



Digni

Annual Report
2014

Introduction

This is the Digni report to Norad for 2014. The report is divided into two main sections, covering the work of the project portfolio, and the secretariat. The portfolio report is formatted according to Digni's Results-Based Management Framework, which was developed in 2012. The secretariat report includes highlights from 2014. The full report is based upon the agreement with Norad in Attachment 1 of the framework agreement.

We have decided to follow the same format as last year's report. The most important results, which illustrate all the good work our members and their partners have achieved in 2014, is our primary focus. Earmarked funding also has a central place in the report this year. There are many good achievements made with the extra funding Digni received in 2014. For example, the work against female genital mutilation in Mali resulted in the decision by eight of the intervention villages to abandon the practice and 18 cutters out of 28 operational in the zone of the project, have abandoned the practice.

Regarding the secretariat, some of the most important results and processes we have been involved in are mentioned in this report. We have worked a lot on anti-corruption in 2014 and appreciated the extra funding we received for this work. New routines are developed and we hope to be even more efficient in our preventive measures as well as follow up of cases that may occur in the future.

The global participatory learning evaluation of Digni members and partners' understanding and use of rights-based approaches (RBA) was finalized in 2014. One of the main findings was that Digni members and partner organizations see RBA and human rights as relevant and express convergence between faith and rights. Digni will start the follow up of the findings and challenges in 2015.

We would like to thank Norad, our members and their partners for good cooperation and learning in 2014. Together we are strengthening the civil society in many different countries and in many different ways. We hope to continue the good partnerships and relationships in the years to come.

Throughout 2014, Digni has held the ISO NS-EN ISO 9001:2008 certificate.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Jørn Lemvik'.

Jørn Lemvik
General Secretary



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Digni members with abbreviations:

Areopagos (AR)
The Norwegian Bible Society (BS)
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (DELF)
De Frie Evangeliske Forsamlinger (DFEF)
Baptist Union of Norway (DNB)
The Mission Covenant Church of Norway (DNM)
The Salvation Army (FA)
HimalPartner (HP)
Kristen Muslimmisjon (KMM)
Christian Sports Contact (KRIK)
The United Methodist Church (MM)
Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM)
The Mission Alliance (MA)
The Norwegian Mission Society (NMS)
Normisjon (NOR)
The Pentecostal Foreign Mission of Norway (PYM)
Stefanus Alliance International (STEF)
Youth With a Mission (UIO)
Wycliffe (WYC)

PART ONE: Portfolio

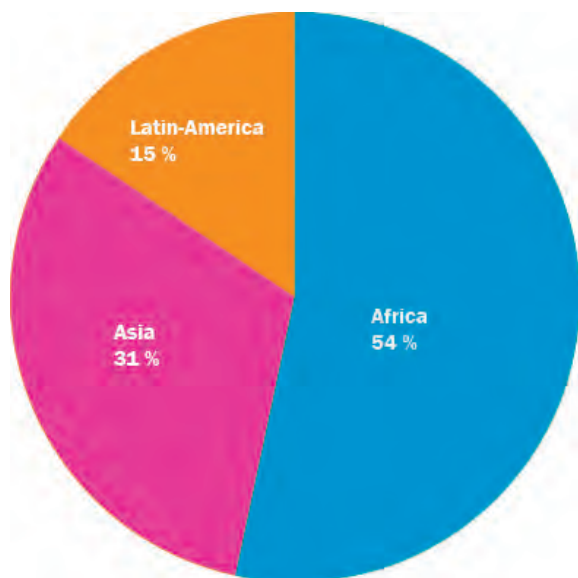


A pastor addresses churchgoers on HIV/AIDS as part of The Good Samaritan-project run by the Bible Society. Working through churches is strategically important in order to reach ordinary people in the communities (Photo: Sigbjørn Kiserud).

This is the report on the results from the Digni portfolio. It consists of six chapters: Portfolio profile, selected milestones and reports on cross-cutting issues, thematic results, and results from the earmarked funding Digni has received in 2014. The main learning points and follow-up of external evaluations is included as well. A list of all the external evaluations conducted in the project portfolio in 2014 is attached to the annual report. The thematic results reports are structured in accordance with Digni's Results-Based Management Framework. The framework is divided into nine thematic areas with subsequent focus areas and outcome levels.

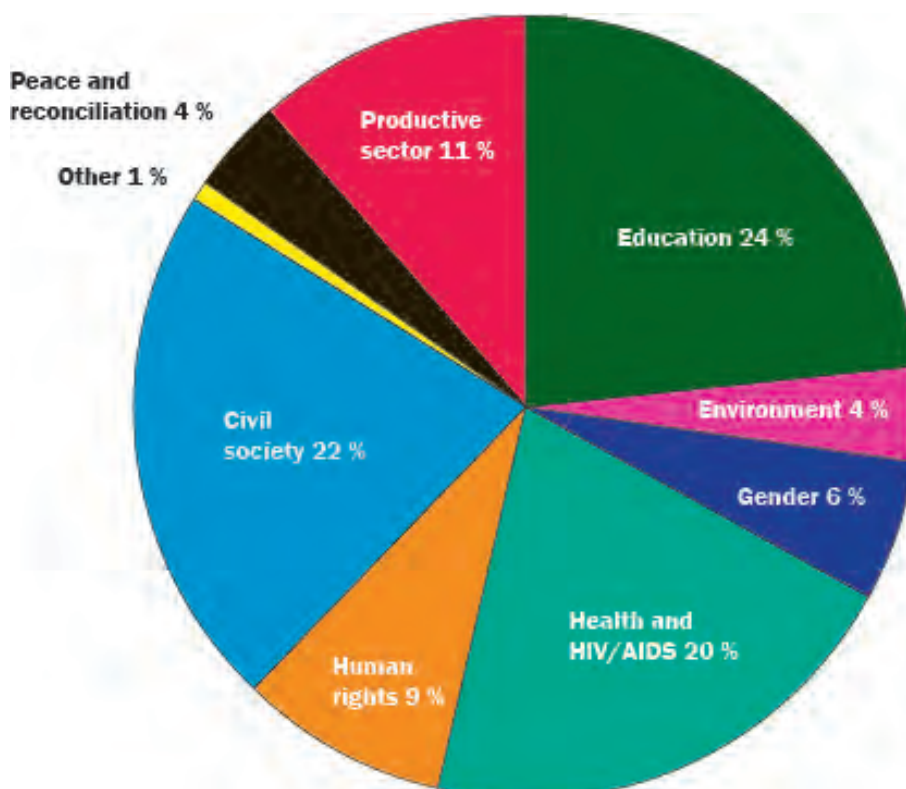
1. PORTFOLIO PROFILE

Geographical distribution of portfolio



Africa:	88 947 596
Asia:	51 278 691
Latin-America:	25 795 871
TOTAL:	166 022 158

Thematic distribution of portfolio



Countrywise allocation of funds

AFG	2 117 808
BDI	618 183
BGD	4 860 810
BOL	14 010 335
BTN	592 003
BUR	2 147 186
CHN	10 325 009
COD	1 852 916
CMR	683 113
COD	9 131 540
COG	1 538 362
COL	1 468 308
ECU	6 728 763
EGT	2 151 125
ETH	15 054 240
HTI	596 374
IND	6 075 532
INS	364 667
KEN	13 786 933
KHM	4 431 213
LBR	7 237 284
MAG	14 478 315
MLI	3 876 323
MNG	4 178 665
MOZ	2 466 557
NPL	4 666 172
PAK	2 640 331
PAL	3 201 782
PER	1 061 304
PRY	1 355 255
RAF	732 275
RAM	575 531
RSA	485 576
SAF	659 143
SEN	917 094
SLE	1 491 232
SOM	4 639 476
SRV	5 677 515
SWA	2 597 468
TAN	699 767
UGA	1 562 939
ZIB	2 287 735
TOTAL	166 022 158

2. SELECTED MILESTONES

ETHIOPIA: Slavery abolished in Ganta community

Exclusion based on descent and occupation has existed for many decades in some parts of Ethiopia. For the Ganta community in the Gamo highlands of Southern Ethiopia, the practice was particularly severe, taking the form of modern slavery. Here, descendants of families with low economic status and tenants were excluded simply because of their family lineage. Those excluded were labelled “slaves” by other community members, who in turn labelled themselves “masters”. The “slaves” were not free to participate in social affairs and interaction with other community members was limited. The marginalized groups were considered “impure” and the others as “pure”. During funeral/mourning events – possibly the most important social function in Ethiopian culture – the “slaves” were not allowed to take part in burial rituals or to share a meal with the “masters”. No marriages between the groups were permitted. According to tradition, breaking these rules could lead to contamination of the “pure”. In order to become “pure” again, “slaves” were often presented with the option of performing a cultural practice called wozzo, which usually entailed paying an exuberant fee to the “masters”. Most were unable to raise the money needed.

When NLM and the South West Synod Community Health Service project started working in Ganta, they organized community dialogue as the best strategy to mobilize the community and other stakeholders for ending this social problem, which represented obvious violations of human rights. During the first two years of the project period (2010-2011), a series of community conversations were conducted at various levels on how to abolish the tradition from the Ganta community. The conversations were facilitated by selected community members in the three target kebeles of Ganta area, and dialogues at woreda and zone levels were organized by the South West Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus. The initial plan was to include 155 people in community conversation on an annual basis, however, almost all community members from the target kebeles took part in the sessions.

After intensive community dialogue a mass cultural ceremony was held in October 2011, in the presence of high government officials from zone and woreda levels, synod officials and staff, customary local leaders (magas and kati) and the wider community. On this historic occasion, the abolishment of slavery in Ganta was declared.

Following the official declaration, post public conferences were also conducted to review and sustain the positive change. These indicated that members of the Ganta community are well aware that all human beings are equal and there should be no exclusion among members. To sustain the change and supervise cases, committees have been established at kebele and woreda levels. In addition, law making is under process by the Gamo Gofa zone people’s council. At the end of the project period, in 2014, we can finally speak of slavery in the past tense in Ganta.

Source: QZA-12/0763-73 73 SWS-Community Based Health Service Project, Final Report from project 2010-2014

See also Digni’s Advent story, based on the Ganta project (Norwegian only).



Top: The beauty of the Gamo highlands belies the harmful traditions practiced (Photo: Kåre Eriksen).

Left: A cow was slaughtered as part of the ceremony in which the practice of slavery was abolished in Ganta (Photo: NLM).

Bottom left: Elma Erade was previously considered a slave. "I don't feel ashamed. I am proud and happy to be part of God's creation", he told the visitors from Digni (Photo: Kåre Eriksen).

Bottom right: A number of community dialogues were conducted by the project. Here, villagers gather to share stories about how slavery was abolished (Photo: Kåre Eriksen).



SOMALILAND: Sahil schools move from worst to best performers

In Somaliland, a teacher training program set up in the Sahil region, by the Pentecostal Foreign Mission of Norway (PYM), is producing great results. Aiming at rebuilding Somali society by improving access to quality education, a total of 80 teachers have been trained at diploma level, 144 teachers have been given refresher courses, 350 members of community education committees and 93 head teachers have been trained on school management, and 14 education officials have been trained on education supervision, monitoring and quality.

Due to the teacher training courses for primary school teachers and the training of the education officials, the teachers' capacities improved regarding teaching the curriculum and delivering the services expected of well running schools. The impact of this project is evident from the improved performance in final examinations by the schools in the Sahil region. Sahil region, which was once ranking as the poorest performer in national exams is now the top-performing region in Somaliland.

Beneficiaries and education officials contribute the significant changes achieved by the program to the following factors:

- Improvement in class management
- Improvement in subject matter quality
- Effective transfer of technical expertise
- Improved student/pupils performance
- Increased use of prepared lesson plans and scheme of work by the teachers.

An external evaluation assessed the trends in enrolment in the catchment area. In almost all the schools, the enrolment for girls had been increasing. Generally, children and women showed increasing enthusiasm for education.

Source: QZA-12/0763-179 PYM Integrated Education and Development Program (IEDP) final report 2012-2014 and IEDP Final external evaluation report conducted in 2014 (Conducted by TAABCO Research and Development Consultants March-April 2014)



Students' performances in Sahil schools have vastly improved. Also, enrolment for girls have been increasing (Photo: PYM).

CHINA: Domestic violence protection scheme spreads to several communities

In China, the Zhaotong Capacity Building Project (QZA-12/0763-53) and the Rights Division of Zhao Tong Municipal Women's Federation have worked together to implement a domestic violence prevention scheme in three communities, developing a large anti-domestic violence campaign and training key people. These initiatives are now serving as model sites for other communities.

The model sites have optimized their domestic violence protection and treatment schemes to play a continuous constructive role in its community. The project held awareness trainings on women's rights and domestic violence, reshaping the concept of family violence prevention and intervention. Of particular importance was the project's ability to bring together women's federations, community leaders, the judicial system, the public security system, the health system and the media to be involved in domestic violence prevention and intervention. Basic prevention and intervention sites and facilities for the reception and treatment of victims of domestic violence have also been established, operating according to standardized routines. Participatory training has enhanced the Women's Federation staff's communication skills, work methods and understanding of the concept.

As to the project's local partner, the Zhao Tong Municipal Women's Federation continues to seek local government and community support to ensure domestic violence prevention efforts continuously develop, strengthening the capacity and skills of volunteers and project teams who serve people in need. The Women's Federation carries out anti-domestic violence public awareness campaigns on holidays and promote knowledge, methods and skills in order to engage more people on the subject.

The results from the project sites have inspired other communities to set up their own domestic violence protection teams and offices. A total of 11 townships and communities have set up domestic violence prevention sites with the guidance of the model sites. It is fair to say that the model sites are playing a leading role in the area's domestic violence prevention initiatives.

Source: QZA-12/0763-53 ZTCBP external final evaluation 2014

NEPAL: Women make hard decisions

In Nepal, more than 30 women meet to discuss issues raised at local level twice a month. Using the Community Peace Education Manual, the Women's Peace Group of Sainpasela Village Development Committee address community problems like caste and gender-based discrimination. The group was formed as part of Himal Partner's Peace and Conflict Transformation project, implemented through United Mission to Nepal.

When projects offer opportunities for individuals from the community to receive large amounts of financial support or expensive items, the group discusses the matter and identify the most deserving beneficiaries. This has been a good way to create a peaceful environment, and the group works well, taking ownership over the program in that vicinity.

During the reporting period, there was a big conflict over the selection of an appropriate beneficiary from the target area to receive a buffalo. Some influential community leaders tried to influence United Mission to Nepal's local partner organization, Dalit Help Society, through its staff and executive committee members, in order to get the buffalo for themselves.

The women's group understood the requirements that had to be fulfilled by the beneficiary, so they summoned a meeting and discussed the buffalo issue. The purpose

of the grant was to break harmful traditional practices, like not selling the milk to Dalit and non-Dalit community people. Finally, they chose a single woman of 40 years, who has four children and lives in extreme poverty. She had no political or religious affiliation. They encouraged her to initiate the bold step of selling the buffalo milk to Dalit and non-Dalit people.

The decisions made by the Women's Peace Group in order to implement planned activities in the most conflict-affected areas, such as the incident with the buffalo, has opened the eyes of the community leaders, and it's been much appreciated by all the stakeholders.

Source: QZA-12/0763-39 HP -Peace and Conflict Transformation Annual report 2014

SIERRA LEONE: United Methodist Church took a lead role in the fight against Ebola

In May 2014, the Ebola outbreak hit Sierra Leone brutally. Neither the government, the main churches in the country or the people were prepared for anything like this disease. Few knew much about Ebola, or how the virus infected people. According to John K. Yambasu, bishop of the United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, the government was not able to react to the crisis fast enough.

"They were afraid of making fuss and panic that could scare away investors", he explained at a seminar in Oslo in May 2015.

The United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone invited all the religious leaders in the country to create a religious leaders task force on Ebola. Yambasu was selected as the leader for the group. Together, the religious leaders held an international press conference, to draw attention to the Ebola crisis striking the country. The press conference aired at both CNN and BBC. Yambasu describes this as a turning point for the work on Ebola in the country.

"The international attention made it possible to work with the problem", he explains. The Interreligious task force on Ebola had a close working relationship to the government in the country throughout the whole year, and were able to spread information to all parts of the country.

Digni supported The United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, through the The United Methodist Church in Norway, with funds to spread information and discourage new infections. New infections were avoided by supporting villages with disinfectant liquid and teaching people about how the diseases spread. Only about 35 percent of the population in Sierra Leone are able to read and write, and there is a limited access to phones, TVs and radios. In many villages rumors spread that the disease was a curse from the ancestors. The church played a key role in spreading scientific information to the whole country.

"There is a church in every corner of the country. Our evangelists used their bikes to reach even the most remote villages.", explains Yambasu.

Source: QZA-12/0763-49 MM-Community Empowerment for Livelihood And Development (CELAD) and interviews with/presentation by bishop John K. Yambasu.



Top: Bishop John Yambasu (right) of the United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone played a key role addressing the Ebola crisis. Here, together with his colleague, bishop John Innis, from Liberia (Photo: Sigbjørn Kiserud).

Left and bottom right: The United Methodist Church were able to mobilize in order to spread scientific information about ebola prevention (Photos: United Methodist Church).

Bottom left: Bishop Yambasu demonstrates a new way of greeting, in order to avoid body contact (Photo: Phileaus Jusu, UMNS).



PAKISTAN: Parkari community gaining access to services, claiming rights

The 1.2 million Parkari people are a mainly hindu minority living in south eastern Pakistan. They are considered to be unclean and have been treated as complete social outcasts, to be avoided by people from other communities.

Through the Parkari Community Development Programme, they have gained access to clean water, literacy classes, vocational training and education in their own language. They have, through the establishment of a committee structure, been empowered to take control of their own development.

The last few years have seen a shift in the way they are perceived by people outside their community and the Parkari people have gained awareness of their rights:

- Non-Parkari have requested the Parkari community that their children be allowed to attend the Parkari primary and secondary schools. Even muslim parents have requested this.
- Basic health-care workers, midwives and veterinarians are requested to share their expertise and service with the neighboring non-Parkari villages.
- A registration campaign took place in collaboration with the National Database Registration Authority. 624 Parkari got their ID cards in 2014 and are now able to vote.
- A legal aid center with a Parkari lawyer has been established to help the Parkari register, understand the constitution, the election system, land ownership issues and how the police and court system works.
- The Parkari women have been empowered through literacy and participation in village committees. Recently, the men's and women's committees have started to meet together in a public space, with the rest of the village observing. Some women have asked their husbands to take care of the children while they attend the meeting of the village committee. Some have grown confident and dare to speak in public while others have stopped to cover their faces during meetings. These changes reflect a fundamental change of behavior that has taken place among the Parkari women.
- Much of this change has taken place with help from the men in charge of the village clusters. They have spoken to men about the importance of supporting their wives.

Source: QZA-12/0763 – 188 WYC PCDP, Annual Report 2014



Top: Women are now active participants in the village committees.

Right: The project offers midwife training and provide toolkits.

Bottom: A group of Parkaris have purchased land and established a colony. The colony leader points out the boundaries of the property to project director Poonam Paschal (All photos: Kåre Eriksen).



Global impact: Pieces of a large puzzle



Members of the first Environmental Network in the Monte Sinaí sector trained, now working on environment plan for their community

2/3 of the targeted villages have signed a declaration against FGM

Farmers have improved value and increased production

Council of elders initiated community dialogues

Two districts have established complaint tribunals for indigenous people

20 rape victims have received legal assistance in filing and presenting the necessary documentation in court and 16 cases were brought before the court

Advocacy maintained against land grabbing and lands continue to be reclaimed. Illegal activities have been halted

HIV/AIDS was considered a taboo, now it's a topic in school, linking health staff and schoolteachers, providing tools to address the issue

169 teachers trained in new pedagogical models

13 communities created their own associations and as result receive more municipal resources to improve their agricultural production

Girls now make up 44% of participants in sports activities, encouraging women leadership

Increase in advocacy on drug abuse, HIV, and domestic violence



Children's boards have been established and the Education Department has put in place a Child Protection Policy for all the dormitories in Khovd and Bayan Ulgii aimags

Eco-tourism has provided income to the nomads while preserving their way of living and enhanced conservation and environmental awareness

Mental health training has been provided for 40 medical doctors

value based environmental school campaign included more than 5 000 students and 100 teachers in 12 schools

Discrimination incidents between Dalits and non-Dalits reduced from 30 in 2012 to two in 2014

Association for parents of disabled youth now consists of 200 parents that meet to share experiences with others with similar challenges

Improved nutritional and income

240 village committees set up with 50/50 participation of men and women.

Microfinance services now cover 139 communes and serve 36 594 clients

Proactive, community dialogues

Neonatal deaths reduced from 70 to seven deaths/month

Training on safe drinking water leads to noticeable changes in people's habits

Maternal mortality reduced from 500 to 180/100 000 in region with 800 000 inhabitants

96% of the children immunized at project locations

A large number of self-help group members have obtained social security schemes and State Tribal Certificates

Collective to the

Free Pentecostal Church of Kenya for the first time electing women at regional level as leaders.

Awareness camps on peace and reconciliation reaching more than a 1000 people from 82 communities have resulted in the formation of 11 Peace Mediator Forums covering 62 communities

Indigenous Ogiek's ancestral cognized, threats of their eviction

biogas cooking installations help women save two hours per day in firewood collection

Nearly all formal leaders at all levels within the local Lutheran church were trained in leadership, management, organization of the church, stewardship and finance.

Policy and awareness campaigns //AIDS, anti-human trafficking, and children's' rights

3. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

3.1 Conflict Sensitivity

In 2014, more of our members report that they have conducted conflict analysis in projects and that they are strengthening their focus on being conflict sensitive. This has resulted in both members and their partners becoming more aware of the potential conflicts that may arise, now including measures to deal with this in their risk analyses. The projects report taking measures to include all relevant groups in order to minimize ethnic disparities. One project makes use of a panel of elders appointed by the community in recruitment processes and when conflicts arise among staff and between the project and the community.¹

Project staff from different regions have attended Do No Harm workshops. This has helped them to understand better how to be conflict sensitive and include this in their planning and implementation. They have also continued to train others in their respective organizations and projects, especially in Africa. Some projects report on religious tensions, especially where Christians are working in Muslim areas. Conflict sensitivity is especially important in such cases and the projects have included the government and taken specific measures to make sure that religious affiliation does not influence the beneficiaries' access to project activities. Transparency regarding the project goals have been an important measure to reduce these potential conflicts.

Digni emphasizes the need for projects to include conflict analysis at some level in their planning in our criteria for support. We hope to see more concrete results of this in the future, but already we see that some members and their partners are much more conflict sensitive now than they were before.

1. NLM report to Digni on conflict sensitivity 2014

3.2 Environment

There is a remarkably higher awareness on environment as a cross cutting theme among the Digni member organizations now compared to previous years. Although still new to some, environmental issues are important for most Digni members. About half of them have implemented environment as a cross cutting theme across all projects, both within their own organization and in their project portfolios. Some have included it in their overall strategy. Others incorporate the theme in all trainings and capacity building initiatives.

A few organizations still struggle to make environment a cross cutting concern, as they have traditionally not worked with the theme. One member organization stated that they work on awareness raising, but they lack a practical tool for implementation of the knowledge gained. The three-year Environmental Competence Building Program involving South partners, member organizations and the Digni secretariat ended in 2014. Digni is hoping that the final report will help us to work more strategically on environment.

3.3 Gender sensitivity

Digni experience a high level of gender sensitivity among members, partners and in projects. More projects are conducting gender analyses, and as of 2016, all new projects applying for support by Digni have to include a gender analysis in their plans. We therefore expect to see even more results from this in the future.

An important result is that many projects now operate with gender indicators, which helps them document the number of men and women who are part of the activities. Quotas are used to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities in leadership positions and as members of committees. This is important not only to ensure the participation of women, but also of men. A more gender sensitive approach has resulted in increased awareness on the inclusion of men. For example, weak attendance of men in community trainings on health was picked up on in Mongolia and dealt with to ensure that they are not left out.¹ In China, a project experienced that most of the parents involved were mothers. The project is therefore trying actively to reach out to fathers in different ways in order to involve them more in the children's lives.²

Gender sensitivity is important in order to reach the intended and planned results of the project activities. This awareness is very much present in the Digni supported projects. However, the recent rights-based evaluation, initiated by Digni in 2014, shows that increased awareness on gender equality and sensitivity work is still needed in many Digni projects and among partners.

1. QZA-12/0763-99 NLM-Strengthening Primary Health Care Program
2. QZA-12/0763-2 AR-Habilitation center for Intellectually Disabled

4. THEMATIC REPORTS

4.1 Education

GOAL: Partner organizations are actively participating in securing qualitative education for all.

OUTCOME:

There is a stronger local ownership to education. Teachers are well educated. Contextualized alternative pedagogical solutions are developed. Inclusive education has been incorporated in educational institutions

QUALITY EDUCATION

Many projects report on an increased emphasis on child friendly and contextualized pedagogics. This is achieved in many different ways, for example by offering mother tongue based multilingual education for minority groups and offering learning material which is adapted to the reality children live in, like in Pakistan¹ and Ethiopia², and training teachers in pre-school pedagogics like in Nepal³.

Alternative and individualized pedagogics for marginalized groups is also seen in many projects. In China, our partner has cooperated with academic institutions to make training programs for special education more practical.⁴

Teachers' competency and qualifications are crucial to all pedagogic methods and approaches. Teacher education and refreshment courses have therefore become an important ingredient in many projects. Several projects report on improved quality of teaching, for example in Bolivia, where 169 teachers were trained last year in new pedagogical models,⁵ and in Somaliland, where 96 head teachers were trained.⁶

Local ownership and sustainability is achieved when parents and the local community are encouraged and empowered to contribute to and take responsibility for the school and their children's education. The establishment of school management committees, as for example in Bangladesh,⁷ has led to an improved learning environment, better results and reduced dropouts.

The improvement of the infrastructure such as child friendly classrooms adapted to the needs of children with disabilities, separate latrines for girls and boys and water access all contribute to the improved quality and access to education.

OUTCOME:

Improved understanding of values in educational institutions towards children's rights, environment, ethics, and gender.

VALUES

Parental participation has proven to be of crucial importance when working with values in schools. Through the involvement of parents in parent-teachers associations and parents committees/conferences, school-home relationships have greatly improved in many projects. In Bolivia, 37 meetings were held for teachers, parents and community leaders to increase cooperation between

1. QZA-12/0763 -187/188, WYC KCDA/PCDP, Annual Reports 2014

2. QZA-12/0763 - 186, UIO Education and Basic Life skills in Arsi, Annual Report 2014

3. QZA-12/0763 -43, HP Integrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education, Annual Report 2014

4. QZA-12/0763 - 2, AR Habilitation Center for Intellectually Disabled, Annual Report 2014

5. QZA-12/0763 - 115/103, NMA Tropical North Development Program and Integrated Development Interandean Valleys

6. QZA-12/0763- 179, PYM Integrated Education Development Programme, Annual Report 2014

7. QZA-12/0763 -21, FA Capacity Building for Stronger Communities, Annual Report 2014

these and 40 conferences were held to raise awareness among parents on nutrition, family communication, media, values, sexuality etc.⁸ : In China, the association for parents of disabled youth now consists of 200 parents that meet to share experiences with others with similar challenges.⁹

Many projects, for instance in Nepal¹⁰, Vietnam¹¹, and China¹², focus on training parents, teachers, school leaders and other stakeholders on gender and children's rights.

OUTCOME:

Increased enrolment of girls in school and decreased dropout rates, increased access to adult literacy classes for women. Persons with disabilities have access to qualitative education.

EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Many of Digni's education projects have a clear focus on access to education, especially on girls', minority groups' and disabled children's right to education.¹³

Several partner organizations report that the shortage of female teachers remains a challenge. In northern Afghanistan, many girls have gained access to education through a project that trains female teachers.¹⁴ Currently, two teacher trainers and 15 female teachers are being trained – these will provide education opportunities for approx. 1000 girls.

In Ethiopia, there is 56% girl's enrollment in schools operated by a partner – due to infrastructural (separate latrines, water access at schools etc.) and social solutions such as training of female teachers.¹⁵

Adult literacy classes is a component in many integrated projects. These benefit all adults, but in particular, women have been empowered by learning to read and write. So far, in the project, a literacy program in Mozambique has reached 9622 people.¹⁶ In Somaliland, 56 new trainers of trainers have trained 356 persons in literacy and numeracy.¹⁷ From these projects, women report starting up businesses, getting employment and being able to take better care of themselves and their children.

8. QZA-12/0763-168, PYM Proyecto Desarrollo Institucional, Annual Report 2014

9. QZA-12/0763-2, AR Habilitation Center for Intellectually Disabled, Annual Report 2014

10. QZA-12/0763 -43, HP Integrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education, Annual Report 2014

11. QZA-12/0763-138, NMA Development Project, Annual Report 2014

12. QZA-12/0763 – 53, NLM-Zhaotong Capacity Building Project, Annual Report 2014

13. For more information on disabled children's access to education, please see the thematic reporting on Human Rights.

14. QZA-12/0763-185, UIO Female Teacher Education Program, Annual Report 2014

15. QZA – 12/0763 – 186, UIO Education and Basic Life skills in Arsi, Annual Report 2014

16. QZA – 12/0763 – 28, FA Worth HIV/AIDS Programme, Annual Report 2014

17. QZA – 12/0763- 179, PYM Integrated Education Development Programme, Annual Report 2014

4.2 Health and HIV/AIDS

GOAL: Health and quality of life for poor and marginalized communities have been improved through better access and quality of health care.

OUTCOME:

The target population has knowledge of and access to preventive health care. Prevalence of malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and diarrhea is reduced as a result of the project intervention

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

A high number of organizations and projects have a health component in their approach, where preventive health care is essential with health education on topics such as malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and diarrhea. The health projects report that access to preventive health care is gradually improving for many people, and malnutrition and infectious diseases are gradually reduced. Radio broadcasts have been used to spread health messages to a wider population. Through community mobilization work, many of the projects also see an increase in people seeking advice and support through voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services offered by the health stations. Efforts to increase vaccination coverage is also yielding results, with up to 96% of the children immunized at project locations.¹

The Ebola outbreak provided a major focus on preventive health care in the project areas in Sierra Leone and Liberia.² This experience illustrated that the church structure was functioning well in a time of crises, using its structure in all regions of the countries to spread reliable information on prevention where other actors could not reach out.

OUTCOME:

The target population have access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The work to improve access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation have continued in the same line as previous years. Projects supporting safe and clean drinking water note a reduction in the prevalence of waterborne diseases like diarrhea and bilharzia. From Cambodia, it was reported that after conducting training on safe drinking water there has been noticeable changes in people's habits. More villagers are boiling their water instead of drinking it directly from jars with stored rainwater, resulting in fewer people with diarrhea. 1152 latrines have been built benefitting families, schools and kindergartens.³

OUTCOME:

Mortality rates, especially related to maternal/children under five-mortality rate are decreasing rate are decreasing.

Number of trained birth attendants is increasing.

Men and women have improved awareness of and access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice.

CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH

All the projects working with child and maternal health report a reduction of mortality rates and improved health. This is the consequence of an increased number of deliveries in maternal health centers by the help of skilled birth attendants. Immunization programs and improved awareness of effective family planning methods are other important factors. In Ethiopia, the positive results reported on last year continues. In one of the project areas, a recent study and survey conducted by master students supported by the project shows that the risk of neonatal mortality is associated with the status of wealth in the households, literacy status and road accessibility to the nearest health facility.⁴

1. QZA-12/0763-154 NOR-Integrated Community Development Program. BGD. (ICDP) Annual Report 2014

2. QZA-12/0763-48 MM-Community Development Programme Annual Report 2014, and QZA-12/0763-49 MM-Community Empowerment for Livelihood And Development (CELAD) ,Annual Report 2014

3. QZA-12/0763-131 NMA-Community Transformation in Rural Cambodia. Annual Report 2014 and Thematic report Cambodia 2014

4. QZA-12/0763-65 NLM-Reducing Maternal Mortality, Annual Report 2014

The final external evaluation report from Somaliland Capacity Building within Health Care reported that the project contributed towards the continuity of the neonatal course at Edna Aden University Hospital. The project contributed to a lasting solution whereby local ownership and courses were being led and cascaded directly through partner institutions. The Neonatal Care Somaliland mentioned that 'there had been about 70 neonatal deaths every month – which is now reduced to about seven deaths/month. The report further stated that child mortality has been reduced by 33% from 135/1000 – to 91/1000 between the years (2006-2013). The infant mortality rate was reduced from 86 to 72/1000. Institutional deliveries and skilled person attendance have improved from 9% to 30% and 33% to 44.1% respectively.⁵

OUTCOME:

People have increased awareness of and access to basic treatment related to mental health. Targeted health institutions have improved knowledge of mental health issues and provide quality services.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Training Center (MHTC) in Herat, Afghanistan remains the main stakeholder in the mental field in the whole of the Western region of Afghanistan. To improve access to basic treatment mental health training has been provided for 40 medical doctors in 2014, and 115 other health personnel completed their practical studies at the MHTC-clinic.⁶

Himal Partner is still engaged in work with several local organizations in Nepal and has played a central role in advocacy work. Since mental health services were added to the primary health package in 2014, the Ministry of Health and Population has given emphasis on community-based care and counseling.⁷ The involved project has also conducted 160 counseling sessions, and group therapy and through this have for example, reached out to vulnerable girls. 28 health workers were trained from 16 local health facilities and patients have been screened, diagnosed and treated by trained health workers there. Increased case identification and treatment has established evidence in the community that mental health problems can be managed and treated. This has significantly improved the communities' perception towards mental illnesses. Involvement of female community health volunteers, in-school youth, political leaders and traditional healers has helped reduce the stigma and discrimination.⁸

OUTCOME:

Improved quality of life for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS

HIV/AIDS

In 2014, the Bible Society program have continued engaging duty bearers, primarily church institutions and individuals within the program in upholding the duty to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of other people. The change in discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS has been measured finding that according to pre-workshop questionnaires an average of 46% express discriminatory attitudes, whereas after the workshop only an average

5. QZA-12/0763-101 NLM-Capacity Building within Neonatal Care (CBNC), End of Project evaluation of the Capacity Building within Health Care in Somaliland 4th November 2014.

6. QZA-12/0763-15 DNM-Mental Health Training Center, Herat (MHTC), Annual Report 2014.

7. QZA-12/0763-40 HP-Counseling department, Annual Report, 2014

8. QZA-12/0763-41 HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal, Annual report 2014

of 8% expresses discriminatory attitudes. More and more churches are willing to take financial responsibility for the continuation of the Good Samaritan Program. For Ethiopia, 294 decentralized workshops were facilitated, most of them paid by local partner's with local contribution (outreach materials provided by BS).⁹

In Bolivia, 2014 was the last year of the project HIV/AIDS, El Alto .The project has contributed to generate a change of attitude about HIV/AIDS. Before, this theme was considered a taboo, now the theme has been included in school units, linking health staff and schoolteachers, providing tools to talk about the issue in classrooms and motivating teachers to act as prevention agents. In 2014, 7615 high school students from 30 school units were informed on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention manners. 64 teachers were trained on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, 300 high-school students participated in public events regarding HIV prevention through health fairs and 163 people living with HIV/AIDS were trained on adherence to ARV (antiretroviral) medicines.¹⁰

Two projects in South Ethiopia reported that the support to sustain the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the project area got a lasting solution. Digni gave a condition of not supporting individuals, and challenged the projects to find sustainable solutions on how to support people affected by HIV/AIDS. The community together with the government representatives have defined a 2% salary deduction from all employees from the government office staff. This will support the OVC in the area with education materials, food and clothing until they complete basic schooling.¹¹

9. QZA-12/0763-4 BS-HIV material and training to churches in Ethiopia, Annual report 2014, and QZA-12/0763-5 BS-HIV and the course material to churches in Kenya, Annual Report 2014.

10. QZA-12/0763-110 NMA-HIV/AIDS, El Alto town, Annual Report 2014.

11. QZA-12/0763-70 NLM-SES Community Based Health Service Project, Annual Report 2014 and, QZA-12/0763-80 NLM-Amaro Synod Community Based Health Service Project, Annual Report 2014.

IN PHOTOS: GLIMPSES FROM MATERNAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN SOUTH ETHIOPIA



Top left: Belete Wolde is the chief administrator at Koibe health centre in South Omo. Here, institutional deliveries have increased from almost zero to 80% in three years.

Top right: Sapinko Saila has just given birth to her ninth child, for the first time in an institution with skilled birth attendants present.

Left: For nine years, Mestawot Kugna has worked as a health extension worker at Shilele health post, a remote and dry location. She has just delivered a baby when the Digni-team show up.

Bottom: Midwife and project coordinator Demissew Mitiku checks Tezerash Shiferaws referral papers. She is due to be transferred to Gidole hospital for follow-up.

Photos by Kåre Eriksen, taken on project visit to QZA-12/0763-65 NLM-Reducing Maternal Mortality (RMM)



4.3 Peace and reconciliation

GOAL: Local communities, faith communities and relevant stakeholders participate actively for sustainable peace, reconciliation, conflict prevention and conflict transformation.

OUTCOME:

Stakeholders, including women and youth, at all levels, actively participating in peacebuilding initiatives.

PEACEBUILDING

Peacebuilding initiatives where different stakeholders at all levels have participated had some important results in 2014. In Kenya, the council of elders have been proactive and have initiated intra and inter community dialogues in the Mount Elgon region. The project reports that the Mbangwa Peace Agreement is still upheld, that local leaders and politicians increasingly refer to it, and that it is considered an important document guiding the decision makers.¹ In Nepal, 3524 people attended anti-discrimination activities. This has resulted in discrimination between the so-called Dalits and non-Dalits dropping from 30 incidents in 2012 to two in 2014. The project reports that local communities, including women and different faith communities are working together for social cohesion, reconciliation and sustainable peace. Much of this is due to the 195-trained mediators that have been solving local disputes in their early stages.²

In India, awareness camps on peace and reconciliation reaching more than a 1000 people from 82 communities have resulted in the formation of 11 peace mediator forums covering 62 communities, and 183 people (123 male and 40 female) from 63 communities have been trained on conflict management. As a result, many leaders are involved in peace processes in their own area and platforms for peacebuilding have been established. The peace forums have ensured the participation of different ethnic groups, religious, political and intellectuals from the society. Due to this, more conflicts are resolved at a village level before it becomes violent.³

There are also some challenges. For example in Jerusalem there is an openly expressed un readiness and even refusal by the local community to perform activities related to peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Peacebuilding efforts are therefore concentrated towards reconciliation among different Palestinian communities living in East Jerusalem. In many areas the word “peace” cannot even be used and the project is still in its initial phase working on how to best introduce sustainable peacebuilding initiatives in the communities.⁴

RECONCILIATION AND TRAUMA HEALING

In Nepal, the Peace and Conflict Transformation project has received support since 2007. The results from the trainings are now being documented. 530 traumatized people now lead better lives, which has an effect on the entire community.⁵ The evaluation report documents that there is no perceived trauma among those who have used the United Missions to Nepal trauma healing resources. The Forgiveness and Reconciliation programme has had 892 participants and 350 church leaders have been actively involved in forgiveness and

OUTCOME:

Building capacities and mobilizing participation among important stakeholders in reconciliation and trauma healing initiatives.

1. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM FPFK Rights and Peace for Development Program Annual Report 2014

2. QZA-12/0763-39 HP Peace and Conflict Transformation Annual Report 2014

3. QZA-12/0763-163 NOR Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace and Reconciliation Project Annual Report 2014

4. QZA-12/0763-8 DELF Peaceful Coexistence in East Jerusalem Annual Report 2014

5. QZA-12/0763-39 HP Peace and Conflict Transformation Annual Report 2014

reconciliation awareness raising.⁶

The project also reports some unexpected results from the trauma healing activities. Those who have participated in the same trauma healing groups have strengthened their relationships irrespective of their castes and cultural differences. This has in turn contributed to reducing prevailing social discrimination according to caste and gender. This was not seen before the project intervention. A less positive effect was that engaging women in gender work added to their already large workload, which unintendedly gave some of the women even more work and activities during their already busy schedules.⁷

In Burundi, the trauma healing trainings have continued in 2014 and these will be even more relevant now that the situation in Burundi has changed and become more insecure and violent. We hope that in 2015 we can report on some concrete results of the project during these uncertain times. In 2014, the project had 53 healing groups with 700 participants, 15 follow up sessions of facilitators and churches and five people were certified as master facilitators. In 2014, the project also started to do trauma healing trainings for children. 27 church, NGOs and association leaders held one convening session. One equipping session was held where 20 caregivers were trained and 66 children attended, and finally 20 healing groups were organized where 300 children attended.⁸

OUTCOME:

Conflict related to resource management are identified and reduced through dialogue and cooperation.

CONFLICT PREVENTION

The holistic approaches that many of the projects have also influenced the resolution of conflicts related to resource management. Peace forums and trauma healing bring people together and they can better communicate and solve disputes. As mentioned before, the Mbanga Peace Agreement is used when there are tensions over resource sharing and allocation. It is an important reference document when such disputes arise since it is an agreement they have developed together.⁹ In Mali, the situation has still not returned to normal since the occupation in 2012. The project activities to regulate the natural resource management in order to reduce conflicts is somewhat reduced, but in 2014 one pastoral space was followed up and 5900 cattle and 800 sheep/goats were kept on the space during the soldering period.¹⁰

6. QZA-12/0763-39 HP Peace and Conflict Transformation End of Tern Evaluation Report by Rita Thapa December 2014

7. QZA-12/0763-39 HP Peace and Conflict Transformation Annual Report 2014

8. QZA-12/0763-3 BS Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi Annual Report 2014

9. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM FPFK Rights and Peace for Development Program Annual Report 2014

10. QZA-12/0763-153 NMS Integrated Program, Mopti region Annual Report 2014

4.4 Productive sector

GOAL: Poor people are able to develop income generating activities, and have a better standard of living.

OUTCOME:

Social profile: Average loans sizes are suitable for the target population. Percentage of women clients is high. Growth: Number of clients and total portfolio size will reach the required level to secure sustainability. Quality of the Fund: Portfolio at Risk (PAR) is low. Impact of the loans: Ensure loans have a positive impact on the welfare of the client.

MICROFINANCE

Only two member organizations work with microfinance.

Vietnam (MOM): In 2014, the project expanded its outreach to an additional 40 communes and microfinance services now cover 139 communes and serve 36 594 clients. In 2014, MOM achieved 37.1 % growth in the portfolio, which is a slight increase compared to 32.2% in 2013. Quality of debt services has also improved with Par 30 reduced from 0.32% in 2013 to 0.1% in 2014. In 2014, 4520 microfinance groups of 36 594 poor and low-income women organized themselves in 1631 centers. Activities that enhance women's access to health, regulations and laws, sanitation, hygiene and decision making process were done in cooperation with the Women's Union. Training programs provided were diverse and met the needs of clients. About 7000 clients were trained on different topics. 90% of the trainees of income management course find that the training helps them to know how to save, to live within their own financial capacity and distinguish between demand and reality.¹

The microfinance institution in Liberia has been established as a MDI (microfinance deposit taking institution) to be able to both offer loans and deposits to the clients. The first loans were scheduled to be given out in the autumn 2014, but following the Ebola outbreak, this was postponed until 2015.²

In Myanmar there are 47 microfinance groups with 275 members, the majority of which are women.³

OUTCOME:

The target group has access to lump sums of money to generate productive initiatives and respond to major needs of the household. The poorest segment of the target group has access to the saving groups.

LOAN AND SAVINGS GROUPS

Several member organizations work with loan and saving groups as part of their integrated approach. The reports describe the same results in these projects enabling the members to invest in business, improving their income and their access to health services, improved nutrition and many have invested in their children's education. The majority of the members are actively involved in decision-making. Several groups have also integrated disabled persons as members, and many of the groups have managed to open bank accounts. The majority of the members in the groups are women.

OUTCOME:

Households in urban and rural areas have increased income. Percentage of women who participate in economic activities to generate income to the household is high

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

The majority of these activities are within the traditional line with capacity building for especially women to have an extra income for their households. (Skills training, sewing, handicrafts, animal husbandry, production of vegetables etc.)

In Nepal, a project through Kathmandu University has been able to conduct 48 projects in more than 14 different communities. 318 students

1. QZA-12/0763-138 NMA-Development Project Vietnam, Annual Report 2014.

2. QZA-12/0763-137 NMA-Microfinance in Liberia Annual Report 2014.

3. QZA-12/0763-24FA-Integrated Community Livelihood Development Myanmar, Annual Report 2014

including male and female from Science, Engineering and Arts are directly or indirectly associated with the projects. The projects implemented have not only benefitted practical student knowledge, but also helped to develop a technology transfer to grass root level.⁴

Another new example is from Ecuador: In order to offer opportunities of integral development to those who are interested in improving their economy, a strategic alliance proposal together with credit agencies has been developed. This can provide better access to loans that allow a new micro-business to be established. Additionally, individuals may access technical, administrative and micro-entrepreneurial management training processes that stimulate productive business. This in turn can contribute to the improvement of communities' quality of life. 1804 people (253 men and 1551 women) accessed the project's artisanal trainings. These activities have also integrated people living with HIV/AIDS.

OUTCOME:

The target population generates increased yield and income from their agricultural production and crops.

AGRICULTURAL INCOME GENERATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

The results under this heading are more or less the same as previous years. An unplanned impact of these activities have been the farina mill in Velley-ta in Liberia . The mill was a huge success in the village. Through working with the local project committee and the project staff, the empowered community realized their abilities. After finalizing the mill, a democratic process started on defining a new project. Seeing that they were able, they started building a school on their own initiative with funds generated from the farina mill. They established a new project committee, using the same work model as used in the Partnership in Development projects.

4. QZA-12/0763-37 HP- Kathmandu University Outreach Centers, Annual Report 2014

5. QZA-12/0763-129 NMA- Lets's Talk about HIV-AIDS10638, Annual Report 2014

6. QZA-12/0763-48 MM-Community Development Programme, MM Project travel report 2014 CODEVPRO, Liberia.

4.5 Indigenous peoples

GOAL: Indigenous Peoples (IP) are empowered to make their own decisions and undertake activities related to improving their individual and communal livelihoods and actively participate in processes and engage with duty-bearers at local and national level to attain their rights.

OUTCOME:

IPs have received training on rights and have obtained skills for dialog and engage with duty-bearers within their political space. IPs groups and organizations are formed, strengthened and active. Public actions are undertaken by IPs groups and networks with examples/stories of achieved results.

EMPOWERMENT

Indigenous peoples through 13 projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, Republic of Congo, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have received training on rights, have obtained skills for dialogue, and engage with duty-bearers.

In Pokot in Kenya, the relationship between the government and the indigenous community has improved. The governor and deputy making frequent visits to Mount Elgon to assess the community needs exemplify this. An Indigenous Ogiek has been appointed as Executive Officer, becoming a minister in charge of public administration, and other community members have been appointed to sub-county positions.¹

In Congo, two Districts have established Official IP complaint tribunals for NGOs and Gambona, as a direct consequence of the new IP project activities.² In Bolivia, 13 communities decided to create their own association aiming to boost their demands before local, departmental, and national authorities, influence public policies and receive more resources to improve their agricultural production. As a result, there has been an increase in municipal budget for production development.³

In India, 314 self-help groups have been formed by 2014. A large number of members have obtained social security schemes and State Tribal Certificates.⁴ In Bangladesh the quality and capacity of leadership in 73 Adivasi Traditional Social Organizations, 34 Union Based Adivasi Porishod and eight Upazila Based Federations have been strengthened.⁵

LANDOWNERSHIP AND USE OF NATURAL MINERALS

The efforts of advocacy are maintained and the indigenous Ogiek's ancestral lands continue to be recognized and therefore threats of their eviction have been halted.⁶ In Bangladesh, 1120 farmers have received motivation and awareness raising to retain land ownership. 13 acres of mortgaged land was redeemed.⁷ In Pakistan, through community organization and awareness raising people realize that it is possible to be freed from bonded labor and poverty by buying their own land. Some communities have been able to do so through saving and selling some of their cattle. Others have tried to buy land, but land-owners will not sell or ask unreasonably high prices.⁸

OUTCOME:

Land is recovered and natural resources saved.

1. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM Rights and Peace for Development Program, Kenya Annual Report 2014

2. QZA-12/0763-18 DNM Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Culture in The Republic of Congo, Annual Report 2014

3. QZA-12/0763-115-119 NMA-Tropical North Development Program (PDNT), Bolivia, Annual Report 2014

4. QZA-12/0763-164 NOR-Development Support Program for Stone Quarry Affected Communities, India, Annual Report 2014

5. QZA-12/0763-157-160 NOR-Integr. Progr. for Community Capacity Building, Bangladesh, Annual Report 2014

6. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM Rights and Peace for Development Program, Kenya, Annual Report 2013

7. QZA-12/0763-157-160 NOR-Integr. Progr. for Community Capacity Building, Bangladesh, Annual Report 2014

8. QZA-12/0763-188 WYC-Kachhi Community Dev. Program and QZA-12/0763-187 WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program Annual Reports 2014

OUTCOME:

Gender is discussed in local decisionmaking processes.

GENDER

In Pakistan, 240 village committees were set up, 50% male and 50% female, securing gender equality in leadership. Group meetings helped women get a better understanding of their situation, their rights and how they can improve their economic situation. In the past, the women and men's committees met separately. Now many committees meet together in a public space. More women come to these meetings because they asked their husbands to look after the children. Many women do not cover their faces anymore during these meetings, which is an indication of fundamental change in behavior.⁹

In Kenya, the law against FGM was taught in community meetings and 72 key resource persons were trained in advocacy. The result is that an increased number of parents and community members have stopped the practice of FGM.¹⁰

OUTCOME:

Groups are starting bilingual schools and sensitizing local government on educational needs and rights. Local culture and traditions are strengthened.

EDUCATION/BILINGUAL-CULTURE

In Kenya: Today Ogiek children can access quality education in five schools. 30 teachers have been trained (18 trained by the program and 12 given by the government). The county government of Bungoma has employed nine out of the 18 teachers trained by the program. The number of children accessing education in Chepkitala increased from about 200 to over 1100.¹¹

In Ethiopia, three alternative basic education centers in Agallo Meti and Mao Komo have been established. Teaching materials have been produced in Gumuz language. 277 minority girls have been supported with school materials and some financial support. Four students, three girls and one boy from Mao/Komo site have joined college at Assosa to study at diploma level. All the students are from very marginalized language groups in very poor and remote areas.¹²

9. QZA-12/0763-188 WYC-Kachhi Community Dev. Program and QZA-12/0763-187 WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program, Annual Report 2014

10. QZA-12/0763-172 PYM- FGM project among the Maasai Annual Report 2014

11. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM Rights and Peace for Development Program Kenya Annual report 2014

12. QZA-12/0763-208 NMS NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP), Annual Report 2014.

4.6 Environment

GOAL: The livelihoods of marginalized communities are improved through sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection.

OUTCOME:

Food security improved through sustainable land-use, improved agricultural practices, water management, and reforestation. Income generating activities secured through eco-friendly tourism with emphasis on minority groups. Anti-pollution and waste management initiatives improve the environment and livelihoods of marginalized communities

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SECURE LIVELIHOODS

The concept of model farmers has been successful in Ethiopia¹ and Cambodia². The projects train beneficiaries on nursery management, cross-planting, husbandry, water and soil conservation and other agriculture techniques. Based on experiences and knowledge sharing, the concept results in increased yield, improved soil quality, reduction in chemical pesticides and fertilizers. In Ethiopia, farmers have improved nutritional value and increased income. They build new houses and send their children to school with fully equipped school materials and outfits.³ In Mali, a project introduced the multipurpose tree *Moringa oleifera* some years back. Communities start experiencing the benefit of the tree. It is rich in vital nutrients and can be used as a supplement food. It is also used as a medicinal plant and to purify drinking water.⁴

Most projects working on environment have an element of reforestation. One project in Bolivia reports that 150 farmers were asked to take care of 17 hectares of forest in 2014, in addition to 44 hectares that they had received previously. Moreover, 27 088 seedlings were produced and planted for forestation.⁵

In China, there have been positive breakthroughs in eco-tourism development among Tibetan nomads. Eco-tourism has provided income to the nomads while preserving their way of living and enhanced conservation and environmental awareness.⁶

OUTCOME:

Fuel-saving technologies introduced like biogas, wood-efficient stoves, *Jatropha* oil plant, etc.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Fuel-saving technologies continue generating positive impact on the local environment. In China⁷, Madagascar⁸ and Cambodia⁹, use of biogas increases and it results in less use of firewood and charcoal for food preparation. The farmers also use biogas slurry and biogas residue as fertilizer. The consequences are reduced deforestation, better health, improved soil quality, increased income and improved quality of life.

Trainings on energy saving stoves were successfully carried out in Nepal¹⁰, India¹¹, Ethiopia¹² and Senegal¹³. In Ethiopia, 983 farmers were trained

1. QZA-12/0763-208 - NMS - Green Livelihood Program Ethiopia, Annual Report 2014
2. QZA-12/0763-131 - Mission Alliance - Community Transformation Cambodia, Annual Report 2014
3. QZA-12/0763-87 - NLM - Bena Tsemay Pastoral Community Development project, Annual Report 2014
4. QZA-12/0763-166 - NOR - Health garden in Tomora, Mali, Annual Report 2014
5. QZA-12/0763-103 - Mission Alliance - Integrated Development Interandean Valleys, Annual Report 2014
6. QZA-12/0763-35 HP - Capacity building in community eco-tourism and protected area management in/around the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve China, Annual Report 2014
7. QZA-12/0763-53 - NLM - Zhaotong Capacity Building Project China, External evaluation report 2014
8. QZA-12/0763-141 - NMS - The International Biogas Partnership Programme, Annual Report and evaluation report 2014
9. QZA-12/0763-131 - Mission Alliance - Community Transformation Cambodia, Annual Report 2014
10. QZA-12/0763-167 - NOR - Community Health Nepal, Annual Report 2014
11. QZA-12/0763-164 - NOR - Development Support Program for Stone Quarry Affected Communities India, Annual Report 2014
12. QZA-12/0763-208 - NMS - Green Livelihood Program Ethiopia, Annual Report 2014
13. QZA-12/0763-44 - KMM - Ker Yaakaar Community Development in Senegal, Annual Report 2014

and 78 stoves installed in 2014. In Senegal 400 stoves were produced and installed. Other mud technologies like construction of mud brick houses were also introduced in Ethiopia in 2014. The result is more sustainable houses, resistant to termite attacks.

In Bangladesh, a total number of 79 home solar packages were installed in 2014.¹⁴ A project in India operates 14 solar pumps in farmers' fields for water irrigation.¹⁵

OUTCOME:

Relevant government institutions and administrators at local level (and regional) are engaged with project. Engaging resource persons/organizations for competence building of partners on environmental issues

ENGAGING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

All projects working on environmental issues report that they carry out their activities in close collaboration with governmental institutions.

An initiative to involve and organize governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the civil society to stop deforestation started in India in 2014.¹⁶

In China, government support for biogas is part of a set of policies to reduce deforestation.¹⁷ Still in China, a value based environmental school campaign included more than 5 000 students and 100 teachers in 12 schools. Students' art works were delivered to relevant officials as an advocacy approach.¹⁸

14. QZA-12/0763-154 - NOR - Integrated Community Development project Bangladesh, Annual Report 2014

15. QZA-12/0763-164 - NOR - Development Support Program for Stone Quarry Affected Communities India, Annual Report 2014

16. QZA-12/0763-163 - NOR - Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace and Reconciliation Project, Annual Report 2014

17. QZA-12/0763-141 - NMS - The International Biogas Partnership Programme, Annual Report 2014

18. QZA-12/0763-121 - Mission Alliance - Sustainable Livelihoods in Longchuan China, Annual Report 2014

4.7 Women empowerment and gender equality

GOAL: Increased gender equality and greater empowerment of women and girls in all work supported by Digni.

OUTCOME:

Reduced FGM in relevant target areas by means of awareness raising, peer education, and interreligious cooperation and promotion of women and girls rights

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

In Kenya, in Masaai targeted communities, dialog, local leader's forums, networking, and training key resource people (72 trainers) have led to 25% of girls and parents abandoning FGM practices. 612 girls were rescued from the practice during the year and are proceeding in school. Since Kenya's Anti-FGM Bill of 2011, there was a breakthrough in the FGM project when for the first time five circumcisers were jailed after continuing to perform the cut.¹

In Mali, the final evaluation report states that 2/3 of the targeted villages (total 46) have made a collective stand against FGM and signed a declaration against the practice witnessed by local authorities.²

In Ethiopia, in order to sustain anti-FGM attitudes and abandonment of its practice, capacity building of the Church Synod and training of trainers of Woreda Women and Children's Affairs and Justice Office has taken place. In this project, 789 men and 263 women were trained in anti-FGM, legal aspects, advocacy, accountability measures and strategies. In addition, an Anti-FGM manual was developed and distributed and 10,300 people participated in mass-awareness campaigns.³

In Somalia, seven anti-FGM campaigns/ seminars were conducted in seven villages with 1074 participants to raise awareness.⁴

GENDER EQUALITY AND RELIGION

Some highlights from the annual reports for 2014 include:

In Cameroon the church partner's substantive capacity building and awareness raising on gender equality and women's rights have yielded results. A woman has assumed the position of the President of the Board of the Central Region and another woman has been appointed Vice Chair at the Synod Level of the Board of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon.⁵

In Ethiopia, there is an increase of women in decision-making bodies such as among elders and committees at congregational level of the Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church of Ethiopia.⁶ In Kenya, awareness raising has led the Free Pentecostal Church of Kenya for the first time electing women at regional level as leaders.⁷

In Mozambique, awareness of importance of girl's education and rights has started a debate on the place of women in the church and a first time acceptance of a female pastor.⁸

OUTCOME:

Awareness and promotion of women's rights and increased involvement in decision making positions within church organizations.

1. QZA-12/0763-172 PYM FGM Project among the Maasai Annual Report 2014
2. QZA-12/0763-153 NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti Region Annual Report and Final Project Evaluation Report 2014
3. QZA-12/0763-145 NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program, Annual Report 2014
4. QZA-12/0763-179 PYM Integrated Educational Development Program Annual Report 2014
5. QZA-12/0763-142 NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders, Annual Report 2014
6. QZA-12/0763-145 NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program, Annual Report 2014
7. QZA-12/0763-173 PYM-FPFK Rights and Peace for Development Program, Annual Report 2014
8. QZA-12/0763-175 PYM-IEAL Secondary School, Annual Report 2014

OUTCOME:

More women in decision making positions in organizations and projects.

GENDER EQUALITY AND ORGANIZATION

The overall majority of the projects are reporting that women are increasingly assuming decision-making positions in partner organizations and projects.

For example, the integrated program in DR Congo now employs four men and five women. Two of these women are also members of the committee that develops the projects in the partner organization.⁹ In Cambodia, women have been encouraged to run for leadership with the result that 1/3 of leadership positions in community organizations are held by women in the project area.¹⁰ In Bolivia, women are taking on leadership positions at community, municipal and regional levels in the targeted areas.¹¹ In Liberia, women have become champions of project management and implementation at community level.¹²

Challenges are also reported, in particular when it comes to retaining women staff at field/project level. Some women staff leave after getting married and becoming pregnant/ having children.

OUTCOME:

Gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls are challenged and changed.

GENDER EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

Partners and projects have worked on a range of women's rights issues and carry out substantive awareness raising. They report on changed attitudes, empowerment of women and (men), accomplishing to some degree changes in gender roles and practices.

Several projects report on the merits of using economic empowerment as a winning strategy for women's empowerment. For instance through various income generating activities or mobilizing against the practice of property grabbing from widows.¹³ In Ethiopia, the economic and social impact of women self-help groups (SHG) was emphasized. It brought women out of domestic isolation in the household, into the public arena, increased their income, and some received leadership training. These SHGs became attractive models in the community. Women outside the project without financial support copied the models.¹⁴

In Bolivia, a Caranavi and Alto Beni Women Network has been established gathering women's organizations promoting women's rights and gender equality with joint plan of action and strategy for advocacy. They have a high focus on domestic violence.¹⁵

9. QZA-12/0763-13 DNB-Integrated program: civil rights/literacy training/Totombwana, Annual Report 2014

10. QZA-12/0763-131 NMA-Community Transformation in Rural Cambodia, Annual Report 2014

11. QZA-12/0763-115 NMA-Tropical North Development Program (PDNT), Thematic Report 2014

12. QZA-12/0763-48 MM-Community Development Program, Annual Report 2014

13. QZA-12/0763-180 PYM – Women Against HIV and Aids, Uganda, Annual and Thematic Report 2014

14. QZA-12/0763-145 NMS-Western Ethiopia Women Empowerment Program, Final Evaluation Report 2014

15. QZA-12/0763-115 NMA-Tropical North Development Program, Annual Report 2014

OUTCOME:

Increased number of projects with activities promoting the empowerment of women and gender equality at all levels

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Project annual reports show that there is generally a high awareness of including men and women on an equal basis at project and organizational level. Gender policies are setting standards, and many Digni members and partners promote contextual gender sensitive mainstreaming.

For instance, in 2014 the Bible Society carried out a regional capacity building workshop on gender mainstreaming in their HIV and AIDS program for 29 coordinators in 17 program countries in Africa.¹⁶ Equal gender participation in trainings and workshops are emphasized and practiced. Example: equal participation of girls and boys in HIV and AIDS children's clubs or in football clubs.

Even though several projects target women specifically, there is an increased awareness on the need to involve both men and women. An example of that is in Vietnam, where the project challenged men to join parent's groups to share their experiences on parenthood and taking care of children with disabilities. It was also the first time that the men participated in training on gender equality, gender roles and domestic violence.¹⁷

16. Reports from the Francophone and English speaking Capacity Building Workshops on Advancing Gender Equality within the Good Samaritan Programme 2014.

17. QZA-12/0763-139 NMA-Development Project, Vietnam, Annual Report 2014 and Thematic Report 2014

4.8 Human rights

GOAL: Citizens and their organizations are empowered to address duty bearers for realization of Human Rights

OUTCOME:

Rights holders, their organizations, partners and member-organisations have increased awareness and understanding of Human Rights Frameworks and rights based approaches.

EMPOWERMENT OF RIGHTS HOLDERS

Digni member organizations and their partners are strategically using human rights (HR) training and rights based approaches (RBA) on various subjects to empower right holders. For instance, the rights of the child are emphasized in education projects yielding improved results. Some examples are securing safe, qualitative dormitories for children in Mongolia¹, the provision of qualitative inclusive education in Vietnam², and in various indigenous people's projects emphasizing mother tongue education³.

In Vietnam, the Vietnamese government in 2014 ratified the UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). Using this opportunity, project staff and other stakeholders received training on disabilities, local and international regulations, policies and UN CRPD convention.⁴

Partners in Burma⁵ and Bangladesh⁶ have undertaken capacity building on land rights with individuals, community groups, and local organizations and assisting them on land issues.

In Kenya⁷, Ethiopia⁸, Uganda⁹ and India¹⁰, rights holders have increased awareness of rights in relation to HIV and AIDS. An increasing number of partners and projects are using culturally sensitive rights based approaches to address Gender based violence and women's rights. In Ecuador, different actors (1066 persons) connected to the project were trained in active citizenship and human rights.¹¹

OUTCOME:

Rights Holders and Partners define their rights claims and have capability to address/engage Duty Bearers and use rights based approaches.

ENGAGING WITH DUTY-BEARERS

Projects are reporting that primary duty-bearers such as local governments and in some cases national governments have been addressed and engaged to fulfill their obligations. On the border between Burma and India, the partner has established working relations with the International Labor Organization, which can assist if forced labor is happening after the project is terminated in 2015.¹²

Secondary duty-bearers such as local community, elders, church leaders, parents and others are also engaged in improving the situation for rights holders: Some examples: In the southern part of Ethiopia the "contemporary slavery practice" among the Ganta Community has stopped in the project area. A wide range of stakeholders have been mobilized against this harmful tradi-

1. QZA-12/0763-95 NLM-Strengthening Children's Rights Project (SCR) Annual Report 2014
2. QZA-12/0763-138-140 - NMA - Development Project, Vietnam, Annual Report 2014
3. QZA-12/0763-187 - WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program, Annual Report 2014 and QZA-12/0763-188 WYC-Kachhi Community Dev. Program, Annual Report 2014
4. QZA-12/0763-138-140 - NMA - Development Project, Vietnam, Annual Report 2014
5. QZA-12/0763-182 SAINT - Grassroots Human Rights Education Program, Annual Report 2014 and QZA-12/0763-183 SAINT - Project Kaladan Movement, Annual Report 2014
6. QZA-12/0763-157 - BNELC - Development Foundation , Annual Report 2014
7. QZA-12/0763-170 PYM-FPEK, HIV and AIDS, Annual Report 2014
8. QZA-12/0763-4 BS-HIV material and training to churches in Ethiopia, Annual Report 2014
9. QZA-12/0763-180 PYM-Women Against HIV and AIDS, Annual Report 2014
10. QZA-12/0763-27 FA-All India HIV/AIDS Facilitation, Annual Report 2014
11. QZA-12/0763-126 NMA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil Annual Report 2014
12. QZA-12/0763-183 SAINT - Project Kaladan Movement, Annual Report 2014

tional practice of social marginalization, exclusion and forced labor.¹³ In Mongolia, Children's awareness of their rights have been raised in the public dormitories. Children's boards have been established and the Education Department has put in place a child protection policy for all the dormitories in Khovd and Bayan Ulgii aimags. Parents, school administrators and government organizations are working to improve the conditions in the dormitories.¹⁴

In China, the protection of women's rights have been strengthened beyond the geographical target area. A collaboration between the Rights Division of Zhao Tong Municipal Women's Federation and the project has established a sustainable system for domestic violence prevention and treatment. This system has been copied and set up in eight other communities.¹⁵

OUTCOME:

People with disabilities, their primary support persons and organizations are empowered, so that the potential of differently-abled people are reached, respected and included in society. Duty-bearers are addressed and engaged to uphold and fulfill the rights of people with disabilities.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Results from projects that specifically targets people with disabilities

In China, YWCA/YMCA continue the training of government staff in the centers for intellectually disabled people in cooperation with the local government in Nanjing and Nanjing Disabled People's Federation (DPF). The capacity building exchange visits for Chinese Officials to Hong Kong and Denmark have resulted in that The Section Chief of Nanjing (DPF) plans to integrate the same service quality standard as in Hong Kong to secure qualitative and appropriate treatment in the Centers.¹⁶ In China, advocacy training for parents with children with disabilities was a successful activity empowering them to raise their collective needs through cultural appropriate means. By the end of 2014 the results of this is that more parents groups have been formed without the partner's intervention.¹⁷

In the Tien Giang Province in Vietnam, there are about 118 children with disabilities receiving early intervention at Resource Centers this school year.¹⁸ In Bhutan, the Disabled Peoples Association established in 2010 by a group of disabled, were able to sign a memorandum of understanding with 20 districts and identify 20 focal persons who will be providing information regarding disabilities from their respective districts to the project. This information will be essential in order to cooperate with the government and organizations in order to improve the situation for the disabled in Bhutan.¹⁹

Results from member organizations/projects/partners that have worked with "disability as a crosscutting issue"

Generally speaking, the challenge of integrating people with disabilities in the projects remains. However, some encouraging developments have taken place.

13. QZA-12/0763-75 - NLM-SWS Community Based Health Service Project Annual Report 2014, and Final Evaluation Project Report 2014

14. QZA-12/0763-95 NLM-Strengthening Children's Rights Project (SCR) 2, Annual Report 2014


15. QZA-12/0763-53-55NLM-Zhaotong Capacity Building Project (ZTCBP), Annual Report 2014 and Evaluation Project Report 2014

16. QZA-12/0763-2 - AR - Habilitation Center for the Intellectually Disabled, Annual Report 2014

17. QZA-12/0763-120 - NMA-Holistic Habilit. for Children with CP in China, Annual Report 2014

18. QZA-12/0763-138-140 - NMA - Development Project, Vietnam, Annual Report 2014

19. QZA-12/0763-198 , NOR-Organization Development Project - DPAB, Annual Report 2014



in 2014. The Mission Alliance (MA), as the first Digni member developed “an inclusion policy for people with disabilities”. They will make it a cross-cutting issue for all projects from 2016. The Bible Society reports that because of learning from targeted interventions, they are currently working on a strategy and methodology for further inclusion for working with people with disabilities (PWD) in their HIV/AIDS Program.

In Kenya, the partner has continued with their awareness raising and have taken measures to include and promote equal opportunity for PWD in savings and credit groups. They also assist in linking PWD with institutions where they can access services: education, vocational training, and government offices.²⁰

In Afghanistan, PWD are identified in the villages and referrals are made to orthopedic workshops. 52 school age children with disabilities were included in local schools. Adults received vocational training and business loans.²¹

In Tanzania, local schools in Moshi and The Association of the Physically Disabled of Tanzania (CHAWATA) have linked up with the programme providing youths with opportunities to do sports activities together with non-disabled. CHAWATA also informs the disabled about their rights and opportunities and are able to provide some support.²²

20. Q ZZA-12/0763-171 – PYM – PYM - Tuinuane Women Project, Annual Report 2014

21. QZA-12/0763-16 – DNM - Rehabilitation Disabled People in Faryab, Annual Report 2014

22. QZA-12/0763-46 - KRIK - "Sports for promoting youth social inclusion, skills development and improving wellbeing of young people in East Africa", Annual Report 2014

4.9 Strengthening civil society

GOAL: Civil society organizations in the global south are strengthened through empowerment of partners and community based organizations.

OUTCOME:

Local partners have been strengthened, are empowered and new capacity has been built through different organizational development measures.

Community based organizations and village groups have increased their capacity and ability to be actors for sustainable change in their contexts.

OUTCOME:

New Community Based Organizations, self-help groups, networks etc have been formed (number of organizations).

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

All organizations receiving funds from Digni work on capacity development but the themes vary according to the needs. Most trainings include elements of rights and only a few are purely organizational development projects.

The Bible Society's partners in Kenya¹ and Ethiopia² worked on their capacity on anti-corruption in 2014. In Pakistan, Wycliffe's local partner also ran 15 workshops on anti-corruption, which enabled them to partner and network with 385 leaders from other areas.³

In South Africa, a training program for Salvation Army officers includes a theme on faith-based facilitation, which is a community driven approach to development. The results are an increase in advocacy and awareness campaigns on drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, anti-human trafficking, domestic violence and children's' rights.⁴

In Madagascar, nearly all formal leaders at all levels within the local Lutheran church were trained in leadership, management, organization of the church, stewardship and finance. This has resulted in an increase in transparency, voluntary work and financial contribution from church members.⁵

In Ecuador, 689 individuals were trained on strengthening civil society and leadership.⁶ In Bolivia, workshops contributed to empower local organizations to enhance their participation in local management processes, and 58 women and 46 men were trained on "Leadership and Management for Development".⁷ Moreover, 60 leaders were trained and informed on municipal development.⁸

FORMATION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

Local partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America started different kinds of groups and committees during 2014. Networking across projects, organizations, countries and confessions is more and more common. In Kenya and Ethiopia, the Bible Society network has formed 22 new Good Samaritan anti-HIV/AIDS support groups, and 95 Healing groups in Burundi. In Ethiopia, 20 new churches are involved in the anti-HIV/AIDS work, resulting in clergy and religious leaders that support the work in their respective parishes.⁹

Other new-established committees and groups are 13 peace-groups in Congo DR¹⁰ and seven community conversation groups, 28 anti-HIV/AIDS clubs

1. QZA-12/0763-6 - BS HIV Service Capacity building for the Good Samaritan Program Kenya, Annual Report 2014

2. QZA-12/0763-4 - BS HIV material and training to churches in Ethiopia, Annual Report 2014

3. QZA-12/0763-188 - WYC Kachhi Community Development Program Pakistan, Annual Report 2014

4. QZA-12/0763-30 - FA Development and Capacity Building through Faith Based Facilitation, Annual Report 2014

5. QZA-12/0763-150 - NMS MLC Empowerment program Madagascar, Annual Report 2014


6. QZA-12/0763-123 - Mission Alliance Community Development Project Ecuador, Annual Report 2014

7. QZA-12/0763-111 - Mission Alliance Local Development Plan Rural-Urban Zones Bolivia, Annual Report 2014

8. QZA-12/0763-115 - Mission Alliance Tropical North Development Program Bolivia, Annual Report 2014

9. QZA-12/0763-3 BS- Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi, QZA-12/0763-4 BS - HIV material and training to churches in Ethiopia, QZA-12/0763-5 BS - Good Samaritan HIV Project in Kenya and QZA-12/0763-6 BS - HIV Service - capacity building for the Good Samaritan Program Annual Reports 2014

10. QZA-12/0763-13 - DNB Integrated program: civil rights, literacy training, Totombwana Congo DR, Annual Report 2014



and eight youth cultural clubs among the Gumuz minority group in Ethiopia¹¹. Furthermore, 26 new health committees, six cereal banks and five income generating activity groups were set up in Mali¹², 43 new microcredit groups and 24 village development committees were established in Myanmar¹³, 95 diabetic clubs were set up in Mumbai¹⁴, while 62 self-help groups and 11 peace mediator forums were established in India¹⁵, 129 saving groups in Pakistan¹⁶ and eight self-help groups in Cambodia¹⁷. Finally, 70 youth groups are ready to start implementing income generating activities in Tanzania.¹⁸

11. QZA-12/0763-208 - NMS Green Livelihood Program in Western Synod Ethiopia, Annual Report 2014

12. QZA-12/0763-153 - NMS Integrated program Mopti region Mali, Annual Report 2014

13. QZA-12/0763-24 - FA Integrated Community Livelihood Development Myanmar, Annual Report 2014

14. QZA-12/0763-201 - FA Community Health and Empowerment Annual Report 2014

15. QZA-12/0763-163 - NOR Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace and Reconciliation project India, Annual Report 2014

16. QZA-12/0763-187 - WYC Parkari Community Development Program Pakistan, Annual Report 2014

17. QZA-12/0763-165 - NOR FAST – Family and School Transformation Cambodia, Annual Report 2014

18. QZA-12/0763-203 - FA Youth Development program, Annual Report 2014

5. EARMARKED FUNDING

5.1 Renewable energy

The International NMS Biogas Partnership Programme (IBP) 2010-2014

The Final evaluation report¹ of The International NMS Biogas Partnership Programme (IBP)² has pointed to the following outcomes:

- Technological skills have been transferred from Chinese to Malagasy technicians, as observed in the high quality of 10 m³ fixed-dome biogas digesters in Madagascar, with toilets. 212 digesters were built in Madagascar by Malagasy technicians and in China, 500 digesters in Yongshun County, Hunan Province. In addition, some big digesters of 30 m³ digester were built in schools, one in China, and three in Madagascar. Local biogas technicians were trained in both countries. Women from the households that received biogas digesters received training in hygiene, environmental awareness, household economy and potential income generating activities.
- Relevance to users: In China, the appropriateness of the biogas technology in rural livelihoods is evident from 95% of the digesters, built by the IBP, being in use. In Madagascar, most digesters were built in 2014.
- Environmental impact: Biogas has a positive impact on the local environment in both countries. In China, one woman interviewed indicated that she saves approx. 500 kg of firewood each year.³ In China, in project areas, regrowth of forests appears to be happening, and over time in Madagascar, where firewood is very scarce and few alternative energy sources are available, the same effect is expected. The reduction in carbon emissions have not been estimated. In China, the costs of energy and chemical fertilizers per household is reduced by approx. 100-200 RMB per year, through using slurry from digesters in the fields.
- Hygiene and health: Biogas has had an important impact on hygiene with improved toilet facilities. Cleanliness and indoor air quality improved in both countries having an effect on women's health, due to less smoke in the kitchen.
- Changed gender roles and women's empowerment: perception of gender roles within the household, particularly in Madagascar has changed. The biogas cooking installations help women save as much as two hours per day in firewood collection. From the trainings, women have gained skills on how to improve household income and some have initiated small entrepreneurial projects.
- Challenge: The costs of building biogas digesters in Madagascar is relatively high, and therefore the opportunity for the very poor of acquiring this technology is low. Still, the project has been surprised by the number of farmers who have been ready to make the local contribution after seeing the benefits of using biogas.

1. Final Evaluation Report of the International NMS Biogas Partnership Programme 2010-2014.

2. Partnership between: In China: Amity Foundation, Three Self- Church, OFA and Yongshun County government; in Madagascar: The Lutheran Church of Madagascar, with support from The Norwegian Mission Society.

3. In Madagascar, farmers report that they are saving 90% or more of the charcoal and firewood they use. Final Project Report 2014.

5.2 GAP

QZA-12/0763-181 Integrated Peace Building Project: Holistic approach to sexual and gender based violence and Children associated to armed groups in South Kivu province, DR Congo (PYM)

The integrated peace-building project is divided into two different projects: Reintegration and rehabilitation of children associated with armed groups (PREV), and rehabilitation, and reintegration of sexually and gender based violence survivors (CAMPS). In 2014, Hope in Action administered PREV, but CAMPS got a new partner from July to December called Christian Action for Aid and Development (ACAD). This transfer was according to the approved plans. Both projects have reduced their volume of activities and have been running on lower budgets than normal during this year, since 2014 was a year of transition for both CAMPS and PREV.

In 2014, PREV have reached 202 children who have passed through a rehabilitation program preparing them for reintegration into their respective communities. Reportedly, it has been difficult to get the expected change in behavior for all the children, due to the traumas and experiences they have suffered. Even with psychosocial assistance (e.g. listening sessions and cognitive behavioral support) the project experiences challenges in its work. Medical assistance has been provided for those children that needed this. Where there have been victims of sexual violence PREV have cooperated with the CAMPS project.

Skills training is an important part of the reintegration activities of the project. In 2014, 122 children trained in skills ranging from soap making and carpentry to sewing and traditional fishing. The project report states that 171 of 202 integrated back into their communities. There were some challenges such as insecurity issues, which influenced both the stability in the communities and the children's possibilities to return to normal civilian life. The project developed 27 radio programs that conveyed the message of children's rights and denouncing sexual exploitation of children.

During 2014, CAMPS have offered their services through 20 listening centers in seven districts of South Kivu. In these centers, victims of sexual violence have been offered multi-sectoral response – that is services in (1) health (through CAMPS mobile Clinic or government health clinics), (2) medico-psychological assistance (through CAMPS listening centers, CAMPS mobile Clinic or government health clinics), (3) legal assistance (in Bukavu, Kavumu and Fizi legal districts) and (4) socio-economic reintegration. Although in low numbers, CAMPS has been the only organization reporting on sexual violence against men and not just women. 1415 (1404 women, 11 men) have come to CAMPS listening centres for psychosocial assistance. 494 of these have through counselling and psychotherapy reached a certain level of stability and resilience. 1243 of the victims have received medical assistance, through CAMPS mobile clinics, through local/regional FOSA (government clinics) or through Panzi hospital in Bukavu. Since 2013, CAMPS has been entrusted to collect and coordinate national government reporting on SGBV from South Kivu.

20 victims have received legal assistance in collecting and presenting the necessary documentation to the court and 16 cases were fixed before the courts in Bukavu, Kavumu and Kamituga. Two files were judged with sentences ranging from 18 months to 36 months of prison.

Finally, 375 survivors of sexual violence have received training for socio-economic reintegration, management of a particular income-generating activity and management of mutual solidarity cooperative groups. Antennas performed 380 outreach sessions and community groups, In these sessions information is given about the importance of seeking assistance before 72 hours, due to HIV/AIDS testing, and where to find this help.

5.3 Regional grants

QZA-12/0763-151 Lovasoa, Madagascar (NMS)

The historical and present bondage between Norway and Madagascar was the background for the idea of creating a cultural exchange and capacity-building center at the compound of the Norwegian School in Antsirabe. The centre will highlight the cultural and historical connection between the two countries through archive and library services, exhibitions, concerts and other arrangements, together with training in language and cultural understanding. The centre will also facilitate workshops, seminars and conferences in a wide range of subjects.

Lovasoa was financially self-supported in 2014 as far as operation budget was concerned.

- In February 2014, the board decided to merge the Competence Center and the Culture Center into one single department.
- Culture and language courses were provided by the teachers of the Competence Centre to students of various nationalities: Malagasy, Norwegian, Danish, French, American, Korean, Romanian, Pakistani, Mauritian, and Indian, and having various occupations such as missionaries, volunteers, trainees, practicing students, industrial workers (including senior executives). The length varies from one week to six months.
- During 2014 the guesthouse welcomed approximately 1282 persons (which increased by 10 % compared to 2013). Tourist tax collected (1 000 AR / room night) is being paid monthly to the government through the regional tourism office in Antsirabe. The tourism ministry did a national control of the hotel structures in 2014, and this was positive compared to the standard required.
- The original plan was to build the new apartment building in 2014 and to rehabilitate the sanatorium in 2015. Due to delays, the rehabilitation of the old sanatorium started in Oct 2014 and are due to be finished in April 2015. The foundation for the new building was completed in 2014.
- The whole staff of Lovasoa participated in two team building sessions in 2014. The objectives of the team building was to encourage both individual and team development and improvement. Improve collaboration and increase creative thinking, ensure positive communication and enable the team to work closely to solve problems.
- Another training given to all employees was about fire prevention and firefighting. That has prevented accidents from happening on two occasions.

QZA-1QZA-12/0763-152 ProVert, Madagascar (NMS)

The ProVert is an education and capacity building programme, which has been supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Madagascar through Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) in a strategic partnership. The partner of NMS is The Lutheran Church in Madagascar (FLM). ProVert aims to provide education adapted to local needs. 2014 was the last year of the project period, and 2015 was planned to be the first year of a new project as continuation of the old ProVert programme. The new project has so far not been approved and the project was given an additional year to phase out the support to the institutions in the programme. The enrolment in the involved schools in the programme has been 31 657 pupils and all the buildings of the nine institutions are well functioning.

Some of the most important results for 2014 have been:

- For all the nine institutions, human resource development plans are available during the second half of 2014.
- All the nine institutions have their internal committee to evaluate the need of training for their institution/school, and to provide the topic, plan and content of the training/seminaries/workshop.
- During the second phase of ProVert, 1321 headmasters and teachers from the different preschools and primary Schools within FLM obtained training from ProVert in:
Preschool: physic, mental, affection and social development of children, responsibility of teachers, pedagogy, production of didactic materials.
Primary school: Professionalism, school administration, school legislation, school and the society, school environment, psychology of children, learner centered pedagogy, individual educational plan, and educational card, active and participative methods and multi grade class.
- Special schools: 135 headmasters and teachers for deaf and 54 headmasters and teachers for blind obtained training during each annual seminar. Topics included education of young, psychology, pedagogy, sign language, didactic at class, school game, individual education plan and methods. In addition, professional exchanges between participants/institutions improve the way of working for the teachers. In 2014, the teachers from blind schools complained because of the nonexistence of a seminar for blind (lack of funding and financial problems were the reasons for this).
- Special schools provide three days training to the regular schools which include deaf (65 teachers from 2009-2012) and blind (249 teachers from 2009-2014), to educate them on inclusive education.
- 346 teachers/102 FLM schools obtained follow-up and technical support.
- Strategic groups are active: Commission for inclusive education, pedagogic group, and environmental group.

Digni has more data and numbers of children in education for deaf, education for blind, enrollment in the teachers college and participants and trainings at the Tombontsoa agricultural school. These results are available from Digni upon request.

QZA-12/0763-153 FGM, Mali (NMS)

The project's development objective is contributing to the improvement of living conditions for the target group in the zone of intervention. The general and long-term goal for the project is to improve the social and health situation of women in the intervention zone. This is done through the reduction of the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) until the complete abandonment of this practice and through a general improvement of living conditions for the women and the households.

In 2014, there has not been any major changes compared to the approved plans. The impact is primarily on awareness raising at the collective and individual level. The main results at the individual level is that 18 FGM cutters out of 28 operational in the zone of the project, have abandoned the practice and 11 of these have been recruited as resource people who help the project in the mobilization and animations. Moreover, the door-to-door investigation carried out in the northern sector of Konna revealed that 154 girls would not undergo FGM following the decision made by their parents. In Sindegue Wadiobe, the women also decided that they would stop cutting their girls.

At the collective level, a main result is the decision by eight of the intervention villages to abandon FGM. This was made through the engagement of important stakeholders such as the administrative authorities, elected officials, the community, religious leaders, women leaders and youth. Moreover, there is also the watching role of both the Municipal action committee for the abandonment of harmful practices (CCAPN), and the local village committee with the same purpose (CVAPN) and former practitioners of FGM. There has also been an improvement of maternal health thanks to the reduction of the practice of FGM. The rate of prevalence of FGM in the area of Mopti is 75,4 % (Enquête Démographique et de Santé du Mali (EDSMIV) 2006). According to the CAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice as regarding FGM) study developed by the project in 2013, the prevalence of FGM in the zone of intervention is now 62,1 %. In addition to this, the rate of prevalence of FGM which was 88% in the zone of Konna (study of the reference situation by Sahel Consult) was brought back to 41,3 % according to the CAP investigation carried out in 2013 by the engineering and design department BESARA. These results illustrate that the abandonment of FGM is gradually happening in the villages that are a part of the project.



Yayande Samaseko (middle) used to be a circumciser. She inherited the profession from her mother. After 14 years, Samaseko abandoned the practice. On a public meeting in Saare Hamadi she handed over the knife, which she received in a secret ceremony on her wedding day, to missionary Helge Vatne. The knife will be displayed at Misjonsmuseet in Stavanger (Photos: Elsa Storaas Vatne, courtesy of NMS)

5.4 Rights and minorities of faith and belief

QZA-12/0763-184 Advanced Human Rights Seminar for Community Transformation in India (Stefanus Alliance)

Activities carried out in 2014 and outcome

All India Council of Churches (AICC) carried out six one-day seminars in the states of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Tamilnadu, Telangana, and Andra Pradesh in India. On average, there were 250 participants per seminar, mostly leaders, grassroots activists and pastors from AICCs network. Women's participation in the seminars were given importance. The average age of participants was 35 years. This year there was a strong focus also on mobilizing religious leaders and empowering women and communities for standing up against atrocities to women (two seminars).

The evaluation reports from participants after the seminars show encouraging response from the training:

- The participants felt encouraged to fight for their rights, for justice, and raise their voice against crime in their society.
- The people who attended for the first time learned how to face and deal with riots.
- Women gained a better understanding of how to address problems they are facing in the society: like dowry, harassment, rapes, murders, and trafficking.
- The women learned how to approach the legal system and file a case.
- Participants also expressed wishes for more capacity building and follow up.

Termination of project

Stefanus Alliance has cooperated with AICC since 2007. When this project started in 2012 AICC had highly competent project staff, a vast and strategic network and could document promising results from its human rights capacity building. However, last year in 2013, Digni reported to Norad that the project was struggling due to severe leadership challenges in AICC. The competent project personnel had terminated and left the organization and the AICC proved not to be able to get the project back on its feet. Despite substantive dialog and follow-up visits by Stefanus Alliance, AICC failed to follow its plan of action. The long awaited baseline study was not carried out satisfactorily. Only six out of 15 training seminars were implemented in 2014. The "access for justice" program component was not developed and strengthened. Stefanus Alliance reported that the communication also started to fault, since the partner was not able to deliver on its plan of action.

In the second half of 2014, Digni and Stefanus Alliance came to an agreement to terminate the project prematurely and Digni decided not to pay out the last remittance to the project in September 2014. Therefore, the project ended up spending only 42 percent of the project budget in 2014.

Digni regrets the negative developments of this important and highly needed initiative in India.

QZA-12/0763-211 Project Bridges, SAT-7 (NMS)

Through a series of TV-programs highlighting current political affairs and minority issues in the Middle East/North Africa region, the objective of this project is to increase public awareness of the importance of democracy, diversity and dialogue. Through *Bridges*, SAT-7 is continuing the broadcasting of cooperation and reconciliation to the Middle East. It builds bridges between minorities, minorities and majority, and it helps the bridging of individuals and state through promotion of citizenship, accountability, democracy and diversity. Despite the daring programming and being a Christian voice in a Muslim world, in 2011, SAT-7 was found to be one of the most balanced and impartial media stations in the region by the Egyptian Organization of Human Rights.

2014 was a year of great changes in Egypt and the region. After the change of the Muslim Brotherhood regime in July 2013, there were lots of questions on the future of Arab spring, democracy and human rights, the future of Political Islam and the relationship between violence and personal freedoms. SAT-7 was following the growing tension in Libya and Yemen, and trying to analyse how these developments, especially in Libya, is going to affect the situation in Egypt and other neighbouring countries. The drastic developments in Iraq were also closely monitored.

- In 2014, SAT-7 has produced and broadcasted 52 episodes of *Bridges* - a weekly, two-hours long live TV-broadcast, giving voice to representatives of minorities. SAT-7 has managed to ensure a broad and differentiated group of guests in the program with different backgrounds, education level, religion, etc.
- SAT-7 International Office commissioned Responding to Conflict to run a three-day workshop on what it means to be conflict sensitive at programme and organisational level, with specific reference to the role of the media in conflict situations. The focus at programme level was the Bridges project. The workshop took place in Cairo from 3-5 March 2014. It was attended by 11 people: Six SAT-7 Egypt staff, of whom five work on the Bridges project and one in Audience Relations; three SAT-7 International Office staff, of whom two work with the Bridges project, and two from the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS). The participants engaged fully with the conflict sensitive approach to journalism and those present found the tools and frameworks introduced useful.
- Training and improving general media skills was also implemented in November 2014.



The *Bridges* studio (Photo: www.sat7usa.org)

5.5 Education in areas of conflict

QZA-12/0763-210, Female Teacher Education Project, Afghanistan (YWAM)

The support is part of QZA-12/0763-185 Female Teacher Education Project, and this report addresses the results regarding the activities of the specific project components funded through the earmarked grant. It will emphasize impacts, which relate to alleviating conflict.

Although this program initially only trains 15 students, it will eventually offer quality education to hundreds of female students in nine different villages (including surrounding areas). Not only might we see more female students go to school because they are offered a female teacher, but we might see increased learning outcome because they are offered a professional teacher.

- The original plan was to start semester one of the Teacher Training Program, January 2014. However, because assessments of our student's foundational level of knowledge showed that they were still very weak, it was decided to extend the preparatory program to become a five-month program rather than a three-month program.
- The students completed semester one in October. Semester one started with 16 students. 12 students passed all exams and three students failed a couple of their exams. They have been offered individual courses and they will get a second chance to pass the exam mid semester two. (End of January 2015)
- Moving the project from Omega International to International Assistance Mission (IAM) was an important change implemented in 2014. IAM has been in Afghanistan for 49 years. IAM will provide support to the project in a number of ways. At a base level, this includes financial and administrative support and oversight. IAM also has its own project planning and review cycles that are designed to keep their projects as effective and efficient as possible. IAM provides an 'umbrella' of protection.
- Security became a big issue in Afghanistan in 2014. The presidential elections, the awaiting results, the response to the results, round two, the negotiations between Ghani and Abdullah and then their inability to choose a cabinet, all made the situation in the country very tense. As a project, we chose to shut down the office and send the students home to their villages at times when the tension was at its highest. We revised our contingency plans and went through, with the staff, what our routines would be under potential security breaches. We paid close attention to reports from The International NGO Safety Organization, in addition to reports from locals and their networks. For periods, we limited our movements in the city. For village networking, we arranged for most meetings to happen in the city.
- The students report that their role in the villages has already changed. They are no longer viewed as just village girls. They have dignity. They have a voice and they are given an important, respected role that makes their fellow villagers look up to them. Increased dignity paves the way for more gender equality to take place.
- The project has a signed protocol both with the ministry of Education in Kabul and with the Department of Education in Balkh province stating that they will provide salaries for the students when they return to their villages as teachers. This is crucial because there was a change in government in 2014.

6. EVALUATIONS

6.1 External project evaluations

Overview

In the agreement between Norad and Digni for 2013-2017, Norad states that Digni should include in the annual report, a compilation of the main learning and follow up of the evaluations.

34 external evaluations were conducted in 2014. Some evaluations were done in 2013, but the final report was not ready until 2014. These are included in the list of evaluations since they are part of the reporting for 2014. Some evaluations have been postponed due to different reasons, these are mentioned in the list, but will be part of the reporting for 2015.

In 2013, Digni adopted a new evaluation policy and a guideline to monitoring and evaluation. The new guidelines include more specific follow up routines for Digni members and for the Digni secretariat. From 2015, Digni will give written feedback to all our members on the external evaluation reports. The members should submit a management letter together with the final reports. In 2014, we have followed up our members more closely when it comes to sending the external evaluations to Norad's database. In the list attached, all the reports that are now in the database have been marked (see attachment one).

Quality of reports

In general, the quality of the reports are good and reflect competent evaluation teams. Participatory methodology is used in data collection in the field and analysis of findings are satisfactory. In most of the evaluations, there is good involvement of stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries. The organizations state that the evaluation exercise is a good opportunity for learning for all parties, they intend to use these to improve the quality of their development projects, and Digni experiences that recommendations are followed up in strategic project planning and implementation.

The reports include good documentation of results and most reports follow the terms of reference and address the main issues and results according to the approved plans. Some evaluators still miss a good baseline and Digni is working on this.

Main learning points

There has been a lot of learning in the evaluations that were conducted.

- On a general basis, we can say that main learning points include the need to keep working on good monitoring and reporting systems and that better baselines need to be conducted in order to be able to document results.
- Good and relevant indicators have been lacking in some cases.
- Creating a phase out plan and finding a sustainable way of operation is of pivotal importance.
- The projects that have had weak plans for sustainability from the start keep struggling with this until the final stages of the projects.
- Good and long term planning pays off and local ownership together with transparent relationships with the authorities provide good results.
- There is a need to secure that the volunteers maintain a reasonable workload.

- Projects should engage men more in the sensitization of men (peer communication).
- Projects should build on experiences made so they can systematically develop methods for how traditional, cultural and experiential knowledge may be transformed into a resource for development. Working through existing cultural systems may facilitate social change.
- The innovative holistic development approach applied in the fight against FGM (Mali) has been an important key to the Program's success. In the local communities, the abandonment of FMG is to a large degree seen as an integrated part of the process of local development.
- More focus on developing systems of sharing models of good practice (ideas, competence and cooperation)
- Training of trainers proves to be successful in some cases and provides sustainability and capacity building. However, the course material used in some of the projects should be translated to the local language and adapted to the culture and context in order to become even more relevant. In addition to this, the oral information provided as part of the project must also be given in a language that the beneficiaries understand.
- Finally, some reports have confirmed that religious leaders are influential people that can bring a change of attitude in the community. Bringing church leaders on board to talk about HIV – something that was not possible before due to the stigma attached to this issue has given results and the connection with the church, has not hindered the projects in reaching and offering counselling to all people, irrespective of religion.

Digni follow up

In 2013 /2014, Digni has encouraged some Norwegian member organizations and partners to spend more money on evaluations in order to get external professional evaluators. Digni has requested additional project evaluations due to evaluations considered as too internal and of poor quality. The result is that some of this year's evaluations are of improved quality resulting in improved organizational learning, providing strategic input, and facilitating change.

Digni will follow up on the findings and recommendations made in the evaluation reports and use them actively in the follow up of existing projects and when considering new project proposals. Digni will also follow up with member organizations and partners to ensure that they themselves use the recommendations of the evaluation actively to improve the management of the projects.

Reading and discussing the strategic implications of project evaluation reports has been identified to be essential for following up the project portfolio of Digni member organizations that have a framework agreement with Digni.

Digni will require that all new projects provide good baseline studies and monitoring and evaluation systems available before start-up, to make sure that the results of the projects are measurable and reliable.

PART TWO:

Secretariat



This is the report on some selected highlights from the work in the secretariat in 2014. We have chosen to focus on some of the reviews and evaluations we have had in 2014, especially the first evaluation of a framework agreement and the results and findings from the KPMG review on Dignis anti-corruption work, as well as the Global Participatory Learning Evaluation of Rights Based Approach. In the secretariat budget we earmark funding for competence building projects initiated by our members. These usually have a timeframe of three years. In 2014, three such projects came to an end and the main results are included in this report.

The secretariat in numbers

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

Total funds administrated:

NOK 179 908 561

Of which:

Framework agreement NOK 160 000 000

Earmarked funding NOK 20 990 000

Administration costs:

NOK 13 026 000, or 7,24 %

Result:

NOK 788 223

Of which:

NOK 340 000 is transferred to the budget for 2015

NOK 448 223 is reallocated with the project portfolio

PERSONNEL

Number of employees:

12 (5 men, 7 women) or 10, 12 full-time equivalents

Board members:

7 (5 men, 2 women)

Sick leave:

68,5 full-time days or 2,67% of the total work hours

Maternal/paternal leave:

231 full-time days

Dialogue with Norad

Digni appreciates the good and constructive dialogue and cooperation we have with Norad.

In 2014, a number of changes with regard to Norwegian development policies have been carried out. Digni especially welcomes the renewed focus on education and human rights and looks forward to cooperating more with Norad on these topics during the framework period.

Another change has been the introduction of concentration policies (of countries and thematic areas of intervention), heavily emphasised by the government and Norad. This represents a challenge to Digni. As an umbrella organization, Digni has many different interests to consider, in Norway, but more importantly in countries where we support good development initiatives through well-established working relations. Digni appreciates the signals given by parliament, that civil society organizations will be exempt from the ongoing country concentration. At the same time, Digni welcomes initiatives that strive to make development efforts more effective. Improving the quality and effectiveness, not only efficiency, of development must be the overriding principle for reforms. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with Norad on these matters in 2015 and beyond. Digni will continue to engage with the Norwegian civil society organizations on this and other relevant development issues, facilitating meeting points between the NGOs, Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as we have successfully done in 2014.

The issue of added value has also been recurring in 2014. Digni would like to continue the dialogue with Norad on this, especially when it comes to the follow-up of the evaluation: *Added costs. Added value? Evaluation of Norwegian support through and to umbrella and network organisations in civil society* (Report 5/2014, Norad).

Anti-corruption is another topic, which is high on the agenda in Digni and our member organizations. Digni has an increased focus on preventive measures and on developing good routines in the secretariat and within the member organizations. Finding the most effective and efficient ways to follow up reported cases of corruption and mismanagement remains a challenge. Digni appreciates the improved and constructive dialogue with Norad on this matter and looks forward to future cooperation.

1. SECRETARIAT REPORTS

1.1 Competence building programs

1.1.1 Mental Health

For the past three years, HimalPartner, on behalf of Digni, have conducted a capacity-building project on mental health in development work. Globally, there is a large gap between needs and available resources within mental health. HimalPartner has contributed to increase the focus on mental health as an important development area.

The project got a flying start with the conference in 2012. During the conference, it was decided that HimalPartner would be the secretariat of a network on global mental health in Norway. Two weeks after the conference the white paper on global health was launched and HimalPartner had the possibility to set the agenda in a parliament committee. Both these events exceeded our expectations and gave momentum to the process. The implementation of the project has consisted of mapping, networking, capacity building, advocacy, research and awareness raising. A deeper understanding of the dynamics of global mental health has been a result of the mapping process. Existing stakeholders cooperate more fully, while new stakeholders are added as a result of networking. From capacity building in Nepal, we have learned that it is possible to execute culturally relevant courses about mental health. Finally, because of advocacy in both Norway and Nepal, we see that mental health is increasingly being included into papers, laws, strategies and in the general understanding of both public and governmental officials.

Among development organizations, we have seen an awakening on mental health issues in development work. As the number of actors increase, we believe that this interest will continue. An indicator of sustainability is that other actors engage in the topic and start supporting mental health-related projects. In Digni, we see that this capacity-building project has raised awareness among Digni members and in the secretariat on this important and often neglected area. Digni and HimalPartner will continue this work in the coming years even though the capacity-building program ended in 2014.

1.1.2 Use your talents

The competence-building program Use Your Talents seeks to mobilize voluntarism, local human resources, networking and the congregation as a primary development agent. The program involves four churches in Africa and their co-operating partners in Norway. The project is expected to result in a model for community development work within a church context by the end of 2015. In this report, Digni wants to mention some of the main preliminary results.

Study tours to Kenya and Ethiopia were carried out in 2014, similar to the ones to Madagascar and Zimbabwe in 2013. They have resulted in a common understanding that people on the grassroots level are engaged in voluntary development work both within their churches and in the community. Although there are different ways of working, some elements and core values are common for the participating churches. Mutual experience sharing on practical handy craft, small-scale business, husbandry and agricultural tech-

niques have resulted in new ideas.

In 2014, the Use Your Talents group established contact with Africa University in Zimbabwe, School of Mission and Theology, and Diakonhjemmet University College in Norway. They have started a dialogue on how to work together to develop a community development model within a church context.

Draft articles aimed for publication in journals were developed at the end of the year. The group also started the process of making a book, which will compile the lessons learned. In addition, information on the Use your talents concept have been shared on local, national and international levels through seminars and conferences in Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Thailand, South-Africa and Norway.



From Use Your Talents study tour to Ethiopia. The delegation visited and spent the night with Mrs. Amarech Wogase (second from left) and Mr. Salele Shanka's (right) family in Chencha, Southern Ethiopia, a model household for the Use Your Talents project (Photo: Lilliann Våje).

1.1.3 International Environmental Competence Building Program

From 2012 to 2014, Digni financed an Environmental Competence Building Program, managed by the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS). The focus was on increasing the awareness and competence of the participants on environmental issues. Three Norwegian member organizations participated (NMS, Normisjon and Areopagos) along with partners from Ethiopia, Madagascar, India and China. The project concluded with a conference in Hosaina, Ethiopia, in November, hosted by the Evangelical Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY).

The main results from the program have to do with awareness raising:

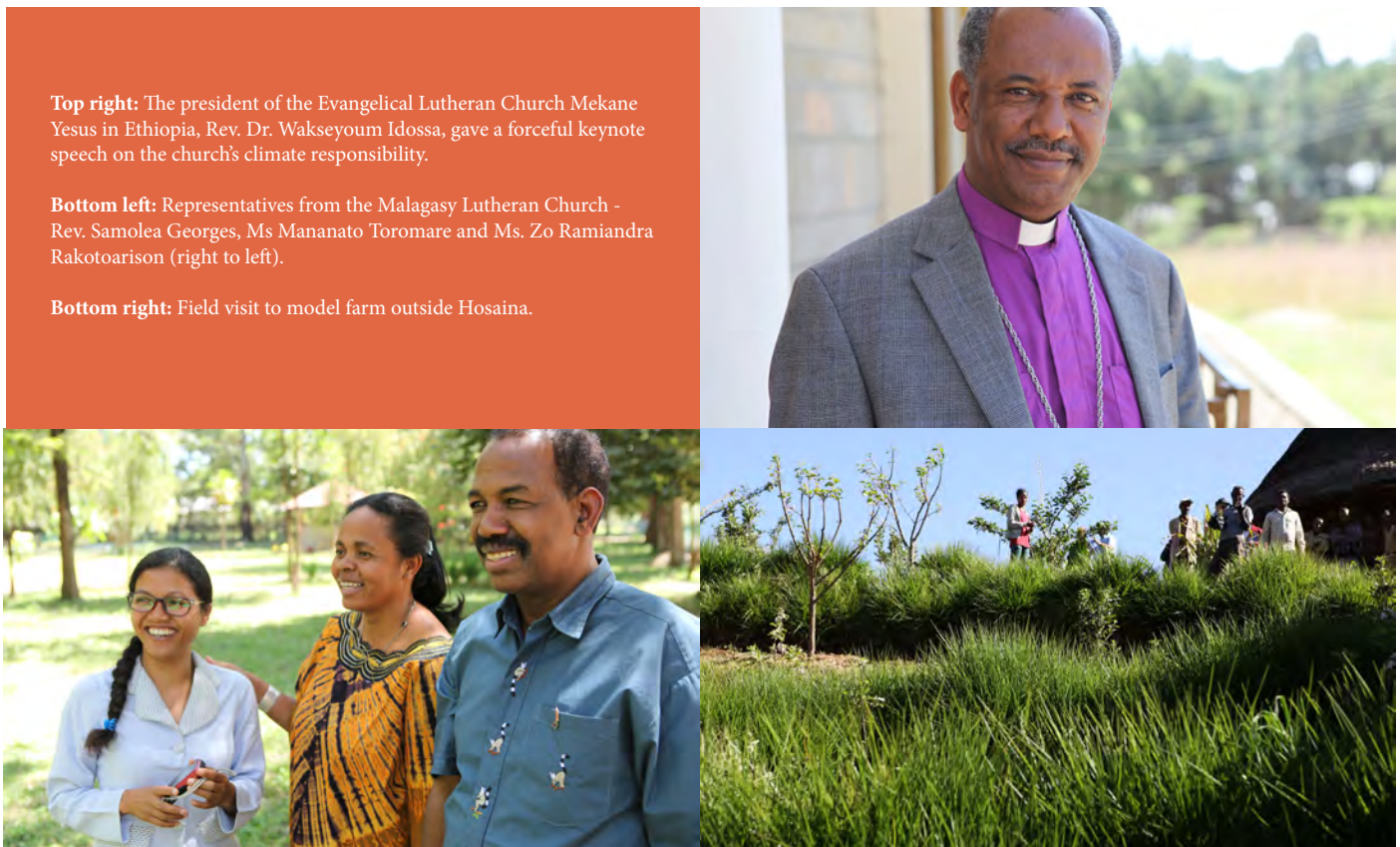
- At the level of theology: Theology has been a major focus area of the program. In order to mobilize church members, the theological foundation needs to be clear.
- At the level of organizations: All the participating organizations report that awareness on environmental issues and climate change has increased, especially within the leadership. The EECMY has already introduced an environment policy into its church hierarchy. Others are in the pipeline.
- At the level of facts: The participants have increased their knowledge about global climate change issues and environmental degradation.

IN PHOTOS: CONCLUDING CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENT COMPETENCE BUILDING PROGRAM, HOSAINA, ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 2014

Top right: The president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus in Ethiopia, Rev. Dr. Wakseyoum Idossa, gave a forceful keynote speech on the church's climate responsibility.

Bottom left: Representatives from the Malagasy Lutheran Church - Rev. Samolea Georges, Ms Mananato Toromare and Ms. Zo Ramiandra Rakotoarison (right to left).

Bottom right: Field visit to model farm outside Hosaina.



- At the level of mitigation: The practical experiences of the participants show that addressing environmental issues, especially at the local level, is feasible and often a win-win situation.

Some challenges/recommendations have also been identified.

- Uniting the church on climate change and creating ownership within the church organizations remains a key challenge in order to mobilize grassroots.
- There is a need to address the knowledge gap on climate change/environmental degradation and mitigation options.
- We need to scale up the best practices identified through the program.
- We need to work more “vertically” with climate issues. Connecting the dots between the global, national and local arenas requires better strategies, but also increased capacity.



Top left: Group discussions during conference.

Top right: Mr Ajith Sen from the Evangelical Social Action Forum shared experiences with the production and retail of environmentally friendly household products in India.

Bottom right: Model farmer Woldamanuel lays out the foundations of his success during field visit: Hard work, a willingness to adopt new agricultural methods and gender equality.
(All photos: Kåre Eriksen)



1.2 Reviews and evaluations

1.2.1 Digni's Global Participatory Learning Evaluation of Rights Based Approach

Digni commissioned in September 2013 two consultants from Diakonhjemmet University College and one independent consultant from South Africa to undertake a global participatory learning evaluation of Digni members and partners' understanding and use of rights-based approaches (RBA). The results of the evaluation is based on information from questionnaires, interviews with partners and members, in-depth consultations at Digni network meetings in East- Africa and East- Asia, as well as project visits to Ethiopia and Myanmar in 2014 .



The evaluation team: Elsa Døhlie, Shamim Meer and Hans Morten Haugen (left to right)

Main learning points:

- Digni members and partner organizations see RBA and human rights as relevant and express convergence between faith and rights.
- Organizations demonstrate a strong commitment to applying RBA principles of human dignity, participation, empowerment, accountability and non-discrimination in their work.
- Biblical understandings of RBA principles is often the basis for the commitment among project staff in Christian faith-based organizations.
- Organizations expressed the need for using cultural, contextual, and religious appropriate language when working with communities.

Main challenges:

- Some partners and members raised concern about clashes between human rights and faith values in regards to abortion, condom use and gay rights.
- In many countries, there is limited political space for claiming rights.
- RBA programming needs to be strengthened in projects and programs.
- Work on gender equality and women's rights should be strengthened and a more consistent gender perspective should inform project work.

Digni Follow-up of evaluation recommendations:

- Digni will develop a plan of action and a RBA policy.
- Incorporate RBA perspectives in criteria for support and assessment of projects.
- Assist members/partners with provision of contextual relevant RBA tools, training material and resources to strengthen RBA programming.
- Provide for capacity building and development of RBA material linking/bridging rights

- and faith dimensions, including competence building in inter-faith dialog and practice.
- The focus on gender mainstreaming and empowering women in projects and organizations will be strengthened.
 - Digni will continue to provide arenas and space for members and partners to discuss and exchange differences in viewpoints on controversial issues like sexual and reproductive rights, and gay rights.

1.2.2 Evaluation of the framework agreement of the Mission Alliance

In 2014, the Mission Alliance went through an external review. Based on the conclusions, the Digni Board decided to continue the framework agreement with the organization.

A member organization with a framework agreement with Digni is subject to a review 1,5-2 years after the agreement implementation. The main objective of these reviews is to assess the implementation and the development of the organization's System for Quality Development (QDS). The QDS is the core of the agreement, and it formed the initial criteria for the frame agreement application. The Norwegian Mission Society will be subject for a similar review in 2015 and the Norwegian Lutheran Mission in 2016.

The conclusions and the recommendations from the reviews will form the basis for Digni's evaluation of the entire frame agreement concept in 2016. The conclusions and the recommendations from that evaluation will be crucial for Digni's strategy and application for a new framework agreement with Norad in 2017.

The Mission Alliance review was carried out in three phases. Lead by an external consultant, the team started with reviewing all relevant reports and documents from Digni and the Mission Alliance and a two-day workshop was organized in Oslo. The second phase included a visit to Vietnam consisting of interviews with staff, partners, project personnel and other external stakeholders.

The review concluded that the Mission Alliance had successfully established and introduced a strong Quality Development System (QDS) in the organization. The QDS had helped the Mission Alliance to maintain quality assurance and development systems for internal, financial, administrative and organizational processes. The QDS was found as a formalization and consolidation of already existing practices. The Mission Alliance had gained more flexibility with a frame agreement. However, the review states that the system had not led to any savings in costs and administrative work so far. It also says that the QDS has not yet led to any new effects on the substance and quality of the development cooperation in Vietnam, such as the selection of thematic and geographic priorities, working methods and achievement of results. The report presents a list of recommendations for improvements of the frame agreement concept.

At the present stage, Digni's main concern is that the organizations' Quality Development Systems are of good quality, are implemented and that they function well. The next stage will focus more on how to develop the QDS further to make it more effective and more relevant.

1.2.3 Anti-corruption work

Digni has, in accordance with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' zero-tolerance policy, worked systematically for several years to fight corruption in the Digni chain. In 2014, Digni was granted 480 000 NOK from Norad to enhance its capacity for prevention, detection and handling of financial irregularities. The following projects were carried out, in addition to the capacity building of Digni's advisors:

Review by KPMG: An external review of Digni's systems and routines for managing financial irregularities was carried out by KPMG. The report showed that Digni's anti-corruption efforts are on track, but also included recommendations on areas that need improvement, such as further capacity development of Digni staff, improved statistics on cases of mismanagement, enhanced communication and sharing of good practices among Digni and its members and improved risk management for Digni as a whole. The consultants from KPMG also conducted training sessions with the staff and the board of Digni. We have created an action plan to follow up on the recommendations made in the report.

The Anti-corruption grassroots course developed by Wycliffe in 2011 has been highly successful and widely used by Digni members and several partner organizations for training of employees of non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, government employees, university students and others. The course has been translated to French, Spanish and many other languages. In 2014, Wycliffe initiated the revision and updating of the course. This process has been highly inclusive and has involved Digni staff and representatives from several organizations in the global south. The third version of the course will be launched in December 2015.

Digni Integrity Channel: Digni is continuously working on awareness raising on financial and non-financial mismanagement among its members and their partners. Digni therefore initiated work on a whistleblower system for the whole chain in 2013. However, obtaining the necessary approval from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority proved too complicated due to the umbrella structure of Digni. It was therefore decided that the solution developed during 2014 would be set up as an internal integrity channel system for Digni itself, as per the requirements of Norwegian law. Until a solution is found, Digni has encouraged all its members to inform about and make use of Norad's Whistleblowing channel.

1.2.4. Religion and development

In 2014, Digni has engaged the issue of religion and development at different levels.

Internationally, Digni plays an increasingly important role bringing together key actors to work with the issue of religion and development. In May 2014, Digni co-hosted a consultation on "Religion and the sustainable development goals" in New York with UNFPA, George Mason University and the City University of London. In this event, donor agencies such as DFID and SIDA participated along with UN organizations and large faith-based organizations, such as the World Council of Churches and Islamic Relief. A new consultation will take place in July 2015.

Digni has also played a part in setting up a consultation on religion and politics, hosted by the Brookings Institutions in Washington DC, and participates in the steering committee of the Joint Learning Initiative – a collaboration that collects documentation on the role of religion in development.

In Scandinavia, Digni is involved in a collaboration with the Swedish and Danish Mission Councils, focusing on advocacy, awareness raising and the development of tools and methods for utilizing religion assets in development.

Domestically, Digni has continuously argued for the need to ensure systematic competence on religion in foreign development assistance and diplomacy, through op-eds in the media, and dialogue with politicians and MFA/Norad officials. In a world increasingly dominated by religion, so the argument goes, Norway must strengthen its analytical capacity with regard to the role of religion. Concerning development, Digni has argued that religious leaders and networks need to be a part of Norway's development strategies, often being gatekeepers of the local communities and representing locally rooted social movements.

Survey

In the autumn, Digni commissioned a survey among Norwegian aid and development workers, asking their opinions on and experiences with the role of religion in development. The report, launched early in 2015, highlights a paradox: "Everybody" agrees religion is a crucial factor in development work, but only faith-based actors appear to work strategically with religious networks. The findings also suggest Norwegian development workers find themselves out of depth engaging with religion. The release of the report generated some media attention. Digni has since been approached by both Atlas-Alliance and the Danish Mission Council to collaborate on similar surveys.

1.3 Regional network meetings

Digni has held regional network meetings, in its present form, since 2009. The aim of these meetings, which have been held in West Africa, East Africa, East and South East Asia and Latin America, have been to facilitate a meeting place where Digni can listen to and get feedback from the partners and where Digni can address important issues relevant to the development agenda. There has been a lot of learning during these years and some concrete results.

Strategic implications and value added

The regional meetings contribute to a better understanding of the context in which the projects operate and on important issues that are ongoing in the region. There is a clear benefit in the fact that we are all gathered over six days. This means that we can have meetings that are more formal as well as informal gatherings to continue discussions and dialogues. There is ample room for networking and learning from each other's experiences. These meetings are also one of the few opportunities where the whole "Digni chain" can meet together; Digni, member organizations, partners and projects. Capacity building is one of the main points on the agenda in these meetings. All the involved parties, Digni, members and the partners develop the program, decide on the themes, and set the agenda. This ensures that the regional meetings are relevant for all and address topics that are relevant for the projects and partners in the field. At the same time, Digni will have certain topics and themes we want to address and will use these meetings to inform about new policies, Norwegian development politics and we invite the Norwegian embassies where this is relevant.

Main results so far

The regional network meetings have contributed to a better understanding of the context in which Dignis members and their partners operate. For example, when Digni informed about the new integrity channel we received a lot of feedback from the partners who were not so positive about this initiative and were concerned that the channel would be misused. Another example is LGBT rights, which some partners addressed during a meeting in Kenya. This resulted in a follow-up meeting where Digni listened to the partners, heard their concerns, and answered their questions. Digni gained much more knowledge into the complexities of these issues among different partners and their contexts, which we have later used in meetings in Norway.

Regarding capacity building one of the main topics have been organizational development and leadership, which the partners have appreciated a lot and find very relevant in their daily work. The challenge is to keep the momentum and provide good tools, which they can use in the future. Digni is working on this. For example, we will establish a network working on this in Asia after feedback from meetings in this region. The anti - corruption workshop has also been a great success and has been followed up and used by many of our members and their partners. Sharing of experiences in relation to this has been important in the meetings.

Lastly, an important result is the learning between partners and projects. Several projects have arranged visits after these meetings in order to follow up the learning and sharing of experiences and best practices. One of the main feedbacks we have from the regional meetings is that they want to spend even more time sharing and learning from each other's projects. This is one of Dignis added values; we are able to bring partners and projects together under the Digni umbrella and facilitate learning and best practices.

Digni follow up and the way forward

Digni plans to continue with the regional meetings in the coming years. However, we do see a need to organize them more efficiently and to make sure that the members and partners are even more involved in the planning and execution of the meetings. Some participants have said that they would like to go deeper into some of the thematic topics that are raised. Digni has started to follow up on this by arranging parallel sessions in some meetings. In the future, we would like to connect more with relevant external organizations and resources. Especially those who are present in the region where Digni members are working.

IN PHOTOS: GLIMPSES FROM REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN THAILAND IN 2014



Top left: Group discussions during regional meeting.

Top right: Elie Storesletten and Jørn Lemvik from Digni present input on anti-corruption work.

Bottom left: Group photo of participants.

Bottom right: The anti-corruption course is a popular feature at the regional meetings. (All photos: Sigbjørn Kiserud)



ATTACHMENTS

- List of external evaluations



ATTACHMENT: This is a list of the external evaluations conducted in 2014 based on the list of planned evaluations that were a part of Dignis application for 2013-2017 (Norad's list). There are some deviations to the list which is explained in the table.

Org	Program Code	QZA-nr	Name of project/program	Type of evaluation	Deviation/Comment	In Norads database
DFEF	SWA	QZA-12/0763-10	Gender Based Violence	Mid-term	As planned	X
DELF	ETH	QZA-12/0763-7	Peace and reconciliation between Oromo and Gumuz people	Mid-term	As planned	X
FA	COD	QZA-12/0763-25	Kinshasa Fight against Sex Trafficking	Final	Conducted in 2013, but not approved by Digni due to poor quality of the report. New evaluation conducted in 2014 and approved.	X
FA	RAM	QZA-12/0763-31-32	Regional facilitation Team	Final	Originally planned for 2013 but postponed to 2014.	X
FA	HTI	QZA-12/0763-26	"Stand up against HIV-AIDS Prevention project;	Mid-term	Originally planned as internal, but conducted as an external evaluation.	X
FA	BGD	QZA-12/0763-21-23	Capacity Building for Stronger Communities	Final	As planned	X
FA	RAF	QZA-12/0763-33	Promoting Community Engagement through Facilitation of Local Responses	Final	As planned	X
KMM	SEN	QZA-12/0763-44-45	Ker Yaakaar - Community Development in Senegal	Mid-term	This evaluation was put on the list for 2013 by mistake; it will be conducted in 2015.	N/A
NLM	PER	GLO-07/107-9	Project for Education and Development	Post evaluation	This was cancelled due to lack of capacity. (Post evaluation of non-active project)	N/A
NLM	CHN	GLO-07/107-96-99	Yuan Yang Environment and Development Programme	Post evaluation	This was cancelled due to lack of capacity. (Post evaluation of non active project)	N/A
NLM	BOL	GLO-07/107-12	School project, Cochabamba	Post evaluation	This was cancelled due to lack of capacity. (Post evaluation of non active project)	N/A
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-65	NLM-Reducing Maternal Mortality (RMM)	Mid-term	Postponed to 2015	N/A
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-70-72	NLM-SES Community Based Health Service Project	Final (mix internal and external evaluation).	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug

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NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-73-75	NLM-SWS Community Based Health Service Project	Final (mix internal and external evaluation).	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-76-79	NLM-WBS Community Based Health Service Project	Final	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-80-83	NLM-Amaro Synod Community Based Health Service Project	Final (mix internal and external evaluation).	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-84-86	NLM-South Synod Community Based Health Service Project	Final (mix internal and external evaluation).	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-87	NLM-Bena Tsemai Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Final	As planned	Will be in Norad data base in july/aug
NLM	ETH	QZA-12/0763-59	NLM-Raytu Community Development Project (RCDP)	Final	Conducted in December 2013 and reported on in 2014.	X
NLM	KEN	QZA-12/0763-93	NLM-Tana North Water and Sanitation Project	Mid-term (mix internal and external evaluation).	Postponed to 2015	N/A
NLM	CHN	QZA-12/0763-53-55	NLM-Zhaotong Capacity Building Project (ZTCBP)	Final	As planned	Will be in Norads database in July/Aug
NLM	PER	QZA-12/0763-100	NLM-Family Development and Strengthening Project.	Final	Carried out in 2013 – and by mistake was inserted in the original list for 2014.	X
NLM	SOM	QZA-12/0763-101	Capacity Building within HealthCare	Final	Project terminated earlier than planned due to security issues	X
NMA	BOL	QZA-12/0763-115-119	Tropical North Development Program (PDNT)	Mid-term	Postponed to 2015	N/A
NMA	BOL	QZA-12/0763-110	NMA-HIV/AIDS, El Alto town	Final	Postponed to 2015	N/A
NMA	BOL	QZA-12/0763-103-108	NMA-Integrated Dev., Interandean Valleys	Final	Postponed to 2015	N/A

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NMA	CHN	QZA-12/0763-121	NMA- Sustainable Livelihoods in Longchuan.	Mid-term	As planned	X
SAINT	BUR	QZA-12/0763-182	SAINT - Grassroots Human Rights Education Program	Final	Postponed to 2015	N/A
WYC	PAK	QZA-12/0763-187	WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program	Mid-term	An internal mid-term review was carried out in 2014. The external evaluation will be done at the end of the program.	N/A
NMS	MLI	QZA-12/0763-153	Integrated Development Program Mopti province	Final	In Norad's list for 2013, but conducted in 2014 due to the conflict in Mali.	X
NMS	CHN/MAD	QZA-12/0763-141	International Biogas program	Mid-term	In Norad's list for 2013, but postponed. It was agreed not to carry out a mid-term review for only two years and rather use resources to do a more thorough evaluation of the project at the end of the project period of 2014.	X
NMS	ETH	QZA-12/0763-144	Ethiopian IRD program (inkl. Begi-G, Nonno, Bikilal and Bodji)	Final	In Norad's list for 2013, but is postponed until 2015.	N/A
NMS	MAG	QZA-12/0763-152	NMS-ProVert The Green Education Programme	Final	Norad was in charge of this evaluation and therefore it was not part of Dignis evaluation plans	N/A
NMS	CAM	QZA-12/0763-143	All against Aids, Ngaundere, Cameroon	Impact evaluation	As planned	X
NOR	BGD	QZA-12/0763-154	NOR-Integrated Community Development Progr. (ICDP)	Mid-term	As planned	X
HP	NPL	QZA-12/0763-41	HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal	Final	As planned	Requested
DNM	AFG	QZA-12/0763-15	DNM-Mental Health Training	Mid-term	Postponed to 2015 due to security situation in project area	N/A

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			Center, Herat (MHTC)			
PYM	KEN	QZA-12/0763-174	Early Childhood Development	Final	As planned	X
PYM	SAF	QZA-12/0763-178	Competence Build. Networks - Early Childhood Education	Final	As planned	X
PYM	KEN	QZA-12/0763-173	FPPK Rights and Peace for Development Program	Final	Evaluation conducted in 2013, but the report was finalized in 2014	X
PYM	SOM	QZA-12/0763-179	PYM-Integrated Education Development Program	Final	As planned	X
PYM	KEN	QZA-12/0763-197	PYM-Building a stronger church through involvement, capacity building and cooperation		This is postponed to early 2016	N/A
PYM	KEN	QZA-12/0763-172	PYM-FGM Project among the Maasai	Mid-term	As planned	X
PYM	SAF	QZA-12/0763-178	PYM-Competence Building Network -Early Childhood Education	Final	As planned	X
PYM	IND		PYM-Post evaluation of previous NORAD supported PYM projects	External post evaluation	The project was cancelled	N/A
PYM	PER		PYM-Post evaluation of previous NORAD supported PYM project	External post evaluation.	As planned	X
PYM	PRY	QZA-12/0763-176	PYM-Textbooks for Mbya, Ava Guarani and Ache (Proyecto Kuatiane'e)	Final	As planned	Will be in Norad's database in July/Aug
PYM	BOL	QZA-12/0763-168	PYM-Proyecto Desarrollo Institucional PDI-Bol	Mid-term	As planned	X
UiO	ETH	QZA-12/0763-186	UIO-Education and Basic Life Skills in Arsi	Mid-term	The planning of the evaluation started in	N/A

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					2014, but will be finished in 2015	
BS	KEN	QZA-12/0763-5	BS-HIV and the course material to churches in Kenya	Final	Postponed to 2015 due to lack of capacity	N/A
HP	NPL	QZA-12/0763-39	HP – Peace and Conflict Transformation	Final	Finalized December 2014, but was not part of the original Norad list for 2014	Requested
BS	ETH	QZA-12/0763-4	BS-HIV material and training to churches in Ethiopia	Mid-term	As planned	X
NMS	ETH	QZA-12/0763-145	Western Ethiopia Women Empowerment Programme	Final	As planned	X