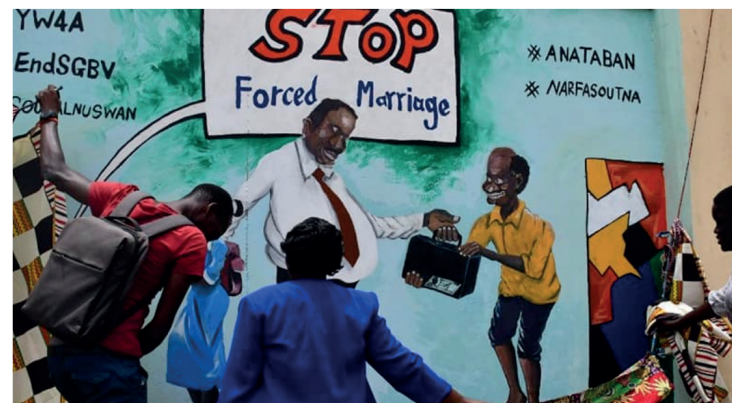




Norwegian People's Aid

# PROGRESS REPORT 2021

Grant Agreement between  
Norad and Norwegian People's Aid 2020-2024





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# INTRODUCTION

Name of grant recipient: **Norwegian People's Aid**

Norad agreement number: **QZA-0878 QZA-19/0262**

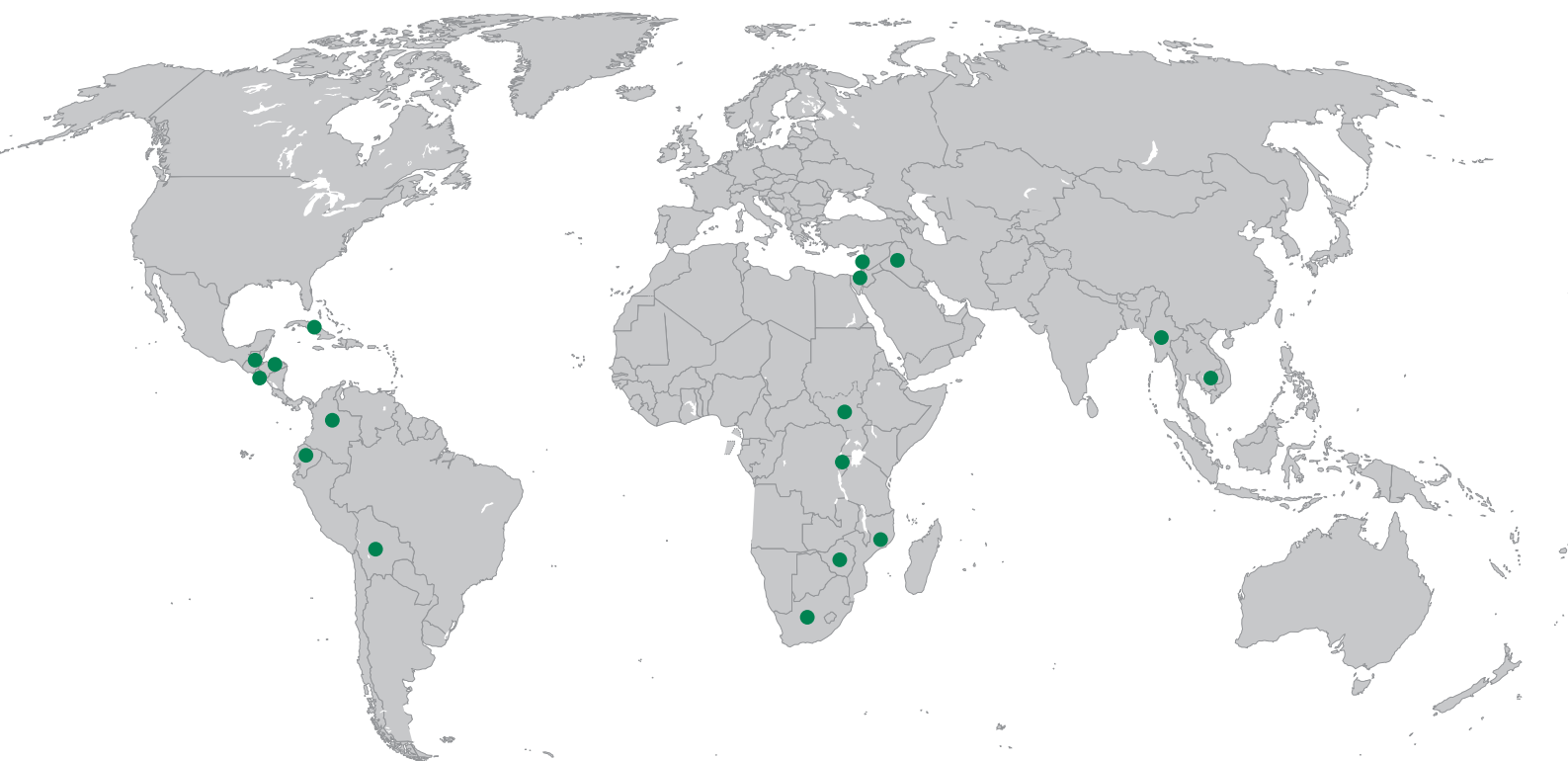
Agreement period: **2020-2024**

Reporting year: **Progress Report 2021**

Norwegian People's Aid's programmes in the Grant Agreement with Norad, particularly contribute to SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 10 Reduced inequality, as we actively work against discrimination based on gender, ethnicity and/or class. NPA also enhances equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and natural resources, in line with SDG 1 and 2, an end to all discrimination and violence against women and girls, in line with SDG 5, and to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, in line with SDG 16.

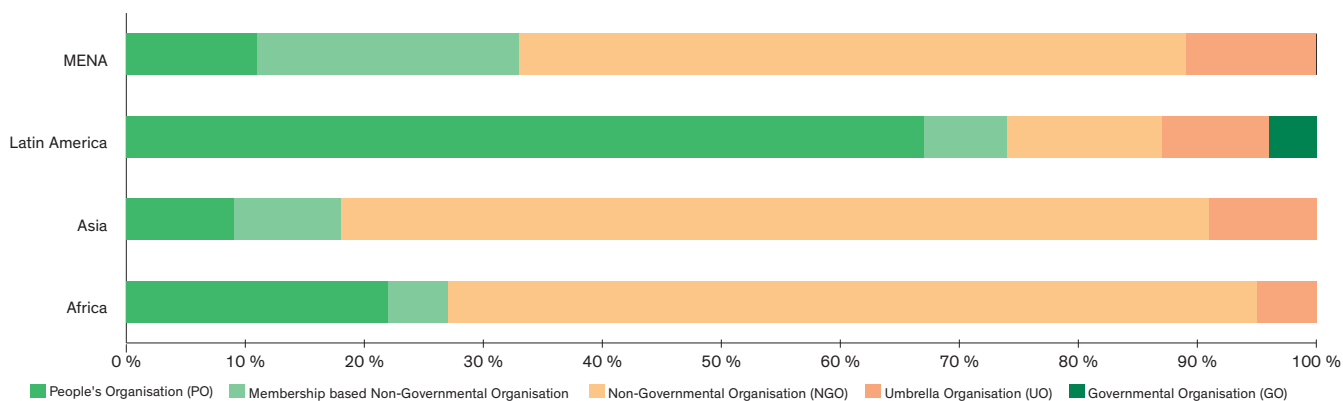
**N**orwegian People's Aid (NPA) is a politically independent membership-based organisation working in Norway and in more than 30 countries around the world. Founded in 1939 as the labour movement's humanitarian solidarity organisation, NPA adheres to the fundamental values of the labour movement: Unity,

solidarity and human dignity. NPA's values are equal rights for all, irrespective of sex, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability and social status. "Solidarity in action" is our vision, and characterises our work and engagement. Our work is based on solidarity, not charity.



Countries where NPA has programmes that are included in the Cooperation Agreement with Norad: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq.





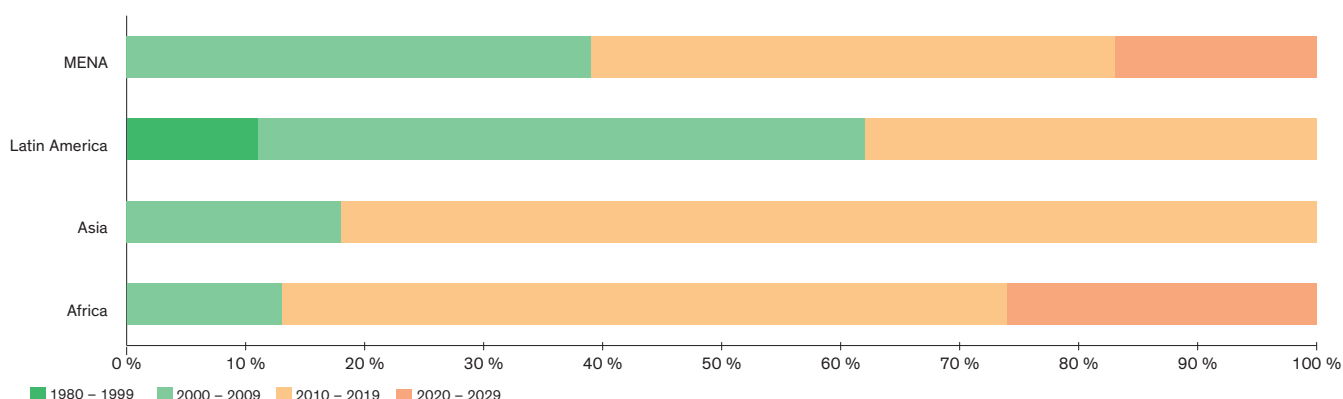
Type of partner organisation % share of partners per region

NPA believes that unequal power relations and unequal distribution of resources in society cause poverty, conflict and injustice. Therefore, we prioritise to work to reduce inequality. Inequalities in power relations and resources are complex; hence, we consider it necessary to focus on different forms of inequalities, including economic, political and social inequalities. It is important to address inequality both between individuals and between groups to avoid systematic discrimination or marginalisation of certain groups of people or individuals. Democratic processes are important to reduce inequality, but holding elections is not enough. Democratisation processes rely on civil society actors, men and women, with capacity to engage in collective action, defend the interests of their constituencies, hold decision makers accountable and advocate for an equitable society.

NPA firmly believes that popular organising, to enhance peoples' participation, influence decision-making, and challenge power structures, is key to reduce inequality and

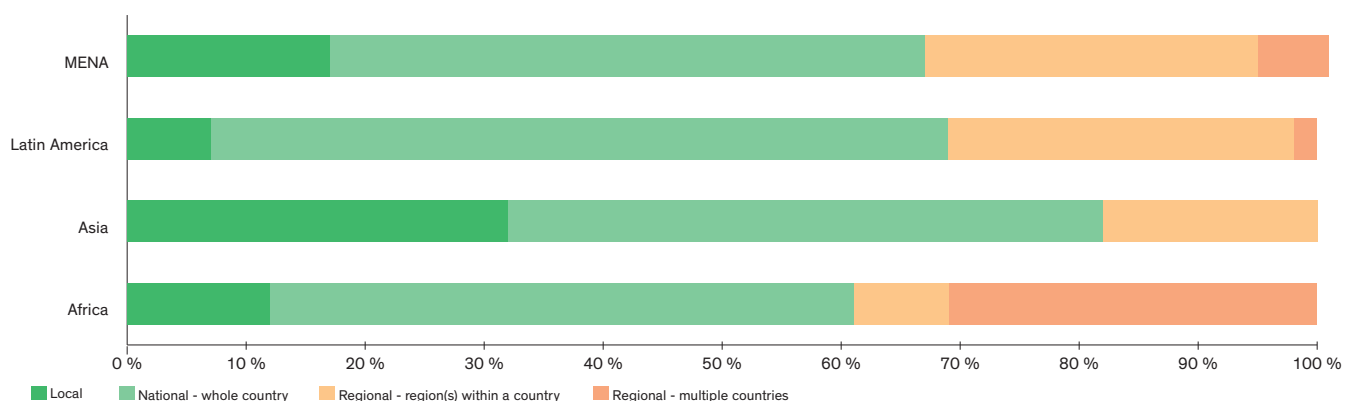
unfair distribution of resources. Popular mobilisation and collective organising are essential to ensure lasting change, and organisations rooted in their social, cultural and political context are best placed to mobilise people for just distribution and claim rights from decision-makers. Inequality affects marginalised people most, therefore we prioritise to engage with people's organisations representing marginalised groups, but we also cooperate with NGOs, umbrella organisations and networks, who can support popular organising, and through complementary methods contribute to reduced economic, political and social inequality.

NPA signed the Grant Agreement with Norad in 2020 for the period 2020-2024. *Civil Society for Reduced Inequality* (CS), includes 17 country programmes (18 as of 2022), a regional programme in MENA (Middle East and Northern Africa), and the global programme GLII (Global Learning and Innovation Initiative). *Oil for the Common Good* (OCG) programmes operate in Mozambique, South Sudan and Myanmar (2020-2022), as part of Oil for Development, and



Time period of partnership establishment % share of partners per region





Partner organisations' scope of work % share of partners per region

*Building Resilience and Enhanced Livelihoods* (BREL) in South Sudan. In 2021 two addendums were included, Addendum 2 on Myanmar and Addendum 3 on South Sudan, both to be reported by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

In 2021, Norwegian People's Aid supported 175 partners in 17 countries through the CS and OCG programmes in the Agreement. The BREL programme has 8 partners.

We have structured the Progress Report for 2021 in four chapters. The **first chapter** is an Introduction to NPA and the programmes in the Agreement, including graphic profiles of our partners. The **second chapter** on results is split in seven sections. The first section briefly presents the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on programmes and partners. The second section presents how partners in the CS programme have sought, and achieved, to influence decision-making in their particular contexts. The third section reflects on CS partners' capacity to mobilise target groups around common issues, and the achievements made. The fourth section reflects on CS partners' capacity to

organise people with a common cause, and achievements made in strengthening competencies and capacities. The fifth section presents results from two OCG programmes. The sixth section presents results from the BREL programme in South Sudan. The seventh section reflects on project implementation, including cost efficiency. **Chapter three** is on reviews and evaluations. **Chapter four** is the overview of finances.



# RESULTS

**N**orwegian People's Aid vision for this programme is *a society with just distribution of power and resources*. In such a society, economic, political and social inequalities are low, the majority of its citizens consider the distribution of resources to be fairly just, and people do not experience discrimination based on gender, class or ethnicity. People have the right to organise, participate and express their opinions in a climate of respect and safety, and possibilities to hold decision makers accountable and influence the development of their societies.

The strategies partners use to influence for a more just distribution of power and resources differ, depending on the context they work in and on the type of organisation they are, and NPA has designed our programmes to support partners in *their* strategies adapted to context. They may present policy proposals to decision-makers, conduct campaigns, organise mobilisations, take legal action to challenge breach of human rights committed by authorities or others, or facilitate for dialogue meetings - often in alliances with other likeminded organisations. Some partners mobilise target groups to stand up for their rights, challenge decision-makers, and combat discrimination. NPA's assumption is that civil society actors are more effective and sustainable in their efforts to influence if they are organised. Organising has shown to be an effective tool for marginalised people to assert power. NPA's main method in supporting popular organising is to contribute to their organisational development based on the organisations' own priorities and ways of working.

In the following sections we will look at partners' strategies and achievements in 2021, within the three outcome areas: Decision-makers' policies and practices changed (2.2), People and communities from the target group acted and participated to influence (2.3), and Civil society organisations strengthened to influence (2.4). Selected result examples from each CS country programme are presented under the relevant outcome areas.

However, first, some overall reflections on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that ravaged the world in 2020 and 2021.

## 2.1 The global pandemic continued

The measures introduced by authorities to meet the COVID-19 pandemic varied from country to country, however in most countries quarantine regulations and lockdowns continued into 2021. Even when these were temporarily lifted, the pandemic itself made it necessary to

live and work with precautions. Unemployment has increased, new groups of people have been pushed into poverty, already weak health systems are further exasperated, and many children and young people have been deprived of their education. The pandemic has increased inequalities, some have gained and others have lost. Already marginalised groups, like most of those NPA's partners represent or support, have been severely affected, posing new challenges for the organisations. Existing democratic challenges became more severe during the pandemic. Further, limitations on organisational gatherings, public meetings and protests, which are crucial to agree on agendas and push for change, deprived the organisations of some of their most important tools to influence.

The implications for partners' plans, and their responses to the crisis varied, but there are some common trends. NPA country programmes report that the activities mostly affected were related to travels and face-to-face assemblies of people, such as training programmes, board meetings, and congresses, as well as street mobilisations, cultural events, exchange visits and meetings with authorities at different levels.

All country programmes report that the pandemic has affected women differently. Domestic violence and gender-based violence, particularly affecting women and girls, increased dramatically during the quarantines and lockdowns. Further, women constitute the majority among health workers, making them particularly exposed to contamination, and in the informal sector, where many have lost their livelihood and income. Women also bear the main burden of reproductive tasks at home, such as looking after children and elderly, and searching for water, food and basic household goods.

Partners in all country programmes have shown an impressive ability to adapt to the situation. They have used digital meeting spaces to maintain organisational practices and developed new digital training platforms. They have promoted the importance of healthy food production and consumption, distributed seeds and agricultural inputs, and established online mental and emotional health support. They have revised campaigns and advocacy work, using printed materials, community radio programmes, social media and web sites. They have influenced decision-making and denounced anti-social government policies, held authorities accountable for policies and practices, monitored human rights abuses, and initiated awareness campaigns on human rights.



Many partners engaged in advocacy work to improve access to vaccines, particularly for marginalised groups, and promoted vaccine information to their constituencies. The South African partners Section 27, People's Health Movement and African Alliance took a leading role in the international People's Vaccine Alliance (PVC) that mobilised for scaling up production and more equitable distribution. While South African partners advocated internationally for vaccines, NPA advocated in Norway. See further elaboration under GLII (Global Learning and Innovation Initiative) below.

## 2.2 Civil society organisations strengthened to influence

In 2021 and 2022, partners presented 212 policy proposals to decision-makers, while 108 advocacy campaigns and 311 mobilisation campaigns were organised. 4142 dialogue meetings have been held with decision-makers. In all cases, the numbers exceed the expected target by the second year of this programme. The increase in dialogue meetings can be explained by the loosening up of COVID-19 restrictions, the expansion to new districts of the Rwanda programme and a new strategy of Zimbabwe partners to negotiate MOUs with national and local authorities.

Setting targets on political influence is challenging for a number of reasons. Policy amendments are difficult to foresee, political change is often more time consuming than anticipated, a change of government, a tighter political climate, or a natural disaster may cause delays, and a global pandemic may have unexpected consequences.

NPA's partners vary according to type of organisation, size, capacities and space to influence. For some, presenting a policy proposal is an achievement, for others the achievement is to influence decision-making. In some countries, partners find that influencing national politics is risky or impossible, whilst there are more opportunities at municipal or regional level. In some countries, the political space is relatively inclusive, and influencing decision-making is the order of the day. In others, it is closed, people and organisations are victims of persecution and prosecution, and maintaining a minimum of activities to uphold the existence of the organisation is an achievement in itself.

For NPA, local ownership to change processes is key. NPA's focus is on supporting partners' organisational development and priorities, not to support predefined thematic areas. Partners define their political agendas based on local priorities in their specific context. Therefore, the issues partners engage in vary. However, some topics recur, for instance land rights and management of natural resources, minorities and indigenous people's rights, gender equality and violence against women, the right to organise and mobilise, and freedom of expression.

The climate and environment mapping NPA conducted in 2021 shows that many partners engage in stopping pollution, preventing climate change and protecting nature. The engagement is very diverse, including land rights, extractive industries, climate smart agriculture, and protection of environment and human rights defenders, issues often not considered climate or environmental work. Hence, most NPA partners seldom consider themselves an environmental organisation as such. The mapping also shows that engaging in preventing extractive industries and defending natural resources generate serious security risks for partners.

NPA's partners work in very different contexts, but common for all is extreme political, economic and social inequality. The majority of our partners operate in fragile and politically unstable contexts, where the space for civil society is limited due to pressure from government, opposition groups, military, para-military and/or the corporate sector. Some partners operate under war-like conditions, some in societies where companies use violence against people defending their rights, and some in countries with long-term repressive regimes. In 2020 and 2021, the global COVID-19 pandemic added to these challenges.

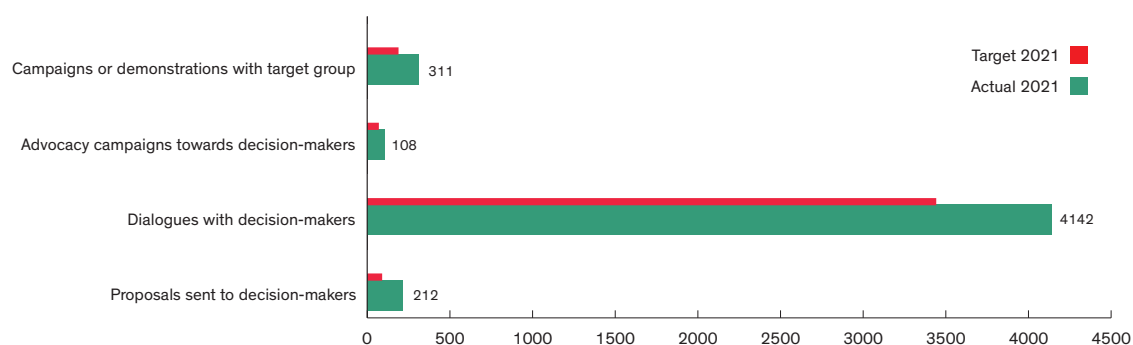
Below, we present some examples of efforts partners have embarked on in the 2021 to influence political decision-making in their countries, reflecting the contexts they operate in and the achievements made. A list of partners appears in the beginning of each.

### SOUTH AFRICA

ABM	Abahlali baseMjondolo
TCOE	Trust for Community Outreach Education
WoF	Women on Farms
CORMSA	Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
AIDC	Alternative Information and Development Centre
SERI	Socio Economic Rights Institute
R2K	Right 2 Know
MACUA	Mining Affected Communities United in Action
SJC	Social Justice Coalition
EE	Equal Education
SALO	Southern Africa Liason Office
Section 27	Section 27
PHM	People's Health Movement
AA	Africa Alliance

The pandemic exposed systemic political, governmental and economic shortcomings. Class, race, gender, and urban/rural inequalities exacerbated. The government took loans to mitigate the impacts, had excessive leeway to exercise its powers, and corruption prevailed.





Number of advocacy actions by partners. Outputs ontributing to outcome 3.1 - Changes in decision-makers/policies

Forming the C19 Coalition, with 350 civil society organisations, including several partners in key roles, was a critical strategy to demonstrate one voice from civil society. Despite lockdowns, the government has shown an increased openness to civil society engagement and responsiveness to policy submissions.

Several partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Government' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. WoF and SERI succeeded in amendments to the to the temporary relief schemes, securing benefits for dismissed farmworkers. SERI presented several written and oral submissions on the COID (Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases) Amendment Bill, and the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee adopted their key recommendation (see result example). During the lockdown, shack dwellers and farmworkers faced evictions and, together with SERI, TCOE and Abahlali, challenged evictions through the courts and succeeded in achieving a moratorium prohibiting evictions during lockdown. Following EE's submissions to national authorities and legal proceeding to urgently resume the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), the court ruled that the Ministry of Basic Education was in violation and that NSNP was a necessary component of the right to basic education.

Partners made 37 policy submissions, largely related to changes made due to COVID-19, ranging from loss of income and employment, to lack of response to gender based violence, and land evictions. SERI made submission on the draft Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill, which requires comprehensive revisions to have its intended effect, to develop township economies. MACUA submitted a policy proposal to develop a new legal framework for mining affected communities and workers, and challenged Parliament on the validity of the Mining Charter.

MACUA organised a 100K signature campaign, petitioning national authorities to take immediate steps to ensure the voice of mining-affected communities in mining-related legislation, according to the constitutional right to Free Prior and Informed Consent, recognised in national mining laws.

## ZIMBABWE

CHRA	Combined Harare Residents Association
CiZC	Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition
Magamba	Magamba Cultural Network
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
SMAIAS/ZiLAN	Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies
WCDT	Wadzanai Community Development Trust
WCoZ	Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
WLZ	Women and Land in Zimbabwe
ZCIEA	Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Association
ZELA	Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association
ZIMCDD	Zimbabwe Coalition of Debt and Development
ZimRights	Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

In 2021, the Constitution was amended to centralise power around the President, and the Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill was passed, increasing government authority e.g. to surveil civil society's activities. The government is pushing for the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Bill and the Patriotic Bill, which will be used to persecute human rights defenders and CSOs. With the continued onslaught of civic space, partners continue to unite to hinder government interference and divisive tactics (see result example).

The government pays little attention to private investments' impact on community livelihoods, and issues of transparency and accountability. Almost 49% of the population live in extreme poverty. A weak tenure system has resulted in a number of land dispossession by the state, elites, and national and foreign companies. WLZ, WCDT, ZiLAN, ZimRights, ZELA, SMAIAS and ZIMCDD raised national debates and engaged in national dialogue meetings with policy makers on land dispossessions.

Partners contributed to outcome (O3.1) *Decision-makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. For instance, as a result of CHRA's advocacy efforts, the Harare City Council maintained



commitment to waiver outstanding water bills and schedule payment plans for residence, and local city clinics remained open to poor women and children.

Further, six national policies were formally adopted as a result of partners' work. For instance, ZiLAN, WCDT, WLZ and SMAIAS made joint submissions to the Land Policy, addressing land compensation and discrimination based on gender. In 2021, the Government announced the implementation of joint land spousal registration, which will result in less gender discrimination in the allocation and ownership of land. ZiLAN and SMAIAS' submissions resulted in the government announcing they will provide funding for small scale tobacco producers, while CHRA and ZIMCDD assisted the City of Harare to develop an anti-corruption policy. ZELA filed a court case against Chitungwiza municipality to stop them from releasing untreated sewer into water bodies providing drinking water.

Partners presented 17 policy proposals to decision makers on e.g. climate smart farming policy, freedom of media, and access to water and service. They conducted 118 dialogue meetings with policy makers on e.g. land dispossessions, transparent tax regimes, electoral processes, and citizen participation in civil society. Partners also implemented 27 campaigns on the protection of rights and social services, including on the lack of transparency and accountability by the government on matters of public resources management.

## MOZAMBIQUE (CS)

ADECRU	Academic Action for Development of Rural Communities.
AMDER-Niassa	Mozambique Association for Sustainable Rural Development - Niassa
AMDER-Maputo	Mozambique Association for Sustainable Rural Development - Maputo
MULEIDE-Cabo Delgado	Women, Law and Development - Cabo Delgado
MULEIDE-Maputo	Women, Law and Development - Maputo
ODHL	Legality and Human Rights Observatory
UCA	Union of Small-Scale Farmers and Associations
UGCAN	Cooperatives Union of Farmers in Nampula
UNAC	Small Scale Farmers National Union
	Small Scale Farmers Provincial Union - Inhambane
UPCI	Small Scale Farmers Provincial Union - Zambezia
UPCZ	Small Scale Farmers Provincial Union - Zambezia

Democracy is increasingly undermined, and citizens do not trust the government or public institutions. Dissident voices are repressed, civil society space is shrinking, and peoples' capacity to mobilise and organise is reduced. In September, a post-conflict reconstruction plan for Cabo Delgado was inaugurated, pushing control further into the hands of the President. The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration process enabled former RENAMO fighters' re-entry into civilian life with support from the government.

The national programme for integration of household agriculture in the value chain, expanded to all provinces, benefiting more farmers. However, it does not take into consideration the disadvantages women face, limiting their access to the programme. The lack of transparency, and local governments' influence on the selection process, opens for clientelism and creates concern about the programme.

Millions of rural residents are unable to secure their rights due to exploitation, top-down decisions prioritising attribution of land to big investment companies, corrupt leaders, and the government's lack of interest in protecting local communities' rights. Political elites play a significant role in this situation, and can easily seize communities' lands and getting away with it. The trial of the "hidden debt", one of the biggest corruption scandals in Mozambique, began in August.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Decision-makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*, by engaging in policy formulations and debates related to the Land Law Revision and Succession Law, and training provincial decision makers in Niassa, Zambézia and Inhambane to promote communities' land rights. For instance, as a result of the trainings and agreements AMDER Niassa managed to establish, the Provincial Assembly in Niassa is monitoring the implementation of six resettlement, extractive industries and land laws, and communities in two districts receive 20% benefits from the commercial exploration of wood on their land.

AMDER-Maputo held meetings with the President of the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Commission for Agriculture, Economy and Environment on the importance of monitoring the implementation of policies related to agrarian exploitation. UGCAN organised a public meeting on gender inequality in access to land with the provincial Director of Women, Child and Social Affairs, providing women and youth the opportunity to voice their opinions directly to an influential government official. UPCI and AMDER-Maputo organised a "Women Can Do It" training, with 40 elected women at the Inhambane Provincial Assembly, to strengthen women participation in political and public life, and in decision-making processes.



## RWANDA

ADENYA	L'association de pour Développement de Nyabimata
AJPRODHO	The Youth Association for Human Rights Promotion and Development
CLADHO	Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme
COPORWA	Communauté des Potiers du Rwanda.
GLIHD	Great Lakes Initiative for Human Development
HDI	Human Development Initiative
IMBARAGA	IMBARAGA
PAX PRESS	PAX PRESS
RWAMREC	Rwanda Men's Resource Centre.
RWN	Rwanda Women's Network
T.A	Tubibe Amahoro
TI-Rw	Transparency International Rwanda chapter.
ADEPE	Action pour le développement du Peuple
FVA	Faith Victory Association
NAR	Never Again Rwanda
RCCDN	Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network
Duhozanye	Duhozanye Organisation
Haguruka	Haguruka

Rwanda continues to face several political and developmental challenges, in a context characterised by inequality, scarce resources, and an autocratic President. Rwanda's distinctive political and governance systems continue to shape the processes by which policies and programmes are designed, planned, implemented and reviewed. These arrangements have led to a perceived sense of political and social contract between citizens and the state, as the state earns legitimacy through delivering development results and security in an unstable historical and regional context.

The use of repression and violence was heightened under the pandemic, when critics exercising their fundamental freedoms were arrested and prosecuted. Many critical journalists have been sanctioned or their licenses revoked. In general, efforts to undermine the foundations of democracy and human rights are likely to increase as the country is gearing up for the next presidential elections in 2024.

In the lead up to the 2021 local government general elections, the National Decentralization Policy was reviewed and endorsed by the cabinet, thus giving precedence to legal reforms and the transfer of certain powers and responsibilities to local authorities. Strengthening districts management and providing better

local government services remains one of the key challenges. Rwanda has been at the forefront to narrow gender inequality, but beyond the headline of being the first country in the world with a female majority in parliament, a somewhat different reality is found at district level and below, where women continue to be significantly under-represented.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Local and national government have formulated policies and plans that reflect the concerns raised by citizens.* For instance, at national level, the law determining offenses and penalties of war crimes was amended as a result of advocacy conducted by GLIHD, targeting the Parliament, the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre. Transparency International Rwanda conducted a baseline and roundtable meetings on public procurement processes, which led Parliament to amend the Public Procurement law. PAX PRESS secured a revision of the Media Policy and media legal and regulatory framework. At district level, 16 district plans had gender-related commitments as a result of conducting budget hearings in districts and parliament. Five partners signed MoUs with the Ministry of Local Government to secure the use of citizen score card as a tool for district planning and budgeting.

## SOUTH SUDAN

GBLA	Greater Bhar El Ghazal Land Alliance
GELA	Greater Equatoria Land Alliance
PIDO	People's Initiative Development Organization
SSLS	South Sudan Law Society
CSCNR	Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources
SSCSF	South Sudan Civil Society Forum
HRSS	Hope Restoration South Sudan
UNYDA	Upper Nile Youth Development Association
NIHE	Nile Initiative for Health and Environment.
AMDISS	Association for Media Development in South
AMSS	Amalna South Sudan
CRN	Catholic Radio Network
CoMNeTSS	Community Media Network South Sudan
SSUDA	South Sudan Development Agency
Ana Taban	Anataban Arts Initiatives
FJN	Female Journalists Network
ACR	Action for Conflict Resolution
ACSS	Active Citizen South Sudan
CAPAD	Christian Agency for Peace and Development
MUYSA	Mvolo United Youth and Sports Association
RYSA	Rumbek Youth and Sports Association
OAF	Okay Africa Foundation
ALA	Africa Life Aid



ROG	Root of Generation
WAO	Women Advance Organization
WAV	Women Aid Vision
STW	Steward Women

The country is governed by a coalition comprised of the rebel factions that signed the peace agreement, and the governing SPLM. Whether this new formation will change the abuse of human rights, hunger, underdevelopment and tenacious conflicts, remains to be seen. Although progress has been made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS (peace agreement), several critical provisions are yet to be implemented. Women and girls experience violence as a result of ongoing conflicts and due to patriarchal norms and pervasive gender-inequality. South Sudan ranks 185 of 189 countries in human development achievements between women and men, and many gender-oriented policies have not been implemented or remain in draft form.

Freedom of expression and media rights have been shrinking and all critical voices are considered as dissident by the government. Nevertheless, partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *National and local authorities' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. Partners continued to advocate and support efforts by authorities at national and subnational levels of government to enact legislation necessary for transparent, accountable and inclusive land governance. As a result, the Women's Land Rights Agenda for South Sudan was adopted at national level and the draft Land Policy for Eastern Equatoria State was improved and is currently pending approval by State's Legislative Assembly. With reference to the Mining Act (2012), CSCNR and communities in Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria demanded transparent and accountable management of mining resources and revenues. AMDISS and UJOSS successfully petitioned authorities in Jonglei through press statements and meetings with the Media Authority, National Security and state local authorities for enhanced civic space for the media, and enhanced safety of journalists.

Partners continued to present proposals and influence national level policies and legislation related to local government, women and girls' rights and female representation in governments, youth policies, media related regulations, and implementation of the peace agreement. For instance, OAF and CAPAD presented three proposals addressing youth issues, including access to higher education and employment opportunities. AMDISS conducted two fora for media practitioners, media regulatory bodies, lawyers, CSOs' and key staff from the Ministry of Information, and had two meetings with the Office of the President and Minister of Information, to influence for more freedom of expression and protection of

journalists. Partners also organised campaigns across the country to promote gender equality and youth participation in decision-making processes, peace and reconciliation in communities, and denouncing tribalism.

## CAMBODIA

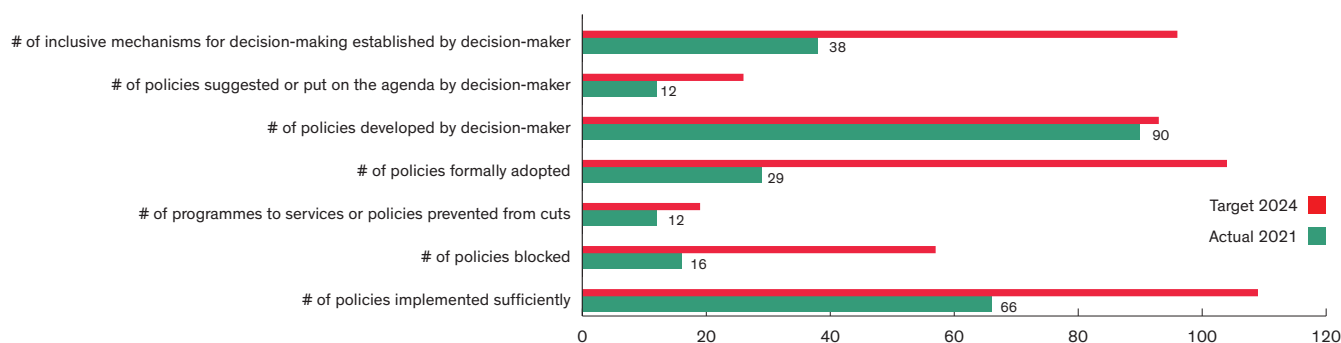
CIPO	Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization
CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CCFC	Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community
CENTRAL	Center for Alliance of Labour and Human Rights
CGCN	Cambodian Grassroots Cross Sector Network/
COMFREL	Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
DPA	Development and Partnership in Action
PAD	People's Action for Development
EC	Equitable Cambodia
GADC	Gender and Development for Cambodia
LICADHO	Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
NGOF	The NGO Forum on Cambodia
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
YRDP	Youth Resource Development Program

The government misused the law to control COVID-19, to arrest and harass critical voices, halt discussion on sensitive issues, including the amendment of the law on association and NGOs, and postponing the CSO and Government Partnership Forum. CSO activities were followed by local authorities and the police, sometimes leading to uninvited participation or banning activities. Members of the dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) continue to be exposed to judicial harassment, physical assault and killings. The judicial system is ranked 138 out of 139 countries on rule of law.

To control online platforms, the government established a system to monitor traffic and exercise control over individuals' internet access, and to block specific websites and platforms. As traditional media is affiliated with the government and ruling party, the main sources of information are social media. Almost 80 % of the population had access to Internet in 2021. Land conflicts remain a serious problem with 68 new cases in 2021, impacting 5,243 families. Women are treated unequally economically, and are highly underrepresented in political structures, with two female governors out of 25, and 20 % of the members of national assembly.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Cambodian government's policies and private companies' practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among marginalised groups*. For instance, following advocacy work





On the way to achieve outcome 3 indicators. Actual's share of target 2024.

by CENTRAL and other trade unions, the government decided to increase the minimum wage slightly for around 750,000 workers, mostly female, in the textile Industry. Three mining companies, whose production affects around 1,200 families, improved their corporate cooperate social responsibilities (CSRs) and way of working. For instance, they engaged and negotiated with target communities in their planning, applying the principle of free and prior-informed consent, constructed roads, latrines, and water storage basins, and/or implemented better safety and health standards at work.

Further, the Australian bank, ANZ, established an Accountability Grievance Mechanism to evaluate and respond to human rights related complaints associated with their corporate lending customers. This mechanism was created following the complaint by EC and allies in 2014, to the Australia's OECD National Contact Point (NCP), that ANZ had violated its own policies and international human rights standards by financing a Cambodian sugar company that seised land from local farmers. ANZ also agreed to make a financial contribution to help remediate the harms suffered by the farmers.

## BOLIVIA

FDMCIOB BS	Federación Departamental Mujeres Campesinas Indigenas Originarias de Cochabamba - Bartolina Sisa
CNMCIOSB BS	Confederación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas Indigenas Originarias de Bolivia
FDMCIOSC	Federación de Mujeres Campesinas Originarias de Santacruz BS
FSUTCC	Federación Nacional Unica de Trabajadores de Cochabamba
FSUTCAT SC	Federación Sindical Unica de Trabajadores Campesinos de Santa Cruz
CEFREC - CAIB	Fundación para el desarrollo de la comunicación Intercultural
CEPRA	Centro de Educación y Producción Radiofónica

2021 was the first year of Luis Arce's MAS (Movement for Socialism) government. In the municipal elections, MAS won 70% of the municipalities, but lost the cities. President Arce

prioritised economic reactivation, establishing dialogue with the business sector and popular organisations, and improving tax revenues.

As part of its fight against money laundering, a law was proposed by the government without sufficient explanation of its impacts. The opposition launched a media campaign denouncing the supposed impact the law would have on informal sectors of the economy, traditionally supporters of the MAS. They took to the streets, joined by the opposition, and the law was repealed.

The ultraright opposition in Santa Cruz attacked the Bartolina Sisa offices and provoked divisions within the organisations by arguing that land should not be given to Andean immigrants. In response, the Unity Pact and the trade unions initiated a march. After five days walking from Oruro, 1 million people from social organisations, indigenous peoples, workers, women's collectives, city dwellers, professionals, and cultural groups gathered in La Paz. It was a message to the opposition, demonstrating mobilisation capacity and national support, but also to MAS, demanding internal unity, participation and dialogue with the organisations, and demonstrating support to President Arce.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *National and municipal and local authorities' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. As part of the Unity Pact, they, in alliance with other organisations, requested the government to repeal a decree passed by the Añez government, introducing genetically modified corn, wheat, and cotton. The government repealed the decree.

In response to the proposals developed by the Unity Pact, the Arce government assigned a budget of 110,000 million dollars for the 2021-2025 period to support programmes for small scale farmers to strengthen food sovereignty, including improvements in production, credits and technical assistance. The government also relaunched the national programme for water wells, contributing to the availability of water for food security, with a budget of 34,200 million dollars. Further, 18 member organisations of Bartolina Sisa in Santa Cruz requested the government to relocate them to more accessible land with better conditions for production,



resulting in the INRA (National Institute for Agrarian Reform) emitting settlement resolutions for 7 of the 18 organisations.

## ECUADOR

AUCC	Assembly of Unity of Cotacachi
CONAIE	Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador
CNC-EA	The National Peasant Coordinator Eloy Alfaro
FDA	Amazonian Defence Front
Kayambi People	Confederation of the Kayambi People
Kawsay Foundation	Foundation of Indigenous Cultures KAWSAY
MICC	Indigenous and Peasant Movement of Cotopaxi
UOCE	Union of Peasant Organizations of Esmeraldas

The right-wing Guillermo Lasso was elected President with a small margin in the 2nd round. The right-wing victory was unexpected, as the centre and left-wing candidates won 68% in the 1st round. However, the National Assembly (NA) reflects the weight of the progressive forces and, although they are not united, Lasso's government is struggling to implement its neoliberal programme. NPA's partner, CONAIE (the national indigenous organisation) elected Leonidas Iza as President, the leader of the October 2019 uprising. With a split opposition in the NA, CONAIE represents the most direct political opposition to the government.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O.3.1) *Decision-makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. As a result of the community of San Isidro and MICC demanding the State to recognise the indigenous mandate to protect the Pujilí paramos (1,071 hectares), the Ministry of Environment declared it a Hydric Protection Area, specifically prohibiting any large-scale mining.

CONAIE and other social sectors mobilised 40,000 people against rising fuel prices and in prices developed a proposal on e.g. reduced fuel prices, inflation of agricultural products, extraction in indigenous territories, enforcement of indigenous rights, and a rejection of any bill affecting labour rights. CONAIE participated in two dialogues with the government to discuss the proposal, but with no concrete results.

To counteract the government's proposal to reform the Communication Law, CONAIE and MICC presented a proposal to protect the recognition of community-based media. CNC-EA developed a strategic concept note on food sovereignty as an argument to reject, and further develop, the Law of Productive Development, which benefits agrobusiness. As part of a broader political alliance, including CONAIE, 1,500 small-scale farmers and

indigenous peoples' delegates marched towards the assembly to deliver the proposal.

AUCC presented an amicus curie to support the Constitutional Court's decision to declare a protected forest area in the Intag valley free of large-scale mining. The Court ruled in favour of the "rights of nature", prohibiting further mining exploitation. They also organised the 2nd Regional Encounter for life and water in Intag Valley. The main resolution was to form a National Anti-Mining Front, and to demand a State audit of all mining concessions to determine if the prior, informed and free consultation had taken place in indigenous territories, and environmental consultation in campesino territories.

CNC-EA accompanied the Furukawa workers in their legal case, as victims of modern slavery, against the company and the state.

## COLOMBIA

ONIC	National Indigenous Organization of Colombia
Congreso	Peoples' Congress
ANZORC	National Association of Peasant Reserve Zones
PCN	Black Communities' Process
CNA	National Agrarian Coordinator

Colombia is going through a political transition in the midst of a complex economic, social and political crisis. For the first time, a political center-left alternative is possible in the 2022 elections, with Pacto Histórico. In 2021, 171 social leaders (27 women) and 48 former guerrillas (4 women) were murdered, and 338 people died in 96 massacres.

The armed conflict has intensified in many territories where various armed players, such as FARC dissidents, ELN, paramilitary groups, and drug dealers, are in constant conflict. Their territorial control has resulted in hundreds of communities being isolated and confined. The organisations resist with humanitarian convoys, safe spaces and pressing for dialogue between the armed players to reach minimum agreements for coexistence.

The Government's proposed tax reforms provoked a 47 days long national strike against neoliberalism, corruption, poverty, unemployment, impunity, and violence. The police and armed civilians (paramilitaries) used excessive violence against the demonstrators.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *National decision-makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. For instance, CNA, PCN, People's Congress and ONIC were part of the National Strike Committee. The strike was able



to overturn the regressive tax reform, as well as the health reform, in addition several ministers resigned, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance (see result example).

Further, following the National Land Agency's (ANT) delay in certifying three peasant reserve zones, ANZORC and the NGO "DeJusticia" brought the case to court. In May 2021, a judge ruled the delay a violation of peasants' rights and gave ANT 180 days to emit the certificates. The ANT refused to proceed, and the case is now for revision by the Constitutional Court, expecting a verdict supporting the reserves.

For the first time senator Alberto Castilla's proposal, on behalf of CNA and other peasant organisations, to reform article 64 of the Constitution to include campesinos as subject of rights, has passed to the Senate for discussion. CNA participated in elaborating a report on human rights violations against campesinos for the Colombian Truth Commission.

PCN presented a humanitarian emergency declaration, challenging the government to do something on the humanitarian situation caused by armed groups, particularly affecting afro-Colombian communities around Buenaventura, including displacement, confinement, and child recruitment.

## EL SALVADOR

ARPAS	Association of Participatory Radios and Programmes of El Salvador
RACO	Eastern Network of Community Radios
EM	Association Equipo Maíz.
CCR	Association of Communities for the Development of Chalatenango
CONFRAS	Confederation of Cooperatives for Agrarian Reform
MAM	Mélida Anaya Montes Women's Movement
MPR12	Popular Resistance Movement October 12
COMANDOS	Comandos de Salvamento
JPS	Popular Youth of El Salvador

In February, president Bukele's party obtained large majority in Parliament, and needs no allies to approve loans or conduct constitutional reforms. The left-wing party, FMLN, continued its catastrophic regression. President Bukele remains popular, but is increasingly autocratic. The new parliament immediately sacked the General Prosecutor and members of the Supreme Court. Partners denounced government corruption through e.g. daily radio editorials, news bulletins, and social media.

A law of water resources that opens up for privatisation, was passed, not considering the recommendations from the social movement's and their 15-year long struggle for fair water legislation. The government blocked access to information about public spending and promoted regressive reforms to the Law of Access to Public Information, which were temporally suspended due to CSOs' protest. They also tried to pass a Foreign Agents law, which would penalise the CSOs receiving international cooperation, which was temporarily suspended due to the protests from organisations and European governments. Municipal budget allocations were reduced from 10% to 1.5%. Public municipal investment was centralised in a new institution reporting to the Presidency, controlling 4.5% of the national budget. Partners denounced the elimination of municipal gender units and budgets to implement gender policies. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) El Salvador continues to be the country with the highest number of murders of women in Latin America. MAM has continuous campaigns on GBV and created and distributed a practical guide for victims.

In the absence of a traditional political opposition, the popular movement and independent journalism has become the real opposition. Despite increased suppression, street mobilisations increased significantly in 2021, with more than 40 demonstrations including participants from communities fighting for water, women and youth organisations, trade unions, peasants, and the LGTBI movement.

Block of Rebellion and Popular Resistance (BRRP), where several NPA partners participate, played an important role to coordinate the mobilisations, although it is still at an early stage (see result example). Partners taking lead in the mobilisations in 2021, confirms their relevance in the popular movement, at local and national levels. Seven CSOs considered close to FMLN, including partners, were raided and investigated for funds legally received during FMLN governments.

Partners' campaigned for the implementation of previously approved policies, e.g. on communication, civil protection, and violence against women, and against corruption, imposition of bitcoin, closing of social programmes, and the persecution of CSOs. The government's propaganda and communication capacities are the main reasons they retain support despite policies being contrary to the majority's interests. This underlines the importance of strengthening independent and community communication and political training.



## HONDURAS

COPA	Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares del Aguán
COPINH	Consejo de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras
CNTC	Central Nacional de Trabajadores del Campo El Progreso
OFRANEH	Organización Fraternal Negra de Honduras
MADJ	Movimiento Amplio de Dignidad y justicia
ERIC	Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación
CDM	Centro de Derechos de Mujeres

In November, Xiomara Castro was elected the first woman president in Honduras, accompanied by the social movements looking to end the narco-dictatorship of the government. The country is in deep crisis due to the widespread corruption, the effects of the pandemic, the devastating impact of the 2020 ETA and IOTA hurricanes, as well as business mafias and organised crime controlling the public administration. Women are particularly vulnerable. Approximately 60% are unemployed and over 70% work informally with no medical coverage or labour rights. Furthermore, 65% of peasant women live in poverty, only 8 % women own land, and 11% have access to productive loans or government support.

The politics of previous governments have led to extreme inequality, favouring monopoly business groups linked to e.g. finance, agroindustry, security and extractive industry, benefited by repressive social control policies and criminalisation of activists and social leaders. According to the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in Honduras (OACNUDH) at least 208 human rights defenders (HRD) and 93 journalists were violently attacked, and 10 HRDs murdered. Several partners have suffered aggressions, persecution or threats from the state or the paramilitary (see result example).

Nevertheless, partners contributed to outcome (O3.1) *Decision-makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. For instance, COPINH, OFRANEH, MADJ and COPA pushed for discussions and meetings with decision-makers to improve the Mechanism of Protection of Human Rights Defenders. COPINH conducted talks with the Public Ministry and the Prosecutors to guarantee professional investigations in cases of infringement of the Lenca people's rights. OFRANEH has called for greater efficiency in the protection of organisation leaders in Vallecito, Punta Piedra and Triunfo de la Cruz.

Partners organised events to defend natural resources and land. For instance, CNTC mobilised for the government to take political measures in response to the crisis created by the ETA and IOTA hurricanes. MADJ, COPINH,

OFRANEH and ERIC mobilised against the ZEDEs (Special Areas of Economic Development) that expropriate indigenous and peasant territories and establish independent mini-states within Honduran territory. OFRANEH mobilised against the arbitrary arrests and disappearance of the Garifuna leaders. COPA mobilised to defend a national park against mining, and for the liberation of people that have resisted mines. COPINH demanded justice for femicides, as well as judgement and punishment for those responsible for the murder of Berta Cáceres.

## GUATEMALA

COINDI	Integral Cooperation for the Indigenous Development
MMT	T'zununija Women's Movement
CODECA	Campesino Development Committee
PRECOM	Community Press
CPT	Council of the Peoples of Tzulután

The political and economic crisis continued, with widespread corruption, human rights violations, and the poor management of the ETA and IOTA hurricanes. Demonstrations against impunity and corruption broke out throughout the country when one of the most respected pursuers of corruption was sacked and had to leave the country for security reasons.

Human Development Index ranks Guatemala 127 out of 189 countries. Indigenous people are particularly marginalised. In rural areas 82.5% of the population lives in poverty. There was a significant increase in physical, psychological and sexual violence against women in 2021. 846 human rights activists, community members and social leaders were victims of criminalisation and harassment, including murder. For instance, the indigenous communities, members of CODECA, who resist mining projects in their territories, have been threatened, repressed and criminalised by the government.

NPA partners struggle for structural change, a non-racist society with inclusion and opportunities for women, freedom of expression, and self-determination for the indigenous peoples. They contributed towards the outcome (O3.1) *National Congress policies changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group* at output level. CODECA defended territory and land at national and local community level, demanding the cessation of extractive projects and sugar cane burning. The Q'eqch'í indigenous communities, member of CODECA, mobilised to defend their territory from the Fenix mining company in Estor, Izabal. Due to the repression by the government, and violence by Fenix, PRECOM and human rights organisations filed complaints with the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman, and appealed to the Public Ministry and internationally



to protect the lives of social communicators and members of the communities of Estor.

In the department of Solalá, a region with a majority of indigenous Maya Kaqchiquel, COINDI has developed a community TV channel to exert political, cultural and social influence. PRECOM established alliances with several global media outlets to investigate corruption, extractive projects, state violence, etc. and in this way pressure, denounce and expose power groups in Guatemala.

CODECA's more than 300 social communicators used their cell phones to organise campaigns against unpopular government measures, such as neoliberal economic politics and mobility restriction for small producers due to the pandemic.

## CUBA

CMLK	Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Centre
ACPA	The Cuban Association for Animal Production
ANAP	The National Association of Small Farmers
FCOM	School of Journalism and Social Communication
GALFISA	Latin America Group in Social Philosophy
CIERIC	Centre of Exchange and Reference for Community Initiatives
CEPRODESO	Education and Promotion Centre for Sustainable Development

The serious socioeconomic crisis and criticism of the government provoked widespread street protests on July 11<sup>th</sup>, for the first time in decades. Around 700 protesters were convicted and 170 summarily tried, some were sentenced to up to 30 years in prison.

Biden has not eased US sanctions, as promised. Tourism, one of the main sources of foreign currency, was severely affected by the pandemic. The agricultural production remains low. People stand in line for hours due to the serious lack of basic products. The creation of small and medium size companies (SMEs) was legalised and 901 SMEs were created. The stimulation of foreign investment has not advanced. There is consensus that reforms should be speeded up and extended.

A systematisation of “Experiences of Cuban organisations in the 25 years of collaboration with NPA” was published. Partners working to enhance popular education, decentralisation, and new forms of political participation, significantly increased their influence at national level, and were recognised by the government and in the press. The national government has requested a cooperation with CMLK and NPEP regarding training of members and leaders of the State and the CCP (Cuban Communist Party)

nationwide in participatory popular education methodology (see result example). Due to the increasing importance of electronic government in the country, FCOM signed an agreement with the Ministry of communications to create the Observatory of Digital Government, to monitor the development of electronic government in Cuba.

Partners informed and challenged the government and local authorities on policies and demands of target groups. GALFISA and CIERIC organised gatherings between municipal authorities and leaders of local CSOs and municipal councils to debate citizen participation mechanisms in Havana. CMLK and GALFISA participated in working groups, convened by the government, on reforming policies for territorial development in vulnerable municipalities. CMLK started a campaign supporting the draft of the new Family Code, criticised by conservative wings of the church due to its progressive positions on sexual education.

Three neighbourhood workshops (TTIB) participated in the development of the municipal strategies for local development in Havana. FCOM participated in discussions with government officials on the implementation of the “Social Communication Policy of the Cuban State and Government”, approved in 2019. CMLK published a book with proposals from Cuban specialists on reforming the agricultural sector.

## MENA (MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA)

ANND	Arab NGO Network for Development
WHRD MENA	Women Human Rights Defenders Middle East North
Coalition	Africa Coalition
SMEX	Social Media Exchange

In the MENA region, high inequality and armed conflicts affects the security and political processes in all countries. Civil society actors continue to face severe restrictions in public and on-line spheres, limiting freedom of expression. The wave of protests that started in 2019 continued in Sudan and Palestine in 2021. While Human Right Defenders, and Women Human Rights Defenders in particular, have always faced oppression, the situation has worsened in the last year.

Partners contributed to outcome (O3.1) *Regional and international organisations more forcefully enhanced policies for reduced inequality*. For instance, through the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, ANND is providing a space for MENA CSOs to present their priorities to UN government members, including governments of the region. The main recommendations were the need for IMF policies towards the region to include less austerity measures, causing more harm on social schemes than helping, and the



need to implement a private sector accountability mechanism, as the private sector is playing a larger role in investing in the region in times of crises.

ANND organised a side event in the International Monetary Fund/Civil Society Policy Forum Spring Meeting showcasing CSO's priorities in terms of private sector conditionality and the impact on human rights in the region. They also met with IMF Lebanon on Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), an international reserve asset released for countries in distress without conditionalities. The CSOs in the region have concerns on the accountability and monitoring mechanisms surrounding these assets.

WHRD MENA Coalition conducted 12 meetings with US Senators to advocate the "foreign funding" case, where NGO representatives were subject to several repressive measures since 2011. They also submitted statements regarding the situation of women human right defenders in Palestine, Yemen and Afghanistan to the UN Human Rights Council during the universal periodic review process.

The recent legislation for cyber surveillance is undertaken without any privacy laws protecting citizens from all forms of data collection and abuse by governments and multinationals. This hinders the work of CSOs and creates a stifling environment where CSOs and activists are more cautious in expressing discontent or opposition to governmental policies for fear of severe repercussions. Therefore, SMEX has been advocating with its partners in the Arab Alliance for Digital Rights, for the multinational stakeholders to change their practices and policies, highlighting the intersection of digital and human rights (see result example).

## LEBANON

APCC	Arab Palestinian Cultural Club
ARM	Anti-Racism Movement
KW	Knowledge Workshop

After the wide range of crises in 2020, including the explosion in Beirut's port, the economic collapse, increasing political instability, and the pandemic, the situation deteriorated further in 2021. Fuel shortages caused widespread electricity blackouts, leaving large portions of the country in darkness for several hours per day. Hospitals, schools, and bakeries struggled to operate amid these energy shortages. These crises have led to brain drain and high immigration.

Peaceful protesters took to the streets in October, 2019, calling for social and economic rights, for accountability, for ending corruption, as well as the resignation of all political representatives. The cabinet resigned, but the political elite

remained in power. In September 2021, a new government was formed that is unable to address any of the ongoing issues in the country.

Palestinian and Syrian refugees, people with disabilities, and migrant workers, have been disproportionately impacted by the economic crisis and remain partially or fully dependent on aid. Women-headed households in marginalised communities are most affected by decreasing job opportunities and spiralling costs. Moreover, a surge in domestic violence cases has been recorded. This multifaceted crisis is happening within a context of deep and structural gender inequalities. Women make up only 4.6% of the Parliament. An estimated 250,000 migrant domestic workers, primarily women, are excluded from protection under the labour law. Approximately 174,000 Palestinian refugees continue to face restrictions on their right to work and own property.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *National and local authorities' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among Palestinians, migrant workers and other minorities*. For instance, Palestinian youth from APCC formed an electoral alliance and participated in UNRWA elections. They engaged with Palestinian authorities and school directors in the refugee camp, and won four seats in the Teachers Union. APCC also advocated for an increase in youth representatives in the PLO leadership, and established a health committee in the Beddawi camp, making them an important decision-maker in healthcare related matters.

ARM submitted a policy summarising the challenges faced by migrant workers, suggesting measures and actions, to the ILO and IOM working on the elimination of racism and discrimination. They also submitted a report to the Ministry of Health and to several UN entities, resulting in more migrant workers accessing the vaccine. ARM launched a campaign aiming at improving the working conditions of migrant domestic workers who work as "freelancers" (see result example).

## IRAQ

PAO	Public Aid Organization
IAA	Iraqi Al-Amal Association
RID	Reform Institute for Development
JNP	Justice Network for Prisoners
AIM	Alliance for Iraqi Minorities
PFO	Peace and Freedom Organization

Struggles between formal and informal power structures continuous. Widespread corruption has led to the deterioration of citizens' lives. The large protests in 2019 led to the dissolution of the Provincial Councils and the resignation of the Prime Minister. Despite harassment, key leaders of the protests established new political parties to participate



in the October 2021 elections. At least 167 parties and more than 3,200 candidates competed for the 329 parliamentary seats. The elections had low voter turnout, only 38%, underlining the lack of confidence in the political system and the political elite. Importantly, 97 women secured seats, the highest since 2003 (see result example). Despite youth being torn between voting or condemning the elections, the newly created Imtidad party secured 9 seats.

According to PFO's monitoring report 2021, 103 workers died due to unsafe working conditions, emphasising the need for more comprehensive laws protecting workers. Further, JNP reports an estimate 63% overcrowding in prisons, poor health and protection standards, and massive delays in terror related trials. In 2021, the government closed 16 camps, leaving around 35 thousand people, many female-headed households labeled as 'ISIS-affiliated', without shelter. Many of them are not allowed to obtain an identity card, denying them freedom of movement, education, work, and civil documentation.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Government officials and members of provincial councils' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. Five policies have been blocked through consultation meetings and dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including the Law on Retirement and Social Security for workers and the use of handcuffs for detainees and prisoners. Four policies have been implemented by governmental officials and members of the provincial councils to increase participation for reduction of inequality. PAO signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on establishing proper procedure for workers' safety and wellbeing.

Nineteen dialogue sessions were organised for decision-makers to discuss specific policies and procedures with CSO actors, including conferences, round table discussions, public forums, and closed meetings. There have also been initiatives around specific policies to be adopted in 2022. For example, the policy of involving civil society organisations in monitoring the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan.

## PALESTINE

AISHA	AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection
GUCC	General Union of Cultural Centers
PFU	Palestinian Farmers' Union
PNGO	Palestinian NGOs Network
REFORM	Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development
SFI	Students' Forum Institute
TFS	TAWASOL Forum Society
UAWC	Union of Agricultural Work Committees

In May 2021, a large-scale military escalation erupted in the Gaza Strip, between Palestinian armed factions and Israel, the gravest hostilities since 2014. This has resulted in major disruption of life and destruction of lives and livelihoods across Gaza. The president once again cancelled the elections, underlining the fragmented and dysfunctional Palestinian politics. The disconnect between political elites and the public, and the risk of institutional collapse, are increasing. The West Bank had the highest levels of violence recorded in years, including settler violence and home demolitions.

In October 2021, the Israeli authorities escalated their attacks on Palestinian civil society further by misusing counter-terrorism legislation to outlaw six prominent Palestinian organisations, including NPA's long-time partner UAWC. NPA immediately engaged with legal advisors, international networks and coalitions. Counter-terror laws are used against Palestinian NGOs without a unified response from donors. Israel also subjected Israeli organisations denouncing apartheid and other human rights violations to smearing campaigns. At a smaller scale, the Palestinian Authorities (PA) have also adopted authoritarian policies shrinking civic space, e.g. the new cybercrime law.

The space for CSOs to engage in policy dialogue with public authorities is crippled by the absence of a transparent and accountable legislative process, and few mechanisms to influence decision-making processes. Monitoring government performance is problematic because of lack of adequate information and the absence of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). In Gaza, the relationship with the de facto government is characterised by conflict rather than engagement. As a result, CSOs have limited impact on public policies. Nevertheless, some partners managed to open dialogues and conduct meetings with decision makers, contributing to the outcome (O3.1) *# of policies (empowering youth and women's and increase CSOs space to influence) adopted by Palestinian authorities*.

For instance, farmers who were working with the PFU were able to influence the government through campaigns, resulting in a recent agreement reached between PFU, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Agriculture to activate tax refund for livestock breeders. Following PFU's successful advocacy, the Presidents attempt to amend the Palestinian Charities Law, putting severe limitations on CSO independence, was cancelled. In the Gaza Strip, PNGO has influenced de-facto authorities and Sharia Court to cancel a ruling restricting the freedom of movement of women (see result example). PFU influenced decision makers by developing evidence-based studies, and met with several ministries to discuss national mechanisms for land protection and agricultural policies



### **Global Learning and Innovation Initiative (GLII)**

The just distribution of vaccines became an even more important issue in 2021, as it became clear that the richer countries secured their access, while the mechanisms established to secure equitable distribution, COVAX, struggled with underfunding, lack of political commitment and low-quality dose donations, and vaccine companies not prioritising deliveries. Many civil society organisations mobilised for equitable distribution, among others coordinated in the People's Vaccine Alliance (PVA) where South-African partners took a leading role in both policy and campaigning on an international as well as national level. The main ask is the waiver on key TRIPS provisions, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights with the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This would among others permit to scale up production and a more equitable access to the vaccines and had been proposed by South Africa and India back in 2020. South African partners (Section 27 and African Alliance) advocated for this internationally and NPA in Norway, while informing about vaccine distribution and suggesting improvements. During the year, partners through PVA took a prominent role in the global dialogue on unequal access to medicines and challenging existing power structures within the pharmaceutical industry. However, as the number of countries supporting a waiver increased in the course of the year, the WTO had by December not been able to reach a consensus on a waiver which would be acceptable for the main opposers (UK, EU and Switzerland). Meanwhile, NPA in cooperation with the Norwegian think tank Agenda, published an Inequality Watch report to call the attention to the rising inequality as a result of the pandemic, building on experiences and contributions of partners and analysis of trends, including proposals for Norwegian Development Policy.

The situation for civil society has continued to worsen, several countries have presented restrictive NGO laws or Foreign Agent laws, and many partners experience severe harassment and threats. Throughout 2021, NPA provided support to partners in risk situations, preparedness or protection. This is continuous work that we constantly seek to improve as new challenges appear. This situation makes it even more important to pursue justice for crimes against human rights defenders. COPINH continued the struggle for justice after the killing of Berta Caceres, the former leader of the organisation that stood at the front of the resistance to the building of the hydroelectric plant Agua Sarca in Honduras by the company DESA. In 2021, the former Manager of the company, David Castillo, was found guilty of ordering the murder, still awaiting sentencing. This is a break-through as COPINH has managed to get to one of the intellectual auditors of the murder and to the involvement of DESA. This has also contributed to highlighting the responsibility for due human rights diligence of companies, and has led to the Dutch investors, FMO, to withdraw from the project.

NPA and partners have been following the investigation of Lundin for many years. The case deriving from oil operations in Sudan (now South Sudan) 20 years ago, where 160,000 people were displaced and 12,000 people killed. On 11.11.2021, the company and two representatives were formally indicted. Short after, Norwegian Aker BP announced they acquire the majority of Lundin's assets, but leave all liabilities regarding the Sudan-operations within the remaining part of Lundin. NPA, South Sudanese partners, and a variety of international organisations, have collaborated to claim remedy to the victims of Lundin's oil operations. NPA commissioned a report that looked into Lundin's presence in Norway, which has contributed to defining some of the arguments used in dialogue with Norwegian media and Aker BP.



## Colombia: The National Strike

The national strike that started with peaceful marches on April 28, 2021, was a response to a regressive tax reform bill, as well as a proposed health reform. Within two months, the proposed reforms were revoked, two ministers had withdrawn - and a new political future was in the making.

The pandemic caused an increase in inflation and unemployment, and pushed more than 3,5 million Colombians into poverty. The proposed tax reform, which increased food and utility prices and a hike in income tax, was an attempt to collect money from popular and middle-class sectors, while it presented a timid 1% tax to those with fortunes over 1 million USD.

The National Strike is the largest mobilisation in Colombian newer history. All NPA partners actively participated, and CNA, PCN, People's Congress and ONIC were part of the National Strike Committee. The Committee called for a rejection of the regressive tax and health bills, but the demands also included the withdrawal of a basic universal rent for 10 million Colombians, registration fee for college students, permanent work contracts for public health care personnel, promotion of national food production, and the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

The National Strike mobilised hundreds of thousands of people who were not previously organised, including young people in poor urban neighbourhoods. Many of these rapidly organised and were referred to as *frontliners* (*primeras líneas*), as they confronted the police brutality night after night.

During the National Strike there were 10 days of national “cacerolazo” (pot banging), thousands of marches, demonstrations, and road blocks, and 40 popular assemblies. All these activities took place in 860 municipalities in the 32 departments of Colombia, but the centre of the strike was in Cali and Bogotá.

The national police and paramilitaries openly used excessive violence against the demonstrators, often shooting for the eyes. There were numerous illegal arrests, as well as disappearance and rape. The NGO INDEPAZ recorded 83 murders, 35 cases of sexual violence under the responsibility of State agents, 2,053 illegal detentions, and 3,401 incidents of police violence.

NPA partners organised two National Popular Assemblies, in Cali and Bogotá, in an attempt to form alliances between the “*primeras líneas*” and traditional organised sectors, like trade unions, students, and indigenous and peasant organisations. The indigenous movement also played an important role supporting the frontliners, and blocking lorries on the highway between Cali and the South.

As a result of the strike, the reforms were revoked, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance resigned. According to polls, 7 out of 10 Colombians supported the strike. The 2021 National Strike was preceded by more than a decade of mobilisations and strikes, including the national strike in 2019, the agrarian strike in 2013, the agrarian summit and their mobilisations in 2014 and 2016, the strike in Buenaventura in 2017, and the *indigenous Minga* in 2008. It is this accumulation of social resistance that nurtured the path towards the social explosion in 2021.

Beyond the overturn of the regressive reforms, the National Strike helped strengthening the belief that change is possible in a very unequal country. In the 2022 presidential and Senate election, Colombia might finally elect a government and senators that represent the common people and not the violent and greedy Colombian elites.

**ONIC** - National Indigenous Organisation of Colombia (1982) represents 102 indigenous peoples organised in 49 regional and local organisations. **Congreso de los Pueblos** (2010) is a national umbrella organisation representing about 400 organisations. **CNA** - National Agrarian Coordinator (1993) comprises of 48 regional small-scale farmers organisations. **ANZORC** - National Association of Peasant Reserve Zones (2010) represents over 60 Campesino Reserve Zones (ZRC), both those already organised and those set to become ZRCs. **PCN** - Black Communities Process (1993) represents 120 Afro-Colombian organisations.

### Supporting documents:

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/06/colombia-ivan-duque-government-neoliberalism-protest-general-strike>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2021/05/27/espanol/protestas-colombia.html>  
<https://www.congresodelospueblos.org/mensaje-al-pueblo-colombiano-que-lucha-y-resiste/>



## Zimbabwe: Civil Society resist shrinking space

**Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum acted successfully against new regulations shrinking civic space. The organisations argued that the proposed restrictions, as well as the proposed ban, were unconstitutional. The High Court eventually ruled in their favour, ensuring that the organisations affected could continue operating freely. However, the achieved result might be short-lived, as the government strategy to curtail NGOs continues.**

In 2021, the government increased their efforts to control and narrow space for civil society organisations. In January, the Provincial Development Coordinator (PDC) for the Masvingo Province, issued a directive that all organisations working on youth issues had to sign a Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture to be allowed to continue their operations. However, only 40 organisations ended up complying with the directive, while the majority resisted, including CiZC's member organisations who made a collective decision to resist.

A few months later, the PDC of Harare Metropolitan gave a similar directive. When only a few organisations complied, the PDC announced a ban on all organisations that had not. This left many organisations uncertain whether they should continue operating or not.

CiZC joined forces with the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and challenged the ban through an urgent High Court application in Harare. The organisations argued that the directive as well as the proposed ban was unconstitutional. In September, the High Court ruled that the PDC's directive, and subsequent ban on NGOs, were unconstitutional. Hence, the organisations that had been affected by the ban could continue operating freely despite the initial pronouncement from the PDC.

However, in November, the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill was announced. The bill aims to regulate the work of all NGOs, as the government claims they need to comply with international regulations to prevent money launderers and terrorist financiers from abusing PVOs for illicit activities. If implemented, this will mean that NGOs will be subject to re-registration, and that the Minister of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare will be allowed to appoint person(s) as trustees to run affairs of an NGO. The Bill also prohibits NGOs to partake in political involvement and political lobbying.

In the face of continued onslaught of the civic space by the government of Zimbabwe there is urgent need for CSOs to continue to unite to safeguard civic space from government interference and divisive tactics. This becomes especially important as some CSOs working on humanitarian work did in fact comply to the directive of the PDCs - and in light of the impending PVO Bill.

**CiZC** - Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (2001) is membership-based coalition of 85 different CSOs, churches, women's groups, social movements, labour unions, human rights activists and education and health professionals – with offices both in Zimbabwe and South Africa. It focuses on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues.

In 2021 CiZC received NOK 475,000 from NPA. The funding helped CiZC regain its critical role as an actor that challenges government's repressive tactics against civil society.

### Supporting documents:

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/high-court-reverses-govts-threats-to-shutdown-ngos/>

<https://kubatana.net/2021/09/17/case-alert-muguti-ngo-ban-hits-a-snag/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/09/ngos-win-court-challenge/>



## Cuba: Popular education gains influence

The national government has requested a cooperation with CMLK and NPEP regarding training of members and leaders of the State and the CCP (Cuban Communist Party) in participatory popular education methodology.

CMLK's aim has always been to contribute to transformations in Cuban political culture, using methods that are inclusive and participatory to promote increased social participation. Over time, two national networks have been established; the National Network of Popular Educators (NPEP), currently consisting of 1,130 popular educators (633 w) with presence in 27 territories, and the Ecumenical Network (EN), with 565 people (306w) in 20 territories. These three actors have defined themselves as the "CMLK-Networks Movement".

This CMLK-Networks Movement have for many years trained leaders and civil servants in popular education methodology at local government level, but until recently they have received little attention from authorities at national level and in State media. The seriousness of the economic crisis and the social mobilisations in 2020 and 2021 changed this situation.

In 2021, President Diaz Canel (2019- ) organised several meetings between high ranking civil servants and leaders from the CMLK to learn about their work and better understand the idea of popular education. CMLK was invited by the national government to participate in a broad range of visits and exchanges in rural communities and vulnerable urban neighbourhoods, to participate in discussion between authorities and different popular sectors, such as religious institutions, youth groups, and communication actors.

Members of the CMLK team and the networks, participated in television interviews and the printed media to make civil servants and the general public aware of popular education methodology and their community work. Following the 11<sup>th</sup> of July protests, CMLK participated in various discussion with other Cuban organisations on these events, although they decided not to take any position as an institution.

Despite the pandemic, CMLK network movement maintained their political training programmes throughout the year, primarily online. In addition, they organised an on-line Political Training School for Latin American Popular Movements, in November, with 99 participants from 38 organisations in 18 countries. Further, 130 members of CMLK and the networks collaborated in 19 on-line training spaces developed by different Latin American organisations.

Pilot training courses in participatory popular education, with civil servants and leaders of the government at national level, started in Havana at the end of 2021. This is a historical aim of the CMLK, but they will have to implement the request gradually and in alliances with other actors. It is still uncertain what the impact of this attention from the government will be, but there are positive signs that they are trying out more horizontal forms of relations with the population.

**CMLK** - Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Centre (1987) is an NGO promoting popular education, social participation in decision making, communication, and international solidarity. NPEP - the National Network of Popular Educators, accompanied by CMLK, consists of 1,130 popular educators, promoting decentralised, local participatory processes all over the country.

The NPA's financial contribution to CMLK in 2021 was NOK 1,200,000.

Diaz Canel meets CMLK leaders:

<https://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cuba/2021-11-13/trabajar-cooperar-y-hacer-entre-todos>

CMLK, popular education and community work:

<http://www.cubadebate.cu/especiales/2021/09/20/centro-martin-luther-king-como-transformar-las-comunidades-desde-la-educacion-popular/>



## South Africa: Domestic workers' rights secured

**A Constitutional Court ruling gave domestic workers the right to claim compensation for work-related injuries, illnesses and death. Moreover, SERI and their allies' continued advocacy has contributed to the Department of Labour and Compensation Fund starting an awareness-campaign on domestic workers' rights, including posters in airports, taxi ranks, and in key locations in townships.**

Domestic workers have not been included as “employees” in the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases (COID) Act 130 of 1993. Consequently, they or their dependants, have been unable to claim compensation in case of injury or death incurred during domestic employment.

In 2020, SERI represented in court Sylvia Mahlangu, the daughter of a domestic worker who died in her employer's home. In November 2020, the Constitutional Court ruled the exclusion of domestic workers in COIDA as unconstitutional; domestic workers should be included in the definition of an employee. In addition, the court ruled that retrospective claims could be made from 27 April 1994. However, these claims had to be notified before November 19th 2021, which was a major issue as many domestic workers and their employers would not have learned about their rights in time.

The COID Act 130 of 1993 had to be amended before it could be implemented. In 2021, SERI presented several written and oral submissions on the COID Amendment Bill. They also wrote to the Compensation Commissioner that the deadline for retrospective claims was deeply problematic. SERI conducted training with paralegals on COIDA and domestic workers' rights, and published a factsheet with Black Sash, outlining the types of compensation payments under the COID Act, and the process to make claims. SERI and unions representing domestic workers also participated in radio and TV interviews about the COID Act and the retrospective claims.

SERI and Izwi published a resource guide for employers, which is a dispersed group it is challenging to monitor and enforce regulations on. In November, SERI convened a dialogue and panel discussion on the domestic work sector. The event brought together key stakeholders, including the Compensation Commissioner, representatives of employers' organisations and unions for domestic workers. The event was attended by 30 people in person and live-streamed by approximately 72,000 people.

A direct result of SERI's work over the past few years is the ruling that gave domestic workers the right to claim compensation for work-related injuries, illnesses and death. In 2021, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, in charge of developing the new COID Amendment Bill, adopted SERI's key recommendation and removed the 21 November 2021 deadline. Moreover, SERI and partners' continued advocacy has contributed to the Department of Labour and Compensation Fund starting an awareness-campaign on domestic workers' rights. Although the court victory has been substantial, it does not automatically lead to rights being claimed; awareness raising among those affected is necessary. Therefore, it is important to build capacity within the workers unions to advocate and raise awareness within the different sectors.

**SERI** - Socio Economic Rights Institute (2009), provides legal assistance and advocacy support to individuals, communities and social movements seeking to protect and advance their socio-economic rights and create social change. Other actors contributing to the result: The South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU), Izwi Domestic Workers Alliance, UDWOSA, Solidarity Centre, Nelson Mandela Foundation and Oxfam South Africa.

The NPA contributed NOK 707,430 to SERI's overall work in 2021

### Supporting documents:

Mahlangu Minister of Labour factsheet Employing a Domestic Worker: a Legal and Practical Guide  
Con Court victory for domestic workers who can now claim for work-related injuries | Parent ([news24.com](https://news24.com))



## Mozambique: Company admits wrongdoings towards local communities

**Zambezia small-scale farmers denounced land grabbing to the local government and confronted the paper company, demanding due compensation and access to their land as a result of the support by UPCZ.**

The government granted Portucel Mozambique, a subsidiary Portuguese paper company, 173,000 hectares of land in the Zambezia Province to plant eucalyptus. This implied that many communities would be affected and forced to reallocate. Mozambican laws state that when an economic activity results in reallocation, the investor has to allocate alternative land and compensate the affected communities.

In the district of Ile, Portucel identified ten communities of about 6700 households that would be affected by their operations, and who therefore were entitled to reallocation and compensation. Negotiations were initiated between Portucel and the communities, and about 6,000 of the households have either agreed to the compensation and started reallocated, or are in the final stages of negotiations. However, for around 700 households, the compensations offered were much lower than they could accept, hence they declined. As they have remained in the area, they are now surrounded by Portucel activities, which is blocking large portions of their land. Moreover, the local government often end up stalling the processes of giving the households the legal document of land ownership, leaving them at risk of being evicted at any point.

To better understand the current situation in the province and the affected communities' needs, UPCZ conducted a baseline study. The study found that the initial identification process by Portucel had not been good enough, as it had omitted several other affected communities. Moreover, it

found that the ten communities included, had not been properly informed and involved in the process. The findings were presented to local and provincial government authorities and to Portucel. UPCZ also played a crucial role in securing broad national media coverage.

A direct result of the advocacy work came in August 2021, when Portucel sent a formal letter to UPCZ officially admitting that their process of identification and compensation had not been good enough. The local government also admitted to mismanaging the agreement with Portucel, highlighting that they did not ensure that the community members benefited fairly from the agreement. The letter and admissions of mis-management came after UPCZ provided evidence from their baseline study, and after the whole case was lifted into national media through online debates in the TV-programme "Casos do Dia".

One of the biggest lessons from this case, is that the use of evidence gathered from the baseline study legitimised the work by UPCZ, and made them a key actor in the negotiations between the communities, local government and Portucel. The cooperation with media was also an important part as the coverage was too big for Portucel to ignore. Following the letter from Portucel, UPCZ has agreed to conduct a second baseline study to revisit some of the findings from the initial baseline before the new round of negotiations.

**Small-Scale Farmers Provincial Union - Zambezia (UPCZ)** is a local union under the umbrella of UNAC, based in Zambézia. UPCZ defends rural communities from land grabbing and to mobilise and promote the political participation of small-scale farmers. NPA partner since 2020.

NPA supported the work leading to this result with NOK 550,000, and is the only donor to UPCZ.

### Supporting documents:

Link to TV Sucesso News. Minutes 25:00-30:00: <https://www.facebook.com/tvsucessomoz/videos/152604610196907>:



## Palestine: Civil Society challenges Sharia Court ruling in the Gaza Strip

**Palestinian NGO Network successfully challenged a Sharia Court ruling to introduce restrictions on the freedom of movement for women in the Gaza Strip. The ruling was eventually cancelled.**

On January 30, 2021, the Higher Sharia (Islamic) Court Council in Gaza ruled that women require the permission of a “male guardian” to travel in or out of Gaza. According to the ruling, an unmarried woman may not travel without the permission of her “male guardian,” which would usually refer to her father or another older male relative. Permission would need to be registered at the court, but the man would not be required to accompany the woman on the trip. The ruling also implies that a married woman would not be able to travel without her husband’s approval.

Another article of the ruling states that a man could be prevented from traveling by his father or grandfather if it would cause “grave harm.” But the man would not need to seek prior permission, and the relative would have to file a lawsuit to prevent him from travelling.

The Sharia Court ruling constitutes a grave violation of women’s right to freedom of movement enshrined by the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law, but also of Palestine’s obligations under international law, having ratified several international conventions. This circular is also considered a violation of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), which should be the main legislation body to pass laws.

In response to the ruling, PNGO mobilised its members, especially in the women sector, and other human rights organisations, and established a representative committee to follow up the advocacy to put pressure on local authorities

to revoke the ruling. They reiterated that such ruling contradicts with Palestine’s international obligations under all human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibits discrimination and emphasises equality and the right to liberty of movement.

PNGO’s advocacy efforts, including meetings with stakeholders and interlocutors, public statements and letters sent to the Sharia Court, created a strong public opinion against the ruling. In response to the public pressure, Sharia Court issued an amendment to the first ruling cancelling three out of five articles.

The pressure continued until another amendment was issued, to cancel the article banning unmarried women from traveling without permission from a male guardian. Despite the progress, PNGO and CSOs continued the pressure, facilitating discussions and meetings with the court and senior judges, until the entire ruling was cancelled.

The lesson learned from this achievement is that the PNGO’s community mobilisation efforts over the past years, and the creation of coalitions and alliances with other active networks in Palestine, have resulted in quick and effective action leading to achieving the goals.

**PNGO** - Palestinian NGO Network (1993), is an umbrella organisation with 147 independent NGO members working in Gaza and West Bank, including East Jerusalem. They support Palestinian civil society through capacity building, coordination and advocacy.

PNGO received NOK 1,115,000 from NPA in 2021, and used NOK 10,200 to achieve this result.

### Supporting documents:

[Sharia Court Ruling \(Arabic\)](#), [PNGO Statement \(English and Arabic\)](#), [PNGO Position Paper \(English\)](#)



## MENA: Civil society influences key global digital multinationals

Digital multinationals, such as Facebook, Twitter and Google, play a major role in influencing digital rights and access to information. In the MENA region, the legal framework for data privacy is fragile, and human-rights oriented regulations missing. Therefore, civil society organisations working on digital rights in the region consider these multinationals the main actors to influence and push to reform their work.

The organisations' main concern, is the sale of individual data to other private sector entities, without restrictions on the commercial use, and to governments where they can be abused by e.g. security forces.

The big tech companies play an increasingly important role in the region. For instance, Google plans to establish a Google Cloud in Saudi Arabia to store all the region's data, under a contract with Aramco, one of the biggest public oil companies in Saudi Arabia. The frequent information blocking practiced by Facebook and Twitter, is another example, for instance when they removed documentation about the forced removal of Palestinian families from their land in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem.

Therefore, SMEX has been advocating with its partners in the Arab Alliance for Digital Rights, for the multinational stakeholders to change their practices and policies, highlighting the intersection of digital and human rights.

In early 2021, SMEX met with Facebook, Google and Twitter to address concerns on their planned investments with governments in the region, and the digital multi-

nationals' violations of rights, such as freedom of speech and knowledge dissemination. SMEX urged Google to halt any investment with Aramco until they can demonstrate how they will mitigate adverse human rights impacts, and to implement a thorough human rights due diligence mechanism in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

SMEX also addressed ways of reconciling the political news removed by Facebook and Twitter on Palestinian and other news from MENA considered controversial. For instance, SMEX suggested ways to handle videos, banned by Facebook, that showed attacks on the Palestinians. Later on, Facebook issued an apology for the ban of such videos.

These direct advocacy actions are positive unexpected results of organisational development. Based on NPA's recommendations, SMEX developed tools and evidence-based knowledge to push for concrete demands on digital rights – an issue addressed by few civil society actors in the MENA region.

**SMEX** - Social Media Exchange (2010) is a Lebanese NGO working on advancing digital rights and self-regulating information societies in the MENA region through research, campaigns, and advocacy. NPA partner since 2020.

NPA transferred NOK 623,470 NOK to SMEX in 2021

### Supporting documents:

Sheikh Jarrah: Facebook and Twitter systematically silencing protests, deleting evidence – SMEX

Statement from global civil society on the impact of Facebook, Google and Twitter: Concern for democracy and human rights must not end at the US's borders – SMEX

Facebook's Moderation 'Mistakes' Silence Palestinian Voices – SMEX

The Oversight Board's decision on Palestine is a step in the right direction, now Facebook needs to step up – SMEX



## Iraq: Increased number of women representatives in the Parliament

The Iraqi national election in October 2021 provided an opportunity for women to increase their representation in Parliament. The election results represents a significant push towards higher political participation of women, with 97 women (29.5%) elected for parliament, the highest number since 2003.

In Iraq, men dominate decision-making, and women have a marginalised role in influencing the direction of the country. Only a minimum women representation has been secured by the constitutional 25% quota for in Parliament. When the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) announced that the national election would take place in October 2021, after it was postponed from June 2021, NPA partners and other actors started to prepare.

Five partners, PAO, AIM, PFO, JNP, and IAA, developed a plan, with support from NPA, to increase participation of women and minorities, and to improve transparency in the election process. They monitored the preparation of the IHEC, the implementation of the new election law, and subsequently the counting of the ballot boxes. Several activities were conducted by partners in alliance with other local CSOs.

For example, PAO designed a plan in late August 2021 to train women candidates and increase the participation of women and youth in the election, and conducted a study to explore the reasons behind low women participation in elections. The main findings include that women's participation is undervalued by customs and traditions, particularly outside cities, that women are unaware of the importance of their political participation, and that there were no public awareness campaigns or encouragement for women to vote. The findings were incorporated into a number of advocacy and capacity building activities focused on changing community perceptions towards voting for female candidates.

Furthermore, partners trained 60 female candidates in Erbil, Baghdad and Basra on election campaign management

and different ways to mobilise society and change the perception of the community toward trusting women and youth with their votes. Five of the trained candidates were elected for the Iraqi Parliament. They also partnered with Al-Shams Network for Monitoring Elections, to train election observers. In total, 3,120 election observers were trained and allocated in all 19 governorates in Iraq, including 450 from PAO, 220 from AIM, 500 from PFO, and two legal consultants from JNP.

After the elections, PAO conducted a study on the entire process since the beginning of 2021, focusing on the main gaps and challenges. The study was also informed by AIM, PFO, JNP and IAA's inputs and observations. The main findings included that the electoral process was more transparent and fairer than previous, that the use of technology reduced election fraud, and that national and international CSOs played a significant role in election monitoring, resulting in increased election integrity. However, it lacked affective awareness raising campaigns on procedure and regulations, resulting in low participation. The findings were presented in a conference with representatives from the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), the Council of Ministers, Republic Presidency, Iraqi Parliament, electoral monitoring networks, UN agencies, and the EU.

The election results of 2021 provided a significant push towards higher political participation of women, with an all-time high of 97 women elected for parliament (29.5%). That society has given legitimacy to a significant number of women to take seat in parliament, is a great achievement.

**PAO** - Public Aid Organization (2003) is an independent, local NGO working to address and improve human rights. The other partners contributing to the result are: Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO), Alliance for Iraqi Minorities (AIM), Justice Network for Prisoners (JNP), Iraqi Al-Amal Association (IAA)

The estimated total amount dedicated to these activities in 2021 was NOK 320,000.

### Supporting documents:

Enhancing Democratization program/ Basra | PAO ([pao-iq.org](http://pao-iq.org))

News source #1

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/070320221>



### 2.3 People and communities acted and participated to influence

NPA considers that organisations' capacity to mobilise people, including their own members, constituencies or the broader public, to challenge decision-makers, combat discrimination and stand together to fight for their rights, is important for them to gain influence and contribute to changes. Furthermore, mobilising people maintains commitment of members and constituencies to work together for a common cause.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to put an end to large gatherings, mobilisations and marches in most countries in 2021, and organisations and their constituencies continued using different means to mobilise and express their views. However, in 2021, people in some countries took to the streets, despite the pandemic.

Partners support people and communities to mobilise around issues, and to claim their rights, depending on the specific context. However, a majority are related to promoting economic, civil and political rights, including women's, indigenous peoples' and minorities rights, participation, particularly of women and youth, in electoral processes, society and organisations, workers' rights, and access to and control over land and water. Further, they mobilise to denounce violence against women and repression, corruption and tax exemption, and concessions granted to extractive industries and industrial agriculture, threatening peoples' lives, livelihoods, and the environment.

Twelve country programmes report on the outcome (O2.1) *People and communities from the target group acted and participated to influence*, in 2021.

They report on communities defending their land and water, demanding public services and resisting mining extraction, and on people claiming their rights and filing complaints when rights are breached.

For instance, in **Zimbabwe**, seven rural and marginalised communities defended their rights to land against evictions, with support from ZimRights, WLZ, ZELA and SMAIAS. One of the communities is still resisting Chinese mining operations, while 18 women in two other communities resisted eviction from their land by a private game ranching enterprise, and won the right to retain their land in court.

As a result of ZIMCodd and other partners' trainings, people in ten communities petitioned local authorities to secure a number of rights, including access to joint land registration, water service delivery, and markets for women. In one of the communities, local authorities responded by repairing damaged water pumps and re-connecting the water, benefiting 140 000 people.

WCDT organised a *Women Can Do It* Campaign resulting in 17 women participating in political district elections for the first time. Six of them were elected into local leadership.

In **South Africa**, the Drakenstein Municipality committed to develop formal housing for 1008 households on the waiting list. In addition, a Land Claim court concluded that 24 adults and 18 children faced with eviction are entitled to remain on the Reinhill farm in Paarl. This is a result of WoF educating workers on their rights and using the temporary moratorium on evictions to engage the municipality in a dialogue.

A legal action led by 14 villages in the Coastal Link, with support of AIDC, led to a court ruling ordering the oil giant Shell to suspend plans for seismic blasting along the country's eastern coast that would have had a direct negative effect on the local communities. In Durban the University of KwaZulu Natal gave a portion of their land to an informal settlement of 220 families, following Abahlali-organised community protests, and negotiations with the local municipality. The local municipality and National Department on Human Settlement have started work on upgrading the settlement.

In **Mozambique**, 659 (409w) small-scale farmers raised the violations of their land rights, conducted by the tea company Chá Socone, to their local authorities, as a result of awareness raising campaigns, training sessions and legal assistance from UPC Zambezia and ODHL. Four female small-scale farmers retained their land, with legal support from MULEIDE, putting an end to a long legal dispute with the relatives of their former/deceased husbands. Further, five women reported sexual harassment and violation of their land and labour rights to the local authorities and MULEIDE Cabo Delgado, which was an important result as very few women report cases of sexual harassment.

In **South Sudan**, GELA and SSLs organised and mobilised communities to protect their land. They petitioned authorities in Torit to stop inappropriate allocation of community land to large scale investors that log teak trees for commercial purpose. ROG supported 42 GBV survivors to report their cases to the police for investigation and referrals to medical facilities for treatment. The survivors were provided with legal documents that form basis for access to the justice system. Ten GBV cases were taken to the court for judicial trial of the perpetrator, investigation and legal counselling. One rape case was prosecuted and the perpetrator was jailed and charged with a fine of 75 cows.

In **Palestine**, after organising protests to pressure decision-makers to adopt policies that are responsive to the needs of the agricultural sector, PFU farmers were invited to



meetings with municipal authorities to propose policy changes. Additionally, women farmers were able to ‘break the glass ceiling’ and take on positions of leadership. PFU’s Jerusalem Governorate Farmers Association (GFA) is now led by a female farmer, and female members in farmers associations have increased. As a result of REFORM’s training of youth, 30 participants were recognised by the Central Election Commission as local monitors during the local elections process, and three participants were nominated as candidates in Qbatia and Qalqilia.

In **Cambodia**, partners supported communities to organise, provided capacity building on legal rights, advocacy, and digital security, to submit petitions to the government and companies, and linked them to relevant networks and authorities. They also supported them in bringing cases to international mediation mechanism, such as IFC Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO). 534 families exposed to land concession or evictions by the state or private companies secured their land titles. Another 438 families, whose land had been taken away or they were prevented from farming on it by private companies, could access their land to do some harvesting, which helps them in their struggle for land titles. 19 indigenous communities with 1,597 families are applying for communal land titling. Their non-timber forest products will contribute to protect the environment, enhance their sustainable livelihoods, and help preserve their identity and culture.

CENTRAL supported 11,000 government workers to negotiate with their employers to respect the laws and pay the compensation to workers affected by lockdown, including a portion of their wage payment, compensations related to dismissal, and reinstatement after COVID-19.

In **Iraq**, 157 (70w) workers have reported on violations of rights through channels established by JNP’s legal consultations and PFO’s field observations and interviews with workers. The trade unions in Iraq are very male dominated. Therefore, PFO organised three round table discussions on how to increase women and youth participation in the organisational structure of the trade unions, with 120 (60m) workers and representatives from the seven trade unions in Iraq participating.

In **Lebanon**, ARM supported freelance migrant domestic workers (MDWs) to organise themselves and demand improved working conditions, contributing to improved working conditions (see result example). With support from APCC, Palestinian youth participated in the UNRWA elections, and established a healthcare committee, represented equally by men and women, in the camp.

In **MENA**, the WHRDMENA Coalition draw attention to Women Human Rights Defenders cases in MENA on a

regional and international level. For instance, they issued solidarity statements and urgent actions for women human rights defenders from Kuwait, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Syria, and Sudan, and participated in a campaign with the European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights on WHRD in Saudi Arabia. They submitted three written statements for the Human Rights Council’s sessions covering Palestine, Yemen, and Afghanistan, and participated in a consultation conducted by the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), including WHRDs from different MENA countries. In cooperation with likeminded organisations, they organised a session to support Afghan women human rights defenders.

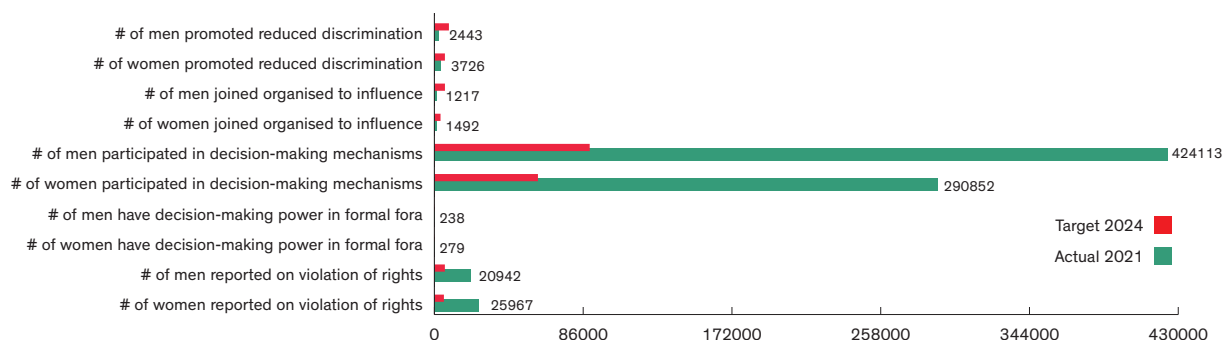
In **Rwanda**, as a result of partners in the PPIMA programme, approximately 303,351 (103,548w) citizens participated in decision-making fora, raising 33,099 community priorities through the CSC (community score card) process, and 9,452 commitments were made by local leaders, out of which 23% were resolved. Further, approximately 13,428 (7,513w) citizens were supported to access justice, 3,769 cases of community and domestic conflict were handled through mediation. COPORWA helped to improve the integration and participation of HMPs (historically marginalised people) in local meetings, support them in claiming ownership to land and production (see result example). Following the Training of Trainers (ToT) organised by HDI for youth on sexual reproductive health and the rights of the child, 46 adolescents from 23 secondary schools in Kigali city formed clubs to reduce discrimination of LGBT community members.

Seven country programmes report on the outcome (O2.2) *People promoted reduced discrimination in their communities*, in 2021.

For instance, in **Zimbabwe**, 982 women, mostly young, and 447 young men, promoted reduced discrimination in their communities after completing training on social and human rights. They referred victims of human rights abuses to the police and lawyers, and monitored gender-based violence in their communities. Partners long term advocacy, campaigns and trainings, contributed to women providing advice in chiefs courts on matters on land- and gender-based conflicts, and to some traditional leaders appointing female members into courts. 164 traditional leaders that had participated in partner activities and trainings are pushing for reduction of discrimination on issues of land, human rights and socio-economic issues within their communities. Three local chiefs jointly established child marriage guidelines within their communities.

As a result of ZIMCodd’s training, 482 young women and 150 young men contributed to the 2021 local and national budget processes, advocating for equitable people centred





On the way to achieve outcome 2 indicators. Actual's share of target 2024.

budgets. Following WCDDT's advocacy, campaigns and trainings two village development committees now have women representation for the first time.

In **Mozambique**, after participating in UGCAN's "Gender and Law" training program, 34 women and 15 men sparked debates on discrimination of women based on cultural and traditional practices, including their land rights, in their communities. In **Rwanda**, the 16 districts supported by PPIMA committed to mainstream gender in planning and budgets, allocate resources, and monitor implementation.

In **Palestine**, as a result of REFORM's roundtable meetings with decision makers on women participation in the elections, the Central Elections Commission issued a statement that all participants in the election list must be presented by photos. This is a step to change stereotypical perceptions in the community regarding photos of women in public.

Fourteen country programmes report on outputs related to (OP2.1.) *people have knowledge about politics, economics, rights and influencing strategies*, and (OP2.2.) *about discrimination and how to prevent it*.

In many countries where NPA has programmes and partners, marginalised city dwellers and people living in rural areas, particularly indigenous peoples, minorities and women, have limited access to basic education, and the quality is often poor. Therefore, political formation, or training of people in politics and economics, gender equality, human rights, and existing laws and regulations, is central in partners work. Such training is necessary for people to understand how society functions, and to mobilise to influence decision-making, and challenge and prevent discrimination.

By the end of 2021, 77 494 women and 91 324 men had received training on politics, economics and rights from partners in nine country programmes. 11 213 women and 6 900 men were trained on how to influence decision-makers in nine country programmes and 44588 women and 32804 men participated in training on prevention and reduction of discrimination in eight countries.

Due to the pandemic, many partners developed online training programmes. Although some partners report that some of the quality in face-to-face training is lost online, an advantage is reaching more people, often in far-away places, and at less cost. Therefore, some partners will continue with a combination of online and face-to-face trainings.

Campaigns is another important method to raise awareness and mobilise people. Although use of SoMe has increased in recent years, the restrictions of movement and gathering related to the pandemic intensified the use of community radios and TVs, and digital platforms, and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat. Partners are also using art, virtual hearings, and information sharing in public spaces, to reach people and constituencies.

For instance, in **Zimbabwe**, seven partners' trainings enhanced 5322 women (2200 young) and 1512 young men's knowledge and understanding of social and human rights, climate change, participatory budgeting, leadership and advocacy, and tools to hold policy makers accountable. Four partners conducted extensive trainings for young people (4399w and 1370m) to influence national process on law making, agrarian policies, mineral resource value chains and the national budget. Partners also facilitated trainings in communities on land rights, politics, economic and human rights to support the communities to exercise their constitutional rights. Six partners trained 2600 women (1330 young) and 812 young men on discrimination. For instance, ZCIEA trained its members on safeguarding, and on how to raise issues on sexual harassment of informal sector workers.

In **Mozambique**, MULEIDE Maputo organised campaigns in Niassa and Maputo in connection with 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, addressing various stakeholders. The campaigns included 12 radio programmes and 20 round tables with different groups of women, discussing ways to approach gender inequality and gender-based violence. UCA organised eight sessions on "Women's rights vs human's rights" with 210 young women in Niassa province.



In **Rwanda**, a total of 781 women and men were trained on women leadership and positive masculinity. For instance, 40 (15w) decision-makers in one district were trained to analyse Gender Budget Statements and mainstream gender while planning and budgeting. 284 newly elected women leaders from both local and national levels, received leadership training, to effectively participate in local governance and decision-making processes. Further, as a result of capacity building, community volunteers have knowledge and skills to prevent and manage community conflicts.

In **South Sudan**, SSLS, GBLA and PIDO provided legal aid to 97 people (56 m and 41w) to resolve land disputes. Four partners organised 20 awareness-raising activities, reaching 1,565 people (655m and 910w), on the Land Act 2009, which allows all citizens right to own, access and control property, as well as on the legal procedures for land acquisition and registration, and the institutions that provide services. STW conducted seven neighbourhood assemblies with 564 participants (486w and 81m), increasing engagement on GBV in the communities.

Six partners organised activities on gender discrimination and how to prevent it. For instance, ROG trained 21 (3w) police, selected among the police and community police force, to strengthen GBV response by the law enforcement agencies in Chukudum. ALA established four community-based GBV committees (16 members each), and 419 persons (77m) participated in the GBV prevention activities in different bomas in Magwi county. WAO organised six GBV prevention debates between six primary schools in collaboration with Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), and used the “Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP)” tool to influence 60 men on GBV awareness and prevention in Bor. WAV and ALA conducted awareness raising activities on GBV risk mitigation and response, reaching 1,402 girls and 4,419 women.

CRN and CoMNeTss trained 62 (48m) citizen journalists through a five-day comprehensive training on conflict-sensitive reporting, peace and investigative journalism, and produced and broadcasted 1,900 peace-related news articles. Anataban conducted two campaigns with messages of peace and reconciliation targeting youth, using use performance and creative arts, workshops, music concerts and the social media platform.

In **Cuba**, ANAP and ACPA organised trainings, mainly on-line, on gender equality, agricultural production, and how to strengthen the cooperatives, and presented proposals for government support for the production of quick-harvest foods. GALFISA organised exchanges between the Berta Cáceres Feminist Network and feminists from other countries, and trained members of the Popular

Councils and the municipal government of Central Havana in innovative local development, coordination of actors, and solidarity economy. CICERIC organised trainings on local development for municipal actors and CSOs in Pinar del Rio. FCOM conducted online training on the use of digital networks for local governments and the production of educative materials for the communication teams in four municipalities in Havana.

In **Lebanon**, KW finalised the book on feminism in the 1990s, and organised three seminars bringing together activists from the environmental movement and activists from the women’s movement, including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinians, exploring topics such as the role of municipalities, networking, gender and GBV, and women’s involvement in environmental work. ARM assisted individual migrant domestic workers regarding on issues such as unpaid wages, violence, child and marriage registration, repatriation, sexual harassment, trafficking and detention. The support is also an opportunity to share information on their rights and advice on strategies to act upon this information.

In **Palestine**, PFU trained 644 farmers (344w) on their rights and policies, such as tax refund, agricultural insurance, agricultural loans, and market protection. UWCE broadcasted 24 radio programmes, in Gaza and in the West Bank (WB), on agricultural issues, including Israeli attacks on the sector. They also organised 19 (10 in WB, 9 in Gaza) networking meetings with 369 farmers and fishermen, on the UNDROP, gender discrimination, agricultural policies and on influencing decision makers.

REFORM organised 13 learning journeys, for 240 youth participants (125w) in Gaza and WB, on human rights, youth participation, and other social and political issues. SFI trained 60 youth in the WB on human rights, leadership skills, and advocacy campaigns, and established four new youth groups. TFS trained 80 graduates (40w) on promoting civil and political participation for young people, and established two youth clubs that launched a series of advocacy campaigns.

AISHA supported 40 women and children affected by sexual and gender-based violence, with individual and group counselling, family therapy, cash assistance, and healthcare. They also trained

20 youth mobilising on SGBV and PSEA, and conducted 144 sessions on sexual and reproductive health, targeting 44 (22m) teenagers. GUCC implemented ten days training in Cultural management and Gender for 24 trainees (12m).

In **Guatemala**, COINDI’s community TV channel seeks to raise awareness in local languages on issues such as



discrimination, defence of natural resources, and to stop violence against women. Four indigenous partner organisations trained young people to fight discrimination based on gender or ethnicity, and to prevent exclusion due to ethical and political factors.

In **Honduras**, CDM's Feminist Political School graduated 20 women, from four organisations in indigenous and peasant communities, affected by extractivist projects and the struggle for land rights. Issues taught include land and territory, women's struggles in Honduras, self-care, and feminist leadership. ERIC's Political Training School conducted modules on women's rights for young leaders, both men and women, from COPINH, COPA and OFRANEH. CNTC carried out educational sessions with its members in 26 local groups on women's rights, including participation and leadership of rural women.

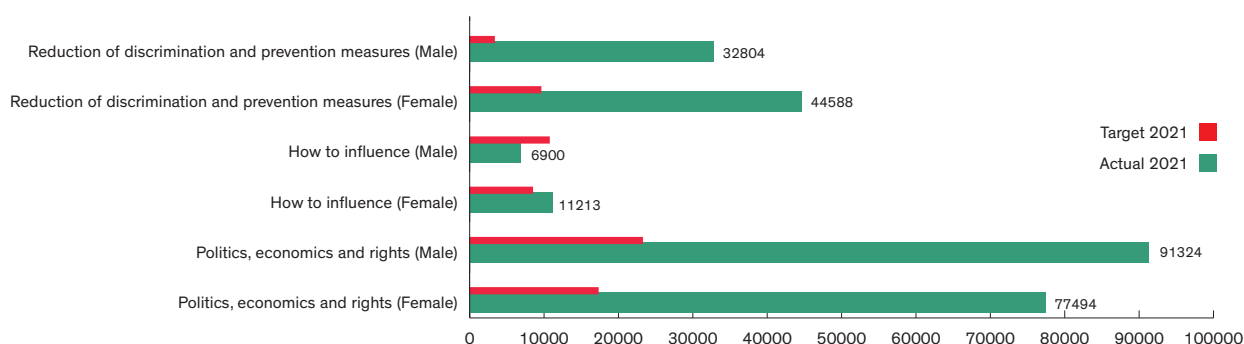
In **MENA**, the WHRDMENA Coalition trained 35 representatives of members on self-care and gender related issues, and organised learning circles on sexual and reproductive health and non-violent communication. They also launched the annual SHE DEFENDS campaign, during the 16 days of activism against violence against women, on the gendered impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women in different contexts.

SMEX published legal reviews of cyberlaws in Jordan and Libya, highlighted the potential impact of the cyberlaws on

human rights and freedom of speech on a national level. They also organised the online Bread and Net forum covering issues on digital advocacy and security, resistant communities and technology rights.

In **South Africa**, AIDC conducted the Right to Say No workshops to raise communities' awareness on rights related to extractivism on their land, in six provinces (608w and 754m). TCOE & SERI held a workshop with CSAAWU, including shop stewards (9w, 26m), on evictions and labour law to enhance their understanding of the tenure protections offered under the Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA) to assist them in their work to protect and advocate for farm dwellers' rights. TCOE also conducted a workshop on ESTA for paralegals and leaders of the farm worker forum in the Western Cape (12w, 13m). TCOE did capacity building on agroecology for small scale farmers (99w and 51m) to provide alternatives to mitigate climate change and provide livelihood.

In **Iraq**, 2655 (747w) participated in different activities on human rights and influencing strategies organised by six partners, including 14 trainings, 25 round table discussions, six dialogue sessions, 12 seminars, four advocacy campaigns, 27 radio programs, three conferences, 300 legal consultations, and distribution of 3000 brochures. These activities have enhanced the targeted groups' knowledge about their rights and how to pursue them, and initiated local and national dialogues.



Number of women and men trained on... Outputs on contributing to outcome 2.1 and 2.2 - Changes in people's strength to participate and influence



## Lebanon: Freelance migrant domestic workers gain rights

**ARM supported freelance migrant domestic workers to organise themselves and demand improved working conditions. The process increased the awareness on rights among the domestic workers themselves, but also in society at large. It even contributed significantly to improved working conditions for the freelance domestic workers, e.g. an increase in hourly rates, maximum working hours, and one day off per week.**

An estimated 250,000 migrant domestic workers, primarily women from Ethiopia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, are excluded from protection under Lebanon's labour law. Their status in the country is regulated by the restrictive kafala (sponsorship) system, which ties migrant workers' legal residency to their employer, an arrangement that is tantamount to bonded labour.

In 2021, following the Beirut blast, COVID-19 pandemic, and the deep financial crisis, many of the migrant domestic workers lost their jobs. Fewer families could afford to have a domestic worker living and working in their house. Therefore, an increasing number of domestic workers had to work freelance, i.e. living elsewhere and working on an hourly basis in peoples' houses. This system is unorganised and unregulated, and the domestic workers do not have basic rights related to their work. Further, although their situation changed dramatically, there was no national debate on their situation, and no initiatives proposed by the government to secure their rights.

Therefore, ARM decided to change its strategy from general support to migrant domestic workers to the emerging needs for a new group of workers, the freelancers. ARM established several working groups of migrant domestic workers from different nationalities to gather and present information about their new working situation. They conducted several workshops to develop a manifesto defining their demands.

During these sessions, migrant domestic workers learned to define and formulate their demands into clear messages that could be adopted by a third party.

The manifesto is being reviewed, sharpened and in the process of being finalised by ARM and the focus groups composed of migrant domestic workers (MDWs). The latest draft has been circulated internally amongst MDWs for them to use on a daily basis. However, it has not been made official, i.e. accessible to the general public or Lebanese authorities. ARM and the MDWs fear that if made official, the general public and authorities will attack it and disregard it as an unofficial document, depriving it of any legitimacy, hence hindering all the efforts made in the process. According to ARM, the document's success lies in it being an informal tool for MDWs, allowing them to request and obtain better working conditions. The manifesto is written in Arabic, French and English to make sure it is understood by the different communities.

There are many results from this process. Firstly, the migrant domestic workers have improved skills to present political messages to authorities. Secondly, through developing the manifesto, a growing number of domestic workers are better connected, have more confidence, and are therefore better positioned to claim their rights. Finally, the manifesto has contributed to improved regulations and working conditions for this group, including an increase in hourly rates, a minimum fixed wage, working hours limited to 8 hours a day, instead of unlimited, and they get one day off per week.

**ARM - Anti-Racism Movement (2011):** Local NGO that works to secure social and economic justice, and gender rights, for migrant workers in Lebanon. NPA's partner since 2020.

ARM used approximately 118,000 NOK for this result example, which is only one part of the activities implemented with support from Norad funding.

### Supporting documents:

A link to the full report can be found below: [https://armlebanon.org/sites/default/files/lebanon\\_civil\\_society\\_submission\\_-\\_cerd\\_104th\\_session\\_-\\_arm\\_2021\\_website.pdf](https://armlebanon.org/sites/default/files/lebanon_civil_society_submission_-_cerd_104th_session_-_arm_2021_website.pdf)



## Cambodia: Community members reoccupy their land

**In Tani village, 28 families are currently occupying and managing 5.4 hectares of land and re developing the village by building roads and ponds. Each family is managing an average of 1928 square meter and are building small houses, doing home-gardening and chicken raising.**

In 2005, the government decided to include around 1,000 hectares of land in Tani village (in Siem Reap province), where around 350 families were living and farming, as part of the Angkor Archaeological Park. The park is managed by the Apsara National Authority (ANA), a public institution that manages and conserves the Angkor World Heritage Site.

The government required all the families to leave their land and offered each family a compensation of between 300 to 500 USD. Most families were afraid and accepted the compensation, except 38 families who continued the struggle for land compensation. In 2006, the 38 families were provided with 161 hectares of agricultural land outside the heritage site. However, in 2011, the 38 families were evicted from the land and the struggle reoccurred.

In 2012, the Tani community participated in the Cambodian Grassroots Cross-sector Network (CGCN) activities and became a member of the network. CGCN has worked with the Tani community to support their advocacy for their land through capacity development, development of advocacy strategy, ongoing coaching, and regular communication and information sharing with other networks and communities, including legal support. Tani community became one of the few communities in Siem Reap who played an active role in organising and strengthening their community, and in connecting their community with other communities in similar situations. They formed the Siem Reap Land Community Network (SRLCN) and advocated against the eviction and demanded to have their land back.

During these years of advocacy, the communities protested many times in front of the district- and provincial offices, the provincial court, and ministry of land in Phnom Penh, submitting their cases and demanding a solution. CGCN visited the communities regularly, provided capacity-building workshops and helped them with advocacy strategies.

In 2021, 28 of the families that were evicted in 2011 started to reoccupy their old land. The authorities have threatened to evict them, but the 38 families, but they continued to reoccupy their land. The families are currently occupying and managing 5.4 hectares of land and developing the village by mapping and building infrastructure, such as roads and ponds. Each family is managing an average of 1,928 square meters and are building small houses, doing home-gardening and chicken raising. Though their occupation of the land is not recognised by the authority, no actions have been taken against them, yet. From this gradual success, people have become energetic and hopeful, and they continue their struggle for a better livelihood and secure land titles.

The factors that have been important for these families' success is unity within the community, solidarity with other communities in the province, connection with CGCN as a national network, and the support they have received in capacity building, strategic planning, ongoing coaching and regular communication/information sharing and legal support.

**CGCN** - Cambodian Grassroots Cross-sector Network (2011) is a national network of grassroot communities, farmers and indigenous peoples, supported by NPA partner People's Action for Development (PAD). NPA partner since 2012.

CGCN has used approximately NOK 180,000 to support the communities since 2012.



## South Sudan: Community members secured land rights

In 2021, PIDO organised lobby meetings with local authorities to have them issue land titles to those who have land, but lack land documents, in Unity State. The local authorities responded positively and processed land documents to the 60 people identified.

Many people had no land documents in South Sudan, until 2009 when the Land Act was enacted into law to enable formal land ownership. Since independence in 2011, access to land and land documents remain challenging for marginalised people, including women, low-income persons and internally displaced people, across the country. This is due to lack of good governance, patriarchal traditions preventing women from formal land ownership, and the conflicts in 2013 and 2016 that led to property destruction, land grabbing and displacement.

Thousands of people are gradually returning, but have no documents to prove land ownership. Further, most people acquire land by inheritance, for which local administration does not provide sufficient documents to initiate the formal land ownership processes. Additionally, marginalised groups are often unable to raise requisite fees to process land titles. There-fore, many people rightfully own land, but lack legal documents to provide them protection. Without proof of ownership, land disputes between returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities become complex.

PIDO held nine awareness raising meetings with communities on the importance of land registration and the institutions responsible for land administration in Unity State, reaching 700 (400 M, 300 F) people. Together with community leaders and local authorities, PIDO identified 60 marginalised people (40F, 20M) in Bentiu, Rubkona and Mayom Counties to be supported in the process. PIDO verified their land ownership and submitted names to the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructures, which subsequently processed the land documents upon fee payment.

In addition to the financial contribution, NPA provided advice to PIDO's staff through political dialogues, to strengthen their technical capacity.

**PIDO** - People's Initiative Development Organization (2005) is a NGO, member of Upper Nile Regional Land Alliances, advocating for the promotion of human and democratic rights of marginalised and disadvantaged groups in the society. NPA partner since 2017.

In 2021, NPA provided financial support of NOK 559,244.7 in 2021 to PIDO for implementation of several activities, including access to legal land ownership.

### Supporting documents:

Copy of the land documents

Pictures taken during the handing over of land documents and the partner narrative report



## Rwanda: Indigenous peoples gain access to land

As a result of the community score card process, and COPORWA's advocacy to enhance Historically Marginalised People's (HMPs) income opportunities, the government allocated collective land to 30 HMP households.

The Batwa, commonly known as Historically Marginalised People (HMPs), are indigenous people living in Rwanda and across neighbouring countries like Uganda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. HMPs continue to face many challenges, including poverty, hunger, and the loss of their native lands.

This result example is about 30 HMP households in Rutsiro district, who were experiencing deteriorating living conditions due to lack of occupation and income.

A survey conducted by COPORWA in 2021, revealed that 87.6% HMPs do not have access to land, while the remaining 12.4% are unable to generate incomes from the land allocated to them by the government, because the land is too small and they lack entitlements. For this reason, about 95% HMPs are involved in pottery with clay extracted from marshlands. However, from 2018, these sites are no longer accessible and cannot be exploited, as the marshland policy does not allow clay mining.

During COPORWA's facilitation of the Community Scorecard (CSC) process, supported by the NPA programme PPIMA, in the Rutsiro district in 2021, the lack of access to

land for HMPs topped the list of priorities presented to local leaders during meetings. As a result of COPORWA and GFPs' (Governance focal point) advocacy, local leaders committed to solving the issue of HMPs' lack of access to land for agricultural purposes. These 30 households were offered one hectare of marshland for their collective agricultural use. They immediately started working on the land, planted Irish potatoes, and expected to harvest a minimum of three tonnes by April 2022.

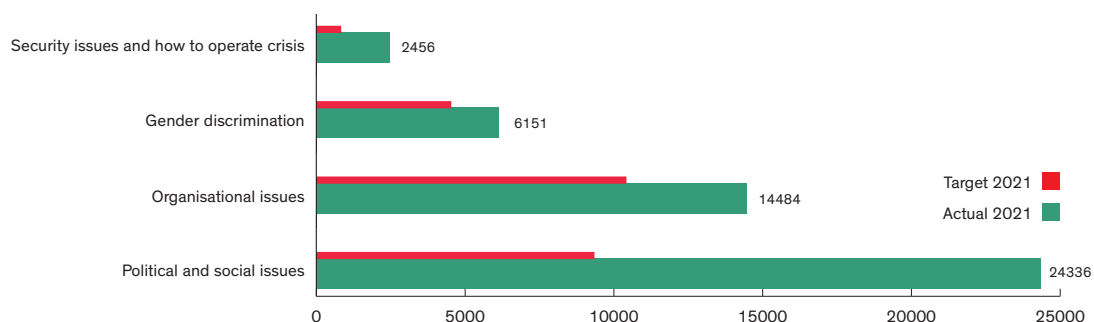
As the land was collective, they had to find a way to share the income generated from the harvest. They agreed that each of the 30 households will receive an equal amount of cash, for their own priorities. Some of the earned money will be kept in a joint bank account for a future financing of their agricultural activities, while the remaining money will be injected into the establishment of their own cooperative for income-generating purposes.

The positive reaction from sector and district officials, motivated community representatives (GFPs) to continue seeking more opportunities to influence decision-making, and to ensure that issues raised through the CSC process are resolved and addressed.

**COPORWA** - Communauté des Potiers du Rwanda (1995) is an NGO advocating and promoting the rights of Historically Marginalised People (HMPs). NPA partner 2008-2019 and again from 2021.

COPORWA received NOK 1. 203.000 from NPA in 2021.





Number of partner staff/members trained on.... Outputs ontributing to outcome 1.1 and 1.2 - Changes in CSOs strength to influence

## 2.4 Civil society organisation strengthened to influence

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to have devastating impacts on peoples' lives and livelihoods, as well as on their organisational life. As in 2020, the activities mostly affected were related to travels and assemblies of people, such as training programmes, board meetings, and exchanges. However, despite the pandemic and continued restrictions, social mobilisations returned in several countries, and some partners conducted assemblies and congresses face-to-face.

During the pandemic partners have shown an impressive ability to adapt, using digital meeting spaces to maintain organisational practices, developing digital training platforms, and online seminars, workshops and conferences to coordinate with other CSOs and influence decision-makers.

Organising people with a common cause is a central element in all NPA programmes, and strengthening organisations is at the core of our cooperation with partners. NPA's partners include popular organisations representing their constituencies, NGOs with and without a membership base, networks and umbrella organisations.

Organisational strengthening, or development, is a method to enhance the role organisations play in the social and political processes they engage in. Organisational development processes must be owned by the organisation itself. NPA and partners regularly engage in dialogues to assess five dimensions of organisational capacity: 1. The policy of the organisation, referring to its values, capacity to analyse and relate to the context, and clarity in strategy and agenda. 2. Their unity and internal democracy, including communication between local and central chapters, recruitment of members, balanced representation (e.g. gender, youth, geography and organisational level) in boards, committees and political training. 3. Their capacity to influence and make changes, including combined strategies to seek influence, develop policy proposals, access media channels, and carry out awareness-raising activities.

4. Their capacity to relate and establish alliances with others who share their goals. 5. Their technical and administrative capacities. Based on this dialogue NPA and partner agree on how to cooperate to strengthen the organisation. We have found that this approach is useful, and well received by partners.

For the period 2020-2024, NPA is implementing ODDAT (Organisational Development Dialogue and Assessment Tool) in cooperation with partners to assess strengths and weaknesses, and set targets for what dimensions to strengthen. Partners and country programmes are only reporting on outcome (O1.1) *Partners are more effective in their work to influence and mobilise, and outcome (O1.2) Partners maintained their work to influence decision-makers despite restrictions and repression* in 2022. However, all report on related outputs.

Partners have provided training to their staff and members on different issues. In 14 countries, 24336 received training on political and social issues, 14484 on organisational issues, 6150 on gender discrimination and 2456 on security issues and how to operate in crisis. This is more than the targets for the first two years of the programme.

As with mobilising people and communities (2.3), **political training** is an important tool in most programmes to support partners efforts to develop leadership skills and competence. The trainings contribute to building organisational, technical and political skills, but also to motivate members, and to develop unity and purpose.

The pandemic affected partners' training programmes in many ways, and many report on innovations and lessons to be taken forward. Although many underline the advantages of face-to-face gatherings, such as creative and emotional methodologies, the opportunities online trainings have in reaching people in faraway places, within countries and across borders, at a lower cost and more time efficient, are also highlighted.

For instance, in **Guatemala**, CODECA introduced a new online training system that allows mass training and



reflection among members of the organisation. It is estimated that online discussions reached thousands of people nationally in 2021 (see result example).

In **Cuba**, CMLK organised an on-line political training school for Latin American popular movements, with 99 participants from 38 organisations in 18 countries. Further, 130 members of the CMLK networks collaborated in 19 online training spaces developed by different Latin American organisations.

Political training is one of the most important activities to strengthen partner organisations, and to increase their capacity to mobilise and be more effective in their work. The content, scope and methodologies of such training programmes vary substantially, as the following examples indicate.

In **Zimbabwe**, 4265 members (3200w) were trained on political, economic and social issues. For instance, ZIMCODD, MISA, WCoZ, CHRA and ZimRights facilitated a series of trainings on public finance management, human rights and social accountability monitoring. Additionally, 125 partner staff members (67w) were trained on technical and administrative capacities, including organisational policies, report writing, M&E, safeguarding and digital security.

In **South Africa**, 2,874 partner members and staff were trained in political, economic, social, and organisational issues. For instance, Abahlali organised a leadership camp for 12 people, digital security training for 15 leaders and staff, and a digital training for 13 women leaders. MACUA organised a two-day meeting with 17 (10w) provincial coordinators from mining-affected communities to strengthen the influence of the movement, and a course credited by Wits University, attended by 15 participants (8w) on e.g. environmental justice, mining licensing processes, and public participation. In SALO, four women staff members took an online proposal writing course, and two staff members (1w) completed anti-corruption training.

In **Mozambique**, 248 members in three partner organisations were trained on political, economic and social issues. For instance, UCA trained 14 members (7m) on exploration of natural resources and mechanisms to denounce, and 15 female members on advocacy strategies and mining exploration. They also trained 163 small-scale farmers (63w), members of the Natural Resources Management Committee (CGRN). Further, 47 partner staff were trained in administrative and technical capacities. Four MULEIDE staff (2m) were trained on financial procedures and human resources management, while 9 UCA staff (5m) were trained by ODHL on the legal issues of wildlife and forest exploration, land exploration and mine exploration.

In **Rwanda**, CLADHO trained PPIMA partners on gender equality and mainstreaming, gender budget statement analysis, while HDI facilitated training on policy influencing and evidence-based advocacy. Further, exchange learning was facilitated between six new and old PPIMA districts, to share experiences and best practices.

In **South Sudan**, CSCNR conducted a two-day training of trainers (TOT) for 27 (20m) leaders from their member organisations on mining policies, and environmental and health hazards resulting from mining activities. Furthermore, HRSS, conducted a two-day training of trainers for eight (5m) staff members on facilitation skills, conflict resolution, advocacy, and alliance building.

In **Guatemala**, COINDI, MMT, CODECA and CPT trained 346 members on organisational management and administrative issues, 591 members on social and political issues, including context analysis, community training and awareness, the new NGO law, and legal mechanisms for community activism to defend natural resources. 688 members were trained on gender issues, including sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and equity in education, women's participation in the organisations, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

In **Ecuador**, four partners trained 289 members in political and economic topics, and 1137 in organisational issues. For instance, UOCE implemented its one-week a month "boarding school" in political training, which is part of a three-year programme for 25 youth from 13 communities (see result example). MICC conducted one provincial school on community-based communication, women and youth participation, identity and culture and indigenous guards for 60 young men and women, and one provincial school on indigenous justice and strategic advocacy, for 75 local leaders practicing indigenous justice. Kawsay's agro-ecology school, trained 88 students on ancestral medicine, commercialisation, communal lands, agroecological produce, gender-based violence, distributed in 25 workshops. CNC-EA conducted political schools in four member organisations in Guayas province, addressing campesino rights, food sovereignty, political influence and participatory strategic planning.

In **Cuba**, the CMLK network movement maintained their political training programmes throughout the year, primarily online, on topics such as popular communication, feminist economy, and the political situation in Latin America, reaching 825 participants. CEPRODESO conducted trainings for the members of the Popular Environmental Education Network (NEPEP) on political ecology, ecofeminism, and environmental conflicts.



In **Bolivia**, six partners organised 115 training sessions with which 4,378 participants (2,524w). For instance, the Bartolinas in Cochabamba organised 28 workshops with 1,230 participants (824w) on political training, communication and media, technical and political training for communicators and media spokespersons. CAIB and Bartolina Sisa at national level, and in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, organised 21 workshops on political training and gender equity, with 972 participants (68m).

In **Honduras**, 850 were trained on political, social and technical issues, including analysis of the context and land rights. 300 members were trained on gender equality, women's participation and leadership, and violence against women. 560 members were trained organisational issues, including statutes and internal regulations, safety, and leadership skills.

In **Palestine**, PFU trained 244 (194w) members of the Governate Farmers Associations (GFA) on how to advocate for farmers rights and pressure decision makers to adopt policies that are responsive to farmer's needs. UAWC conducted 10 training courses with 191 participants (75w) on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, and on trade unions. A 10-day training for REFORM staff was implemented, aiming to increase their knowledge and skills on monitoring and evaluation and sustainable development goals.

NPA also supports partners' efforts to strengthen their **internal unity and democracy**, such as congresses and assemblies, which constitute the core of the organisations. At these events they exert accountability from elected leaders, renew their leaderships, reaffirm their membership nature, and discuss their **political agenda, mandates and strategies**, the challenges they face and their role in the context. The organisations' internal communication and representation are also important dimensions.

For instance, in **Colombia**, ONIC held its X Congress with 2,000 delegates from the 50 member organisations. CNA organised its 7th National Assembly, attended by 400 campesino leaders from 22 departments. A new leadership was elected to implement the new mandate. Prior to the Assembly, the 1st General Encounter of Women and Youth in CNA took place.

In **Bolivia**, the indigenous campesino organisations strengthened their common communication system across regions. Hence, they improved their communication to its constituencies about the dynamics in the organisations, as well as the demands made and proposals presented to the government (see result example).

In **South Africa**, R2K's reviewed and strengthening its constitution and structures, as well as finance and HR policies. In **Cuba**, CMLK developed and approved their new Justice Policy, Gender Equality and Diversities of the CMLK Networks Movement 2022-2025 and a strategy for international solidarity.

In **Palestine**, PFU supported four Governate Farmers Associations to revise and upgrade their strategies and procedural manuals. By increasing their capacities on agricultural policies and advocacy, they became better equipped to influence the government, respond to annexation, and defend their rights.

In **MENA**, ANND had a General Assembly, developed a communication strategy, included amendments in their gender and safeguarding policy, and approved an inclusion policy. The WHRDMENA Coalition adopted new by-laws customised, elected new board members, expanded its executive committees, and registered 10 new organisational members. SMEX developed a Legal Unit Strategy based on its global strategy.

Although **women and youth** are active in the organisations, leadership positions are often held by men. Therefore, many partners have strategically worked to strengthen the inclusion of women and youth in the organisations, and to enhance their participation in decision-making on all levels. Many partners are also engaged in combatting SGBV (sexual and gender-based violence) and gender discrimination.

For instance, in **Lebanon**, following APCC's training of 25 members on gender inclusiveness, a women's work committee was established with the aim to involve women, and to provide safe spaces and support. In **South Africa**, a WCDI (Women Can Do It) training of trainers was organised in Thembisa township, with 35 women from Abahlali. In **Iraq**, NPA engaged with all partners to assess their understanding and practices of gender related issues. Furthermore, partners conducted nine dialogue sessions with their staff and partners to enhance their gender equity mandate and incorporate gender mainstreaming into practices and procedures. In **Zimbabwe**, 10 partners demonstrated improved capacity in gender inclusion by having strategic gender objectives and establishing policies fostering equal representation of men and women at board level.

In **Colombia**, ONIC organised a short film festival on indigenous women's rights, territory and violence against women, and conducted a training session on violence against women in the Guajira department, with 50 participants. ANZORC presented its new organisational gender policy, approved in 2020, to the public and national and international organisations. In **Honduras**, partners engaged in dialogues on how to increase women's



participation, women as members and in leadership positions, and the role of women in the social struggles.

Working together makes one stronger. Hence, **alliance building** with other likeminded organisations is important when pushing for changes and influencing decision-makers. Several partners have also established **cooperation mechanisms** with authorities at different levels to strengthen the organisations' effectiveness to influence.

For instance, in **El Salvador**, partners strengthened their alliances with other organisations on the local, regional and national levels due to increased repressive actions from the national government (see result example).

In **South Africa**, Abahlali used the Per Anger Prize for human rights defenders as a mobilisation and advocacy tool. On receipt of the prize, Abahlali organised its communities across the country and invited other communities that were not members of the movement. This led to new communities joining the movement. The Minister of Human Settlement, who has been resistant in engaging with Abahlali made a statement and promised to cooperate more closely.

In **Iraq**, cooperating with experienced organisations in the field of labour rights, such as the International Labour Organisation, enriched PFO's program for workers' rights. Further, PFO reached more people and strengthened their advocacy work by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, on establishing proper procedures for workers safety and wellbeing.

In **Bolivia**, their indigenous campesino organisations developed a common communication system across regions, which improved their communication on the dynamics in the organisations, as well as the demands made and proposals presented by the social movement to the government (see result example). Further, as a result of the experience of the 2019 coup and the pandemic, CSUTCB and six of their regional organisations in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, updated their communication strategies with support from CAIB/CEFREC. The Bartolinas in Cochabamba developed a plan to decentralise their political training to the provincial and municipal level.

Through the regional **Latin America** programme, CODECA organised a meeting in Guatemala with 44 organisations from 14 countries to coordinate actions across borders. The Unity Pact in Bolivia organised the 6th International Meeting on Challenges in constructing Plurinational States, to reflect on the situation in the different countries, and strengthen solidarity and cooperation. NPA supported the Mapuche Lafkenche people in the Constitutional Convention in Chile by

facilitating virtual meetings with ex-representatives of Constitutional Assemblies in Bolivia and in Ecuador, as well as other leaders and specialists in Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.

In **MENA**, SMEX organised their online global 'Bread and Net' forum for digital rights for the second time, and ANND actively participated in the online IMF and WBG (World Bank Group) civil society conferences and working groups. SMEX contributed to the creation of the Arab Alliance on Digital Rights, an independent network of six regional organisations working on media and digital rights.

In most country programmes, civil society organisations and their members and leaders experience **restrictions on freedoms of expression, movement, organising and assembly**. Many are also exposed to prosecution, persecution, abductions and assassinations, and unfortunately impunity is rife. Therefore, maintaining organisational life, and to influence decision-makers despite restrictions and repression, is an achievement in itself. Several programmes report concern that authorities are increasingly controlling social media and surveilling communication, not least in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Responding to these challenges, partners apply different strategies.

For instance, in **Honduras**, COPINH, together with the Barracón Digital collective, started a digital school for political activism, with 24 members from seven indigenous, social and popular organisations, to provide social organisations and activists with enhanced digital and technical skills, and knowledge on digital security, (see result example).

Similarly, in **Cambodia**, six partners conducted training in the use of internet and social media and digital security, including secure online platforms for communication and online tools for advocacy, to 809 staff members, member organisations and their target groups.

In **Zimbabwe**, CiZC, together with Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), challenged the directive and ban of NGOs through an urgent High Court application, which was ruled in favour of CSOs for now. MISA assisted with emergency response and provided referral to journalists in distress, and ZimRights provided legal aid and rapid response project activities, assisting 21 activists in Mudzi. Further, 12 partners participated in an NPA Digital training workshop to help partners establish secure ways of communication.

In **South Sudan**, media rights partners mobilised journalists and stakeholders on November 2nd to mark the



End of Impunity and Crime against Journalists Day, advocating for freedom of expression and safety of journalists through dialogues, conferences and radio talk shows with judiciary, security organs, the Office of the President, Ministry of Information and media regulatory bodies. AMDISS graduated 23 (17m) journalists after nine months training. The curriculum includes peace journalism, conflict-sensitivity and safety and protection during assignments. The six female students were engaged as permanent staff by various media houses after completing their internship.

In **Colombia**, PCN organised ten humanitarian caravans to create awareness on the extreme humanitarian situation afro Colombian and campesino communities experience due to confinement caused by conflict between illegal armed actors, and to demonstrate solidarity. One caravan

included delegates from the UN and the OAS' Mission to Support the Peace Process. ANZORC, CNA, Congreso, and PCN reported human rights violations during the National Strike to the UN mission and the CIDH mission.

In **Guatemala**, CPT promoted regional and local political-discussion-days to focus on the threats in the region of Alta Verapaz, given the high presence of extractive companies, landowners and paramilitaries, especially in the Sierra de las Minas. PRECOM allied with national and international institutions, for instance the Human Rights Attorney and the High Commission for Human Rights of the United Nations, to stop the repression due to mining in Estor, Izabal.



## Ecuador: Political training for youth

**UOCE's political school, emphasising training of children and youth, provides young people with skills on practical and theoretical subjects, strengthens youth participation in the organisation, and secures new leadership in UOCE's member organisations, and in UOCE itself.**

Esmeraldas province on the northern Pacific coast, is one of the poorest provinces in Ecuador. The majority of the population are subsistence farmers, farm workers, and fishermen, who have been oppressed by rich landowners, including agrobusiness interests such as palm oil, shrimp farming and cattle ranching. Esmeraldas has suffered from a weak and inefficient state for generations.

Many lack proper education. Public schools lack infrastructure and teachers, the content is often urban oriented and the methodology non-participatory. Many children and youth drop out of school because they have to contribute to the family economy, lack transport and/or funds, and many girls leave school due to early pregnancy. Another challenge youth are facing is the relatively recent phenomenon of micro trafficking, where local gangs force young people to sell drugs to other youngsters.

UOCE supports communities to organise themselves to demand improved public infrastructure, particularly roads, and social services, such as education and health care. Their central demands is access to land and land titles. As part of their efforts to support community organising, they have developed an elaborate training programme for children and youth.

The first level is the Agroecological and political school for children and youth between 12-20 years old. Currently 122 youth from 19 communities from the whole province are attending. The training is conducted in four three-day workshops over a year, where they learn how to take care of nature, agroecology, history, politics, and economy, and gender equality.

Around thirty of the first level students are selected to attend the next level training, the three-year programme Utopia Popular University. The first year they meet seven days a month, the second and third year, four days a month. They use creative and participatory methodology to engage the whole human being and emphasise the need to provide space for the girls.

The curriculum is divided in three: Political education, including history, economic politics, political geography, context analysis and interculturality. Technology, including chemistry, biology, mathematics, habitability and agroecology. Methodology, including reading and writing, pedagogics, epistemology, basic statistics and research. As they proceed, they select a topic of specialisation. They also have an exchange programme with a university in Quito to learn English.

Part of their training is to travel to the rural communities one Saturday a month to conduct workshops for small children. They teach them about pollution, garbage collection, how to take care of nature, and about values, such as mutual respect and gender sensitivity.

This circle of training secures new recruitment for the training programme, trained members in the community organisations, as well as conscious and active youth, committed to creating a better future for themselves and their communities. Some of the Utopia Popular University graduates have been employed by UOCE to head specific programmes.

**UOCE** - Union of Campesina Organisations of Esmeraldas (1978), an umbrella for 30 community organisations in Esmeraldas province, representing 3 500 campesinos, working for land reform, road access and social development. The only non-indigenous member of the national indigenous organisation CONAIE.

The total transfer from NPA to UOCE in 2021 was NOK 732 000, including NOK 200 000 for the political school.

### Supporting documents:

UOCE reports. NPA interviews.



## Bolivia: Improved communication strengthens the social movement

The indigenous campesino organisations strengthened their common communication system across regions. Hence, they improved their communication to their constituencies about the dynamics in the organisations, as well as the demands made and proposals presented to the government.

During the government of Evo Morales (2005-2019), the indigenous campesino movement relied too much on the communication of the government party MAS (Movement for Socialism). Although communication was democratised and became more inclusive in that period, few organisations gained access to their own radio channels. However, with the coup in 2019, and in the recovery of democracy in 2020, the organisations became more aware of the importance of having their own communication system.

A small elite has always controlled the big private media houses, and they have never conveyed news related to indigenous people and campesinos (small-scale farmers). On the contrary, they echo the extreme right, misrepresenting the social movements' actions and proposals. This contributes to polarisation between the popular urban sectors and the Unity Pact, and deepens the differences between indigenous organisations in the Andes region and the Amazon region.

The Unity Pact, an alliance of five national indigenous peasant organisations, is the most important alliance in Bolivia, with great capacity to mobilise people and develop common proposals, and the driving force behind changes. However, they saw the need to strengthen their system of communication, to provide trustworthy information to their constituencies – about 900 000 families – on proposals presented and actions taken by the indigenous movement. Therefore, they developed the Plurinational System of Indigenous Communication of the Unity Pact, an alliance between the CAIB, CEFREC and the Unity Pact.

They made radio and television productions about the political situation, on indigenous realities and rights, and the prevention of the pandemic. They also made documentaries, fiction, live coverage of different activities of the Unity Pact, videos, photos, and infographics. On average they produced 500 news items per month. In the second half of 2021 they made 65 live TV broadcasts, and the radio stations in the four regions produced 15 joint radio programs. Several of the productions produced were also broadcasted beyond the organisations' own media, to other networks, public television, and local radios.

They also systematised the role of communication, before and during the coup, as input for revising the organisations' communication strategies, and organised training activities at national and regional levels for communicators and media spokespersons, chosen by their organisations. They developed communication tools together, including storytelling, dialogue techniques, and how to build a proposal or a strategy. They produced news for the social networks of each organisation and accompanied the organisations in their assemblies, congresses, marches and debates. The common communication system connects the leadership of the organisation with the members and the local chapters. The cooperation has also created spaces for reflection on how to strengthen alliances and improved the organisations' knowledge of each other.

**CEFREC** (Alliance between Cinematography Education and Production Centre), **CAIB** (Bolivian Indigenous Peoples' Audiovisual Council) and the Unity Pact, an alliance of five national indigenous peasant organisations CSUTCB, CNMCIQB BS, CSCIOB CONAMAQ, CIDOB.

NPA contributed with NOK 1 051 675 for meetings, developing strategies, dialogues, systematisation, and international contacts.

Agencia Plurinacional de Comunicación [www.apcbolivia.org](http://www.apcbolivia.org),  
Plurinacional TV [www.plurinacional.tv](http://www.plurinacional.tv)  
Partners' Facebook



## Honduras: Indigenous people initiate cyber activism school

Environment and human rights defenders (EHRD) in Honduras have lived with real life and digital security threats, from both authorities and paramilitaries, for decades. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and most social mobilising moved online, organisations and activists were increasingly exposed to digital security risks. Therefore, COPINH allied with the Barracón Digital collective, to start a digital school for political activism, to provide social organisations and activists with enhanced digital and technical skills, and knowledge on digital security.

All EHRDs and social organisations use digital tools for their activism, but as most have learnt digital technology by themselves they lack both technical skills and knowledge on digital security and tools to protect themselves, their organisations and their struggles in the digital world. The pandemic, forced social organisations to increase their use of virtual platforms, with the technical difficulties that this implied, while risks for digital surveillance and leaks increased, exposing leaders and activists further.

Therefore, the indigenous organisation COPINH allied with the Barracón Digital collective, an organisation focusing on online security, to start a digital school for political activism. The school was created to provide social organisations and activists with knowledge on digital security, and to support their socio-political struggles with better use of social networks and other digital platforms.

In 2021, 24 members from seven indigenous, social and popular organisations, including partners, graduated from the cyber activism school. The training consists of one two-hour session a week for 14 weeks, and is based on participatory methodology. The topics include guide to improve design, WordPress, popular education methodologies, developing communication strategies, making radio spots, digital security and secure digital tools and applications. The training school will be yearly.

The participants' new theoretical and technical capabilities strengthen their ability to use digital platforms and tools to promote their socio-political struggles, and to defend themselves and their organisations from virtual security threats that put the political life of their organisations at risk.

**COPINH** – The Civil Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations in Honduras Founded in 1993, representing communities in the central-western region. Defends the environment, indigenous and human rights. NPA partner since 2006.

In 2021, COPINH received 322 000 NOK for the cyber school from NPA. NPA also conducted systematic dialogues before, during and at the end of the process.

### Supporting documents:

<https://barracondigital.org/category/escuela-ciberactivista>



## Guatemala: Online platform allows for mass training

**CODECA introduced a new online training platform that allows mass training and reflection among members of the organisation. It is estimated that online discussions reached thousands of people nationally during 2021.**

The restrictions on mobility and gatherings during the COVID 19 pandemic made it difficult to maintain CODECA's ordinary face-to-face political and organisational training. Online training was proposed as a method to overcome the mobility limitations; hence they developed a series of virtual conversations to reach local groups and members in the organisation with access to the internet.

The national network of communicators in CODECA got together to create virtual training and reflection sessions that were later retransmitted and published through Facebook, on issues such as the plurinational state (acknowledging all nationalities), the agricultural crisis, the situation in other countries in the region, the national election processes, and plurinational youth.

During 2021, a total of 37 virtual trainings were held on different topics and panellists, each lasting around 2 hours. They invited 115 speakers (81m), both national, such as members of social organisations, including CODECA, but also people from other Latin American countries, including indigenous people from Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia, women organisations, and activists. In this way they were able to share experiences and reflections from different places and countries, even in the most distant places. It is estimated that online discussions reached thousands of people nationally during 2021.

The organisation has been able to adapt to the pandemic and to the lack of physical access to the territories where the members are located. The adaptation of the educational system has led to reduced economic costs in certain training activities and a good use of the popular communicators that the organisation already has. These online training sessions will continue in 2022.

**CODECA** – Campesino Development Committee (1992) is a people's organisation of indigenous and campesino communities in 112 municipalities in 20 departments. CODECA struggles for access to basic services, the right to water, land and territory, and self-determination. NPA partner again since 2017.

The resources used for this result have been approximately NOK 30,000 in 2021.

### Supporting documents:

CODECA Report 2021

<https://fb.watch/cQxAbuCVzd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/codeca.urbana/photos/863676204534226>



## 2.5 Oil for the Common Good: South Sudan and Mozambique

### SOUTH SUDAN

WTUPM	Workers Trade Union of Petroleum and Mining
HRSS	Hope Restoration South Sudan
UNYDA	Upper Nile Youth Development Association
NIHE	Nile Initiative for Health and Environment
CSCNR	Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources

The oil sector, which accounts for over 90% of the government's revenue, is riddled with corruption and lacks implementation of key provisions from the petroleum legislations. As a consequence, the communities lack basic services like water and health, and employment is not provided. Further, the communities' have limited understanding of their rights provided under the petroleum laws.

The oil-producing areas of Unity State and Upper Nile were heavily affected by floods, which led to increased environmental contamination and decreased oil production as some oil wells were submerged. The floods had devastating consequences for the communities, living in extremely poor conditions, with lack of basic services and sustainable livelihoods. The floods also resulted in some programme areas in Koch County, Unity State, being inaccessible.

Partners contributed to the outcome (O3.1) *Decision makers' policies and practices have changed for the benefit of reduced inequality*. The Petroleum Act 2012 (PA) and the Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2013 (PRMA) regulate the petroleum sector and obliges the government to allocate 5% of net oil revenue to oil-producing areas, including 3 % to

local communities and 2 % to the state. In Melut, Renk and Maban counties of Upper Nile State, local authorities and community members confirmed receipt of money from the national government, being part of the 3% net oil revenue share that is intended for the oil-producing communities under Section 29 of the PRMA, 2013. However, the money is yet to be spent in a way that benefits the local communities.

Partners also influenced authorities and community members to establish Community Development Committees (CDCs) with civil society representation. One CDC was formed in Melut, but without civil society representation as dictated by the PRMA, 2013, hence, partners will continue to advocate for that. The CDC in Melut received the second round of oil revenue share of 3% and plan to spend the money on salaries for qualified teachers. One tentative CDC was also formed in Koch County, pending the formation of the county government. As a result of partners' dialogues with oil companies, advocacy campaigns, and peaceful strikes by the oil workers' union, four oil companies and one service company continued to implement the HSE Regulations, providing protective gear, medical insurance cover and payment of outstanding salary. Further, Dar Petroleum Operating Company (DPOC) employed 150 youth and rehabilitated roads and hospitals, as a result of advocacy by partners and affected communities.

Partners also contributed to the outcome (O2.1) *People living in oil producing areas acted to influence for just distribution of oil revenues and water resources*. For instance, community members developed and submitted petitions, with support from partners, demanding implementation of the petroleum laws and transparent and accountable management of oil revenues. Meetings, trainings and focus group discussions in Melut, Upper Nile State and in Rubkona and Koch, Unity State, reached 210 (93w). Approximately 15,000 (11,000m) were reached through newspapers, local radio FM, social media and television with information on the oil sector.



## Result example: Community members' knowledge on South Sudan's petroleum laws enhanced

**The oil industry in South Sudan is marred with corruption, pollution and lack of information about the use of oil revenues. People mistrust oil companies and authorities, and have little knowledge of relevant laws and regulations. Therefore, HRSS engaged communities and raised awareness on key provisions of the petroleum laws (Petroleum Act, 2012 and Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013), for them to hold authorities accountable on their management of oil revenues.**

Oil production in Unity State was disrupted by the civil war in December 2013, and has gradually been revived. The Thar Jath oil fields reopened production in 2018. Local communities experience massive pollution from the oil production stemming from improper disposal of oil waste, worsened by flood waters, and have limited awareness and information about their rightful share to 3% and 2% of oil revenues to the local communities and the oil-producing State respectively. Further, the government does not provide any services using the revenue generated from the oil.

HRSS carried out dialogue meetings with local communities, and arranged radio talk shows and media publications to raise peoples' awareness on relevant laws and regulations. Further, HRSS held meetings with oil companies and local authorities to influence them to provide services to the communities using the money generated from oil. HRSS also arranged oil investment forums, bringing together oil companies' representatives, community representatives and authorities to discuss the need for services paid for by oil revenues and the challenges they experience because of oil production. In total, 2,468 people (968 w) were reached directly with information.

As a result of the awareness raising, representatives of the community representatives were better equipped to interact with the petroleum operating companies. This has contributed to the oil company Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC) gradually providing various services to the following communities: Guit, Rubkona, Pariang, Mayom and Abiemnom. The services include delivering water points and drugs, construction of boreholes, road rehabilitation, and provision of COVID-19 prevention kits to the communities. GPOC is also planning to construct health facilities around its areas of operation.

For security reasons, some community members fear to speak up about how the government is using the revenues from the oil sector. HRSS will continue raising awareness to build communities' confidence that such demands are within the law and therefore not subject to harassment or unlawful arrests.

**HRSS** - Hope Restoration South Sudan (2010) is a women-led organisation that advocates on environmental and natural resource issues in former Unity State. NPA partner since 2016.

The funding for the work leading to the result and other related activities was 359,310 NOK. In addition, NPA strengthened HRSS' institutional capacity through training staff on key provisions of petroleum laws as well as on project monitoring.

### Supporting documents:

<https://eyeradio.org/local-ngo-calls-for-public-awareness-on-petroleum-laws/>

<https://eyeradio.org/oil-producing-areas-havent-received-their-shares-since-2014-report/>



## MOZAMBIQUE

ACCOORD	Development Coordination Association
UPCCD	Provincial Union of Small-Scale Farmers of Cabo Delgado
PANOS	Panos Institute for Southern Africa (PSAF)

The conflict in the province of Cabo Delgado continues to shape the political agenda in Mozambique. The armed conflict has brought a humanitarian crisis with over 750,000 people internally displaced (663,000 only in Cabo Delgado). The high number of refugees has led to increased tensions within host communities, and the internally displaced refugees' land rights are affected. Despite the insurgency, the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) extractive sector and onshore gas projects continues, and several new investments have been made. In Inhambane, SASOL (South African Gas and Oil Company) signed an agreement with the government to supply LNG for domestic consumption.

Partners are promoting dialogues with relevant stakeholders, proper allocation of revenues, and fighting corruption. Many communities affected by the oil and gas industry are now aware of law provisions, mechanisms and institutions, and engaged in claiming their rights.

Partners contributed to Outcome 3 (O3.1) *Decision makers' policies and practices changed for the benefit of reduced inequality among target group*. As per Mozambique budget law, 2.75% of the tax revenue from mining and oil production should be allocated to programmes developing the affected communities. Unfortunately, this is often not followed up on. Since 2016, partners have advocated through petitions and dialogue meetings that six communities in the province are entitled to receiving compensation from the extractive industry operating in their area. In 2021 it was agreed that

the three communities of Mabime, Temane and Chibo will, from 2022, start to receive benefits from the 2.75% tax revenues generated by the extractive industry in Inhambane. Partners continue the work claiming the rights for the remaining three communities.

Partners have contributed to Outcome 2 (O3.1) *People and communities acted or participated to influence*. Through peaceful demonstrations and advocacy, partners contributed in raising awareness and attention to the land grabbing in Pemba and Metuge areas in Cabo Delgado, highlighting the consequences it had for the local small-scale farmers. For instance, UPCCD supported local communities in the Province of Cabo Delgado to collect and present 81 cases of violations against small-scale farmers' land rights, to local authorities. ACCORD arranged a 14-day door to door campaign, raising awareness on the Local Development Agreement, a tripartite agreement between SASOL, local communities and district governments aimed at aligning the priorities of all three parties. In addition, about 29,500 people were reached through 30 community radio broadcasting programs on the issues of CSR (corporate social responsibility) and the 2.75% compensation regulations.

Under Outcome 1 (O1.1) *Partners are more effective in their work to influence and mobilise*, UPCCD received legal support from ODHL (partner in the civil society programme), to represent affected communities in court. PANOS launched their own webpage and started cooperating with an independent radio station in Pemba City and community radios in Inhassoro and Vilankulos, allowing them to broadcast regularly. Further, the three partners have strengthened staff and members' capacities through a wide range of trainings on e.g. communication, land conflicts, GBV, advocacy, financial management and budget control.



## Result example: Gas company creates jobs for youth

ACOORD established formal dialogue and consultation platforms for different stakeholders. As a result, three of the four communities ACOORD worked with pushed SASOL to reinvest 2,75% of their revenues by establishing jobs for local youth.

National legislation in Mozambique requires extractive companies to conduct public consultations with affected communities, and to reinvest 2,75% of their tax-revenues in the communities. However, in the district of Inhassoro, SASOL (South African Gas and Oil Company) did not conduct appropriate community consultations nor dialogues between the different stakeholders, and they did not reinvest.

When SASOL started developing oil and gas activities in the province, they promised local communities they would hire local youth directly. However, they never met their promise, and instead hired non-local youth. This enraged local community members and led to strikes and demonstrations by local youth, including barricading the National Road N1, causing significant media coverage.

As tension raised, ACOORD saw the need to facilitate dialogues between the local government, affected communities, civil society organisations and SASOL. Consequently, they arranged the *Conference for Youth Employment*, to discuss alternatives for youth employment and raise the issue of reinvestment. The conference gathered participants from 17 different stakeholders, including representatives of youth associations, government authorities at provincial and district levels, CSOs based in Maputo and Inhambane, as well as national and international NGOs. One of the outcomes from the

conference was the idea of self-employment as an alternative to direct employment, where SASOL would support engaged local youth in entrepreneurship businesses that could serve SASOL, for instance chicken and eggs production or electric appliances stores.

The conference, and similar roundtables conversations contributed to lower the tensions between the community and SASOL, and helped shape a more realistic image for the communities of what the different actors could contribute with.

ACOORD also contributed in developing the Local Development Agreement, which was signed by SASOL, the local government and each community. The agreement ensures that priorities and concerns of the communities are considered in the planning of further development interventions in the local community.

An important lesson learnt is the importance of keeping a constant dialogue with local authorities, both informally and formally. Moreover, ACCORD found that community leaders and CSO's must avoid accepting gifts from the companies as this often jeopardises their credibility towards the communities. Lastly, the cooperation with social media and other CSOs, such as PANOS, helped improve the dissemination of what was happening in the region, both locally and nationally.

**ACOORD** - Associação de Coordenação para o Desenvolvimento (1996) is a people's organisation working for rural communities' right to fair distribution of the natural resources. It is a forum for consultation and dialogue between local community, government and companies. NPA partner since 2016.

The cost of the Conference on Employment Alternatives for Youth was 189,785 NOK. NPA funded 22,000 NOK, while the rest was provided by CIP/OXFAM.

### Supporting documents:

<https://www.facebook.com/281470459422387/photos/a.283701262532640/926854791550614>



## 2.6 BREL - Building Resilience and Livelihoods in South Sudan

South Sudan remains in a protracted crisis despite that three years have passed since the signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Multiple hazards continue to affect the country and its people, including subnational conflicts and violence, flooding and droughts, and an economic crisis characterised by inflation and unstable exchange rates.

The cumulative effects of years of conflict and violence, protracted and repeated displacement, exacerbated by pre-existing development challenges, continue to impact negatively on all South Sudanese, translating people's lives into sustained poverty, episodes of severe food insecurity, continuous protection concerns, limited livelihoods opportunities, and poor access to essential services, with women and girls being disproportionately affected. Building households and community resilience remain crucial for bridging emergency crises to sustainable development. The BREL project promotes peacebuilding, improved access to diversified income and livelihood opportunities, and increased agricultural production and productivity, while also enhancing women's rights and preventing gender-based violence (GBV).

Natural resources exploitation has been an important cause of conflict. 91% of respondents of an evaluation named peace committees one of the top three peacebuilding actors in their communities, compared to a baseline of 45%. Furthermore, 84% of the respondents indicated a reduction in reported intracommunity conflict-related incidents due to the project interventions, against a baseline value of 51%. The project activities included training for traditional authorities, peace committees, Community Based Natural Resource Management Committees (CBNRMC), and facilitation of peace conference.

Poor livestock health and low agricultural production have resulted in many smallholder farmers failing to meet their daily food requirements. After two years of implementing the BREL project, the proportion of targeted farmers

experiencing an increase in crop yields of at least 50% more than before the interventions, rose to 72% from a baseline value of 38.9%. This outcome is a result of activities conducted by NPA and partners. NPA and partners have trained 808 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), including 365 women, to improve animal health and production. 2,882 (1,547w) livestock keepers were trained in 2020 and 2021. In 2021, a total of 1,172 (428 m) livestock keepers were trained on improved livestock production and health by the CAHWs.

BREL also supported 977 (426 m) vulnerable livestock keepers with small ruminants (goats and sheep) in 2021, while a total of 3,021 (1459w) livestock keepers were supported in 2020 and 2021. These activities have contributed to improved animal production and reduced livestock diseases. To increase crop production, 6,000 (4,025w) received crop seeds and tools in 2020 and 2021, and 7,236 (1791m) smallholder farmers were supported with vegetable seeds and tools in 2021, bringing the total support for 2020 and 2021 to 22,350 (15,459w) smallholder farmers.

BREL also aims to increase and diversify income for youth and women. 76% of farmers report to have earned income from at least two livelihoods activities against a baseline of 46.4%. This increase is attributed to the various livelihoods' creation activities supported under BREL, including peanut butter processing, buying and selling fish, vegetable sales, petty trading on different grocery items, and processing and selling honey. A total of 4,167 (2,394w) Village Savings and Loan Association (VLSA) members were reached in 2020 and 2021, and participated in the capacity building (training and disbursement of revolving grants/loans) activities. To reduce losses of harvested crops, a total of 1,565 (552m) small-holder farmers were trained on Post-Harvest Handling Storage (PHHS), in 2020 and 2021, including protection and conservation, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, and utilisation of the harvested crops. In addition, 1,336 (1,243w) fishing group members have been trained on fish processing, preservation, and storage techniques to reduce post-harvest losses.



## Result example: Increased and diversified income for youth and women in Bor South County

**The continued conflicts between communities of greater Bor, Akobo and Pibor Administrative Areas have led to constant displacement of local populations. Conflict, coupled with prolonged dry season, flooding and prevalent crop and animal pests and diseases, has devastating consequences on the livelihoods and food security. This has also affected local markets and income generating activities.**

To address the impacts of conflict and climate change, HDC (Humanitarian and Development Consortium) initiated a project to improve food security, and enhance livelihoods and resilience of the affected households in Bor South County, including the payams of Bor Town, Kolnyang, Makuach, Baidit, Anyidi and Jalle.

Five male community animal health workers were trained on animal health and livestock production. 130 (81w) households received two small livestock (sheep/goats) each, while 150 (60m) households were trained on improved animal production, milk processing and health practices, and 20 female headed households were trained on milk processing and preservation to improve milk hygiene and marketing.

Further, five male community-based extension workers were trained on agronomic practices and climate SMART agriculture, while 200 (138w) farmer group members were trained on agronomic practice and climate SMART agriculture, and 200 (62m) group members were trained on horticulture, to improve the potential for horticulture production and farming as a business. 200 (62m) households received vegetable kits for vegetable production, and 100 (44m) households were trained on income-generating activities.

Five groups (50 members in total, 35w) were trained on fishing methodologies to improve processing and

preservation, and 40 households received fishing kits/gears. 250 (146m) small holder farmers were trained on grain aggregation technologies to reduce post-harvest losses. Fish folk group members were trained on fish processing techniques such as sun drying, smoking and salting among others. 20 women were trained on post-harvest and processing handling technologies such as sorting, dusting, drying and storage, and they were supported with labour-saving technologies, including groundnuts shelling machines, and peanut butter making machines

The recently conducted evaluation indicates that 72% of targeted farmers in all the areas targeted by BREL experience increased crop yields at least 50% above the yield before introducing interventions. 96% of individuals (2111w and 88m) report increased income due to the Village Savings and Loan Associations activities in target communities. The project made significant progress toward the project outcomes as 94% of the respondents reported an increase in household incomes attributed to the BREL project interventions. 57% of respondents were found to have acceptable Food Consumption Scores (at least two meals) compared to only 13% who had a poor Food Consumption. Additionally, 63% of the livestock producers (gender-disaggregated) report access to animal health services in the targeted location.

Close collaboration and coordination between HDC, NPA, local leadership, and the Ministry of Agriculture are crucial for achieving significant results.

**HDC** - Humanitarian and Development Consortium (2010) is a national organisation currently implementing humanitarian (relief/emergency projects) and development (longer term developmental projects) across seven states in South Sudan.

HDC received NOK 500,000 from NPA to implement project activities in Bor South County of Jonglei State.

### Supporting documents:

Baseline report, Community mobilisation meeting minutes, training reports, attendance sheets, photos, change stories, monitoring reports and project reports (weekly, monthly and annual).



## 2.7 Project implementation

Most of the programme countries are fragile and politically unstable, some are prone to natural disasters, and many struggle with rife corruption and impunity. Some countries have dysfunctional and/or oppressive regimes, others experience long-term political and/or military conflict and some experience humanitarian crisis. The increasing restrictions for organisations, and the clamp down on social leaders, and environmental and human rights defenders, are huge threats to freedom of associations and expression in many countries. In 2020 and 2021, the global COVID-19 pandemic intensified all these challenges, and added new.

The pandemic increased global inequality dramatically. Those who had the least were hardest hit, including many partners' members and constituencies. As lockdown and restriction measures continued in 2021, flexibility and the capacity to adapt to shifting realities was important. Norad maintained the increased flexibility, introduced in 2020, on deviations from planned budgets from 10 % to 20 %. This was crucial for NPA and partners to adapt programmes and address challenges posed. Deviations on budgets are commented in chapter 4 below.

Despite the global pandemic, and that all partners and programmes had to adjust plans, all country programmes report that the Theory of Change (ToC) remains relevant. Civil society organisations have played a crucial role during the pandemic, because of their close relations to members, communities and/or constituencies, and their ability to raise problems they face and challenge relevant decision-makers.

Several partners report of reaching more people than anticipated, as online trainings and campaigns reached more than the targeted number of people. Some also report on reaching more decision-makers than anticipated, on submitting more policy proposal than expected, or on an unexpected increase in members or scope. Furthermore, the increase in violations of human rights, including women's rights, workers' rights, and land rights, led to more people filing reports or mobilising.

For instance, in **South Africa**, the pandemic expanded the number and types of policies that partner work on, as policies already approved had to be revised. Furthermore, as companies and large farmers took advantage of lockdown measures to break laws, more communities than anticipated mobilised to defend their land. Due to a new law on protection of information, which all organisations in the country had to adhere to, more partner staff than planned were trained on administrative capacities.

Similarly, in **Zimbabwe**, partners presented more policy proposals to decision-maker than anticipated in an effort to influence and/or push back restrictive legislation

initiated by the government. In response to these restrictive laws, partners trained many more members than planned on the implications these laws have on citizen's rights. Due to the increased the use of digital platforms during the pandemic, more members were trained on IT and digital security. In addition, savings from less travels and meetings, and gains from currency fluctuations, were reallocated to partners for new initiatives. For instance, CICZ supported their regional coordination and SADC dialogue on the Zimbabwe crisis, WLZ expanded the Rural Women's Assembly to new areas, and ZimRights strengthened their work in Matabeleland.

In **Mozambique**, partners' response to the restrictions on large gatherings, was to mobilise and train many small groups of people instead, which resulted in more people trained and mobilised than expected.

In **Cambodia**, the lockdown and restrictions caused problems for marginalised groups, e.g. related to land rights and garment workers' rights, resulting in an increase in new members in partner organisations, more cases where marginalised people defended access to resources, and a higher number of people reporting violations of rights, than expected.

Some countries experienced foreseen and unforeseen challenges, in addition to COVID-19, which caused obstacles for partners' implementation of plans.

For instance, in **Zimbabwe**, where the increase in surveillance by state intelligence on CSOs and INGOs limited partners' abilities to engage in advocacy and other programme activities. Partners were forced to get MoUs and police clearance to implement activities. The increased pressure, combined with threats, resulted in CiZC closing their offices temporarily.

In **Cambodia**, the government introduced the law on COVID-19, giving the government authority to restrict the fundamental freedoms to protect public health, allowing authorities to restrict the freedom of association, expression, and assembly. The government also adopted a sub-decree allowing the government to control all internet traffic, but implementation was postponed. To mitigate the risk, more internet security trainings were conducted by partners in 2021.

In **South Sudan**, the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity (GNU) has been delayed. This affected the law proposals currently pending parliament approval, as well as proper implementation of laws. Many of the law proposals partners work to change/ implement are bound to the GNU. The formation of sub-national governments and states' legislative assemblies



was delayed and remains partially implemented, limiting partners' engagement with legislators.

In **Honduras**, small-scale farmers in Aguan, members of COPA, reclaiming their land, were met with military repression and evictions. In Trujillo, communities were occupied by police and military to arrest leaders of the Garifunas and OFRANEH. Complaints were lodged internationally with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OACNUDH), and the protection mechanism of the Security Secretary of the government.

In **Colombia**, the military and police repression during the National Strike, sometimes in alliance with non-State armed actors, was brutal. The prosecution, persecution and assassination of social leaders and environment and human rights defenders continued. Two leaders in Congreso were arrested, accused of rebellion and later temporarily released, while two local leaders in PCN went missing after attending a meeting with dissidents to reach a humanitarian agreement. These risks are handled directly by the partners, as they have their own security protocols in place, with NPA support.

In **Guatemala**, two members of CODECA were murdered as a result of their activism. Complaints were filed with the Public Ministry and communicated internationally. CODECA published a digital document on the political violence against them since 2018, and created spaces for discussion within the organisation to prepare for future risks. Further, the government sieged the communities protesting against the mining company Minera Fenix, and persecuted the social communicators in Prensa Comunitaria. Prensa Comunitaria and NPA made contacts with international organisations, and organised a meeting with community journalists from various departments, to pressure the government to stop the repression and denounce the pollution by the company.

In **South Africa**, people and communities engaged in Abahlali are increasingly experiencing human rights violations, such as state harassment and arrests. SERI has been engaged to support Abahlali to address these violations.

In **Mozambique**, due to the escalation of the armed conflict in Cabo Delgado, NPA and partners have moved interventions to more secure sites in the area, collaborated with local authorities, monitored the situation carefully, and ensured that safety measures were taken.

NPA has followed the COVID-19 regulations in the respective countries, in some countries firmer than instructed by local authorities. Hence, NPA country offices have implemented reduced staff and/or home office, and

travel has been drastically reduced. However, close contact with partners has been maintained through smartphones and digital spaces.

Similarly, in Oslo, NPA has adhered to local restrictions, implying home office most of the year, and few travels. Several global online thematic and strategic meetings were organised with participants from both country offices and head office, including the quarterly digital Townhall meeting, which was introduced in 2021.

To further strengthen our MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) systems, we have in 2021 been working on the development and implementation of a global results database. This work will be finalised in 2022. The development of our partner security work has also continued in 2021.

The NPA Special Advisor on Safeguarding continued the implementation of systems introduced in 2020, and has also been working directly with programmes on investigating incidents. Focus has been on improving Safeguarding information management and systems for employees and cooperating partners, and gathering feedback about the roll out of NPA's Safeguarding Policy, investigation procedures and learning tools. During this period NPA developed a new Safeguarding SharePoint site and learning platform, and transitioned to a new Learning Management System (LMS) which now allows for easier monitoring of eLearning uptake and sharing NPA's training package with cooperating partners without cost. A consultation process was also launched with NPA and partner employees at all levels to begin the design of a comprehensive Safeguarding partnership tool (including investigations support).

Out of the 17 countries where NPA works under the cooperation agreement with Norad, 14 are below the 87th place in the 2021 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, only Rwanda, Cuba and South Africa are above. In addition, several partners have weak management systems, hence financial mismanagement is a continuous risk. With the limitations the pandemic put on the ordinary follow-up with partners, it is also clear that the risk of corruption or mismanagement increases. Therefore, financial assessment and financial support are important aspects of NPA's cooperation with partners. The Partner Financial Assessment Tool (PFAT) is used systematically, and NPA follows up when there is needs for improvement. In October 2020, NPA launched our new Partner Financial Risk Mitigation System, which will further enhance our work in this area. The implementation of this tool was ongoing in 2021. The system is an extension of the PFAT, with the purpose to assist us in making informed decisions regarding risk and make sure we allocate the resources needed to reduce risk to an acceptable level. The tool



consists of two parts, the first is an overview of NPA risk reducing measures, and the second is a tool for how to handle different types of financial risk elements related to partners' work. It is important to note that the purpose of this document is not to exclude partners that have weak financial or administrative structures, but to have a clearer overview of these risks and to assure that we are doing what we can to mitigate these.

As physical programme visits were not possible due to travel restrictions and lockdowns NPA introduced a system for virtual controller visits to the Country Offices in 2020, in addition to the regular follow-up from Head Office. With travel restricted also throughout 2021, the system was continued with virtual visits conducted in four programmes – South Africa, Mozambique, and Rwanda. A controller visit was conducted to South Sudan in November 2021.

During 2021, NPA reported four (4) cases of suspected mismanagement or corruption to Norad. We were also working to finalise cases reported in 2020 with five (5) cases closed in 2021. Out of these five two (2) were concluded to be “non-cases”, two (2) was concluded with no reaction, and one case resulted in return of funds to Norad. Of the cases reported in 2021, one (1) resulted in repayment of funds to the project in line with Norad's policy, one (1) was closed with no conclusion of no mismanagement, and two (2) are still pending finalisation. We are still working on a backlog of reporting cases, but this is now reduced and will be finalised before June 2022. It is however important to note that cases have been reported and addressed at the Country Offices. New cases are now reported without delay to Norad in line with both Norad's and NPA policy and the Cooperation Agreement.

NPA also reported to Norad two (2) cases relating to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEAH) in 2021, both of which were also closed during the year.

It is important to recognise that we support civil society organisations, and that a crucial part of our cooperation with our partners is to strengthen their internal controls where we see weaknesses rather than willed mismanagement and fraud.

In 2021, NPA started the process to update our Anti-Corruption Policy and relaunch our procedure for incident reporting, this work is continuing in 2022. This will aid us in reiterating the importance of reporting suspected cases immediately, and make sure roles and responsibilities are re-clarified – all for a more effective reporting from our country offices to Head Office and from Head Office onto our donors. It is also relevant to note that with two years of

working remotely, and for the most part conducting virtual programme and control visits, there may be some undetected irregularities, which will be unearthed as we are now going back to “normal”.

NPA continues to be involved in the Norwegian civil society Anti-Corruption Group and took over the leadership from Digni in 2020. The group participated in the consultations held by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad working group on the follow-up of the evaluation of Norway's Anti-Corruption Efforts as part of its Development Policy and Assistance, and the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy. The group also met with the Minister of International Development in August to discuss the recommendation from the working group.

NPA aims to channel most of the funds directly to our cooperating partners. This requires that we have systems in place to secure that funds are spent according to our own regulations and Norad's terms and conditions, while ensuring that we cooperate with organisations that are representative or legitimate, and have potential to influence for change.

Our aim is that minimum 60 % of the project costs are transferred directly to partners. The accounts for 2021, show that NPA in total transferred 63 % of the project costs as direct partner transfers, and this share increases to 66 % if South-Sudan (50 %) and GLII (38 %) are excluded. Due to the nature of the programme, GLII is not expected to have a high transfer to partners. The low percentage in the case of South Sudan, is primarily due to partners lacking sufficient financial capacity to manage the funds on their own. However, it should be noted that there is an increase in transfer to partners in South Sudan from 33 % in 2019 to 50 % in 2021. The percentages mentioned do not include other partner related expenses that were covered by NPA, like travel cost covered directly by GLII, NPA partner capacity building, and joint meetings between partners organised by NPA. For 2021, it is also worth mentioning that several programmes report that savings on Country Office costs (p. ex. travel and running cost), have enabled the programmes to transfer more funds to partners than originally planned.

For OCG, the average transfer to partners is 62 %, excluding South Sudan (41 %). For BREL, the transfer to partners is 18 %, which is a reduction had compared to 2020. FAO support was reduced in 2021, and we to make some internal priorities and adjustments. Collaboration with two partners was therefore ended, and one partner was transferred to the civil society programme. We have an aim to increase the % of transfer to partners BREL programme.



## REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS

In 2021, **NPAHO** conducted an evaluation of NPA's peace related work in **Colombia**, focussing on how NPA's two programmes in the country collaborated in the efforts to contribute to the peace process (2015-2020). This implied looking at the programmes conducted by the department of Development and Humanitarian Cooperation (DHC 2004-) and the Department for Mine Action and Disarmament (DMAD 2015-2020) respectively. The evaluation was conducted by Scanteam.

The aim of the evaluation was to provide lessons learned and suggest recommendations relevant for future peace processes where the two international departments can interlink programmes and collaborate. The key findings indicate that synergies between the two programmes failed to materialise. The development work was already well rooted in the country when NPA was requested by the

negotiating parties to engage in demining activities. While DHC partners were committed to deep change processes in the Colombian community, DMAD had to work in understanding with the Government of Colombia and the armed forces. NPA management recognises the need to improve decision-making procedures when combining programmes.

The recommendations depend on the political developments in Colombia. In the current situation, with limited implementation of the peace agreement and continued persecution of social leaders, DHC must continue its support to partners. If the situation changes, becoming more favourable to implementation of peace, NPA should reconsider a more synergetic intervention between the two departments.



## OVERVIEW OF FINANCES

In the current agreement, NPA has included co-financing from other donors as part of the CS programme. In Rwanda this is funding from Sida and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), with all three donors contributing to the same result framework. In South Sudan, funding from SDC has allowed NPA to further extend activities funded under the CS programme. This SDC contribution has been included in the overall CS budget and results framework, however, the use of Norad funds as co-financing to the SDC contribution was approved separately. This alignment of

programme resources acts as a multiplier for the funds provided by Norad, and allows us to base our work on our strategy, rather than on individual donor priorities. The total expenditure for all three programmes (Civil Society/CS, Oil for the Common Good/OCG and Building Resilience and Enhancing Livelihoods in South Sudan/BREL) for the year 2021 was TNOK 230.723. This reflects the total programme funding base, including indirect cost, as per the revised budget for 2021 and is distributed as per the table below:

Programme	Norad	NPA OC*	SIDA	SDC	Total
CS	156 244	14 985	16 846	6 297	194 372
OCG	5 832	522			6 355
BREL	29 997				29 997
	192 073	15 507	16 846	6 297	230 723

\*OC = Own contribution

The total budget for 2021 was TNOK 241.707, thus we had a total under expenditure of TNOK 10.984.

The co-financing from SIDA and SDC has been spent at around 20% lower expenditure than budgeted. This is also reflected in revised budgets for 2021 submitted to SIDA and SDC. The total budget for the whole programme period remains the same.

The deviations on the budget lines for all three programmes follows the same pattern. The deviations at Head Office and Country Office level is to a large degree related to international travel cost, consultancies and evaluations. This is due to the COVID-19 related restrictions on travel and the need to focus on realigning core activities in the programme portfolio to adapt to the pandemic, leaving less capacity to follow up on evaluations.

At Head Office, travel cost was underspent by 92% (CS) and 53% (OCG). For the GLII programme there was underspending on consultancies (-81%) and evaluations (-78%). The underspending on consultancies and evaluations is in a large part because the consultancies on digital security and evaluation of security for partners in risk situations were postponed. The under expenditure on meetings and seminars is due to the global programme seminar being postponed again, due to travel restrictions. Also to be noted is that there was an underspend on personnel cost due to

sick leave and two vacancies for part of the year. These to budget lines make up TNOK 1.500 of the total global underspend for the year.

For relative comparison it is worth noting that the absolute numbers on the budget lines are quite low at Head Office level in comparison with those at Country Office and Partner level, therefore the percentages come out high in comparison to the actual amounts.

At Country Office (Regional/National level), the deviations are also mainly related to travel cost as described above, consultancies, and audits, monitoring and evaluations. In addition, there is a large deviation on other direct activity cost. A large deviation on procurement (93 %) is due to sale of an old car in the Rwanda programme, where the income was posted back into the project.

There were differences between country programmes, based on how severely the pandemic affected the specific country. All programmes have had to adjust how activities have been carried out and subsequently how they have spent their budgets, but some more than others. When the totals are put together globally, and budget comments compared, the deviations are explained by the pandemic, and how programmes have moved trainings and seminars from physical venues to online platforms, travel restrictions for consultants and staff, facilitation for staff working from



home office in most programmes, and planned evaluations postponed. South Sudan also reports on price hikes on delivery of goods and services.

When it comes to the partner level, the pattern in how the pandemic has impacted on the spending in the different cost categories is slightly different, and we see lower deviations measured in percentage. This can be explained to some extent by the fact that most activities are planned in country and travel cost are not as high, but also that the total global budget is much higher than in the other two categories (63% of the total direct cost are directly transferred to partners). The large deviations are found on salaries (OCG and BREL), operating cost (BREL), procurement (CS and BREL), and audits monitoring and evaluations (BREL).

On operating cost, the COVID-19 situation has required that partner organisations set up offices in a way that would enable safe working conditions. There has also been an increase in procurement, sometimes related to implementing adapted and/or additional activities to limit the spread of the pandemic. And, as with the Head Office and Country Office levels, travel cost has been lower due to travel restrictions.

In the programme overview there are also some deviations between the budget and actuals that should be noted. As mentioned, NPA aimed to spend budgets as planned to the extent possible. In the autumn we saw a trend towards underspending globally, and requested all programmes to indicate if they had capacity to absorb more funds before the end of the year. Based on the replies, additional funds were granted to the programmes in South Sudan (0,6 MNOK), thus allowing them to increase activities in 2021. We did not do a budget revision at this point, but allowed for overspending. This is reflected in the overview of direct cost by programme.

Norad funds unused for 2021 are NOK 4 755 878 for the Civil Society Programme, NOK 767 594 for the Oil for Development Programme and NOK 3 374 for BREL.



## Civil Society (CS)

DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Based on cost-categories)	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	TNOK	TNOK	TNOK	%	%	%
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (HO)</b>	<b>9 722</b>	<b>12 913</b>	<b>3 191</b>	<b>25 %</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>7 %</b>
Salaries	8 932	9 543	611	6 %	5 %	5 %
Travels	75	900	825	92 %	0 %	0 %
Consultants and other external services	75	650	575	88 %	0 %	0 %
Procurement			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Other direct activity costs	510	1 220	710	58 %	0 %	1 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	130	600	470	78 %	0 %	0 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Regional/National)</b>	<b>50 634</b>	<b>58 856</b>	<b>8 223</b>	<b>14 %</b>	<b>28 %</b>	<b>31 %</b>
Salaries	21 059	24 337	3 278	13 %	11 %	13 %
Travels	1 379	2 326	947	41 %	1 %	1 %
Operating costs	24 700	26 766	2 066	8 %	13 %	14 %
Consultants and other external services	788	523	-266	-51 %	0 %	0 %
Procurement	87	1 195	1 108	93 %	0 %	1 %
Other direct activity costs	1 086	1 786	700	39 %	1 %	1 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	1 535	1 924	389	20 %	1 %	1 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Local partner)</b>	<b>122 846</b>	<b>120 918</b>	<b>-1 928</b>	<b>-2 %</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>63 %</b>
Salaries	38 761	36 697	-2 064	-6 %	21 %	19 %
Travels	3 853	5 424	1 570	29 %	2 %	3 %
Operating costs	10 101	9 369	-732	-8 %	6 %	5 %
Consultants and other external services	7 792	6 432	-1 360	-21 %	4 %	3 %
Procurement	6 498	4 283	-2 215	-52 %	4 %	2 %
Other direct activity costs	52 745	54 946	2 201	4 %	29 %	29 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	3 095	3 768	673	18 %	2 %	2 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>183 201</b>	<b>192 688</b>	<b>9 486</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

DIRECT PROJECT COST BY COUNTRY	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	TNOK	TNOK	TNOK	%	%	%
100 South Africa	10 215	10 376	161	2 %	6 %	5 %
101 Mozambique	10 068	9 978	-91	-1 %	5 %	5 %
103 Zimbabwe	11 612	11 735	123	1 %	6 %	6 %
117 South Sudan	21 716	21 650	-66	0 %	12 %	11 %
127 Rwanda	31 763	36 859	5 096	14 %	17 %	19 %
142 Guatemala	5 068	5 025	-43	-1 %	3 %	3 %
143 El Salvador	5 497	5 513	16	0 %	3 %	3 %
145 Honduras	4 732	4 814	82	2 %	3 %	2 %
147 Cuba	4 965	5 061	96	2 %	3 %	3 %
156 Bolivia	7 852	7 870	18	0 %	4 %	4 %
157 Ecuador	7 011	6 970	-41	-1 %	4 %	4 %
158 Colombia	4 992	4 967	-25	0 %	3 %	3 %
231 MENA	2 482	2 804	322	11 %	1 %	1 %
231 Lebanon	2 974	3 271	297	9 %	2 %	2 %
233 Palestine	14 102	14 525	422	3 %	8 %	8 %
234 Iraq	10 217	10 914	697	6 %	6 %	6 %
244 Myanmar	9 994	10 316	322	3 %	5 %	5 %
245 Cambodia	11 568	11 629	61	1 %	6 %	6 %
290 GLII	6 374	8 411	2 037	24 %	3 %	4 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>183 201</b>	<b>192 688</b>	<b>9 486</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>



DIRECT PROJECT COST BY THEMATIC AREA/SECTOR (required information for multi-sector agreements)	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Government and civil society/Democratic participation and civil society	183 201	192 688	9 486	5 %	100 %	100 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>183 201</b>	<b>192 688</b>	<b>9 486</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

INCOME/FINANCING PLAN DIRECT PROJECT COSTS	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/Grant funding Norad	146 092	150 467	4 376	3 %	80 %	78 %
Grant funding SIDA	15 828	19 221	3 394	18 %	9 %	10 %
Grant funding SDC	6 297	8 012	1 715	21 %	3 %	4 %
Own-contribution	14 985	14 987	2	0 %	8 %	8 %
In-kind contribution					0 %	0 %
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>183 201</b>	<b>192 688</b>	<b>9 486</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

DISBURSEMENT PLAN NORAD	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Balance carried forward			0			
Disbursement from Norad to direct project cost	150 467	150 467	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Minus Norad's share of total direct project costs			0			
Remaining balance			0			
Norad indirect cost contribution	10 533	10 533	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD</b>	<b>161 000</b>	<b>161 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Conversion to NOK - Norad's disbursements	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Disbursements from Norad to direct project costs	150 467	150 467	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	10 533	10 533	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD (NOK) = NORAD GRANT AMOUNT</b>	<b>161 000</b>	<b>161 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

USE OF NORAD FUNDS	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/Grant funding Norad	146 092	150 467	4 376	3 %	94 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	10 153	10 533	380	4 %	6 %	7 %
<b>USE OF NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>	<b>156 244</b>	<b>161 000</b>	<b>4 756</b>	<b>3 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<b>UNSPENT NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>			<b>4 756</b>			
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Accounting policies: The basis of accounting for projects is accrual accounting based on relevant regulation in the Norwegian Accounting Act and accounting standards generally accepted in Norway.

Policies of revenue and cost recognition: Donor contributions are recognised as revenue when the funds are used. Contributions not used by the end of the project period are specified as unspent funds. Expenditures are recognised as project cost based on the transaction date; i.e. when the goods or services have been delivered and the activity is performed.



	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	TNOK	TNOK	TNOK	%	%	%
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Based on cost-categories)</b>						
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (HO)</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>4 %</b>	<b>4 %</b>
Salaries	209	240	31	13 %	3 %	3 %
Travels	11	23	12	53 %	0 %	0 %
Consultants and other external services			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Procurement			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Other direct activity costs			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Regional/National)</b>	<b>2 242</b>	<b>2 542</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>38 %</b>	<b>37 %</b>
Salaries	1 016	1 122	106	9 %	17 %	16 %
Travels	61	98	37	37 %	1 %	1 %
Operating costs	972	1 048	77	7 %	16 %	15 %
Consultants and other external services			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Procurement	0	15	15	100 %	0 %	0 %
Other direct activity costs	27	102	75	73 %	0 %	1 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	165	157	-9	-5 %	3 %	2 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Local partner)</b>	<b>3 512</b>	<b>4 048</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>13 %</b>	<b>59 %</b>	<b>59 %</b>
Salaries	782	1 105	323	29 %	13 %	16 %
Travels	370	418	47	11 %	6 %	6 %
Operating costs	344	413	68	17 %	6 %	6 %
Consultants and other external services	181	100	-81	-81 %	3 %	1 %
Procurement	214	211	-3	-2 %	4 %	3 %
Other direct activity costs	1 503	1 660	156	9 %	25 %	24 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	117	142	26	18 %	2 %	2 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>5 973</b>	<b>6 854</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>13 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
	TNOK	TNOK	TNOK	%	%	%
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COST BY COUNTRY</b>						
101 Mozambique	2 336	2 336	0	0 %	39 %	34 %
117 South Sudan	1 885	2 181	296	14 %	32 %	32 %
244 Myanmar	1 752	2 336	585	25 %	29 %	34 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>5 973</b>	<b>6 854</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>13 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<b>DIRECT PROJECT COST BY THEMATIC AREA/SECTOR (required information for multi-sector agreements)</b>	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Government and civil society/Democratic participation and civil society	5 973	6 854	880	13 %	100 %	100 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>5 973</b>	<b>6 854</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>13 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<b>INCOME/FINANCING PLAN DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/ Grant funding Norad	5 451	6 168	717	12 %	91 %	90 %
Grant funding donor x (specify)						
Own-contribution	522	685	163	24 %	9 %	10 %
In-kind contribution						
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5 973</b>	<b>6 854</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>13 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>



DISBURSEMENT PLAN NORAD	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Balance carried forward			0			
Disbursement from Norad to direct project cost	6 168	6 168	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Minus Norad's share of total direct project costs			0			
Remaining balance			0			
Norad indirect cost contribution	432	432	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD</b>	<b>6 600</b>	<b>6 600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Conversion to NOK - Norad's disbursements	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Disbursements from Norad to direct project costs	6 168	6 168	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	432	432	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD (NOK) = NORAD GRANT AMOUNT</b>	<b>6 600</b>	<b>6 600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

USE OF NORAD FUNDS	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/Grant funding Norad	5 451	6 168	717	12 %	93 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	382	432	50	12 %	7 %	7 %
<b>USE OF NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>	<b>5 832</b>	<b>6 600</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<b>UNSPENT NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>			<b>768</b>			
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Accounting policies: The basis of accounting for projects is accrual accounting based on relevant regulation in the Norwegian Accounting Act and accounting standards generally accepted in Norway.

Policies of revenue and cost recognition: Donor contributions are recognised as revenue when the funds are used. Contributions not used by the end of the project period are specified as unspent funds. Expenditures are recognised as project cost based on the transaction date; i.e. when the goods or services have been delivered and the activity is performed.



## Building Resilience and Livelihoods (BREL)

DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Based on cost-categories)	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	TNOK	TNOK	TNOK	%	%	%
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (HQ)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>118</b>			
Salaries		145	145	100 %	0 %	1 %
Travels	26	0	-26	N/A	0 %	0 %
Consultants and other external services			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Procurement			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Other direct activity costs			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations			0	N/A	0 %	0 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Regional/National)</b>	<b>22 600</b>	<b>22 293</b>	<b>-307</b>	<b>-1 %</b>	<b>81 %</b>	<b>80 %</b>
Salaries	9 653	9 244	-409	-4 %	34 %	33 %
Travels	864	812	-52	-6 %	3 %	3 %
Operating costs	7 554	7 002	-552	-8 %	27 %	25 %
Consultants and other external services	32	48	16	33 %	0 %	0 %
Procurement	2 947	3 426	479	14 %	11 %	12 %
Other direct activity costs	1 134	1 378	244	18 %	4 %	5 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	416	383	-33	-9 %	1 %	1 %
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Local partner)</b>	<b>5 408</b>	<b>5 600</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>3 %</b>	<b>19 %</b>	<b>20 %</b>
Salaries	1 161	800	-361	-45 %	4 %	3 %
Travels	182	155	-27	-18 %	1 %	1 %
Operating costs	465	375	-90	-24 %	2 %	1 %
Consultants and other external services	47	50	3	7 %	0 %	0 %
Procurement	44	100	56	56 %	0 %	0 %
Other direct activity costs	3 295	3 815	520	14 %	12 %	14 %
Audits, monitoring and evaluations	213	305	92	30 %	1 %	1 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>28 034</b>	<b>28 037</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

DIRECT PROJECT COST BY COUNTRY	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
117 South Sudan	28 034	28 037	3	0 %	100 %	100 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>28 034</b>	<b>28 037</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

DIRECT PROJECT COST BY THEMATIC AREA/SECTOR (required information for multi-sector agreements)	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Government and civil society/Democratic participation and civil society	28 034	28 037	3	0 %	100 %	100 %
<b>TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>28 034</b>	<b>28 037</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

INCOME/FINANCING PLAN DIRECT PROJECT COSTS	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/Grant funding Norad	28 034	28 037	3	0 %	100 %	100 %
Grant funding donor x (specify)						
Own-contribution						
In-kind contribution						
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>28 034</b>	<b>28 037</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

DISBURSEMENT PLAN NORAD	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Balance carried forward						
Disbursement from Norad to direct project cost	28 037	28 037	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Minus Norad's share of total direct project costs						
Remaining balance						
Norad indirect cost contribution	1 963	1 963	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>7 %</b>	<b>7 %</b>



	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
Conversion to NOK - Norad's disbursements	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Disbursements from Norad to direct project costs	28 037	28 037	0	0 %	93 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	1 963	1 963	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>TOTAL DISBURSED FROM NORAD (NOK) = NORAD GRANT AMOUNT</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

	Actuals	Budget	Deviation	Deviation	Share actuals	Share budget
USE OF NORAD FUNDS	2021	2021	2021	%	%	%
Norad's share of total direct project costs/Grant funding Norad	28 034	28 037	3	0 %	93 %	93 %
Norad indirect cost contribution	1 962	1 963	0	0 %	7 %	7 %
<b>USE OF NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>	<b>29 997</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

<b>UNSPENT NORAD FUNDS 2021</b>			<b>3</b>			
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Accounting policies: The basis of accounting for projects is accrual accounting based on relevant regulation in the Norwegian Accounting Act and accounting standards generally accepted in Norway.

Policies of revenue and cost recognition: Donor contributions are recognised as revenue when the funds are used. Contributions not used by the end of the project period are specified as unspent funds. Expenditures are recognised as project cost based on the transaction date; i.e. when the goods or services have been delivered and the activity is performed.



## DATE AND ATTESTATION

I am authorised to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the grant recipient, and attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this report is correct.

Oslo, 31 May 2022



Gry Ballestad

*Director,  
Development and Humanitarian Cooperation*









# Norwegian People's Aid

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