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The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS

Annual Report 2008

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 objective for 2008 was to direct more funding to geographical focus areas. At the end of the year both the number of funded projects and the disbursements exceeded the objectives set by the Executive Board.

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.

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 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 2008 was to focus on 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 continued with the Small Grant Scheme that

was introduced in 2007. Smaller organisations that don't have a lot of experience on being funded by international donors can apply for grants between 500 and 10 000 euro.

In 2008 KIOS launched a new Partnership Programme together with Youth Alive! Kenya. The aim of the programme is to identify and support community based human rights groups, which receive training and mentoring through the programme. The Partnership Programme complements the Small Grants Scheme that was introduced in 2007.

Applications

Altogether 341 applications from 56 countries were registered by KIOS in 2008. In average KIOS received 28 applications every month. The number of applications registered was slightly higher than in 2007.

Besides applications KIOS received a large amount of enquiries on funding possibilities. The estimated number of these enquiries was 1 300. The amount of enquiries nearly doubled from the previous year.

The majority of the applications from Asia came from India (40 applications), Bangladesh (19)

Applications received 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Asia	39	55	76	65	81	166	77	113	88	105	865
Africa	56	63	87	83	107	164	86	147	139	190	1122
Europe	17	17	18	19	12	28	13	21	14	18	181
Latin America	24	25	21	15	16	24	28	33	13	22	221
Northern Africa and Middle East	7	7	8	15	12	12	3	20	6	6	96
Others	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	9
Total	146	167	212	197	228	398	207	334	260	341	2490

and Pakistan (17). In Africa, the highest number of the applications came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (47), Uganda (32) and Kenya (22). Also in 2007 the same six 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 329 applications in 2008, some of which had already been registered as applications in 2007. 34 projects in 18 countries were granted funding and 295 applications were rejected. As in the previous year, 10% of the applications were approved.

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 in 2007.

The total amount of funding granted was 1 248 500 euro, out of which 913 368 euro was paid out to project partners during the year and 9 000 to the Partner Programme.

Out of 34 projects approved 19 were located in Africa, 12 in Asia, 2 in Latin America, 1 in Europe and none in the Middle East. Out of total project funding granted 591 700 euro went to Africa, 509 500 euro to Asia, 62 400 euro to Latin America and 84 900 euro to other areas. 16 grantees had received funding from KIOS previously.

Rejected Applications

The Executive Board rejected altogether 295 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 an application were lack of human rights capacity, unrealistic project budgets or lack of project management capacity.

Approved Projects 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Asia	11	12	10	7	3	3	5	8	7	12	78
Africa	7	5	4	5	7	4	12	5	13	19	81
Europe	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	15
Latin America	5	6	2	3	3	0	3	5	2	2	29
Other	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	9
Total	27	25	19	17	14	8	22	21	25	34	212
Grants (eur)	259 834	300 905	295 069	326 800	379 428	367 500	711 743	747 200	941 900	1 248 500	5 578 879

Rejected Applications 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Rejected applications	113	138	187	175	219	384	154	296	226	295	1892

Ongoing Projects

Altogether 55 partners received funding from KIOS in 2008. In addition to new projects, 17 projects approved in previous years continued into 2008 and received funding from KIOS. Altogether 19 projects were concluded in the year 2008.

At the end of 2008 KIOS had 51 ongoing projects in 23 countries. The countries with the largest number of ongoing projects were Kenya (9 projects), Uganda (7), Ethiopia (4), Nepal (4) and Sri Lanka (4).

Ongoing projects at the end of 2008

	Number of projects
Asia	16
Africa	27
Europe	2
Latin America	4
Northern Africa and Middle East	2
Total	51

Thematic focus of ongoing projects at the end of 2008

(Some projects have several focus rights)

	Number of projects	%
Democratic Rights	9	16
Gender Equality	22	38
Right to Education	3	5
Other	24	41
Total	58	100

In comparison to the 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".

Partnership Programme and pilot projects

In accordance with the current strategy KIOS has been strengthening its capacity building work by expanding its working into Partnership

Programmes. Partnership Programmes provide a possibility to provide training and mentoring to the organisations and monitor the projects. In June 2008 the first programme of this kind was introduced when the KIOS – Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme was launched. During the first six months four pilot groups were selected and received training and mentoring.

Monitoring, evaluation and project management

KIOS Reporting Guide was finalized in 2008 and published on the website during the spring. The Reporting Guide has been well received by applicants and project partners and will also be translated to Spanish and French.

Besides follow-up work done from office, monitoring the progress of projects was also done on project visits. Executive Director Ms. Elisa Mikkola and Project Coordinator Ms. Sari Naskinen visited Uganda and Ethiopia in April and May 2008, in order to meet possible new partners and assess the need for KIOS funding in the area. In November and December 2008 they visited Tanzania and Kenya to follow up ongoing projects and do outreach to new organisations. Project Coordinators Ms. Kristiina Vainio and Ms. Ylva Sjöblom visited funded projects and partners in India and Nepal in November and December 2008. A representative from the Siemenpuu Foundation visited a KIOS funded project in Cambodia. The planned KIOS visit to Pakistan had to be cancelled because of the political and security situation in the area. The trip is rescheduled for 2009.

In 2008 the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland commissioned two evaluations on KIOS. The report by KPMG, "Audit of KIOS and its international partners", was released in September 2008. The findings of the assessment have already been used to improve the guidelines for financial management of the projects. The report by Impact Consulting, "Evaluation – the

Finnish NGO Foundations”, concerning all the three Finnish NGO Foundations KIOS, Abilis Foundation and Siemenpuu Foundation, was published in February 2009. The evaluation found that the three foundations are true experts in their respective fields and that the Finnish development cooperation can greatly benefit from this expertise.

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. The new Reporting Guide and Reporting Form, finalized in 2008, were done as part of JÄRVI Project with the aim of focusing the reporting more on the impact assessment. KIOS also participated in the Impact Assessment working group and trainings of the partnership organisations of the Ministry.

The renewed KIOS website developed towards the end of 2007 was functioning by the beginning of 2008.

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

The 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, such as development cooperation organisations, scholars and students.

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 the project database system, and the website was

launched in January 2008. The new website provided more detailed information on KIOS project funding than before. There are “success stories” featured on the site, a small news section and reports and publications to download. During 2008 the website received an average of 1 200 visits a month. For the first time news from KIOS were also distributed by e-mail.

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 Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, India and Nepal.

KIOS staff took part in trainings and seminars in Finland and abroad, which gave chance to further networking. KIOS staff made a visit to Geneva to get further acquainted with the human rights system at the UN and to network especially with civil society actors working within UN system. The seminars abroad included a consultation on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, organised by Cordaid and the 20th Anniversary seminar of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund. During their monitoring trip to Kenya staff from KIOS also participated in the international conference of the Economic and Social Rights Network in Nairobi.

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

WORK IN FINLAND

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, KIOS organized a two-day seminar on promotion of democratic rights at the grassroots level. The seminar “Realizing democratic rights at the grassroots – Experiences from Africa and Asia” was held in Helsinki on 21-22 October 2008.

The seminar focused on the experiences and practices of promoting grassroots democracy, with special emphasis on the participation of women and youth in democratic and electoral processes. The seminar discussed the topic from the human rights based approach to development (HRBA) and looked for solutions into the question of realization of the HRBA principle of participation in the democratic structures. The seminar also shed light into the added value of the Finnish development cooperation in supporting the development of democratic rights. Topics under discussion included women's participation in the constitution building in Uganda and Nepal, empowerment of the poor in local decision-making in Kenya, grassroots view to election observation in Asia and opportunities of the youth to influence political structures and election processes in Kenya and Nepal. 104 participants took part in the seminar.

Key speakers of the seminar included representatives of KIOS project partners in Kenya, Uganda, Nepal and Thailand. During their one-week stay in Finland the guests had a chance to get acquainted with actors of the Finnish civil society, and to observe the local elections in cooperation with the city of Vantaa. The visit was well covered by national media.

KIOS also offered technical support to the international seminar "Ethnicity and Conflict in Eastern Africa". The seminar was organised by Shalin Finland and AMAHORO on 25 September 2008 in Helsinki. Key speakers of the seminar were experts on democracy and conflict issues from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland approached KIOS to request facilitation for the Ministry's NGO seminar which took place on 10 December 2008. The Executive Director of KIOS gave a presentation at the seminar about human rights in the development cooperation of NGOs. KIOS also put together an exhibition on human rights defenders for the seminar. The representa-

tives of KIOS project partners who were key note speakers at the 10th Anniversary seminar were interviewed for the exhibition.

In order to make the work of KIOS more known among the professionals of development cooperation field, as well as the general public, KIOS presented its work in following seminars and meetings: World Village Festival, Kenya Networking meeting for NGOs, discussion on human rights in China and the Tibet question, the 20th anniversary of the Finnish-Philippine Society, JÄRVI Project and an NGO seminar of the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health.

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).

In December 2008 the Executive Board decided that KIOS, together with its sister foundations Abilis and Siemenpuu, would take part in the tender organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on outsourcing the administration of some of the government funding to development cooperation of NGOs. However, in 2009 the tender was suspended by the Ministry.

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, which was 1 200 000 euro for 2008.

In the annual budget 780 000 euro was allocated to project grants, and 420 000 euro for other activities. By the end of 2008, altogether 1 248 500 euro had been granted for projects and 559 558 euro had been paid out to project partners and 9 000 euro to the Partnership Programme. In addition to this, 353 810 euro was paid to partners from funds granted in 2006 or 2007.

ADMINISTRATION

Each founder organisation 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 27. The Chairperson of the Executive Board was Mr. Esa Ylikoski from the Finnish Peace Committee and the Vice Chairperson was Mr. Pekka Ala-Jaakkola from the Finnish Disabled People's International Development Association FIDIDA.

In 2008 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 2008

Founder	Executive Board Member	Deputy Member
Amnesty International Finnish Section	Ms. Maija Jäppinen	Ms. Katja Majamaa
Finnish League for Human Rights	Ms. Elisabeth Tigerstedt-Tähtelä	Ms. Susan Villa
Service Centre for Development Cooperation KEPA	Ms. Kirsi Salonen until 4.10.2008, Ms. Niina Pitkänen from 4.10.2008	-
FinnChurchAid	Ms. Eija Alajarva	Ms. Eva-Marita Rinne-Koistinen
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 until 26.8.2008, Ms. Eekku Aromaa from 26.8.2008
The Finnish UN Association	Ms. Jenny Lindborg until 26.8.2008, Ms. Inka Leisma from 26.8.2008	Ms. Niina Siitonen
UNICEF	Ms. Mari Hakojärvi until 26.8.2008, Ms. Nina Pronin from 26.8.2008	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 2008

Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Regional	FORUM ASIA	Strengthening Asian Human Rights Movement	118 900
Bangladesh	Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA)	Election Observation 2008	29 900
Cambodia	Protection of Juvenile Justice (PJJ)	Protecting Children's Rights in Cambodia's Justice System	54 900
Colombia	Fundación Desarrollo y Paz (FUNDEPAZ)	Prevención y Atención de la Violencia de Género y Promoción del Liderazgo Femenino en el Contexto del Conflicto Armado en el Suroccidente de Colombia	27 900
Democratic Republic of Congo	Ouvres Sociales pour le Développement (OSD)	Assistance juridique aux victimes des violences politique, sexuelle et de la torture, des traitements inhumains, dégradant ou crue	6 500
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Human Rights and Civic Education Promotion Association (EHRCEPA)	Girls Human Rights Violation Reduction Program through Early Marriage Prevention, Monitoring and Victims Support Project in Ensaro District, North Shewa Zone, Amhara National Regional State	19 500
Ethiopia	Ethiopia Association of Human Rights (EAHUR)	Promoting the State and Private Media's Role in the Advancement of Human Rights with a Specific Focus on Women and Children Rights	15 400
Ethiopia	Bright Africa Youth Association (BAYA)	Respect of Human Right and Building of the Strong Democratic Institutions is a Ground for Development and Sustainability	10 300
Ethiopia	Council for Democracy and Human Rights Association (CDHRA)	Capacity Building Training Program for Member CSOs on Women's Rights	27 300
India	Human Rights Law Network/ Socio Legal Information Center (HRLN/SLIC)	Free legal services for destitute, marginalised and poor section of Indian society	86 200
Kenya	Family Mediation and Conciliation (FAMEC)	Meru Community Women's Rights and Peace Education	44 700
Kenya	Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK)	KIOS – Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme	10 000
Nepal	Women's Rehabilitation Center Nepal (WOREC)	Protection of Rights of Women Human Rights Defenders of Nepal: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace in Nepal	23 500
Nepal	HimRights/ Himalayan Human Rights Monitors	Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict	48 600

Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Pakistan	Human Development Promotion Group (HDPG)	Awareness on Violence Against Women in District Charsadda	15 100
Pakistan	Civic Awareness and Promotion Society (CAPS)	Protection of Women's Rights through Community Activism	10 000
Peru	Instituto Peruano de Educación en Derechos Humanos y la Paz (IPEDEHP)	Formación de Líderes Sociales de Comunidades Indígenas Andinas del Cusco, para la Promoción y la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos	34 500
Rwanda	EJO NZAMERA NTE	Projet d'appui à la préservation des droits au respect de la vie privée et à la confidentialité des personnes affectées par le VIH/ SIDA	23 700
Senegal	Centre Africain pour la Prévention et Résolution des Conflicts (CAPREC): Victimes de Violence Réhabilités (VIVRE)	Assistance juridique pour 200 personnes victimes de torture	21 400
Sri Lanka	Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR)	Sri Lankan refugee community in Tamil Nadu responding to the human rights crisis in Sri Lanka: Human rights awareness raising, documentation, reporting and advocacy	38 100
Sri Lanka	Institute of Human Rights (IHR)	Access to Justice – Public inquiries and prison legal clinics	22 700
Sri Lanka	Home for Human Rights (HHR)	Programme of Work for the Human Rights Council and for Lobby and Advocacy in Geneva for the year 2008	15 000
Tanzania	Tanzania Development and AIDS Prevention (TADEPA)	Advocacy for Women's Rights, Gender Equity and Children's Rights	17 600
Turkey	Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) (Turkiye Insan Haklari Vakfi TIHV)	Effective intervention in prevention of torture in Turkey	84 900
Uganda	National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)	CEDAW in Every Day Life and Practice in Kayunga District: a Campaign for Women's Rights	28 000
Uganda	Action for Community Development – Uganda (ACODEV-U)	Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Project	45 800
Uganda	Human Rights Network (HURINET)	Action for the Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Uganda	48 300

Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Uganda	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)	In-Country Training and Initiation of a National Coalition of HRDs in Burundi and Administrative Support	40 400
Uganda	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)	Building the capacity of community based human rights associations to promote the democratization process in Uganda	87 600
Zimbabwe	Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingondo (JPV)	Capacity building and dissemination of information on the domestic violence act and women's rights	20 900
Project grants awarded with additional funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland			
Country	Organisation	Project	Grant awarded (euro)
Kenya	Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK)	KIOS – Youth Alive! Kenya Partnership Programme	10 000
Kenya	Independent Medico - Legal Unit (IMLU)	Torture Documentation and Rehabilitation Project for the Most Vulnerable	97 990
Nepal	HimRights/ Himalayan Human Rights Monitors	Mock Child Constituent Assembly (Children's Constituent Assembly)	46 600
Uganda	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)	Training workshop for Women Human Rights Defenders incl. Sexual Minority Defenders	16 310

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