference. For instance the rights of the LGBTI community have been enhanced in some parts of the world”, Anderson noted.

Often the visible international solidarity and support improves the security of HRDs. It can for instance minimize the risk of torture in specific cases. However, this is not always the case. Anderson reminded that renowned human rights defenders have been killed in 2016, one such example is Berta Cáceres, a highly respected environmental activist from Honduras. Sometimes the human rights defenders don't want any visibility. It is crucial that the wishes of the human rights defenders are heard and respected in order to truly be able to support their work and improve their security.

Donors need more flexible tools in order to efficiently support human rights work. Innovative methods are needed, for instance, to support Ethiopian and Russian human rights defenders. Of course, the work has to be transparent and in respect of good governance. Anderson highlighted that human rights defenders “often get the least support when they most need it”.

Anderson mentioned that donors should sometimes be more willing to support less-established human rights organizations. “East and Horn of Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) for instance does wonderful work. They got enough seed money in the beginning to strengthen their work. Donors often tend to admire EHAHRDP's work and wonder why other similar networks on the continent are not as efficient. But they haven't received the needed seed money to develop their work”, Anderson outlines. KIOS supported the work of EHAHRDP for ten years. The last KIOS funded project ended in 2016. During the years, EHAHRDP grew to be a strong regional actor in the defence of human rights defenders.

EHAHRDP is also working in the Consortium of the EU human rights defenders mechanism which focuses on the protection of HRDs. The work of human rights defenders needs more serious support so that the work for equal rights of all can continue.

The KIOS training for journalists



On the second day of Andrew Anderson's visit, KIOS organized a training for journalists with a focus on security issues facilitated by Mr. Anderson. He spoke especially of security issues related to the work of journalists and HRDs.

Erka Koivunen from F-Secure focused on digital security. Erka Koivunen shared also some practical tips for the participants; for instance how digital security can be enhanced with a simple bottle of nail polish.

First report assessing risks faced by women human rights defenders published in Pakistan



Human rights organization DCHD in Pakistan made a research, funded by KIOS foundation, which showed that women human rights defenders (WHRD) are exposed to various risks in Pakistan.

Human rights work in itself in Pakistan is a risky business, but the report showed that women human rights defenders often face higher risks just because of their gender. Almost half of the respondents in the survey told that they have faced serious threats and harassments.

The research “Risk and Capacity Assessment of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs)” made by Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) in 2015 and 2016 assessed the security situation of women human rights defenders in Pakistan. The survey is first of its kind, and it has received media attention in Pakistan.

DCHD sent a questionnaire to 1200 women human rights defenders in Pakistan. Mostly due to security reasons, approximately 400 women did not respond to the questionnaire.

Almost half of the respondents (48 %) told that they have received threats and faced harassment at their work. These included harassment (34%), threats to life (23%), threats to progress of work (29%), and threats towards their family members (12 %). The threats came mostly from influential people, extreme religious and political groups, but also from law enforcement personnel and from women’s own relatives.

The study demonstrated clear regional differences, which reflected the security situation in the country. In Punjab WHRDs faced least threats while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan the threats towards women human rights defenders were more prominent. Sindh was not covered in the study.

In addition to the nature and scale of the threats, the report explored the preventive measures taken by the HRDs against the risks. A quarter of the respondents told that their organization did not have any kind of security arrangements to protect their workers. DCHD and KIOS hope that the report raises attention for the protection of WHRDs inside human rights organizations, among the national authorities and at the international level.

Pakistan is one of the most dangerous countries in the world. The weak security situation in the country is directly connected to the space of the civil society and to the human rights situation. Unlawful arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, political and religious violence and violence against women and minorities are the most prominent human rights violations in Pakistan.

KIOS Foundation has supported the human rights work of DCHD in Pakistan since 2009. In 2016, a human rights defenders network was founded in Pakistan, which has been a remarkable step to promote the security of HRDs. DCHD has actively participated in the realization of the network. In addition to the research “Risk and Capacity Assessment of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs)”, KIOS also supported security training of WHRDs in Pakistan.

WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

KIOS funded Afghan NGO, Shuhada, gets recognition from the state

Shuhada, the biggest woman-led Afghan NGO, reached significant achievements in promoting the rights of women. The awarded organization ran schools for girls even during Taleban-era. Afghanistan today remains a country with one of the world's poorest records in terms of women's rights.

Shuhada has worked to promote women's rights especially in the field of education and healthcare. Dozens of schools established by the organization are ran by the Afghan government. Shuhada is still running schools, especially in distant rural areas.

Shuhada received an award from the Afghan Ministry of Economy for their effective work in 2016. KIOS supported Shuhada between the years 2007 and 2016 by funding projects focusing on raising awareness on human rights among women and battling violence against women.

Shuhada was founded by an awarded doctor and human rights defender, Sima Samar, who has, among other things, been listed on the Forbes list of most influential women. Girls' right to schooling was returned while Samar acted as the Minister of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan. However, Shuhada ran schools for girls even during the Taleban-era.

The situation of women's rights improved after the fall of the Taleban rule. However, Afghanistan remains with one of the poorest records in terms of women's rights. The situation has improved in political and professional participation of women, but tradition and religious fundamentalists still have a great influence especially in rural areas. In these areas, for example, only 15% of women are literate.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

KIOS partner, EHAHRDP, supports the valuable work of human rights defenders



The space of civil society has been diminishing in many East African countries and defending human rights has become even life threatening in some cases. The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) has been promoting the safety and work of human rights defenders (HRDs) for over a decade. In that rather short time EHAHRDP has grown into one of the most influential and prominent human rights organizations.

A human rights defender, exiled from Somalia, Mr Hassan Shire, founded the organization in 2005 in order to help human rights defenders to continue their valuable work. At the moment, EHAHRDP works primarily in Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. EHAHRDP has also been the initiating force behind the National

Human Rights Coalitions in different countries in the region and has been supporting the strengthening of the Coalitions. For instance, in Kenya and Uganda the National Coalitions work efficiently in the defence of human rights defenders.

The year 2016 was an overall challenge for EHAHRDP's work. HRDs in the region suffered from on-going harassment, persecution, physical violence, and arbitrary detentions. Some even lost their lives in defending the rights of others. "In countries, such as Sudan and Ethiopia, governments continue to clamp down on HRDs rather than address the protracted and worsening crises they face as a nation, or recognise the valuable contributions civil society can make in addressing these problems", stated Hassan Shire in his wrap-up letter of the year 2016.

Especially the escalated violence and crisis in countries such as Burundi and South Sudan has narrowed down the space of HRDs. In order to help the HRDs to continue their work, EHAHRDP offers emergency assistance and training. EHAHRDP has been able to offer immediate assistance to HRDs in the region, also in cases where the mechanisms of many other actors have been insufficient or not flexible enough. EHAHRDP is also part of European Union's HRD mechanism (ProtectDefenders.eu) which has distributed more than 330 emergency funds to HRDs in one year. The mechanism is led by 12 significant human rights organizations, among those the World Organization Against Torture, the International Federation of Human Rights FIDH, Front Line Defenders and EHAHRDP.

in addition to emergency support and training, EHAHRDP also

campaigns and does significant international advocacy work for the defence and protection of human rights defenders and their work. The organization has consultative status to several human rights mechanisms at the level of the United Nations and the African Union.

Furthermore, EHAHRDP has made lots of efforts in lobbying the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate human rights violations taking place in Burundi and South Sudan. EHAHRDP has also influenced many resolutions of the Africa Commission on Human Peoples' Rights including the landmark resolution 275 on LGBTI rights.

KIOS supported the work of EHAHRDP from 2006 till 2016 and followed the organization's development into an internationally recognized human rights actor. With KIOS support EHAHRDP has for instance enhanced the concrete safety measures and know-how of Burundian and Rwandan organizations. These countries have no other national or regional actors focusing on security and capacity building of human rights defenders, which makes the work of EHAHRDP especially significant.

With the help of technical training and support the Burundian human rights activists have been able to report the on-going human rights violations taking place in Burundi to their networks abroad. KIOS support also enabled EHAHRDP to study and make a report on the challenges and possibilities of human rights defenders in exile. The report had a positive influence on the practices of Embassies in Rwanda regarding the protection of human rights defenders.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Working for the rights of indigenous communities in DRC



Batwa and Bambuti are the indigenous Pygmy groups living in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Batwa and Bambuti are often marginalized and poor and face a lot of discrimination. When it comes to access to justice, these populations are most times very vulnerable. They have also suffered a great deal in the conflicts of eastern DRC.

PIDP (Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmé – PIDP SHRIKA LA BAMBUTI) is a Congolese organization working for the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2012, KIOS along with two other organizations HURIDOCS and IPACC started funding the work of PIDP. KIOS supported the human rights work of PIDP, with a geographic focus on East and South Kivu, until 2016.

PIDP strengthened especially its human rights monitoring network with KIOS support. In practice, this meant that members of the indigenous

communities were trained to monitor and document human rights violations. In addition, a unique electronic documentation system, an electronic database, was developed during this work. All the human rights violation cases are documented into the electronic database. The database has drawn attention also on the international arena. It has facilitated the compilation of timely data on the situation of indigenous peoples in DRC and also made it possible to transfer the information from the grassroots to international level, for example to the UN.

Through the work of PIDP the Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide has received vital information of human rights violations targeted against Bambuti and Batwa and of the threat of genocide. Due to strengthened reporting and advocacy work of PIDP many organizations and UN representatives have paid special attention to the situation of the indigenous communities in DRC.

The information compiled by PIDP has also reached regional and local levels. The local authorities today are more aware of the human rights violations that Bambuti and Batwa face and are more apt to respond to the situation. PIDP has also cooperated with the Ministry of Justice in DRC so that the security needs of the indigenous populations would be better addressed at the national level.

Moreover, Bambuti and Batwa are more aware of their rights today because of PIDP. The community leaders and monitors trained by PIDP are now informed on the international law and the rights of the indigenous peoples. They have strengthened their cooperation with the local authorities accordingly and are in touch in case the rights of their communities are violated.

KIOS Raised Awareness and Organized Crowd-funding for the human rights defenders in Burundi



Burundi was in danger of facing another civil war in 2016 due to the crisis, that began as the country's president clung on power. There has been signs of violence spreading according to ethnic lines. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled from Burundi to the neighbouring countries and hundreds have been killed.

KIOS raised funds for the Burundian human rights defenders. Human rights defenders are a crucial source on information in following the human rights violations taking place in the country. KIOS channeled its support via EHAHRDP -network.

ETHNIC MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

KIOS partners in 2016

Regional East Africa

- Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Network
- East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

The Democratic Republic of Congo

- SOS multisectoral legal information
- Action des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda
- Programme d'Intégration et de développement des Peuples Pygmées au Kivu

Uganda

- Joy for Children Uganda
- Initiative for Social and Economic Rights
- Action for Community Development
- The Unwanted Witness
- Twerwaneho Listeners Club
- Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development
- Defenders Protection Initiative

Burundi

- Association des Femmes juristes du Burundi
- Association pour la Recherche Sur l'Environnement, La Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme au Burundi
- Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture

Kenya

- Kamukunji Paralegal Trust
- Haki na Sheria Initiative
- Gay Kenya Trust
- Center for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action
- KISORA Self Help Group
- Keeping Alive Societies Hope
- Kituo Cha Sheria
- Samburu Women Trust

Ethiopia

- Alliance for Poverty Eradication and Development

Rwanda

- Human Rights First Rwanda Association
- Inara Legal Aid Service
- Maison de Droit

India

- The Ara Trust

Regional South Asia

- Socio Legal Information Center / (Human Rights Law Network
- Programme for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Informal Sector Service Centre

Pakistan

- AGHS Legal Aid Cell
- Democratic Commission for Human Development
- Blue Veins

Bangladesh

- Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh
- Parittran
- Lokenatya O Sanskritik Unnayan Kendro

Afghanistan

- Shuhada Organisation
- Justice for All Organisation

Sri Lanka

- EQUAL GROUND
- Mothers and Daughters of Lanka
- South Asian Centre for Legal Studies

Nepal

- Informal Sector Service Centre
- Women's Rehabilitation Centre
- Childspace Foundation Nepal
- Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities, Kathmandu
- Centre for Victims of Torture
- Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre