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The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS

Annual Report 2007

English Summary

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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 human rights are defined in the treaties and instruments of the United Nations, and in other equivalent regional human rights instruments.

The most important operational objectives for 2007 were to direct more funding to geographical and thematic focus areas and to further develop the project monitoring and evaluation processes.

According to the current strategy for the years 2004-2010 KIOS prioritizes Democratic Rights, Gender Equality and Right to Education in its funding policy.

The geographic focus areas 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. 16 countries out of 20 focus countries of KIOS are listed as Least Developed Countries by OECD. Three of the focus countries are Other Low Income Countries, and only one is Lower Middle Income Country.

The aim of KIOS work is to reach out for the most vulnerable in these countries through granting funding to civil society organisations. The strategy guides KIOS to channel its limited resources in a way that reaches those areas and groups of people that need the support most. KIOS takes into account the diversity of the local civil societies, and the local professionalism and capacity in human rights work.

PROJECT FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT

When it comes to project funding the objective for 2007 was to direct more funds to projects that fall within the KIOS strategy in terms of focus rights and geographical areas. The goal was to direct more funds to projects in Eastern Africa and South Asia.

When choosing projects to fund, KIOS assesses both the project itself and the capacity of the applicant to carry out the proposed project. Important criteria for applicants are the reliability, professionalism, previous experience and capacity to manage a human rights project with international funding. Criteria for projects plans include the feasibility and potential impact of the project, as well as analysis of possible risk and negative impact.

Integral part of KIOS support to its project partners is the regular contact and discussions on the project. The process of applying for KIOS support, fine-tuning the project plan, implementing the project, and reporting on the progress for KIOS becomes itself a capacity building exercise, when properly supported by KIOS.

In order to give better chances for small organisations to apply for KIOS support, and thereby build their capacity in human rights work, KIOS introduced in 2007 for the first time Small Grant

Scheme. Smaller organisations that don't have a lot of experience on being funded by international donors can apply for grants between 500 – 10 000 euro.

Applications

Altogether 260 applications from 54 countries were registered by KIOS in 2007. In average KIOS received 20 applications every month. The number of applications registered was slightly less than in 2006.

Besides applications KIOS received a large amount of enquiries on funding possibilities. The estimated number of these enquiries was 700. The amount of enquiries was higher than in previous year.

The reason for lower number of registered applications despite of higher number of enquiries was due to more specific information being provided for prospective applicants about KIOS application procedure, as well as the new policy of not accepting applications which were not submitted on KIOS Application Form. These measures brought down the number of applications, that were not from KIOS focus countries, that were clearly deficient or that were originally drafted for another donor.

Applications received 1999-2007

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Asia	39	55	76	65	81	166	77	113	88	760
Africa	56	63	87	83	107	164	86	147	139	932
Europe	17	17	18	19	12	28	13	21	14	159
Latin America	24	25	21	15	16	24	28	33	13	199
Northern Africa and Middle East	7	7	8	15	12	12	3	20	6	90
Others	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	9
Total	146	167	212	197	228	398	207	334	260	2149

The majority of the applications from Asia came from India (32 applications) and Bangladesh (10). In Africa, the highest number of the applications came from Uganda (31), Democratic Republic of Congo (25) and Kenya (22). Also in 2006 the same five countries were leading in the number of applications. All these countries are focus countries of the current KIOS strategy.

Approved Projects

The Executive Board of KIOS made decisions on 251 applications in 2007, some of which had already been registered as applications in 2006. 25 projects in 13 countries were granted funding and 226 applications were rejected. 10% of the applications were successful, compared to 7% of successful applications in 2006.

The majority of the projects granted funding focus on promoting human rights through awareness raising, education and trainings, or on providing legal aid for victims of human rights violations. A few applicants received funding for the strengthening of their institutional capacity.

Three organisations received grants within the Small Grants Scheme, which was put into place

for the first time this year.

The total amount of funding granted was 941 900 euro, out of which 457 060 euro was paid out to project partners during the year.

Out of 25 projects approved 7 were located in Asia, 13 in Africa, 2 in Latin America, 2 in the Middle East and 1 in Europe. Out of total project funding granted 484 200 euro went to Africa, 307 000 euro to Asia, 51 500 euro to Latin America and 99 200 euro to other areas. 12 grantees had received funding from KIOS previously.

Rejected Applications

The Executive Board rejected altogether 226 applications. About 90% of the applications received were rejected, due to the amount of funding available and the large number of applications received.

Applications were rejected mainly on the basis of unrealistic or incomplete project plans. Other significant reasons for rejecting application were unrealistic project budgets, lack of human rights capacity or project management capacity.

Approved Projects 1999-2007

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Asia	11	12	10	7	3	3	5	8	7	66
Africa	7	5	4	5	7	4	12	5	13	62
Europe	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	14
Latin America	5	6	2	3	3	0	3	5	2	27
Other	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	9
Total	27	25	19	17	14	8	22	21	25	178
Grants (eur)	259 834	300 905	295 069	326 800	379 428	367 500	711 743	747 200	941 900	4 330 379

Rejected Applications 1999-2007

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Rejected applications	113	138	187	175	219	384	154	296	226	1892

Ongoing Projects

Altogether 43 partners received funding from KIOS in 2007. In addition to new projects, 29 projects approved in previous years continued into 2007 and received funding from KIOS. Altogether 29 projects were concluded in year 2007.

At the end of 2007 KIOS had 36 ongoing projects in 18 countries. The countries with the largest number of ongoing projects were Kenya (7 projects), India (3), Nepal (3), Turkey (3) and Uganda (3).

Ongoing projects at the end of 2007

	Number of projects
Asia	11
Africa	14
Europe	4
Latin America	5
Northern Africa and Middle East	2
Total	36

Thematic focus of ongoing projects at the end of 2007

(Some projects have several focus rights)

	Number of projects	%
Democratic Rights	9	21
Gender Equality	16	37
Right to Education	2	5
Other	16	37
Total	43	100

In comparison to Millennium Development Goals, KIOS projects contribute mostly towards the goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women", the goal 8 "Develop a global partnership for development" and the goal 1 "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger".

Monitoring, evaluation and project management

KIOS Application Guide was finalized in 2007 and published on the website in February 2007. Application Guide was also translated to Spanish and French. Application Guide has been well received by applicants and project partners.

KIOS continued working on the Reporting Guide, which will be published in early 2008.

Besides follow-up work done from office, monitoring the progress of projects was also done on project visits. Project Coordinators Ms. Katja Ippola and Ms. Sari Naskinen visited funded projects and partners in Jerusalem in May 2007. Executive Director Ms. Elisa Mikkola and Project Coordinator Ms. Sari Naskinen visited Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo In October 2007, in order to meet possible new partners and assess the need for KIOS funding in the area.

Representatives from Finnish Disabled people's International Development Association FIDIDA visited a KIOS project in Kosovo, and KIOS intern Ms. Jaana Villberg visited a KIOS funded project in Ghana.

The planned KIOS visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan had to be cancelled because of the political and security situation in the area. The trip is rescheduled for 2008.

KIOS finalized the risk management system, which was developed in order to be better equipped to face challenges and risks in all aspects of projects and their management. The risk management system includes the process for assessment of applications and several guidelines and actions for recognizing risks and controlling them.

In December KIOS compiled a report of results and impact achieved in KIOS funded projects concluded during the year. According to the assessment the most common activities supported by KIOS are advocacy and cooperation with government officials, monitoring and documenting, campaigning and raising human rights awareness, human rights training and education, legal assistance and aid, counselling and rehabilitation of torture victims, and networking and capacity building. Most of the projects did work in more than one area.

The report further summarized figures on the amount of beneficiaries in KIOS funded projects. In 2007 KIOS support contributed to 688 cases of human rights violations being documented, more than 2000 participants receiving human rights training, 774 persons receiving legal aid and 646 torture victims benefiting of counselling and rehabilitation. The report was shared with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

KIOS took part in the three-year pilot phase of JÄRVI Project, run by Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health and Finnish Centre for Health Promotion. JÄRVI Project aims to build the capacity of NGOs in assessing their work.

In JÄRVI Project, KIOS has been working especially on project reporting and impact assessment issues. A new Reporting Guide and Reporting Cover Sheet are being drafted as part of JÄRVI Project with the aim of focusing the reporting more on the impact assessment. The Reporting Guide is expected to be finalized in 2008.

KIOS also participated in the Impact Assessment working group and trainings of the partnership organisations of the Ministry.

The new database system was taken into use in 2007. The new database includes both internal project management system as well as external website of KIOS. The external website was functioning by the beginning of 2008. The work

on developing the internal project management system continued throughout the year and is expected to be finalized in 2008.

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

Communication work of KIOS is divided into two major areas: communication work in the South and communication work in Finland.

In the South the main target groups are potential applicants, current partners and other actors in the same field. In Finland the main target groups are founder organisations, decision makers and other actors in the same field.

The KIOS website (www.kios.fi) is the primary channel of communication toward most stakeholders. The website provides information in English, French, Spanish and Finnish. In 2007 the new website was created as a part of project database system in, and the website was launched in January 2008.

The new website provides more detailed information on KIOS project funding than before. For the first time there are "success stories" featured on the site, small news section and reports and publications to download.

Besides renewing the website, other material was also renewed, including KIOS brochure, powerpoint presentations and KIOS postcards.

KIOS continued to cooperate closely with Finnish Embassies and other donor agencies and stakeholders in focus countries.

Networking with civil society organisations and other stakeholders was one of the main goals of project and assessment visits conducted during the year to Jerusalem, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC.

KIOS staff took part in trainings and seminars in Finland and abroad, which gave chance to further networking. The seminars abroad included Nepal meeting in Brussels, UNVFVT donor meeting in Geneva, training seminar by SIDA in Sweden and international seminar by the Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights in Stockholm.

Fairly large number of visitors also paid a visit to the KIOS office during the year, including representatives from partner organizations, civil society organizations, international human rights organizations and governmental departments.

WORK IN FINLAND

KIOS organized a seminar and workshop on human rights based approach to development in Helsinki in the end of September 2007. Nearly a hundred participants representing non-governmental organisations, government departments, consultancy firms and universities took part.

Nearly 30 participants continued learning about the right based approach in the workshop titled HRBA Principles in Project Planning. The workshop was facilitated by researchers from Åbo Akademi Institute for Human Rights.

KIOS took actively part in the discussion on the new Development Policy Programme of the Finnish government that came out in the autumn. On the request of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs KIOS together with its sister foundations Abilis and Siemenpuu provided an official statement commenting the new policy. The statement was published on the Ministry and Kefa websites.

In Finland KIOS presented its work in following seminars and meetings during the year: World Village Festival, FOKO Seminar organized by

the Finnish League for Human Rights, Days of Humanism, Kenya Networking meeting organized by Shalin, Burma Seminar organized by the Finnish AEPF Network and JÄRVI Project.

KIOS collaborates closely with the other two foundations working in a similar way: Abilis Foundation, which supports projects empowering disabled persons in developing countries, and Siemenpuu Foundation, which supports environmental projects in developing countries.

The foundations worked closely together in coordinating the cooperation and negotiations with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in participating in the meetings and trainings of the partnership organisations of the Ministry.

The foundations along with Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association FIDIDA share office premises in Haapaniemenkatu in Merihaka (Helsinki).

FINANCES

KIOS receives financial support for its activities from the Department for Development Policy at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Foundation makes independent decisions regarding the allocation of its annual budget. For 2007 the annual budget was 1 050 000 euro.

In the annual budget 682 500 euro was allocated to project grants, and 367 500 euro for other activities.

By the end of 2007, altogether 941 900 euro had been granted for projects and 457 060 euro had been paid out to project partners. In addition to this, 259 274 euro was paid to partners from funds granted in 2006 or earlier.

ADMINISTRATION

Each founder organization of KIOS appoints one representative to the Executive Board. During the year the Executive Board held 6 meetings. The Annual Meeting was held on May 28. The Chairperson of the Executive Board was Ms. Sylvia Raulo from FinnChurchAid. She was replaced by Mr. Esa Ylikoski from Finnish Peace Committee in August, who had until then acted as the Vice Chairperson. Mr. Pekka Ala-Jaakkola was chosen as the new Vice Chairperson.

In 2007 KIOS had five full time staff members: executive director, administrative assistant and three project coordinators. Two interns worked at the office during the year. Staff members took part in several trainings and seminars throughout the year.

Executive Board Members 2007

Founder	Executive Board Member	Deputy Member
Amnesty International Finnish Section	Mr. Dan Koivulaakso until 21.8.07, Ms. Maija Jäppinen from 21.8.07	Ms. Katja Majamaa
Finnish League for Human Rights	Ms. Elisabeth Tigerstedt-Tähtelä	Ms. Susan Villa
Service Centre for Development Cooperation KEPA	Ms. Helena Nevalainen until 18.5.07, Ms. Kati Räsänen from 18.5.07 to 21.8.07	Ms. Kaisu Österinen
FinnChurchAid	Ms. Sylvia Raulo until 27.8.07 Ms. Eija Alajarva from 28.8.07	
Finnish Refugee Council	Mr. Kim Remitz	Ms. Outi Perähuhta
Finnish Peace Committee	Mr. Esa Ylikoski	Mr. Teemu Matinpuro
Committee of 100 in Finland	Ms. Hanna-Mari Savolainen	Mr. Jan Koskimies
The Finnish UN Association	Ms. Sonia Meltti	Ms. Rosa Puhakainen-Mattila
UNICEF	Ms. Emili Osara until 21.8.07 Ms. Mari Hakojärvi from 21.8.07	Ms. Inka Hetemäki
UNIFEM	Ms. Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso	Ms. Anri Rantala
Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association FIDIDA	Mr. Pekka Ala-Jaakkola	Ms. Tuija Halmari

PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED 2007

Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Afghanistan	Shuhada Organisation	Women Rights Awareness, Literacy, and Legal Assistance Programs for Women in Waras district of Bamyan province and Shahrستان district of Daikundi province, Afghanistan	27 200 eur
Cambodia	PJJ	Protecting Children's Rights in Cambodia's Justice System	26 300 eur
Ghana	Universal Peace for Humanity	Eradicate Contemporary Form of Slavery (Yewhessi)	4 600 eur
Ghana	The Volta Physically Challenged Independent Group VOLPHIG	Promoting Rights Based Advocacy/Awareness of Marginalized Disabled Rights in Ghana	9 700 eur
India	Hengasara Hakkina Sangha	Mainstreaming Women's Human Rights: Strengthening Responses to Violence Against Women	97 700 eur
Israel/Palestine	The Public Committee Against Torture	Field Research and Legal Capacity-Building Project	25 000 eur
Israel/Palestine	Jerusalem Centre for Social and Economic Rights	Strategic Intervention in Defending and Promoting Human Rights of the Palestinian People	55 800 eur
Cameroon	Association of Human Rights and Torture Defenders AHURTOD	Inheritance Rights of Women	500 eur
Kenya	Family Mediation and Conciliation	Training Project on Women's Human Rights for Peace and Development – "Bringing Women's Rights Home"	36 000 eur
Kenya	Independent Medico-Legal Unit	Torture Documentation and Rehabilitation Project for the Most Vulnerable	88 100 eur
Kenya	Young Widows Advancement Program YWAP	Strengthening Sexual, Property and Inheritance Rights Among Young Widows and Orphans	7 600 eur

Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Kenya	Economic and Social Rights Centre Hakijamii	Promoting People-Based Advocacy for Economic and Social Rights in Kenya Phase II	75 900 eur
Kenya	Youth Alive! Kenya	Juvenile Justice Project Phase II	45 500 eur
Colombia	Grupo Interdisciplinario por los Derechos Humanos	Promoción e impulso del cumplimiento de las obligaciones y compromisos del Estado colombiano en materia de Derechos Humanos	33 100 eur
Colombia	Fundación Desarrollo y Paz	Observatorio Regional de los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento	18 400 eur
Nepal	HimRights	Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict	63 300 eur
Nepal	WOREC	Protection of Rights of Women Human Rights Defenders of Nepal: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace in Nepal	22 100 eur
Nepal	Conflict Study Center CSC	Human Rights Training to Maoist Ex-Combatants in Cantonments in Nepal	27 400 eur
Somalia	National Union Of Somali Journalists NUSOJ	Building Journalists Capacity to Promote and Protect Human Rights in Somalia	25 100 eur
Sri Lanka	Home for Human Rights (HHR)	Home for Human Rights Core Funding	43 000 eur
Turkey	Human Rights Agenda Association	LGBT Rights are Human Rights	18 400 eur
Uganda	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative	Strengthening the Human Rights Movement in Uganda through Capacity Building of Grassroot Human Rights Associations	49 500 eur
Uganda	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	89 300 eur
Uganda	Action for Community Development – Uganda ACODEV	Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Project	13 000 eur
Uganda	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project EHAHRDP	Sub-regional consultation meeting & core funding	39 400 eur

*“Everyone has
the right,
individually or
in association with others,
to promote
and to strive for the protection
and realization
of human rights
and fundamental
freedoms at the national
and international levels.”*

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