

THE FINNISH NGO FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS was established in September 1998 by eleven Finnish NGOs 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.

According to the strategy for the years 2004-2010 the geographic focus areas of KIOS include the following countries in Eastern Africa and South Asia: Burundi, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet. 15 out of 20 focus countries of KIOS are listed as Least Developed Countries by OECD. Two of the focus countries are Other Low Income Countries, and three are Lower Middle Income Countries.

The most important operational objective for 2010 was to direct more funding to the geographical focus areas. Special emphasis was put on defending and promoting the rights of the most vulnerable groups of societies in post-conflict areas and so called fragile states. KIOS also had three thematic focuses that structured the allocated funding. These themes were Democratic Rights, Gender Equality and Right to Education. In addition to funding projects KIOS also focused on building the capacity of small organizations through developing their administrative and human rights knowledge.

The grant from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for KIOS in 2010 was 1 400 000 euro. 371 applications for funding were discussed in the meetings of the Executive Board of KIOS, out of which 35 were granted financing. There was a slight decrease in the number of applications from the previous year due to a decision to accept only applications from the focus countries between 15.3.-31.12.2010. At the end of 2010 KIOS was funding 68 projects. At the end of 2010 KIOS Executive Board also finalized its new strategy for the years 2011-2015.

PROJECT FUNDING

Appraisals and funding

In order to encourage qualified applicants to apply funding 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 2010 KIOS also aimed at increasing small organizations' possibilities to apply funding by training them through its Partnership Programme in Kenya.

Through carefully working through 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. KIOS focused on continued discussion with all its partners in order to provide sufficient support especially for the smaller organizations. Through its Small Grant Scheme KIOS has been able to support small (less than 10 000 euro) projects. In 2010, 7 projects were started under the Small Grant Scheme.

Applications received

In 2010, KIOS registered altogether 371 funding applications from 32 countries. In addition to applications KIOS received a large amount of enquiries (approximately 1000) concerning funding opportunities. Judging from the number of applications and enquiries KIOS has established itself as a well known international human rights actor and donor.

The majority of the applications came from Africa (268 new applications from 18 different countries), followed by Asia (127 applications from 10 different countries). No applications were received from Europe, Northern Africa or Middle East. A summary of applications statistics and distribution by region can be seen in table 1.

The majority of the Asian applications came from India (38), Bangladesh (33) and Pakistan (27). In Africa, the highest number of applications came from Uganda (101), Democratic Republic of Congo (47) and Kenya (43). All of these countries belonged to the geographical focus areas of the Foundation.

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	In total
Asia	39	55	76	65	81	166	77	113	88	105	117	127	1 109
Africa	56	63	87	83	107	164	86	147	139	189	262	268	1 651
Europe	17	17	18	19	12	28	13	21	14	18	20	2	199
Latin America	24	25	21	15	16	24	28	33	13	22	15	2	238
Northern Africa & Middle East	7	7	8	15	12	12	3	20	6	7	16	0	113
Others	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
In total	146	167	212	197	228	398	207	334	260	341	430	399	3 319

Table 1. Applications received in 1999-2010 by region

Approved projects

The Executive Board discussed 371 project applications, out of which 35 were approved and 336 rejected. Around 9 % of the applications were approved. 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 organizations 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.

The trend of KIOS' funding has been towards larger projects. In 2010 the average amount of funding for a project was around 37 700 euro. However, 13 projects had a duration longer than one year, so the actual annual average of funding was 28 600 euro.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	In total
Asia	11	12	10	7	3	3	5	8	7	12	11	16	105
Africa	7	5	4	5	7	4	12	5	13	19	21	18	120
Europe	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	0	15
Latin America	5	6	2	3	3	0	3	3	2	2	4	1	34
Northern Africa & Middle East	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	3	0	12
In total	27	25	19	17	14	8	22	21	25	34	39	35	286

Table 2. Approved projects in 1999-2010

Despite the effort to increase the amount of funding decisions the number of accepted projects declined by 10 % in 2010. Around a half of the organizations receiving financing in 2010 had already received some funding from KIOS during the previous years. Out of individual countries in the focus regions, the greatest number of cooperation agreements was made in Uganda (7 projects), Kenya (5), Pakistan (4) and Democratic Republic of Congo (3), partly due to the field visits made to these countries. One out of the 35 new projects was a partnership project in Kenya. See Table 2. for the distribution of approved projects by region.

The Executive Board had set objectives for the distribution of funding by the geographic focus areas. According to the plan 40 % of the project funding in 2010 should have been allocated to East Africa and Southern Asia respectively. The remaining 20 % of funding could be targeted to other areas. The actual distribution of funding by region in 2010 was as follows: East Africa (45 %), South Asia (51 %) and other regions 4 %.

Rejected applications

The Executive Board rejected 336 applications. As in previous years, around 90 % of the applications was rejected. Inadequate project planning was the most common reason for rejecting an application (27 % of rejected applications). Other significant reasons for a negative decision were unrealistic project budget (20 %), lack of human rights related expertise (20 %) and the organization's lack of project management capacity (18 %).

On-going projects at the end of 2010

At the end of 2010 KIOS had 68 on-going projects in 20 countries. The countries with the largest number of on-going projects were Uganda (10 projects), Kenya (8), Pakistan (7), and Burundi (4). In total 71 organizations received funding from KIOS in 2010.

On-going projects at the end of 2010	Approved 1999–2010	2008	2009	2010	In total
Asia	105	2	7	16	25
Africa	120	3	13	18	34
Europe	15	-	-	-	0
Latin America	34	-	4	1	5
Northern Africa and Middle East	12	1	3	-	4
In total	286	6	27	35	68

Table 3. Ongoing projects at the end of 2010

Unlike the geographical focuses, the thematic focuses don't have a set goal for the distribution of funding. Thus almost half (44 %) of the projects funded fell outside the thematic focuses. Gender equality covered 28 % of the projects and democratic rights 24 %. Applications related to the rights to education were few. This is perhaps due to the great number of bigger child rights organizations working on the issue. All in all the thematic focuses didn't seem to work very well in channelling funding and KIOS will give up on them in the new strategy.

Thematic focus	2007*		2008*		2009*		2010*	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Democratic rights	8	22	9	18	13	21	16	24
Gender equality	14	39	19	37	16	26	19	28
Right to education	1	3	2	4	4	6	3	4
Others	13	36	21	41	29	47	30	44
In total	36	100	51	100	62	100	68	100

Table 4. Distribution of projects by thematic focus (*on-going at the end of the year)

In terms of Millennium Development Goals the projects funded by KIOS contribute mostly towards the goals: 3) Promote gender equality and empower women, 8) Develop a global partnership for development and 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Monitoring

In addition to formal reporting periods, KIOS stays in close contact with the projects throughout the project period. Partnership Programmes are a great tool in monitoring, enabling KIOS to benefit from the presence of the partner organization in the target area. Field trips are a crucial part of monitoring the projects and evaluating new applicants. In 2010, the following visits were made:

- Assessment and project follow-up visit to Ethiopia, January-February 2010. A special focus of the trip was on assessing the possibilities of implementing human rights projects in Ethiopia in the future.
- Project follow-up visit to India, March 2010.
- Project follow-up and seminar visit to Nepal, March 2010. The seminar aimed at developing the human rights network in Southern Asia.

- Project follow-up visit to Kenya and Uganda, May 2010. During the trip KIOS also participated in the evaluation of its Partnership Programme in Kenya. The first joint conference of KIOS' partners was also organized in Uganda during this visit.
- Project follow-up visit to Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, September-November 2010.
- Assessment and project follow-up visit to Sri Lanka and Southern India, December 2010.

Evaluation and quality assurance

KIOS took part in the three-year pilot phase of the JÄRVI Project, run by the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health and Finnish Centre for Health Promotion. The JÄRVI Project aims to build the capacity of NGOs in assessing their work. In the JÄRVI Project, KIOS has been working especially on project reporting and impact assessment issues.

In 2010, the KIOS - Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme was evaluated. The evaluation focused especially on outcome and impact assessment. The report showed that the programme was successfully planned and implemented. It supported the reciprocal learning process of all parties, KIOS, Youth Alive! Kenya and the smaller organizations piloting in the program.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

Adequate resources, networking and impact of partner organizations are part of KIOS' vision. According to its strategy KIOS wanted to strengthen the human rights actors of the civil societies in the global South. Partnership programmes complement the Small Grant Scheme started in 2007, aiming at strengthening small organizations.

KIOS – Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme started in 2008 in Kenya. The core idea of the programme was capacity building for small organizations. 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.

In 2010 KIOS and the National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU) signed a contract starting another partnership programme. The programme concentrates on building networks among organizations funded by KIOS. In 2010, the first national seminar for KIOS funded organizations was organized in Kampala, Uganda as part of the programme.

COMMUNICATION and PR WORK

KIOS networking efforts focus on two areas: the organizations promoting human rights in the South and Finnish civil society. In the global South the main target groups are potential applicants, current partners and other actors in the human rights field. The aim was to make KIOS more known among the applicants, to contribute to finding new partners and to enhance networking.

In reaching KIOS' target groups, the website (www.kios.fi) is the primary channel. It has been published in English, French, Spanish and Finnish. The website was visited around 17 000 times in 2010.

In 2010, a special emphasis was also put on translating KIOS materials in French. The reporting guidelines were published in French for the first time and improvements were made to many other documents as well.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The most important process of quality management and organizational development in 2010 was forming the new strategy for the years 2011-2015.

Another achievement was developing a new and clear flow chart in order to secure an equal assessment and treatment to all project proposals submitted to KIOS.

KIOS also participated in workshops dealing with impact assessment. A post-evaluation system was created in order to gather information from the former partner organizations. Long term impact assessment of short term human rights projects is fairly difficult. Thus, in evaluation KIOS put more emphasis on the results of the projects.

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 the 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.

The annual seminar of KIOS was organised in Helsinki on September 14-15. In 2010 the title of the seminar was "Democracy and Human Rights for Development". The seminar was organised in collaboration with DEMO Finland. Around 170 people participated in the two-day seminar to discuss human rights and democracy. The main speakers were representatives of KIOS' and DEMO partner organisations from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Cooperation with the founder organisations was essential to KIOS' work in Finland. Articles concerning the work and projects of KIOS were published in their publications.

NETWORKING

Networking with Finnish Embassies, other donor agencies and stakeholders was an important part KIOS' communication and project funding work both in the focus countries as well as in Finland. In order to create new contacts, KIOS personnel took actively part in seminars and conferences in Finland and abroad. Several visits were also paid at the KIOS office by representatives of international human rights organisations, organisations from the South and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Each founder organisation of KIOS appoints one representative to the Executive Board. In 2010 the Executive Board held 9 meetings. The Annual Meeting was held on May the 27th. The Executive Board convened also on three days to form the new strategy for KIOS. 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. See Table 5. for all the members of the Executive Board in 2010.

Founder Organization	Member	Debuty Member
Amnesty International, Finnish Section	Jussi Förbom	Maija Jäppinen
Finnish League for Human Rights	Kristiina Kouros	Susan Villa
Service Centre for Development Cooperation	Anne Romar	
FinnChurchAid	Eva-Marita Rinne-Koistinen (until 30.10.2010) Eija Alajarva (starting from 30.10.2010)	Eija Alajarva (until 30.12.2010)
Finnish Refugee Council	Jani Seikkula	Kim Remitz
Finnish Peace Committee	Esa Ylikoski	Teemu Matinpuro
Committee of 100 in Finland	Hanna-Mari Savolainen	Eekku Aromaa
The Finnish UN Association	Helena Laukko	Heikki Pietilä
UNICEF Finland	Tanja Suvilaakso (until 9.9.2010) Eija Oksanen (starting from 9.9.2010)	Eija Oksanen (until 9.9.2010)
UN Women Finland	Elina Multanen	Anni Valovirta
Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association	-	-

Table 5. KIOS Executive Board 2010

In 2010 KIOS had a staff of five: an executive director and four project coordinators. A part-time conference secretary and five interns worked at the office during the year. Staff members took part in several trainings and seminars throughout the year.

FINANCES

According to the agreement between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and KIOS, the funding received for the year 2010 was 1 400 000 €. 302 648,88 € was transferred from the previous year.

KIOS allocated 1 319 000 € for human rights projects. 23 166,96 € were allocated for communication, and the Ministry granted an additional 3500 € euro for the travel costs of the seminar speakers. In addition to that, 640 756 € of the project funding approved in 2007-2009 were allocated as well as 15 078 € of the additional funding from the year 2008.

Project administration costs in 2010 were 286 362,60 € and the general administration costs 88 953,68 €.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

In 2011 the work of KIOS will mainly continue as accustomed. The strategy for 2011-2015 defines new geographic focus areas and emphasizes efficient use of project money. In 2011 the field visits will be made to the new focus countries. Funding from the Ministry for KIOS will be 1 500 000 € in 2011.