Annual Report 2020

Cover: Bridge in Bong County, Liberia (photo by Dag Andreas Fedøy)

Contents

Contents 2
1. Introduction 3
2. Aggregated Result Scores 5
3. Thematic Reports 11
   3.1 A Strong Civil Society 13
   3.2 Good Health 17
   3.3 Peaceful Coexistence 20
   3.4 Environmental Stewardship 25
   3.5 Quality Education 27
   3.6 Economic Empowerment 30
   3.7 Cost-Effectiveness 33
   3.8 Deviations in Projects Ending 2020 36
4. Progress Report Ongoing Projects 37
5. Earmarked Funding 41
6. Management of Cross-Cutting Risks 48
7. External Project Evaluations 55
8. Report on the Global Results Framework (GRF) 57
9. Secretariat 75

1. Introduction

Digni is pleased to present the annual report for 2020.

In 2020 Digni, 17 members and 68 partners have cooperated on 112 projects in 35 countries. A total of NOK 170,553,711 has been spent towards the projects (see Regnskapsrapport 2020, p. 2, Ordinær prosjektporteføljе, Øremerkede midler – Tro og liv and Øremerkede midler - Utdanning).

In every given year some projects in the Digni portfolio will reach their conclusion, while the rest of the portfolio is ongoing. For this reason, we distinguish between projects that were concluded in 2020 (8, of which 1 project was terminated due to unforeseen factors) and projects that were ongoing as of 2020 and continued into 2021 (104 projects).

The main results, thematic analyses and cost-effectiveness assessment provided for the reporting year is based on *concluded projects* only (chapters 2 and 3). A full summary and assessment of each project ended in 2020 is included in Annex A.

A progress report on *ongoing projects* in 2020 is provided in chapter 4, which includes a reflection on the underspending in 2020, as well as a summarized report on adjustments that have been made in the project portfolio due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Special reports on projects receiving earmarked funding from Norad is provided in chapter 5.

An analysis of risks related to Norad's cross-cutting issues of women's rights and gender equality, climate/environment, human rights, including the rights of people with disabilities, and anti-corruption is provided in chapter 6. The cross-cutting concerns are also covered in the thematic reports in chapter 3 (on environment, gender equality, and human rights) and in the secretariat report in chapter 9 (on financial management and anti-corruption efforts).

An analysis of external evaluations carried out in 2020 is included in chapter 7, while a full list of external evaluations carried out in the period is attached to the report as Annex B.

In chapter 8, a special report on Digni's Global Results Framework (GRF) is provided. This report is based on the complete set of projects reporting against the GRF-indicators for 2020.

A report on the Digni secretariat is included as chapter 9, which includes analyses on risk management, financial management and anti-corruption work, in addition to brief reports on member activities funded from the secretariat budget.

The full accounts are submitted as a separate report (Regnskapsrapport 2020). In addition, we have included overviews of expenditure vs. budget where relevant. A summary of the full accounts can be found below (overleaf).

Table 1: Total accounts 2020

Grant from Norad	Application budget 2020 (NOK)	Revised budget 2020 (NOK) *	Total Accounts 2020 (NOK)	Deviation
Main project portfolio (170.70)	167 500 000	174 280 957	164 271 067	-6 %
Digni secretariat + member activities (170.70)	18 500 000	20 309 442	16 754 567	-18 %
Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief Funding Scheme (170.70)	5 164 265	5 095 496	4 818 826	-5 %
Covid-19 response in Nepal (xxx.xx)	-	5 000 000	-	-100 %
Education Grant (161.70)	3 000 000	3 000 000	1 463 818	-51 %
Total	**194 164 265**	**207 685 895**	**187 308 278**	

** Unspent funds from 2019 were carried forward to 2020 and added to the application budget for 2020 submitted with the annual plan. Please refer to the financial report for details regarding the revised budget.*

2. Aggregated Result Scores

Below we have provided the combined results scores, based on in-depth readings and assessments of all projects concluded in 2020.

Each project reports on one or more thematic areas in Digni's Global Results Framework (GRF) for 2018-2022. The GRF covers six thematic areas, i.e. civil society, good health, peaceful coexistence, environmental stewardship, quality education and economic empowerment. When assessing the projects ending, each project receives a score for each applicable thematic area. The scoring is made according to an "empowerment scale" ranging from 1 to 5, where 1 equals output level and 5 equals impact level. The scoring is based on Digni's Empowerment Assessment Tool (EAT), in which characteristics have been assigned to the different levels describing developments in terms of resources mobilized, agency gained, and achievements made. Below we have provided definitions or characteristics of each level in the assessment scale:

LEVEL 1 (Output):

Resources:	Have increased, been provided by project to individuals and/or community and/or other target groups
Agency:	No demonstration of target groups having changed their behaviour or *using* resources to act.
Results:	There are no documented changes in target groups' situation.

LEVEL 2 (Output):

Resources:	Have increased by project to individuals and/or community, some local resource mobilization.
Agency:	Target groups tell that they have gained "power within", increased their self-esteem, and/or have changed perspectives. Still little change in behaviour and signs of agency.
Results:	There are few documented changes in the target groups' situation.

LEVEL 3 (Outcome):

Resources:	Have increased by project to individuals and/or community and/or other target groups. There might be some local contribution of resources to the project.
Agency:	Target groups show that they have gained not only individual power, but also some collective agency, the "power with". There are some documented actions.
Results:	There are documented changes in target groups' situation.

LEVEL 4 (Outcome):

Resources:	Have increased, been provided by project to individuals and/or community, and/or local resources are contributed.
Agency:	Target groups show that they have gained not only individual power, but also collective agency, the "power to" act. There are documented community/target group action.
Results:	There are documented changes in the situation for direct and immediate indirect target groups. There are indications of results at "structural level" for instance stakeholders such as local government and/or others power elites are providing some resources or changed their behaviour/practice to some degree.

LEVEL 5 (Impact):

Resources:	Have increased, been provided by project, and/or local resources are contributed, and/or provided by stakeholders.
Agency:	Target groups show that they have gained collective agency, the "power to" act, but also some "power over". There are documented community/target group action.
Results:	There are substantial documented changes that most often goes beyond improvement of the situation for the direct target groups. The changes are often perceived to be sustainable and results are often at a "structural level". There might be multiplication effects and adoption of project methodology by others. Examples may be change in norms and harmful traditions, policies, and laws; Stakeholders such as local government and/or others power elites are providing increased resources or changed their behaviour and institutional practice.

Aggregated results 2020

The results from the assessment of projects ending in 2020 is presented in Table 2 below. In 2020, only 7 projects concluded their project cycle. The scores in the tables have been weighted according to expenditure (accounts) on each theme in each project, based on the DAC sector codes chosen by projects at the time of start-up.

Table 2: Achievement scores based on 2020 final reports, adjusted for expenditure – 7 projects

Achievement of Digni goals 2020																	
Contribution towards the realization of	# of entries	Level of results															Score
		Output						Outcome						Impact			
Goal 1 – Civil Society	7																3,58
Goal 2 – Good Health	1																3,00
Goal 3 – Peaceful Coexistence	2																3,77
Goal 4 – Environm. Stewardship	2																3,00
Goal 5 – Quality Education	1																4,00
Goal 6 – Economic Empowerm.	2																3,75
AVERAGE ALL THEMES																	3,54

Table 3: Aggregated results scores 2018-2020

Empowered communities and individuals living in dignity						
Baseline	Result 2018 (22 projects)	Result 2019 (17 projects)	Target 2020	Results 2020 (7 projects)	Acc. Result 2018-2020 (46 projects)	Target 2022
3,17	3,60	3,57	3,25	3,54	3,62	3,40
A Strong Civil Society, Program goal (Impact): Society is characterized by a high degree of civil society engagement for change						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 2018-2020	Target 2022
3,43	3,59	3,79	3,50	3,58	3,65	3,60
Good Health, Program goal (Impact): Target groups are able to influence conditions regarding own health and wellbeing						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 2018-2020	Target 2022
3,80	3,39	3,92	3,90	3,00	3,73	4,00
Peaceful Coexistence, Program goal (Impact): Target groups are coexisting in a safe and peaceful environment						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 2018-2020	Target 2022
2,00	4,21	3,73	2,50	3,77	3,41	3,00
Environmental Stewardship, Program goal (Impact): Target groups exercise responsible stewardship of the environment						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 2018-2020	Target 2022
2,95	3,04	3,00	3,20	3,00	3,02	3,30
Quality Education, Program goal (Impact): Learners in target areas acquire relevant education of high quality						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 2018-2020	Target 2022
3,22	3,74	4,07	3,35	4,00	3,83	3,50
Economic Empowerment, Program goal (Impact): Women and men in target areas are economically empowered						
Baseline	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020	Result 2020	Acc. Result 208-2020	Target 2022
3,02	3,11	3,78	3,20	3,75	3,47	3,30

The table above shows that results in 2020 were on average recorded at a high outcome level (3,54). This is fairly consistent with the average levels recorded in 2018 and 2019 (3,60 and 3,57, respectively). However, caution needs to be applied when comparing the Digni's Empowerment Assessment Tool (EAT) scores for 2020 with the scores from 2018 and 2019. The main reason is that the present sample for 2020 comprised only 7 projects, whereas the two previous years' samples comprised 17 and 22 projects. Due to Covid-19, several 22 projects scheduled to end in 2020 were granted an additional year to implement their project activities and will submit final/concluding reports in 2021. This implies that the basis for analysis for 2020 is quite limited, as is displayed in the following thematic sections in this report.

Even though the results for the year 2020 are limited, 2020 is the mid-term year of Digni's agreement period with Norad (2018-2022). At this point in time, it is relevant to reflect and assess the aggregated overall results obtained from the concluded projects during 2018-2020 and compare them to the baseline EAT scores. The baseline is based on EAT assessments of 59 projects ended in the years 2016-2017 and the average EAT score was 3,17. The overall average EAT score for the period 2018-2020 is 3,62 and is based on 46 projects ending within the time period. The comparison displays strong results and implies that the overall results have increased from a low outcome level to a high outcome level during these three years.

However, Digni recommends that this improvement is viewed with caution. The main hypotheses regarding the positive results development compared to baseline values are tied to a combination of a) improved quality of reporting and documentation during these three years, and b) improved project follow-up.

Digni believes that the baseline EAT values were "under scored". The EAT methodology was introduced in 2016-2017 and new to Digni members and partners. In this process, many projects had difficulty in documenting and verifying results above outcome level 3. In addition, in the previous agreement period project evaluations did not include EAT scoring. Hence, Digni did EAT assessments of the baseline based on evaluation reports and final project reports. Digni, when in doubt about the scoring, assessed the project's results lower rather than higher, resulting in a systematic underscoring of the baseline. There is one exception regarding the baseline scoring and that is related to the thematic area "good health". The EAT value of the baseline was assessed to be 3,80. The high score was mainly due to one large health project in Ethiopia that ended in 2016 and accounted for 63 % of the total expenditure within the thematic area.

Still, Digni believes that the EAT score of 3,62 for the period 2018-2020 is quite reliable and reflect the level of results in the Digni portfolio. 3,62 is a high outcome level since it is closer to 4 than to 3, and it is not possible for projects to score above 5,0. Digni is pleased to notice that Digni projects accomplish a high outcome level on average.

Comparing the accumulated average thematic scores for the period 2018-2020 with results from the previous period 2016-2017 baseline, (see Table 4, below), we observe that overall results have improved for all thematic areas, except health. This observation was also made and commented on in the 2019-report. In general, the seven projects that ended in 2020 when added to the 2018 and 2019 results, did not alter the average scores significantly compared to the 2018-2019 accumulated results. This implies that the EAT results from 2020 add little new information to the overall general analysis per thematic area to what was presented in the annual report for 2019. Also, the overall distribution of accounts (i.e. expenditure) across the thematic areas are also very similar to what we could see in last year's report.

The overall picture of results from projects ending in 2020 is that they do not alter the main findings presented in the report for 2019. Still, we would like to make two overall comments

related to the accumulated results for 2018-2020 for "good health" and "peaceful coexistence". There are several reasons why EAT score results in the thematic area of health are lower in 2018-2020 (3,73), than at baseline (3,80). As previously mentioned, the conclusion of one large health project in Ethiopia 2016 impacted the baseline score to a high degree. The health projects that ended in 2018 were mainly integrated projects, in which the health component was less significant, and hence the EAT score were lower (3,40). The results from 2019 were significantly stronger (3,92), again driven by strong results in two large projects with a single focus on strengthening health services. For 2020, we only had one project added to the accumulated results within health as a thematic area. This single project received an EAT-score of 3,0, and very moderately changed the overall accumulated health-score 0,08 (from 3,81 in 2019 to 3,73 in 2020).

The deviation of results level in thematic area 3, peaceful coexistence, between 2018 and 2020 is also worth mentioning. While project periods ending in 2018 recorded remarkably strong results (average of 4,21 in 7 projects), the results in 2019 were at a completely different level (average of 2,73 in 7 projects). These deviating results are most likely related to the length of implementation. The projects ending in 2018 had generally been implemented through 2 or 3 project periods (and two of these were solely focused on working with peace and reconciliation), whereas the projects ending in 2019 had mostly been implemented for one project period only. For 2020, only two projects reported within this thematic area, with an average weighted score of 3,77. The accumulated results from 2018-2020 are at a much higher level than baseline 2,0. The are several factors contributing to the low baseline score. First, the sample size was small. Moreover, with Digni's new GRF, the thematic sector of "peaceful coexistence" was expanded to include outcome areas related to gender-based violence, safe environments for children, and the rights of ethnic, indigenous, and religious minorities. Hence the results from the previous period (baseline) are not automatically comparable.

Table 4: Results 2018-2020 compared to results 2016-2017 (adjusted for expenditure)

	Share of accounts 2018-2020	Results 2018-2020	Results 2016-2017 (baseline)
A Strong Civil Society[1]	27,5 %	3,65	3,43
Good health	22,0 %	3,73	3,80
Peaceful Coexistence	17,4 %	3,41	2,00
Environmental Stewardship	4,0 %	3,02	2,95
Quality Education	19,3 %	3,83	3,22
Economic Empowerment	9,8 %	3,47	3,02
AVERAGE	**100 %**	**3,62**	**3,17**

In the 2019-report, we made a distinction between the projects that had an overall spending above and below NOK 6 million. We noticed that the projects that spent more money achieved higher EAT scores on average. With the limited sample we have from 2020, it is difficult to draw similar conclusions. In fact, the highest average EAT score achieved by any of the projects in the

[1] The average score for 2013-2017 for civil society as a thematic area is calculated on the basis of three separate thematic areas in the previous period: Strengthening Civil Society, Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, and Human Rights.

sample is 4,0. This was a regional project in its first project period, with total accounts of below NOK 5 million (across four years)

Due to the Covid-19 situation which has resulted in 22 projects getting an extra year for implementation, the analysis of the results for 2020 is hampered. These projects that according to original plan should have ended in 2020, are now instead reported on under chapter 4. Progress Report on ongoing projects. This implies that at a general level the results for 2020 are below expectation and/or delayed due to Covid-19. Digni estimates that a total of 40 projects will be concluding their project cycles at the end of 2021 (i.e. 22 projects with extension year 2021 and 18 projects originally planned to end 2021). Hence, the 4-year report 2021 to Norad will contain the aggregated EAT results of an estimated 86 concluded projects during 2018-2022. This will serve as a solid base for undergoing a thorough analysis of the results in the Digni project portfolio.

General notes on Digni's assessments

Digni has chosen a conservative approach to assessing the level of results. For projects that have not been able to present solid documentation of change, the results have generally been adjusted downwards. We are pleased to note that the quality of reporting from projects have improved over the years.

Caution is needed when interpreting results. A low EAT score in a demanding context may be a good result and projects that have operated for a short time may not obtain high scores. Results towards the impact end of the scale involves some uncertainty about the level of attribution as opposed to the output end of the scale, which is firmly within the control area of the projects. The long-term effects and wider implications are also uncertain.

Analysis and example of results related to each thematic area for 2020 is presented in the following chapter, following the structure of Digni's Global Results Framework.

3. Thematic Reports

The results and analyses provided in the thematic reports are based on the assessment of 7 projects that ended in 2020. In addition, QZA-18/0159-517-519 Let's Change Tomora was terminated mid-2020. For more information on this latter project, refer to chapter 3.8 and Annex A for deviation report. No results were achieved before the project was terminated and hence no EAT score has been set.

The projects ending in 2020 accounted for 7 (8, including the one that was pre-terminated) out of 112 projects in Digni's project portfolio as of 2020. In-depth summaries of results, scores, remaining challenges and added value of Digni and member organizations related to each project are included in Annex A to this report.

Table 5: Overview over projects ending 2020

Country	Projects ending in 2020	Project number	Project period	Status
Nepal	HP - Peace and Conflict Transformation	QZA-18/0159-97-98	Third (2016-2020)	Ended
Nepal	HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in N	QZA-18/0159-99-100	Second (2016-2020)	Ended
Colombia	MKN–Community transformation for peace. Colombi	QZA-18/0159-131-132	Second (2018-2020)	Ended
Ethiopia	NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (FFSP).	QZA-18/0159-281-283	Second (2017-2020)	Continues third period
Madagascar	NMS MLC Empowerment program 2013-17	QZA-18/0159-430-433	Second (2018-2020)	Ended
Africa	NMS Innovation Project – Use Your Talents	QZA-18/0159-434	First (2017-2020)	Continues second period
Cambodia	NOR-FAST – Family and School Transformation	QZA-18/0159-493-496	Second (2015-2020)	Ended
Mali	NOR-Do not cross the sea	QZA-18/0159-517-519	First (2019-2020)	Pre-terminated

According to Digni's general guidelines, project periods can last up to five years and member organizations can receive funding for up to a total of 15 years per project. Normally that would imply three project periods. As can be seen from table 5, only two of the projects submitting final reports for 2020 has applied for a new project period from 2021. One project concluded after a third project period, but most of the projects in this year's sample concluded their activities with Norad/Digni-funding after two project periods. As can be seen from the table, we have one project that was allowed a 6-year implementation period for its second project period, QZA-18/0159-493-496.

For 2020, the list of projects with final reports should have been much longer than it is. Because of Covid-19, almost two thirds (22) of the projects that should have concluded a project period in 2020, applied for and received an extension year. This has an impact on the current annual report 2020 in several ways.

The 7 projects that ended in 2020 have received more than NOK 30 million in funding from Norad via Digni during their respective project periods. For 2020, the 7 projects received NOK 7,403,391. On average the project periods lasted 4,3 years. However, if we include the pre-terminated project in the sample, the average would be 3,9 years. Corresponding figures from 2019 are 4,1 years and 3,4 years respectively.

An overview of the accounts for 2020 only is provided in Table 6 below.

The 7 projects were implemented in 5 different countries, in addition to one regional project in Africa; 3 (43 %) in Africa, 3 (43 %) in Asia, and 1 (14 %) in South America

The 7 projects ending in 2020 constitute the main basis for the thematic analysis provided below. Digni introduced the present system of assessing and scoring results according to the Empowerment Assessment Tool (EAT) in projects ended in the report for 2016 and 2017. Altogether, 59 projects ending in 2016 and 2017 were summarized and analysed according to EAT

in the previous agreement period (2013-2017) in addition to 22 projects in 2018, 17 projects in 2019 and now additional 7 projects from 2020.

The Global Results Framework (GRF) consists of 6 thematic areas, and the aggregated EAT scores represent results recorded against thematic impact indicators 1-6 in the GRF. (Average thematic score, according to Digni's EAT, adjusted for expenditure).

The 2020 sample includes projects supported through 5 of Digni's 18 member organizations. During the agreement period so far (2018-2020) all member organizations, except Stefanusalliansen (SAI) are represented in the sample of projects with final reports.

Table 6: Accounts 2020 for projects ending in 2020 only

Projects ending in 2020	Application budget 2020 (NOK)	Revised budget 2020 (NOK) *	Total Accounts 2020 (NOK)	Deviation
HP - Peace and Conflict Transformation	1 155 600	1 272 051	1 290 496	1 %
HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal	1 415 610	1 609 658	1 703 298	6 %
MKN–Community transformation for peace. Colombia.	957 645	1 024 064	1 061 743	4 %
NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (FFSP).	1 178 250	1 224 767	1 174 232	-4 %
NMS MLC Empowerment program 2013-17	1 145 377	1 145 377	496 332	-57 %
NMS Innovation Project – Use Your Talents	1 637 100	1 613 442	1 412 875	-12 %
NOR-Do not cross the sea	1 012 644	707 355	669 110	-5 %
NOR-FAST – Family and School Transformation	1 132 601	1 173 243	1 103 653	-6 %
Total	**9 634 827**	**9 769 957**	**8 911 739**	**-9 %**

3.1 A Strong Civil Society

Overall goal: Society is characterized by a high degree of civil society engagement for change

Indicator 1	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	47	3,43	Based on an assessment/analysis of 47 projects ending 2016-2017[2]
Results 2018	22	3,59	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	17	3,79	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2019
Results 2018-2020	46	3,65	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ended in 2018-2020
Target 2020	43	3,50	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-2020[3]

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2020 results for thematic area 1, Civil Society, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (3,58)													
		Output						Outcome						Impact	
Goal 1 – Civil Society	7														

Basis

All projects ending in 2020, from 5 different member organizations, reported results on civil society as a thematic area (mandatory), of which 3 were in Africa, 3 in Asia and 1 in South America. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 11,8 million, or 37 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. As for previous years, the projects established and provided training for community-based organizations and groups; mobilized local resources with assets-based development initiatives; worked with gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and empowered local rights-holders to engage with relevant duty bearers.

The projects report results related to primarily SDG #1 on No Poverty, SDG #16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG #17 on Partnership for the Goals and SDG #5 on Gender Equality.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS[4]	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	0
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	5
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	2
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	0
Total # of entries	**7**

[2] The results framework for 2013-2017 included nine thematic areas. The results from thematic areas 7 (Gender Equality), 8 (Human Rights) and 9 (Civil Society) have been combined to establish the baseline for thematic are 1 (Civil Society) in Digni's Global Results Framework for 2018-2022.

[3] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the present reporting period.

[4] See Annex A for more information on the scoring of each individual project.

Overview project phases and scores

QZA number	Project name	Score	Phase	Comment
QZA-18/0159-99-100	HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal	3	2nd	
QZA-18/0159-97-98	HP-Integrated Peacebuilding Programme, Nepal	3	3rd	Completed
QZA-18/0159-131-132	MKN-Community transformation for peace, Colombia	4	2nd	
QZA-18/0159-281-283	NLM-Filtu Food Security Project, Ethiopia	3	2nd	
QZA-18/0159-430-433	NMS-MLC Empowerment program	3	2nd	Completed
QZA-18/0159-434	NMS-Use Your Talents Innovation Project, RAF	4	1st	
QZA-18/0159-493-496	NOR-FAST- Family and School Transformation	4	2nd	

Selected Results

There is a high degree of organization in the target groups (Outcome 1.1):
Establishment and training of community-based development groups, committees and organizations are still part of most projects' initiatives. Trainings include topics related to organizational development, leadership, financial management, project management, board competencies, networking, resource mapping, advocacy, gender equality, mediation, conflict sensitivity, gender equality, human rights, literacy, sports management, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, agriculture and saving groups.

Networking and cooperation between different NGOs, governmental bodies and communities also appear frequently in the reports. For example, the United Mission to Nepal (QZA-18/0159-99-100 HP - Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal) collaborates with five locally based NGOs on mental health in the districts of Bajhang, Doti, Dhading, Rukum and Rupandehi. Through trainings in networking and advocacy skills, the organizations built important relations with Rural Municipalities, health authorities, central government, Female Health Care Volunteers, Mothers Groups, communities, and other stakeholders. Working with these different stakeholders was a key factor for enabling basic mental health services to be available and accessible to rural people in the project areas. In Ethiopia, the NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (QZA-18/0159-281-283) has had close working relationship with the governmental and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in the zone. The project and the Comitato Collaborazion Medica (CCM) exchange experiences on livestock vaccine and drug supply. Other cooperating organisations are the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Concern Ethiopia, Care Ethiopia and ZOA Ethiopia.

Local communities are able to identify and solve their challenges together (Outcome 1.2):
Related to the previous example, the HP-Integrated Peace Building Programme in Nepal (QZA-18/0159-97-98) confirms that a major success of the project is the development of a culture of working together for common causes among the different stakeholders of society including politicians, civil society groups, religious leaders, teachers etc. In this project, a remarkable achievement is the ability, willingness and deep commitment of women, men and adolescents to

work side by side to bring Hindu-Muslim religious community together and working to end religion- and gender-based discrimination in the Kapilvastu district.

Communities provide equal opportunities for women and men (Outcome 1.3):
Most projects report on gender equality and mainstreaming in project activities. However, some stories need to be told. In Filtu, Ethiopia (NLM-Filtu Food Security Project, QZA-18/0159-281-283), women used to be restricted from participation with men in any meeting away from home. The project invited women to all project trainings. The attitude towards the deeply rooted restrictions of women's activity gradually changed and now women and men are equally participating in all trainings away from their home, such as field visits and experience sharing in all target kebeles[5]. In addition, 7 women's cooperatives involving 84 women have been established.

Rights-holders are holding duty-bearers accountable (Outcome 1.4):
In a project in an urban area in Colombia (QZA-18/0159-131-132 MKN-Community transformation for peace), a Board of Education was initiated to advocate for everyone's rights to education on behalf of the community. Thirteen reflection forums gathering about 600 teachers, parents, students, and community members and leaders were started to talk about the type of education required in Granizal. Fairs and educational visits were held, and awareness raising on the right to education resulted in 30 students starting to study at university level. In addition, fourteen sports, recreation and cultural subprojects were initiated, managed, and implemented by the community. Between 100 and 145 active people now participate in recreation, sports, education, and culture annually.

Partners have strong capacity (Outcome 1.5):
Strengthening of the capacity of leaders and board members at all levels of the Malagasy Lutheran Church having about 4 million members was one of the two main components of the NMS- MLC Empowerment programme in Madagascar (QZA-18/0159-430-433). The main idea is that church leaders influence the church members and the people in the community. By being good role models, leaders can empower the church and benefit the surrounding communities. The report states that 8934 men and 5047 women participated in this component of the programme, where 967 men and 483 women have been trained in organizational skills, and 1754 men and 697 women in leadership. A tangible result is a better quality of budgets and financial reports at different levels of the church structure. The other component of the programme is the "Use Your Talents" which aims at seeing congregations engaging in asset-based development initiatives in their local communities. According to the reported statistics, 2624 congregations out of 7850 have established development committees; 6435 groups and associations have been included in project activities; and 693 collaborations with other development organizations have taken place. In addition, 2911 volunteers, with an estimate of 17466 working hours per year, have been mobilized to serve the local communities in terms of literacy training, health, hygiene, vaccination of animals, agriculture, etc.

Partners mobilize faith-based assets for social justice (Outcome 1.6):
Starting as a local project in the Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) in 2002, Use Your Talents (UYT) has been spread to approximately 16 Churches of different denominations and 23 institutions in Africa and Asia through the international NMS-Use Your Talents Innovation Project (QZA-18/0159-434). About 490 new congregations have become active with UYT during the project period. A total of 750 men and 720 women have been mobilized to serve the local community with

[5] Kebele is the smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia.

an estimate of 152 880 working hours annually. A survey estimates that 663 men and 598 women have been participating in advocacy initiatives to influence decision-makers. The MLC and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon are the most active churches within UYT, and they run own separate UYT projects. Therefore, the results from their activities are not included in the following overview.

International Annual Conferences gathering 60 to 70 participants each have been held in Madagascar, Kenya, and Cameroon. In 2020, alternative seminars in Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe replaced these Annual Conferences due to Covid-19. Some churches have also been granted Specific Training Sessions besides six international introductory UYT workshops for new partners in Africa and Asia. In addition, four study visits for competence and experience sharing between countries have been facilitated. These involved Thailand, Madagascar, Kenya, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, and DR Congo. Facilitators are persons who have experience with UYT in their own church context and who have been trained within the UYT network.

International Academic Workshops with 25 to 30 participants each have also been held annually. The focus of these conferences has been on research on UYT and the development of UYT training programs. Twenty-three institutions in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, Cameroon, and Norway are linked to the UYT research network. One master thesis has been written, two others are in progress, and so are also two PhD studies. Finally, a website, http://www.useyourtalents.net, with 40 articles published has been developed and is accessible for the public.

The evaluation report of 2020 states that the resource mapping, which is a major part of the UYT approach, enabled people to develop interest to recognise, appreciate and validate themselves and the locally available resources. Thus, it has a positive impact on the mindset of the participants. Organisational changes have been made, either by introducing new structures or by including UYT in existing structures and UYT has a positive effect on gender equality. However, some aspects like the dependency syndrome and self-negativity, are deep-rooted and will take time for change to happen.

Analysis

The 7 projects ended in 2020 achieved an average EAT score of 3.56 in the thematic area of civil society, of which 5 achieved a score of 3 (outcome) while 2 achieved a score of 4 (outcome-impact). This indicates that the overall result achievement of the projects on this theme was closer to an outcome than an impact level. The 2020 score is higher than the baseline score of 3,43 but lower than the scores for 2018 and 2019 that were 3,59 and 3,79 respectively. This means that the results level gradually increased from the beginning of 2018 through 2019 and decreased to lower during 2020. This decrease might be an effect of the Covid-19. Although the 2020 score was initially expected to be higher than the previous year's, it is still within the expected frame.

With a sample of 7 projects, it is difficult to make a reliable analysis of which variables influence the results. However, it seems to be fair that the four projects in its second phase got a score at level 3 that is equivalent to results at outcome level. One project (QZA-18/0159-97-98 HP-Integrated Peacebuilding Programme, Nepal) is at its third phase and has a score at level 3. This could be considered as below expectation. However, its main thematic focus is peaceful coexistence that has been scored to 4. Therefore, the overall result for the project is considered good. What seems remarkable is that a project in its first phase has got a score at level 4, nearly at impact level. When taking a closer look at the project, this concerns the NMS-Use Your Talents Innovation Project (QZA-18/0159-434) that had its very initial start-up in Madagascar in 2002. This confirms that it takes time to develop, internalize and practice new ways of working.

Compared to the 2019 final reports, there were fewer groups, committees, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Associations (CBA) formed this time. Some of the explanations may be related to the Covid-19 lockdowns, and thus, the fact that this year's sample contains only a few projects since as many as 22 projects have been granted an extension year and will be completed in 2021.

Even from this year's small project sample, the positive trend the last years concerning outcome 1.2. local communities are able to identify and solve their challenges together, seems to continue growing. Most of the projects highlight the importance of cooperating with stakeholders at different levels and with different competencies. As in 2018 and 2019, the cooperation between groups, associations, communities, and organizations increased and there is an increasing tendency of networking compared to before (SDG 17.16, 17.17).

Gender equality is a cross cutting theme for all projects in the Digni portfolio, and the observations made in recent year's reports still also stand this year. The projects have been working in different ways to provide equal opportunities for women and men (Outcome 1.3). The trend is that the projects do trainings on gender issues, women are more visible in local community committees and there are increasingly more women in leadership.

3.2 Good Health

Overall goal: Target groups are able to influence conditions regarding own health and wellbeing

Indicator 2	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	24	3,80	Based on an assessment/analysis of 24 projects ending 2016-2017
Results 2018	12	3,40	Based on an assessment of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	9	3,92	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2019
Results 2018-2020	22	3,73	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2020
Target 2020	N/A	3,90	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-202015F[6]

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2020 results for thematic area 2, Good Health, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (3,00)														
		Output						Outcome						Impact		
Goal 2 – Good Health	1															

[6] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the present reporting period.

Basis

QZA-18/0159-99-100 HP - Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal

One project ending in 2020, reported results on good health as a thematic area. This project was located in Asia. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 5,8 million, or 18 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the project focused on mental health issues through services as diagnosis, treatment, provision of medicines. Other aspects were to identify patients in need to be referred to more advanced mental health services and provision of psychosocial support, as well as community action with the aim to combat stigma related to mental health issues.

The project primarily addressed SDG #3 on Good Health and Well-Being.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	1
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	
Total # of entries	**1**

Selected Results

Rights-holders have access to health services (Outcome 2.1):
The project implemented by HimalPartner in Nepal has worked with 17 government health facilities in five districts to establish basic mental health services for marginalized communities. Prior to project implementation the availability of mental health services was very limited, and there was a lack of trained health workers and low awareness of mental health problems in the rural communities. The majority visited traditional leaders for mental health issues. Health facilities have now been strengthened to respond to mental health concerns in their districts by having staff that are able to diagnose, treat milder mental health disorders, provide medicines, identify patients that need to be referred to more advanced mental health services, and provide some psychosocial support. During 2016-2020, 1703 new patients and 2665 previously served patients received basic mental health services comprising pharmacological and/or psychosocial services from the health facilities. Additionally, 169 service users were referred to tertiary hospital for expert care. Basic mental health trainings to 87 government health facility workers have been conducted by psychiatrists on modules like depression, anxiety, epilepsy, conversion disorder, psychosis, child/adolescent mental health, drug abuse, suicide, and psychosocial aspects. Different types of psychotropic medicines have been provided at the involved facilities and a system has been put in place for pharmacological supply. Local authorities (rural municipalities) have also allocated funds to fill the gap between demand and supply from province office.

16 psychosocial workers and 1 project coordinator have also been trained on psychosocial care. 1038 people living with mental illnesses have been provided psychosocial support mostly in group sessions at the health facilities during the project period. During 2020, due to Covid-19, services were disrupted for six months. People were afraid of visiting the health facilities unless there was an emergency. During lockdown, psychosocial workers in coordination with local health facilities have used virtual mediums such as phones to provide basic psychosocial support. In addition, in 2020, 342 people received face-to-face psychosocial support and 224 people in quarantine facilities were given psychological first aid and followed up.

Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health of households (Outcome 2.2): The project did not report on this outcome**.**

Target groups combat stigma related to health (Outcome 2.3):
239 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) have been trained and assisted in following up patients with mental illnesses and their families in the communities. They focus on the importance of treatment adherence, for instance taking prescribed medication and giving emotional support. The project reached a total of 2495 families during this period (2016-2020). All these interventions at community level increased awareness, demand for and information about mental health care services and helped reduce stigma related to mental illness. In 2020 alone, a total of 632 patients with mental health problems were referred to the health facility through these community actors. Before the project, violence against people with mental health problems such as chaining and locking up were heard of in the communities. Although this problem has not been completely uprooted, partner organizations and health workers report that the number of these kind of incidences are much lower than previously.

Analysis

As only one project has reported on the thematic area "good health" for 2020, there is limited value in providing an extensive analysis. However, this one project still helps to substantiate some of the findings we have identified in the two previous years and compare this project to those.

The score of 3 for this project is lower than previous years' accumulated results, bringing the average results over three years (2018-2020) from 3,81 to 3,73. With only one project reporting on health in 2020, this is too low to be able to say anything about change in the achievement of results compared to previous years. The fact that only one project reported on health in the final reports for 2020 does not indicate a change in the thematic focus in the Digni portfolio but must rather be seen as a consequence of the low number of final reports this year. This is due, as previously mentioned, to several projects having extended the project period to 2021 due to the Covid-19 situation.

The project reports on outcome 2.1 (Rights-holders have access to health services), corresponding with SDGs 3.1-3.5 and 3.8, and Outcome 2.3 (Target groups combat stigma related to health), corresponding with SDGs 3.1. were Health is the main component, with 90 % of the budget allocated to health as a thematic area.

In the annual report 2019 we assessed projects in which health constitutes the main component (more than 50 % of the budget allocation), indicating that projects that are more solemnly focused on health achieve better results within this thematic sector than projects in were health is one of several project components. There is no basis to say from one example this year that this is true

or wrong, even though the findings from recent years indicate this. It is worth noting that even though the results in the mentioned projects are not at the impact level, it has a good result at the outcome level with good quantitative results.

The project finished 2 project periods (8 years of support) and confirm the experience in Digni that it takes time to build up the necessary trust and collaborative relationships in order to achieve good results in areas that involve changing attitudes and establishing new practices. It is also important to say that the work on mental health is a "pioneering" work in the Nepali context. It is to be expected that it takes more time than 2 project phases to change structures and reach impact level results on mental health. In this perspective the EAT score of 3,0 is a solid accomplishment.

As mentioned under outcome 2.3 the project reports that violence against people with mental health problems such as chaining and locking up were heard of in the communities before the start of the project. Although this problem has not been uprooted completely, the incidence of such violence is reported to be much less, and we see this as a result of increased knowledge and reduction of stigma.

Agreements and cooperation with local/central health governments are a central aspect inn all health projects. The projects coordinate with relevant authorities, and improvement of public health services is an important goal across the board. This also applies to this project and the report shows how the project in partnership with National Health Training Centre of Ministry and Health Population conducted basic mental health trainings of government health facility workers. Local authorities (rural municipalities) have also allocated funds in order to fill the gap between demand and supply when it comes to psychotropic medicine at the health facilities.

3.3 Peaceful Coexistence

Overall goal: Target groups are coexisting in a safe and peaceful environment

Indicator 3	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	2	2,00	Based on an assessment/analysis of 2 projects ending 2016-2017
Results 2018	7	4,21	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	7	2,73	Based on an assessment of projects ending 2019
Results 2018-2020	16	3,41	Based on an assessment of projects ending in 2018-2020
Target 2020	N/A	2,50	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-2019.[7]

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2020 results for thematic area 3, Peaceful Coexistence, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (3,77)													
		Output						Outcome						Impact	
Goal 3 – Peaceful Coexistence	2														

[7] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the present reporting period.

Basis

2 projects ending in 2020, from 2 different member organizations, reported results on peaceful coexistence as a thematic area, of which 1 was located in Asia and 1 in South America. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 6,2 million, or 19 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the 2 projects covered areas such as civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution, ending violence against women and girls and harmful traditional practices.

The projects primarily address SDG #16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG #5 on Gender Equality, and SDG #1 on No Poverty.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	0
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	1
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	1
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	0
Total # of entries	**2**

Selected Results

Target groups are able to promote non-violent coexistence (Outcome 3.1):

In Nepal, the United Mission to Nepal together with 4 local partners have implemented the project, QZA-18/0159-97-98 HP - Integrated Peace-building Programme (IPP). The project focused on the Hindu-Muslim conflict in the Kapilbastu district, cross border peace building in the Sunsari district, gender and domestic violence issues in the Dhading district and mediation and negotiation work at the national level. The security situation in the project area has improved for thousands of people (estimated 9000 indirect beneficiaries) due to project activities. By engaging and building cooperative relationships between key stakeholders such as local people, Nepal police, India civil society, Nepali civil society and Indian police forces the number of cross border lootings has decreased during the 5 years project period. In 2016 the baseline value of cross border lootings (3-year average) was 80 cases per year. As per the records maintained in Rural Municipality offices, local police and Local Peace Committees Secretariat, the cross-border lootings systematically decreased to 56 cases in 2017, 30 in 2018, 19 in 2019 and 11 in 2020. In Sunsanari district the security situation is drastically improved compared to a decade ago. Now Nepal Government has deployed border armed police posts for which the project Local Peace Committee (LPC) was constantly lobbying for. Administration/security forces from the Indian side are also becoming responsive after the repeated requests/delegations of the LCP leaders. Now people have started to keep more animals and even started commercial animal and poultry farming in their area, which was not possible earlier[8]. The previous tensious relationship between Hindus and Muslims in Kapilbastu district has improved significantly in the project area. Whereas interaction between these two groups were seldom, Hindu and Muslim women are now working

[8] Final Evaluation Report 2019, page 4.

together and supporting each other. A total of 145 events of personal support and cooperation between Hindu and Muslim women were recorded during the project period (agriculture work, money lending, gifts, and wage support to families affected by Covid-19). In addition, 47 Hindu leaders and 30 Muslim leaders attended each other's festivals during this 5-year period. Hindu and Muslim communities have also started to take development initiatives collectively and jointly address rural municipality officials and others around common issues.

In Colombia, the project QZA-18/0159-131-132 MKN-Community transformation for peace (TCP) has benefited the community of Granizal. This is a community where people are living in vulnerable conditions, displaced by armed conflict and abandoned by the state, and an area devoid of vital services such as water, decent housing, education, planned infrastructure and resources for food. The community has been troubled by a high occurrence of family violence and had non available recreation or sports activities, among other issues. The community population is estimated to be about 23000 people. The project operates with 5279 direct beneficiaries and 5300 indirect beneficiaries. By addressing some of the challenges, the project has had a strong impact on women, especially girls, young people, and families. It has also had an impact on leadership, some public organizations, especially universities, private entities, NGOs, implementing local partner Shalom and the community in general. The implementing local partner Shalom, is a church under the umbrella of Asociación Pacto Colombia. 4 solidarity networks have been created to contribute to the improvement of neighbourhood conditions with 8-12 persons in each network. 390 people participated in the peacebuilding program and in solidarity practices implemented by leaders and volunteers in the community. 6 Community Action Boards and community participation agencies participated in and promoted the peacebuilding program. 5 religious leaders participated in the peacebuilding program and promoted nonviolent processes in the community. Each year, at least 70 young women have been certified as peacebuilders.

Local partners and communities combat gender-based violence (GBV) in target areas (Outcome 3.2):

In the IPP project in Nepal, presented in outcome 3.1, the interaction and cooperation between Hindu and Muslim women and adolescents increased. A total of 354 interactive meetings for the women and 294 for adolescents were carried out during the 5 years period. 21 different social issues and harmful traditional practices were addressed in these meetings such as domestic violence, discrimination to Muslims by Hindus, child marriage, caste discrimination, gender discrimination, and child rights were discussed in the meetings. 83 Hindu women and adolescent girls attended at least one social event organized by their Muslim friends in their houses. Likewise, 66 Muslim women and girls visited their Hindu friend's houses to attend social or family events. This was not common in the past.

The TPC project in Colombia, presented in outcome 3.1, encouraged the community to organize themselves to better understand and process their situation. The themes covered by the peacebuilding program were associated with the eradication of mistreatment and abuse towards women. Guides, both visual and documents, have been made using different pedagogical methodologies, relevant for different settings and target groups. Several networks were started to advance the knowledge about their situation. Through these networks, 130 girls from the age of 12 have connected and learned leadership through the method of "learning by doing". One example of this is women who decided to take care of themselves and prevent abuse and mistreatment of women, to care for each other and find ways of managing and dealing with the

situation. Young women have made at least 15 visits to different forums such as universities and international conferences, carrying the message of eradicating abuse in Granizal. They seek the self-determination of young and adult women, thereby promoting peaceful coexistence. When these young women were asked what their lives would be like if they were not in TCP, they affirm to the evaluation team, that "surely they would be pregnant or drug users. Sports were also actively used to promote the agenda of gender equality, address the macho culture and gender-based violence. By generating educational and sports processes, related to the interests and ways of empowerment and social entrepreneurship, the TCP project created conditions for a paradigm shift. The message has been that women and men, regardless of their biological differences, have the same right to access, use, control and benefit from the same goods and services of society based on the principle of justice and equality. Women and men have the right to participate in decision-making in the areas of social, economic, political, cultural, and family life. The actions carried out have strengthened this message. The external evaluation report points to that there is sufficient evidence in testimonies, in the photographs and in the reports of how the life of this community has been touched and moved by women's football. This is a process that has had a lot of impact and changes the male understanding of female leadership. Creating awareness in churches and mobilising for action has also been an important strategy yielding good results. Shalom has held 15 workshops about what they have learned in approximately 7 churches, received invitations to international events as a speaker to share how TCP was developed, been asked to write about the subject and held international forums, all of which have generated recognition.

Children grow up in a safe and caring environment (Outcome 3.3):
None of the two peacebuilding projects ending in 2020 reported specifically on this outcome.

Local partners and communities combat human rights violations against ethnic/ indigenous or religious minorities (Outcome 3.4):
In the peacebuilding project in Nepal, presented in outcome 3.1, a total of 39 intra-faith disputes and 6 inter-faith disputes were resolved by trained community and religious leaders during the reporting period. A total of 194 community and faith leaders, comprising 46 women and 148 men, attended at least one capacity building training/event related to interfaith peace, such as the role of faith leaders in peacebuilding, conflict handing training, conflict analysis training, youth for peace training, and Do No Harm Training. A major success of the project is the development of culture/practice in project areas of working together among the different stakeholders of society (politicians, civil society groups, religious leaders, teachers etc) for common causes (e.g achieving peace and harmony) at local level. One of the several local level achievements is the ability, willingness and deep commitment of women, men and adolescents to work together to bring Hindu-Muslim religious community together and working to ending religion- and gender-based discrimination in Kapilvastu district. In Sunsanari district the Local Peace Committees (LCP) established by the project were crucial in changing the situation. [9] A total of 171 local leaders (54 women; 117 men) in 13 LCP has been organized, trained and worked to address cross-border lootings since 2016. Even though the major results in this project was at local level, there are also some results at national level. Civil society members, faith leaders and political leaders from different parties have been working together for peace at National level. Faith leaders from five faiths - Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, and Jain have been working together for justice and peace. Twelve national- level interactions on peace issues were organized in the initiation of faith leaders in three years period (2018-2020). A total of 19 emergency meetings[10] were held among

[9] Final Project Evaluation, page 19.
[10] These meetings were organised to discuss on the peace issues when the unexpected events occurred I the country.

the national-level civil society leaders and faith leaders in the reporting period to discuss on National level peace issues. In addition to this, national-level faith leaders came together and condemned the false allegation and attacks against religious communities. For instance, religious leaders issued a statement and challenged the allegation to Muslim communities when they were accused of spreading Covid-19 in the southern part of the country that borders with India. Likewise, faith leaders from five faiths unanimously condemned the attack in Church in 2018 and requested the authority to find and punish the criminals. Similarly, trained mediators from different faiths - Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian and Jain - have been meeting regularly and sharing their experiences. Their involvement in dispute resolution has been crucial to promoting interfaith peace. Six Inter-group conflicts (three between Hindu and Muslim family on the property issue, one between Hindu and Christian on the practice of religious preaching and two between Hindu and Muslim communities on the discriminatory behaviour of Hindu communities to Muslim community) and 69 intra-group conflicts were resolved by these trained mediators. In addition to this, regular meetings of faith leaders are ongoing, thereby disseminating an interfaith peace message at a wider level. A total of seventy-nine such meetings were organized during this period. However, the evaluation points to that there is more potential to expand and increase the peace building at national level.

Analysis

The EAT score for the thematic area Peaceful Coexistence for 2020 is 3,77. This is much higher than the score obtained for 2019 which was low i.e. 2,73, and in 2018 remarkably high with a score of 4,21. This implies that there is a high variation in the average yearly EAT scores. In addition, this year in 2020, it very is difficult to make a meaningful analysis of the results in the thematic areas of peaceful coexistence since the scoring is based on results from only two projects. However, when comparing the EAT score of 2020 (3,77) with the accumulated average EAT score for the period 2018-2020 (3,41), we see that the score for 2020 is at a high outcome level.

What are some possible explanations for the relatively high EAT score in 2020, compared with 2018-2020 in this thematic area? One characteristic of this year's projects is that both projects had peacebuilding as a primary focus area and purpose of the project. The IPP project in Nepal used 90% of the project budget for this thematic area and the TCP project in Colombia used 50%. In addition, the project in Nepal which accomplished a score of 4.0, finished its 3rd project period. This shows that it is the diligent and systematic approach of building relations and trust overtime with key stakeholders that yields good results in peacebuilding. This project in particular, was very well implemented and Digni assess the EAT score to be a "high" 4. This project would have achieved an EAT score of 5 if there were better plans in place to disseminate and multiply/replicate the project methodology in other similar areas in Nepal. The results locally are impressive and assed to be quite sustainable, but there is a multiplication potential of this project that needs to be further explored and capitalized upon, before real impact on a larger scale can be obtained. When it comes to the EAT score for the project in Colombia of 3, this is more or less expected for a peacebuilding project after 2nd project cycle.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

One of the 2 peacebuilding projects that ended in 2020 have reported on results related to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This was the peacebuilding project in Colombia. They supported the construction of the physical space "corner of memory and hope" which is a public space in the community for gathering around memories, elaboration of grief and learning processes of female victims of conflict and represents hope of non-repetition.

3.4 Environmental Stewardship

Overall goal: Target groups exercise responsible stewardship of the environment

Indicator 1	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	8	2,95	Based on an assessment/analysis of 8 projects ending 2016-2017
Results 2018	4	3,04	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	3	3,00	Based on an assessment of projects ending 2018 and 2019
Results 2018-2020	9	3,02	Based on an assessment of projects ending in 2018-2020
Target 2020	N/A	3,20	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-2019[11]

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (3,00)														
		Output						Outcome						Impact		
Goal 1 – Environm. Stewardship	2															

Basis

2 projects ending in 2020, from 2 different member organizations, reported results on environmental stewardship as a thematic area, of which 1 was located in Africa and 1 in Asia. Both projects have currently embarked upon their third and final project period starting for 2021. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approx-imately NOK 1,8 million, or 6 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the project covered areas such as agricultural extension (1 project), and agricultural development (1 project).

The projects primarily address SDG #1 on No Poverty, SDG #2 on Zero Hunger, and SDG #13 on Climate Action.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	0
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	2
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	0
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	0
Total # of entries	**2**

[11] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the present reporting period.

Selected Results

Goal 4 – Environmental Stewardship
The project has empowered target groups to exercise responsible stewardship of the environment by:

Target groups are resilient to negative livelihood conditions (Outcome 4.1):
Project in Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-281-283 NLM-Filtu Food Security Project) has been working on environmental protection by producing and distributing seedlings to targeted households. As a result, 1933 household have planted trees in their own plots. Moreover, 9 communities have adopted plans and measures to mitigate deteriorating livelihood conditions. (Outcome 4.1)

Local partners and communities implement environmentally friendly measures (Outcome 4.2):
In Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-281-283 NLM-Filtu Food Security Project) dryland farming techniques have been introduced to improve food security status of targeted vulnerable communities in Filtu district, Somali regional state. A total of 980 (341 females and 639 males) trained farmers have adopted climate smart agricultural methods, such as water harvesting techniques, use of drought tolerant seeds and multipurpose plants, and dry land vegetable production. (Outcome 4.2).

In Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-493-496 NOR-FAST- Family and School Transformation), the project trained farmers (422 females and 300 males) in rural communities to improve their farming practices and use their household plots in a more environmental and sustainable manner, both increasing household income and reducing environmental vulnerability. Farmers in training are now more conscious to the negative aspects of widespread use of chemical fertilizer and pesticide, and have received specialized training in dry compost, compost water, use of cow dung, animal raising techniques, including chicken and eggs, fish, frog, and earth worms raising (Outcome 4.2).

Analysis

The sample of projects reporting specifically on environment as a thematic area in 2020 is (as in 2019) very limited, with only two reporting projects. This basis is not enough to conduct an isolated analysis for 2020, but by comparing 2020 results with results from 2018 and 2019 it will be possible to reflect on achievements and challenges related to the thematic area. It should be noted that a substantial portion of projects ending in 2020 do address environment but include this thematic area in an integral manner as a cross-cutting issue in project analysis and activities. Another feature that also partly explains the few projects in sample, is the fact that six projects scheduled for final reporting on environmental sustainability in 2020, have extended the project period due to Covid-19 delays and will thus report in 2021 instead. Adding to this is also the notion that both projects in sample are targeting marginalized groups (often subsistence farmers) in areas of extreme poverty. While these projects often have concrete objectives on environment, the related activities and achievements (such as improved agricultural practices) are often reported using indicators more relevant to the thematic area of economic empowerment (such as increased crop yield or income), and thus not reported as achievements related to environment.

The two project in sample have carried out activities aimed at making communities more resilient to negative livelihood conditions, mainly by introducing environmentally friendly alternative agricultural practices and sustainable management of natural resources (SDGs 2.4, 6.3, 7.2, 13.1, 13.3, 15.2-15.3) adapted to the specific challenges in the target areas. This same feature was also

found in previous year reporting projects (2017, 2018 and 2019) and points to the fact that a substantial portion of the reporting projects operate in areas prone to negative climate change effects, where adaptation efforts and practices represents a key area in project interventions. This is again exemplified in the 2020 sample from Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-281-283 NLM-Filtu Food Security Project) by project efforts to convince targeted farmers and communities to introduce dry land farming and water harvesting techniques in an exposed project area prone to hard drought.

The average result score of reporting projects on environment in 2020 is 3.0 or outcome level. Compared to baseline (2,95), this represents a marginal increase and is consistent or similar to results reported in 2019 at 3.0. Accumulated result (3.02) from the past three years 2018-2020 is however below the estimated target for 2020 at 3.20. Although the deviation is minimal and the fact that there are only nine projects altogether in sample, this could display a tendency of reported results to be stabilizing a bit below target.

As recorded in previous years' analysis (2018, 2019) one of the challenges in obtaining higher level results is related to the technical side of the projects. For some projects, difficulties in producing high level results relates to deficiencies in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. Several projects are often too focused on collecting output data at household level while lacking firm benchmarks data at a societal level. Previous years' analyses have also observed another feature, that higher level results achievement often relates to thematically focused project strategies. The higher results score (4 or impact level) the more thematically focused are the projects. The two projects in sample for 2020 are not strategically focused and the amount allocated for environment is relatively moderate, where the project in Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-281-283 NLM-Filtu Food Security Project) has allocated 25% of budget funds to environment, whereas in Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-493-496 NOR-FAST- Family and School Transformation), it was 15%.

While reporting results from 2020 does not lead to any further conclusion, as there still a need for more data, there is certainly indication that a potential takeaway from these observations could be to encourage more thematically focused projects with more robust M&E systems that are able to capture, verify and present data linked to wider effects and results at the societal level.

3.5 Quality Education

Overall goal: Learners in target areas acquire relevant education of high quality

Indicator 5	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	23	3,22	Based on an assessment/analysis of 23 projects ending 2016-2017
Results 2018	13	3,74	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	5	4,07	Based on an assessment of projects ending 2019
Results 2018-2020	18	3,83	Based on an assessment of projects ending in 2018-2020

Target 2020	N/A	3,35	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-2020[12]

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2020 results for thematic area 5, Quality Education, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (4,00)														
		Output						Outcome						Impact		
Goal 5 – Quality Education	1															

Basis

QZA-18/0159-493-496 NOR-FAST- Family and School Transform-ation was the only project ending in 2020 that reported results on quality education as a thematic area. This project was located in Cambodia, Asia. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 3,2 million, or about 10 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. One of several focus areas of this project was on education facilities and training.

This project started with its first phase in 2012 and concluded its second and final project phase with Digni-support at the end of 2020.

The project addressed SDG #4 on Quality Education.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	0
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	1
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	0
Total # of entries	**1**

Selected Results

Target institutions provide quality and inclusive education to learners (Outcome 5.1): Children's attendance in preschool and primary school in target villages to a large extent improved due to project activities. According to PTAs/SSC and school principals, the repetition rate was over 20% 4-5 years ago when the project started, and in 2019/2020 the repetition rate was reduced to 5% according to statistics data kept at schools. The children now attend school regularly, and their learning has improved remarkably. A total of 1269 children (642 girls) received primary public-school education in 14 project target villages. Among these, 25 children had disabilities. 138 children received a small scholarship support.

The project also supported 5 state preschools, located in each of the 5 primary schools with a total of 108 children (52 female), as well as has helped establish 11 community preschools with a total of 235 children (116 female).

Communities support the right to education for all (Outcome 5.2):
The project used a comprehensive approach to achieve these results. When household income and agricultural production increased due to project activities such as higher rice yields, home gardening, chicken and fish raising, labour migration and child labour decreased. Parents could

[12] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the agreement period.

now afford to send their children to school. Parents awareness of the importance of children's education were raised, and children came to school with better clothing, study materials and better means of travel (bicycle or motorbike).

The project set up and/or revitalized/reformed and trained Parent Teacher Association/School Support Committee (PTA/SSC). These committees consist of some parents of school-aged children, teachers, school principals, those in school leadership, pupils, and local authorities (village chiefs and commune council), representative from pagoda committee, village elder and community leader. The PTA/SSCs played a critical role to promote quality education, increase school enrolment and ensured that school-aged children are in school by bringing families, local authorities, pupils, and schools to work together. The project contributed with 500-700 USD per school per year as an attractive fund to mobilize other resource support from community and other "charity people", for campus landfill and gardening, improve school facilities such as books, chairs, tables, computer, library, sanitation and recreational facility and other repairing work to improve school environment. The PTA/SSCs have now competence and are self-reliant will continue the support to strengthen education in the project villages after project completion. (Outcome 5.1 and 5.2)

Learners trained in vocational skills are employed or self-employed (Outcome 5.3):
The project did not report towards outcome 5.3.

Analysis

In 2018, the average score for the education projects were 3,74, while the average in 2019 was 4,07. For 2020, the one reporting project received a score of 4,00. Last year, we considered it difficult to draw general conclusions about the results, as the sample included few projects that covered a wide range of topics. For 2020, we would argue that it is not only difficult, but impossible to draw any general conclusions.

In the Annual Report for 2019, we observed that the integrated projects achieved better results within this thematic area than more purely education-orientated projects. This contrasted with the findings for 2018. The one project reporting this year, provides another example that integrated projects can deliver strong results on education.

Although the education component constituted 60 % of the project budget, this project has also been working on civil society, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment. Last year, the two highest performing projects both engaged community members and local government to mobilize support for education. The project this year added to this by also focusing on economic empowerment. According to the evaluation report several factors, including improved livelihood, less labour migration, and less child labour, contributed to increased school enrolment within the project area.

3.6 Economic Empowerment

Overall goal: Women and men in target areas are economically empowered

Indicator 6	Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure		
Baseline	22	3,02	Based on an assessment/analysis of 22 projects ending 2016-2017
Results 2018	8	3,12	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018
Results 2019	6	3,78	Based on an assessment of projects ending 2018 and 2019
Results 2018-2020	16	3,47	Based on an assessment of projects ending in 2018-2020
Target 2020	N/A	3,20	Based on an assessment/analysis of projects ending 2018-2019.[13]

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2020 results for thematic area 6, Economic Empowerment, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results (3,75)														
		Output						Outcome						Impact		
Goal 6 – Economic Empowerm.	2															

Basis

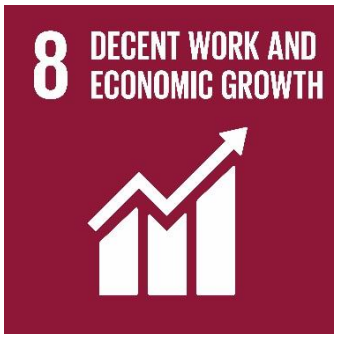
2 projects ending in 2020, from 2 different member organizations, reported results on economic empowerment as a thematic area. One of them was located in Africa and one in Asia. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 3,1 million, or about 10 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample for 2020. In terms of project focus, the projects covered areas such as informal/semi-formal loan and savings and income generating activities schemes (1 project), agricultural development, food crop production and livestock (2 projects).

The projects primarily address SDG #1 on No Poverty, SDG #2 on Zero Hunger, and SDG #8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieving score level 1 (output)	0
# of projects achieving score level 2 (output > outcome)	0
# of projects achieving score level 3 (outcome)	1
# of projects achieving score level 4 (outcome > impact)	1
# of projects achieving score level 5 (impact)	0
Total # of entries	**2**

[13] The number of projects in sample and average score will be accumulated as of 2018 and throughout the present reporting period.

Selected Results



Women and men in target areas have improved their livelihood (Outcome 6.1):
In both sample projects, economic empowerment is one of several project components.

Agriculture development as a source of income: In Cambodia, a project implemented by Normisjon (QZA-18/0159-493-496 NOR-FAST-Family and School Transformation) reports the increase of income as manifested in various ways. Households in the project area now (2020) report that they have enough food for family consumption as well as have a surplus for sale. Farmers now grow vegetables, fruit trees, rice, raise chickens, frogs, fish, and use appropriate and productive farming methods. Local authorities testify that the project has contributed to improvement as villagers now have improved their houses, means of transportation (bikes, motorbikes, cars, trucks, tractors) as well as other facilities such as phones, TV, agricultural tools, etc. This situation is a large contrast to the situation displayed in the need's assessment in 2011 when the initial project (phase 1 started). Then as much as 80% of the families interviewed in the project area faced food shortages of whom 60% for a period of 3-6 months. This shortage of food was caused by joblessness, having low income, owning small farmland, and having low annual rice yield. Even though Cambodia has had considerable economic growth in this 10 year period, these marginal rural areas are often left behind in development, and it is reasonable to conclude that the project's multiple income generating activities and skills training has had a substantial impact on increasing household livelihood.

Similarly, in Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-281-283 NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (FFSP)) average annual income of target households has increased from 2160 ETB/household/month to 2520 ETB/hh/month in the project period. Since the area has suffered from drought from year to year, the increase of income has been lower than planned for. The target beneficiaries of the project are selected from 5 Peasant Associations and are traditionally pastoralists and consist of 3,833 households with a population of 23,940 persons. The project played an important role of introducing water harvesting system/structures at household level. The project has constructed 28 water harvesting structures. 46 of the model farmers are now eating vegetables from their back yard and the community has got awareness on proper utilization of water structure. Trainings like fruits tree production and propagation, vegetable production, water harvesting techniques, practical workshop on vegetable production have been provided for more than 258 farmers. The skills they received will stay with them for many years and the knowledge will be shared with others. The project has purchased and handed over livestock vaccines, veterinary drugs and tools to livestock governmental office. By doing this, the project played a role in decreasing the livestock mortality rate and increased health of livestock by 10%. The Peasant Association in and around the intervention area has now a healthy livestock of 79500 animals. One grinding mill machine and three water pumps were purchased and provided for the community by the project. This equipment decreased the workload of the community, became a resource for income generation and improved their food security status. The 2018 external evaluation report confirms that the project has brought substantial change in the lives and livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the project area.

Loan and savings schemes feature in Cambodia, in the project described above implemented by Normisjon (QZA-18/0159-493-496 NOR-FAST- Family and School Transformation).
Men and women members of 14 Self- Help Groups,10 Agricultural Producer Groups and 2 Agricultural Cooperatives have learned to manage and operate formally registered savings and loans schemes in an accountable, successful, and sustainable manner. For instance, by 2020, 378 members in SHGs have had access to loans from own savings for chicken farming, vegetable farming, fish raising, pig raising, running small business, support to children's education, and health care. The total amount of savings of 14 SHGs in 2020 was 36 000 USD i.e. 146,540,000 Riel. The two Agricultural Cooperatives that have been formed and legally registered at District level has 147 members (82 female) and have their own share capital for loans. These are sustainable systems/organizations which will continue to exist and function after completion of project and work to improve access to loans and increase knowledge and agricultural productivity in its communities.

Rights-holders are accessing financial services (Outcome 6.2):
(This outcome area largely applies to two large scale microcredit schemes in projects supported by Misjonsalliansen (MA): QZA-18/0159-212-213 MA-Microfinance in Liberia QZA-18/0159-227-232 and MA-Climate Change Resilience and Inclusion in Vietnam. However, none of these projects are included in the present sample since these projects do not end in 2020 and are still ongoing.)

Analysis

With only two projects in the sample for 2020, this is too little for making a comprehensive analysis of the results. But still something can be said about whether the results for 2020 deviate or are comparable to previous years' accumulated results.

The score in 2020 of 3,75 on the outcome of Economic Empowerment is nearly the same as in 2019 with 6 projects had a score of 3.78, bringing the average results over three years (2018-2020) from 3,43 (2018.2019) to 3.47.

As has been noted in previous reports, economic empowerment is seldom the main focus of the projects, which serves as explanation why results related to Goal 6 on economic empowerment have generally hovered around outcome levels. This year's results are very much in line with the results of 2019 and does not represent any new findings in this aspect. If anything, there seems to be a trend that the average results the two last years have improved compared to baseline and 2018.

Organization in associations, cooperatives, groups, etc., is a key factor in the sample, as seen also in previous years. Collective action through civil society appears to be the main project strategy towards economic empowerment, which echoes the overarching theory of change in Digni.

The lack of a reliable income is a challenge in most contexts where Digni-funded projects operate. The demands from beneficiaries and target groups to include project components on income-generating activities are common. Such activities may not be adequate to address the structural issues in play but may nevertheless play an important role for project participants to make small steps to improve their livelihoods.

With regard to the profile of project beneficiaries, we find that project activities in the Digni portfolio is heavily geared towards women (SDG #10.2). This is the case with the projects in this

years' sample too. We find the same tendency when it comes to loan and saving groups and cooperatives, with a majority of direct project participants being women. Empowering women to become less financially dependent on husbands is an important strategy to promote gender equality and fight poverty. A critical issue in this regard is the question of how traditional power holders (the husbands) react when or if their role in the household economy becomes less significant. Hence, the inclusion of men in project activities are important as well.

In 2019 we made an assumption based on project findings that there is compelling, albeit anectodical, evidence that the empowerment of women has led to a significant reduction in household conflicts and sexual and gender-based violence (SDG 16.1), and that men are also picking up on techniques and principles taught to the women through the farmer field schools and village loan and savings associations. The common explanation is that stress levels are reduced when the household economy and food security situation improve. These are unintended, but positive results from the project. The findings of this year's sample do not disprove this, and there are many indications of the same results, even though the findings are not explicitly described.

3.7 Cost-Effectiveness

Digni's guidelines regarding Value for Money outline the challenges involved with assessing cost-effectiveness (the degree to which projects have been able to maximize the impact of money spent to empower poor and marginalized people to live a life in dignity) in the Digni portfolio. Projects are implemented in very different contexts, with different cost levels, are organized differently, and address development challenges that vary considerably in terms of complexity. In addition, the total years of implementation come into play. A seemingly low EAT score may therefore be a good score, depending on the issue the project addresses, the vulnerability of the context, and the time spent addressing the issue. And conversely, a high score may not be as impressive if the results are "low hanging fruits" and have been achieved in a favourable context.

For this reason, Digni does not wish to score and compare projects on their cost-effectiveness, but rather provide a qualitative assessment and address tendencies for learning and improving future performance.

The present observations below are based on the 7 projects ended in 2020. As we have mentioned previously, there are significant limitations to making general observations about the Digni-portfolio based on such a small sample. What we have chosen to do this year, is to compare last year's reflection to what we can extract from the projects ending this year and see whether our theories or hypotheses from last year have been strengthened or weakened.

What we have seen from studying the baseline, as well as the 2018-2019 data sets, is that the projects with the largest budgets tended to achieve the best results; there seems to be no obvious correlation between results achieved and the level of expenditure per direct and indirect beneficiaries in the project; and there is no simple correlation between results achieved and the voluntary contribution to the project.

The projects with the largest budgets tended to achieve the best results:
In 2019, 9 projects that spent more than NOK 6 million achieved average EAT scores of 3,62, whereas 8 projects with expenditure below NOK 6 million achieved average scores of 3,02. A similar pattern was detectable in the samples of projects ending in 2018, 2017, and 2016.

With reference to data presented in table 7, in 2020, one project spent more than NOK 6 million and it received an EAT score of 3,0, whereas 6 projects with expenditure below NOK 6 million achieved on average an EAT score of 3,60. This result may indicate that the pattern detected from previous years does not apply to 2020, since the project with the largest budget received one of the lowest scores in the sample. However, it is important to remember that the sample size is small. In addition, there are 22 projects that should have been concluded in 2020 that received an extension year due to Covid-19 and will be reported on next year. This means that the sample size of 7 projects in 2020 could be "skewed" in any direction. It is also worth noticing that four out the seven projects in 2020 have a total budget between NOK 5,4 and 7 million, and that there are only two projects that spend around NOK 3 million and less.

However, in the sample from 2020, projects with larger budgets had been implemented for more years, compared to the projects with smaller budgets. This is the same situation as in projects ending in previous years and appears to confirm the observation made previously, that projects that have been recently established have lower budgets. One hypothesis mentioned in the 2018-report is that projects are initially launched on a modest budget and are gradually scaled up through the project phases if results are good – or discontinued if the results are poor. However, whether lower budgets are correlated with poorer results cannot be concluded for the results in 2020. The subject will be more thoroughly analysed next year, when the sample is bigger.

There seems to be no obvious correlation between results achieved and the level of expenditure per direct and indirect beneficiaries in the project

Table 7: Cost-effectiveness parameters: budget size – scope costs – average score

Project	Total project cost	Years	DB - Direct beneficiaries	IB - Indirect beneficiaries	Cost per DB/year	Cost per IB/year	Thematic scores
HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal	6 979 087	5	4 192	9 066	333	154	3,00
HP - Peace and Conflict Transformation	5 794 484	5	1 511	1 665	767	696	3,90
NOR-FAST – Family and School Transformation	5 769 511	6	6 120	5 300	157	181	3,60
NMS Innovation Project – Use Your Talents	5 464 662	4	9 845	23 940	139	57	4,00
NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (FFSP).	4 265 877	4	3 500	123 320	305	9	3,60
MKN–Community transformation for peace. Colombia.	3 064 440	3	5 279	24 500	193	42	3,50
NMS MLC Empowerment program 2013-17	2 669 504	3	24 664	30 600	36	29	3,00
AVERAGES	4 858 224	4,29	7 873	31 199	276	167	3,51
TOTALS	34 007 565		55 111	218 391			

On average the projects ended in 2020 reached 7,873 direct beneficiaries and 31,199 indirect beneficiaries at an annual average cost of NOK 276 (2019: NOK 405, 2018: 593) and NOK 167 (2019: NOK 173, 2018: NOK 134) respectively. There is no apparent correlation between total expenditure and average reach and costs per direct and indirect beneficiary.

For example, the two projects that achieved the highest scores, spent NOK 139 and 767 respectively per direct beneficiary, while the project with the lowest cost per direct beneficiary reached a thematic score of 3,00. The lack of correlation between results and per beneficiary expenditure, has been observed in the larger samples for previous years as well. The costs per beneficiary are determined by context, cost levels, and types of projects. The projects address widely different issues in different contexts. A whole range of other variables need to be considered for a meaningful analysis to be made on this. In addition, the methods of calculating the number of direct/indirect beneficiaries may vary somewhat depending on the context and approach of the project, making it difficult to compare data.

No simple correlation between results achieved and the voluntary contribution to the project:

Table 8: Cost-effectiveness parameters – scores – voluntary contribution

Project	Thematic scores	Volunteers 2020	Hours contributed 2020	Hours contributed 2018-2020	Total project cost	Cost per DB/year	Cost per IB/year
NMS Innovation Project – Use Your Talents	4,00	735	76 440	152 880	5 464 662	139	57
HP - Peace and Conflict Transformation	3,90	148	12 777	36 411	5 794 484	767	696
NLM-Filtu Food Security Project (FFSP).	3,60	83		5 000	4 265 877	305	9
NOR-FAST – Family and School Transformation	3,60	79	9 480	24 240	5 769 511	157	181
MKN–Community transformation for peace. Colombia.	3,50	70	6 240	26 640	3 064 440	193	42
HP-Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Nepal	3,00	210	25 200	89 628	6 979 087	333	154
NMS MLC Empowerment program 2013-17	3,00	2 911	17 466	759 454	2 669 504	36	29
AVERAGES	3,51	605	21 086	156 322	4 858 224	276	167
TOTALS		4 236	147 603	1 094 253	34 007 565		

Digni-funded projects boast considerable voluntary contributions from volunteers and other community members. The present sample, like the sample for 2018 and 2019, is no exception. On average, the projects in the sample mobilized 605 volunteers, contributing 21,086 hours of labour. Voluntary contribution in the sample shown here alone for 2018 to 2020 amounts to close to 1,1 million hours of labour. Again, we see that there is variation between the projects, depending on the context, type of project and methods. In any case, this contribution is a considerable value added to the projects, although it is not reflected in the budget. While it is difficult to assess the value of the contributions, there is clearly a catalytic potential in the assets-based approaches favoured in many Digni-funded projects.

In the table above, the two projects with most volunteers are at different ends of the thematic score scale. The project with the lowest score in the sample, also had the highest number of volunteers. However, the project with the highest score had the highest contribution of hours.

In the 2019-report, we observed that projects scoring in the middle range (3,00-3,45) reported averages of "only" about 7000 hours, while the lowest scoring projects (1,95-2,60) reported averages of around 30,000 hours. Although the 2020-sample is smaller, we see the number of volunteer hours per project ranges from just above 6,000 to more than 75,000.

A noted challenge in some projects with strong voluntary contributions is that the projects are based on a decentralized model, in which responsibility and follow-up is delegated to volunteers, which makes it more difficult to monitor and verify results. Over-reliance on volunteers may also come at the expense of professionalism and quality. On the other hand, strong voluntary contribution is often an indication of strong local ownership and potential for sustainability.

The impact of Covid-19 on the cost-effectiveness in the Digni portfolio:

It is difficult to present a precise analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the cost-effectiveness in the Digni portfolio in 2020. However, some general remarks are presented on the subject.

It is quite reasonable to assume that the overall cost-effectiveness for the projects ending in 2020 is poorer compared to what would have been the case without Covid-19. The fact that the 22 projects that were scheduled to end in 2020, had to get an additional extension year 2021 to conclude their project cycles, imply that the total costs of these projects have gone up. It is difficult

at this moment in time to know how much Covid-19 will impact the end results of the projects in 2021. The assumption is that most of these projects with extension year 2021 will reach their original targets and results, but at a higher cost with the help of one additional budget year. There is uncertainty regarding these assumptions, and hence, this aspect will be more fully analysed and presented in the report for 2021.

It is very difficult to predict how the Covid-19 situation will impact the cost-effectiveness in other ongoing projects in the Digni portfolio, i.e. those planned to end between 2022 and 2025. Digni's hope is that the cost-effectiveness of these projects might be less impacted by the Covid-19 situation, and that they will obtain their targets and results within the scheduled timeframe for the projects. Some project report that this will be done/has been done, by increasing the workload when it is possible to work and limiting the workload during time of lock down, increasing the implementing speed in remaining years, and finding alternative methods for carrying out the activities. However, other projects have indicated that they may need an extension year in 2022 to complete project activities and obtaining planned results. Thus, it is not possible at this point to predict the implications on cost-effectiveness in the coming years. A lot will depend on the how the Covid-19 situation develops in the countries where the projects operate.

3.8 Deviations in Projects Ending 2020

Results are not always reached as intended. In the following, we have provided an account of the most notable deviation in the projects ending in 2020.

A project in Mali (QZA-18/0159-517-519 Let's Change Tomora) which aimed to encourage young men to stay in the Tomora commune to build their society instead of venturing illegally towards Europe, was ended before planned. The project planned to change mentality, create economic possibility, develop agriculture and to strengthen the civil society in Tomora. It had been running only for one and half years and was ended before any real result was achieved. The reasons for the closure were insecurity, remoteness, and the weak capacity of the partner with no experience in project management. When the pandemic started, the Norwegian expat who was intended to secure the follow up of the project was called back to Norway. The remaining project team did not have the capacity to run the project alone. However, the open discussions about the challenges connected to migration to Europe seemed to have had a positive effect on the project participants. The project team reports that people who have attended the discussions have continued to share the message with others. Lesson learned from the project was that political and security situation is crucial for the implementation of any project.

4. Progress Report Ongoing Projects

The emergence and global spread of Covid-19 has had enormous implications for health systems, economies, and social cohesion throughout the world. Though many tried to predict how the pandemic would develop and affect regions, countries, and communities during 2020, it proved difficult to plan for what came. We have seen strict lockdown measures and accompanying economic hardship. In some places there have been exponential increases in infection cases. In other places, governments have tightened their grip during lockdown and issues related to power overreach and rights abuses have emerged.

With a project portfolio consisting of projects in 35 different countries, we, our member organizations, and the partners have experienced that uncertainty is the new normal.

In this section we aspire to assess the progress of the project portfolio and how the pandemic has affected it during 2020. We will do a general analysis of the progress in the projects in 2020, based on financial spending by the projects and on the assessments done by our member organizations.

The assessments in this section is based on the financial reports, the above-mentioned Digni's Project Status Reporting Tool, the GRF-figures reported directly from the projects, in addition to narrative reports from the projects and a special project status report that we asked the member organizations to fill out in August 2020 and January 2021.

Progress compared to previous years

In 2020, Digni's portfolio consisted of 112 projects. Of these, 8 projects were concluded in 2020. The results from 7 of these projects form the basis for the thematic analyses in chapter 3.[14] and 1 project ended prematurely (see Deviation Report, Annex A). The remaining 104 projects were ongoing as of end of 2020.

To monitor implementation of ongoing projects, Digni has devised a system for assessing *progress* based on assessments carried out by Norwegian member organizations on behalf of their partners and projects. Using Digni's Project Status Reporting Tool, each member organization has been asked to report on the progress of each project, based on a pre-defined menu: "progress above expectation"; "progress as expected"; "progress below expectation"; or "little or no progress". "Progress" is assessed according to two parameters: 1) The project's ability to carry out activities according to the plan and within the budget and 2) The project's ability to reach result targets.[15]

[14] One project was terminated due to unforeseen factors, no results have been achieved. For details, refer to Annex A.
[15] The different status brackets were defined as follows:
"Progress beyond expectation": The project has carried out all planned activities or more. Results are better than anticipated, exceeding set targets.
"Progress as expected": The project has carried out activities more or less according to plan. Results targets have generally been met.
"Progress below expectation": The project has carried out fewer activities than indicated in the plan. Results have fallen short of set targets.
"Little or no progress": The project has carried out few or no activities. Few or no results have been reported.

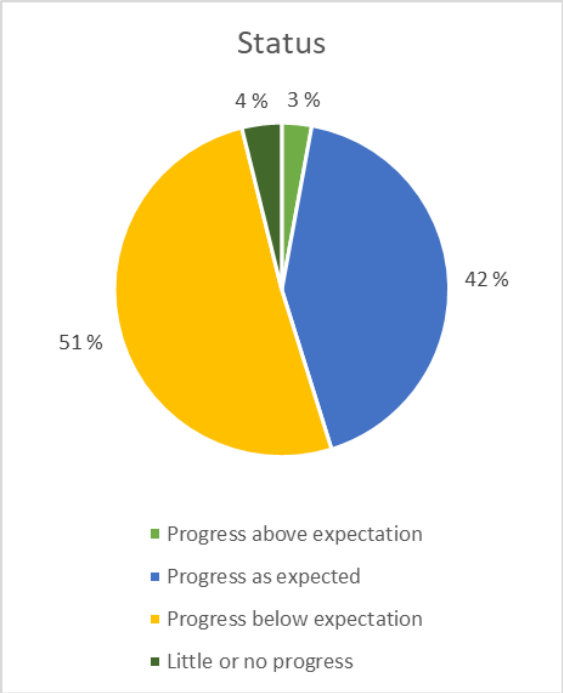


Figure 1: Project Status Reporting Tool 2020

According to the assessments, 3 projects (3 %) are progressing above expectations, 44 projects (42 %) are progressing as expected, while 53 projects (51 %) are progressing below expectation. 4 projects (4 %) has recorded little or no progress.

In sum, 45 % of the ongoing portfolio is considered to progress as expected or better. The corresponding figure for 2019 and 2018 was 72 % and 84 % respectively.

The three projects progressing above expectation were supported through two different Norwegian member organisations. Of these, one of the projects also progressed above expectation in 2019. Two of the projects cite results exceeding set targets, by reaching more beneficiaries, in one project through churches and communities continuing to arrange workshops at their own costs. The third project reports to have received recognition by the national government, which is beyond what they expected. Although on a smaller scale, the reasons given are similar to those given in previous years.

The projects progressing below expectation are distributed among 14 different Norwegian member organizations. 15 of the 57 projects that were performing below expectation or had little or no progress, were in the same category last year. This may imply that for 15 out of 57 projects, the slower progress in 2020 may not be explained by Covid-19 alone, but also by other challenges.

For 2019, we had a list of six different explanations that member organizations provided as reason for progress below expectation. For 2020, most of the projects running behind schedule have "Covid-19 related" reasons. The reasons provided in the Project Status Reporting Tool were as follows:

a) **Covid-19.** Progress in the projects were significantly delayed due to the Covid-19 situation. Out of 57 projects performing below expectations, 52 reported that the main reason for the lack of progress was related to Covid-19, often in relation to restrictions on travel or the opportunity to gather people together in groups. It is worth mentioning that as many as 22 projects got an extension year added to their project cycle and will be ending in 2021, rather than 2020.
b) **Mismanagement/irregularities**. Seven projects reported that their progress was delayed due to investigations into suspicions of mismanagement/fraud, and/or corresponding freeze of project funding.

Investigations into suspicions of fraud and mismanagement is a critical factor that also requires a lot of resources to follow up in Digni secretariat and in the applicable member organizations. An increasing number of fraud cases under investigation is the natural consequence of Digni's systematic approach to addressing the issue of anti-corruption.

Mitigation

6 of the 24 projects running behind schedule in 2019, were reported to be performing as expected or higher in 2020. However, most of the projects running behind in 2019, were still below expectation in 2020, as stated above. Whereas we in previous years have been able to track mitigation strategies and assess their success based on the progress status reports, we see a tendency for previous challenges to be overshadowed by the pandemic. The few projects that improved their progress compared to 2019 have reported hiring of competent staff, combined efforts of staff and volunteers, and being able to adjust from offline to online activities, as part of the reasons why they have caught up and gotten on track.

Underspending in 2020

Most of the member organizations reported underspending in their projects in 2020 (See Regnskapsrapport 2020 for a full overview per project). 30 of 107 projects in the ordinary project portfolio had a negative deviation, i.e. underspent funds, of more than 10 % of their budgets. Of these, 15 projects had deviations exceeding 20 %. In most cases the projects with a high underspending report to have progressed below expectation in 2020. As many as 8 of the projects reporting a negative deviation exceeding 10 % reported progress "as expected", and in one case even "above expectation". This shows that underspending does not automatically mean that targets and results in the projects are not reached. In some cases, strong local involvement or lower costs by using new technology, can lead to progress towards targets, despite low spending.

One example of such a case is The Bible Society in Ethiopia. They had progress above expectation, while their accounts show an underspending of 11 % in the project. In their report they observe that; "Although the pandemic constrained some of the implementation during 2020, the project is still exceeding its targets as local churches and communities are very receptive to the program and are continuing to arrange workshops at their own cost". Another project points to the fact that the biggest change for 2020 in their context, was a shift towards online activities. In this case the staff were competent and flexible, kept up their engagement with the target group and achieved most goals, however in a different manner, and spending less, than what was planned. The opportunity to adjust easily to online activities varies a great deal across the portfolio, depending on project design, thematic focus, and target groups. In addition, access to necessary technological equipment and quality internet connection is not equally distributed. As we can see from the deviation reports, most projects had underspending, and most of them reported progress below expectation in 2020.

The accounts show a total deviation of appr. NOK 10 million between the revised budget and the total accounts for the projects in the ordinary portfolio in 2020. However, although most projects can attribute some of the underspending to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is not the whole picture. As can be seen from the total accounts, approximately NOK 7,4 million unused funds were carried over from the ordinary project portfolio in 2019 to 2020 and absorbed in the reallocated budget in 2020.

The NOK 5 million deviation for the QZA-18/0159-619 NOR-Covid-19 Hospital Support is a mere technicality. The project has received a non-cost extension from Norad and will report on the full amount in the annual report for 2021. For the earmarked funding for QZA-18/0159-556-558 NMS-Miara-Mianatra Project, MLC Inclusive Education, NMS has applied for a non-cost extension to spend the remaining NOK 1,536,182 on project activities in 2021.

At member organization level, only two organizations (SAI and DELF) had deviations exceeding 20 %.

Covid-19 exemptions from Norad

Reallocations

Temporary exemption: The threshold for preapproval has been increased to 20 % for 2020.

Digni's agreement with Norad is specified at the member organization level. During 2020 we have received applications for reallocation of funds to Covid-19 activities, as well as other necessary adjustments in the projects because of the pandemic. There has been no request for reallocations exceeding the 20 % threshold, but as we have seen, the underspending has shown negative deviations exceeding 20 % at the member organization's level.

The total approved reallocations to Covid-19 interventions amounted to approximately NOK 7,3 million which amounts to approximately 3,7 % of the total portfolio.

Reduction in organizational share of project costs

For 2020, 34 projects utilised the opportunity to reduce the organization's own share to less than 10 %. However, the average organizational share of own funds of project costs in the portfolio is still higher than 10 %, but the percentage is very unevenly distributed among projects and member organizations. Altogether, there has been a reduction from NOK appr. 46 million to NOK appr. 26 million of members own funds. We started 2020 with an average organizational share of 22 %, which has reduced to 14 %. Digni has not been able to identify a clear pattern when it comes to which organizations make use of the opportunity to lower their own share of project costs.

Digni has not made any adjustments in the overall plans, affecting our agreement with Norad. Most member organizations report that they expect and hope to be able to catch up on activities that have been put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions and the spread of infection.

As explained in 3. Thematic Reports, 22 projects that were supposed to submit their final reports have applied to extend their project period until end of 2021.

Temporary exemption regarding covering of salaries and necessary administrative costs

Digni's members and partner organizations have greatly appreciated the opportunity to keep key personnel in the projects, during times when there have been lockdowns and restrictions preventing regular operations in projects. Out of 112 projects, 40 utilized the opportunity to pay salaries to employees that were unable to work due to lockdown or other restrictions related to the pandemic. Through this opportunity a total number of 211 employees received salary for appr. 4,255 days during lockdown and/or curfew. On average, that amounts to appr. 20 hours per affected employee.

5. Earmarked Funding

In 2020, Digni received earmarked funding for three projects over the funding scheme for strengthening rights of minorities of faith and belief (kap.post 170.70) and one project funded through the Norwegian Embassy in South Africa (covering Madagascar) on the education grant (kap.post 160.70).

Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief Funding Scheme

Table 9: Accounts projects receiving funding scheme for strengthening the rights of minorities of faith and belief

Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief	Application budget 2020 (NOK)	Revised budget 2020 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2020 (NOK)	Deviation
QZA-18/0159-548-551 DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	1 376 385	1 326 299	1 340 610	1 %
QZA-18/0159-535-537 NMS-Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement.	975 920	920 245	916 421	0 %
QZA-18/0159-538 NMS-Sat-7 Current affairs	2 811 960	2 848 952	2 561 795	-10 %
Total	**5 164 265**	**5 095 496**	**4 818 826**	**-5 %**

The Palestinian Areas – QZA-18/0159--548-551 DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU) (2018-2021)

The project is run by the Palestinian Bible Society, which receives Norad/Digni support through "Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirken (DELF)" in Norway. The project´s long term goal is peaceful co-existence in Jerusalem, but for this project phase, focus is on co-existence between Christians and Muslims in East Jerusalem (EJ). The main output is a magazine that emphasizes the contribution of both religions to the city of Jerusalem. Further, JUU works with certain target schools in EJ, and with Muslim and Christian Civil Society groups. The project period is from 2018 – 2021 and was approved within the grant for Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief. This project is a follow up from the first phase, 2013-2017, which was part of the regular Digni portfolio.

The Covid-19 pandemic changed many of the approved plans. Some activities were cancelled, but some new ones also came up. In Jerusalem, schools were closed for big parts of 2020, hence children were home all the time, and parents were greatly challenged. Many also suffered financial loss and worries.

The JUU magazine was published in 3x3000 copies. Due to the pandemic, there were challenges in distribution, so the number of copies was less. However, the magazine´s Facebook page followers in 2020 increased from 5000 to 6139. A certain post got 1000 likes and 300 shares. Many of the articles focused on Covid-19 and topics related to the pandemic. For example, it was important for the magazine to dedicate much space to a special emergency room that was a joint Christian/Muslim effort. At least 3-4 articles in every edition talk about human rights issues and religious aspects of freedom – in addition to talk about the right of education. Three radio programs were produced and aired. A colouring book was also printed and distributed. Further, a song about rights was made – the hope is that this song becomes an animation video in 2021. Several local Facebook pages have started to apply the Jerusalem Unites Us name to their cities (for example Beit Sahour Unites Us). They have not made a magazine, but they have taken the idea of showing the joint heritage and coexistence between Muslims and Christians, and they have been highlighting the Christian members of the society.

These activities have also been carried out:

- Workshops in three groups in the Freres school, with all together 35 girls.
- Tour in Jerusalem with "Zahrat al Madaen" school, with 31 students.
- Two workshops with leaders from Orthodox club (15 + 12 participants)
- A series of nine digital sketches about feelings with NEI (partner organization), 30 minutes each.
- JUU quiz contest on the Facebook page. Around 400 people participated and 90 answered the quiz correctly.

As the school year began, the project had many requests for trainings and workshops both for students and staff. This started well by doing many activities, but Covid-19 suddenly stopped it all. Still the feedback for the conducted workshops were very positive. An example is from one of the new schools "Zahrat al Madaen" where the students are all Muslim boys, mostly from poor, marginalized families, suffering from different social and economic issues. Meetings with the leadership of the school revealed a great need for teaching on peace and tolerance. It is uncommon that a Christian organisation gets involved with Muslims in this way, so this cooperation itself was an attempt to build bridges between the Christians and Muslims in East Jerusalem.

The lock downs from March forced the project to think differently. Together with the partner NEI, they filmed 9 short videos about fear, anger, and friendships. These were spread in social media, and the aim was to reach children and schools as much as possible. These were aired on the channels of the Palestinian Bible Society and of the NEI, but some local TV stations also contacted the NEI asking to broadcast the films.

JUU also made some adjustments for distribution of necessary Covid-19 related items like alco-gel, face masks and so on. Additionally, the project printed posters and brochures with information about Covid-19 (with information from the WHO) to educate people about the virus. At least 3000 brochures were distributed, and at least 2000 bottles of alco-gel.

During the lock down, JUU also launched a digital contest. Two characters in the project, Georg (Christian name) and Ahmad (Muslim name) did a tour in Jerusalem together. Each day, they asked questions about the places they visited, like a quiz. The contest had nice prices for the winners, and the goal was to let children have some fun while educating them and strengthening the love for their city. Around 400 people participated from all over the country (also West Bank) and the feedback was great.

As large gatherings were forbidden during most of 2020, the JUU had to think differently in planning activities, and one of them was to coordinate with Church leaders to send holiday greetings to Muslims during their Eid celebration. This is quite unique, and the messages all communicated tolerance, love, and co-existence. The feedback was amazing, hundreds of comments on Facebook from thankful Muslims as well as that the church leaders shared these greetings on their own social media platforms, where they have thousands of followers. The JUU believes this initiative has defused a lot of potential tension and created a new understanding of co-existence.

Egypt/MENA – QZA-18/0159-538 NMS-Current Affairs Project (2018-2022)

The Current Affairs Project is set for a five-year period with a goal of fostering peaceful coexistence by promoting the rights of minorities of faith and belief in the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on Egyptian youth. The environment that exists in Egypt is challenging and is characterized by uncertainty. It has grown into frustration, fear and interdependence and the environment is further characterised by suspicion (if not hostile) to progressive values. The change that has been intended is that society would be characterized by openness and tolerance. Current Affairs sought to see the promotion and protection of Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) and Minority Rights, in addition to other supporting rights.

The action is to utilise the power of the media to inform, facilitate discussion, give a voice and galvanise to action communities across the MENA region to take responsibility for others within and outside their community and in turn, experience rights and protection, as supported by their fellow citizens. Using multiple genres and platforms, SAT-7 intended to engage the viewer from multiple angles to facilitate their participation in this important change. The project has four outcomes; (1) Viewers are intrigued by minority rights and means of peaceful coexistence; (2) Emotional attachment to promoted minority rights and peaceful coexistence is reinforced amongst viewers ; (3) Public discourse on minority rights and means of peaceful coexistence is stimulated ; (4) Capability of minority rights promotion is built among selected beneficiaries.

2020 has been a year unlike many others. Egypt battled with Covid-19, its public health, and economic repercussions. However, due to the high density of Egypt's population and large informal sector within the country, many felt the effects even more. This was compounded by national security issues and the looming threat of Ethiopia reducing the flow of the Nile, potentially affecting the livelihood of millions. This naturally influenced the implementation and impact of Current Affairs. Current Affairs has faced substantial challenges in 2020, predominately due to Covid-19. This has delayed a significant proportion of the production as staff were often confined to their homes and guests could not come to the studio. There was still movement on all activities thanks to staff working from home and communicating online. Filming and other activities that required face-to-face interaction had to be pushed back to align with the public health restrictions.

Even if the context was challenging in 2020, as describes above, the project still managed to carry out some activities with only the Public Service Announcement (PSA) being delayed. The following activities and results have been produced in 2020:

- They produced and broadcasted 21 episodes of the drama series "Backstage"" where the aim is promoting acceptance regarding gender, ethnicity, religion etc. This drama has used several characters and storylines to draw the viewer into the story and the issues being faced. The drama covers experiences by minorities in Egypt, covering both ethnic minorities and religious minorities. The subjects that are tackled are: uncovering difference, uncovering stigmatization, disability and promoting acceptance. The overarching premise being that accepting the others for who they are, or decide to be, is paramount.
- They produced and broadcasted the magazine show "A way forward" where young people from different backgrounds (nationalities, religion, gender, etc.) discuss issues that concerns them to foster healthy dialogues. 14 different young people participated in each episode, and were comprised of several nationalities including Syrians, Iraqis, and

Yemenis. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the production team had to come up with creative solutions to allow for dialogue among several individuals.

- The productions supported by this project attracted 9,509,496 viewers in 2020.
- The Public Service Announcement (PSA) produced in 2019, had 1177 viewers on YouTube in 2020.

Pakistan – QZA-18/0159-5355-537 NMS-Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement Project (2018-2021)

The main objective of CLAAS Pakistan (Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement) is to provide legal aid, assistance, settlement & rehabilitation to survivors of religious in-tolerance, abuse and violence. The project has the following goals which are contributing to the accomplishment of the main objective of the organisation:

1. To provide access to justice and safe shelter to those who are most vulnerable (religious minorities, women, and children)
2. To sensitize and educate young girls, boys, men, and women about their rights and to make them effective members of the civil society.
3. To empower marginalized and vulnerable communities (religious minorities, women, and children) facing discrimination and violence.
4. To mobilize and generate community consensus on issues of religious tolerances, gender equality, and respect for human rights.

By undertaking these activities, the project also provides immediate relief and preventive measures to the victims of discrimination and abuse based on gender, race, and religion in Pakistan. In addition to this, the project includes lobbying and advocacy activities towards all higher constitutional bodies in Pakistan, close cooperation with international recognized Human Rights Organizations and public awareness raising on the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups in Pakistan and beyond.

The following activities have been accomplished in 2020:

- 63 vulnerable people (27 male/27 female/9 children) received legal aid in court cases, most of them accused of blasphemy.
- 56 people, survivors of serious violations of their rights, were accommodated in a safe place: 45 in “Apna Ghar” shelter house (32 women and 13 girls under 15 years) and 11 adult males in “Safehouse”. These 11 males were involved in different sensitive cases and needed refuge.
- Four social integration programmes for 67 female survivors (mainly residents at Apna Ghar and their families) were conducted.
- Seven community sessions for 323 individuals (157 female/166 male) were conducted – with almost twice as many participants as expected.
- Three capacity building trainings for all staff members (8 female/14 male) were conducted.
- Two vocational trainings with 12 female participants in each session were carried out.
- Ongoing advocacy and lobbying on the issues of forced conversion and blasphemy was accomplished.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the goals of the project have been reached in 2020, without major deviations or delays, and the project is on track. The Annual Report gives a good picture of the results and the work of this project. The money was used according to the approved activity plan and budget with only minor deviations such as restrictions regarding jail visits (new government regulations) and considerably more participants at several workshops and meetings. All reports were submitted in due time, mainly with satisfactory quality.

The Due Diligence Assessment conducted in December 2018, provided only partially satisfying results. During a visit in Lahore in September 2019, the Due Diligence check list was reviewed, and it could be confirmed that almost all requirements were met. In 2020, the work with strengthening the administrative capacity of CLAAS continued successfully. The CLAAS team has shown great openness and willingness for learning and improvement.

In 2020, CLAAS made improvements regarding management and administration of the organisation in general. NMS guided the organisations through the steps in project cycle and a training on result-based management was conducted, as well as a training on log-frames to enable them to improve for the second phase. Furthermore, the guidelines for the financial management were spelled out in the Policy Manual; this contributed significantly to the reduction of the risk of corruption and financial fraud. The project has a separate bank account for this project in ABL (private bank) additional to the organisation's account at a governmental bank.

An important step in 2020 was the governmental registration of CLAAS. Due to new requirements, all NGOs getting foreign donations must be registered with the Economic Affairs Division (EAD). On 18.08.2020 CLAAS applied for registration to EAD so that they still can receive foreign funds into their bank accounts. The finalisation of the EAD registration process will, however, most likely take several years. Regarding the employees, CLAAS board has in its meeting on 11.02.2020 approved registration with EOBI regarding social security. It is expected that the employees will be enrolled in the social security system by the end of 2021.

Towards the end of 2020, discussion started with the leaders of CLAAS regarding a possible application for a new phase 2022 – 2024. This fruitful discussion could partly be done in video meetings and had a further positive influence on our already good and trusting relationship. CLAAS had developed a rough concept note which starts at the successes of the current project, but will focus more on advocacy work, capacity building and prevention. New vulnerable groups such as the transgender community are sought to be included. In the 1st half year of 2021, an external evaluation of the *Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement Project (2018/19-2021)* will be accomplished. The results and learnings of this evaluation will have a significant influence on a possible new application.

As a conclusion, the *Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement Project (2018/19-2021)* has also in 2020 been successful with its double focus on supporting individuals in difficult situations and lobbying within the human rights movement in Pakistan for legal and political improvements for both women and vulnerable minorities. There is a strong local participation and ownership to the work, which includes collaboration with other stakeholders like the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

Education Grant

Table 10: Accounts projects receiving funding from the regional grant

Education Grant	Application budget 2020 (NOK)	Revised budget 2020 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2020 (NOK)	Deviation
QZA-18/0159-556-558 NMS-Miara-Mianatra Project, MLC Inclusive Edu	3 000 000	3 000 000	1 463 818	-51 %
Total	**3 000 000**	**3 000 000**	**1 463 818**	**-51 %**

Madagascar – QZA-18/0159-556-558 NMS-Miara Mianatra Project (2018-2020)

The NMS-Miara-Mianatra Project, MLC (Malagasy Lutheran Church) Inclusive Education Project, started its first phase in 2018. The Miara-Mianatra (learning together) is based on a previous project by MLC, Mampiaty Programme, with the same vision, mission, and core values, but a different management structure. The overall objective of the project is to integrate children with disabilities, with low or average level of impairment, in mainstream schools across four target areas in Madagascar: Atsinanana (Toamasina), Vakinankaratra (Antsirabe), Amoron'Imania (Ambositra) and Matsiatra Ambony (Fianarantsoa). It draws on the extensive experience of MLC in specialized education for blind and deaf persons (since 1924) and the Ministry of Education's ongoing effort to draft and implement an Inclusive Education Policy. Miara-Mianatra capitalizes on the strong and trusted position of the church in the target areas. The project bridges civil society with government authorities and local communities and enables constructive partnerships in promoting inclusive education for all. The fact that the project started with public schools was probably very strategic.

An external evaluation was carried out first semester of 2020, before Covid-19 struck Madagascar. External international consultants with specific competency within inclusive education lead the evaluation and have also facilitated planning and preparations of a second phase from 2022. The report concludes that Miara Mianatra meet international inclusion standards, the project goal and objectives are achieved, and the project reaches the targeted beneficiaries.

The report 2020 reflects the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic affecting activities and results. The lock-down period from mid-March to October made the program staff carry out activities only in the first quarter and in the last quarter. In addition, the freeze of funds from the second quarter made it difficult to implement activities as planned. The progress for 2020 is therefore below expected.

- The cooperation of the church, via the Miara-Mianatra (MM) Program has been reinforced in 2020, with the key ministry partners (Ministry of Education (MEN), of Health (MSP) and of Population (MPPSPF)). In collaboration with UNICEF, MEN has elaborated SWOT and priorities for the National Inclusive Education Platform. MSP contributes by providing public doctors to help with the medical screening of 324 students with disabilities from FLM schools. A health monitoring book has been made for each screened student, with a plan for medical follow-up.
- MM continues reinforcing the collaboration with Cristian Blind Mission (CBM). FLM institutions (hospitals, deaf and blind schools) are among the beneficiaries of CBM Multiple Years Plan (2020-2022).
- Due to the lock-down, no teacher training could take place. When the lock-down was over, the school year resumed and consequently the teachers were not available anymore. Facing the risks which might occur due to the Covid-19 pandemic spread (lock-down, travel restrictions), the program needed to find alternative ways to train teachers.

- Six learners have been supported by the program at SFM Fandriana, which is one more than expected.
- The International Day of People with Disabilities was an opportunity to show to the public that people with disabilities can do many of the same things as "normal" people. "They just need support and not charity", this was the advocating message addressed by the Executive Director of People with Disabilities platform. FOFAMA (FLM Deaf School) and FOFAJA (FLM Blind School) were represented by a group, respectively of dancers and singers, which was positive for the visibility of FLM as a leader in the field of special education.
- At institutional level, there has been a move forward to the consideration of social inclusion through the validation workshop of the evaluation of a National Plan of Inclusion of Handicap (2015-2020) which Miara-Mianatra took part in.
- Distribution of school kits to 378 Children with disabilities at non-FLM private school and to 207 children with disabilities from FLM inclusive schools, and their school fees.
- Due to travel restrictions, very few school sites could be visited for follow-up.

The long-term transformation process from supporting special schools towards service for inclusion is complex and multidimensional. NMS will need to clarify and review the policy for support including financial to encourage and facilitate special schools which are actively engaged in transforming their role from segregated settings for children with disabilities into support services for inclusion.

The discussions about the way forward for FLM special schools will continue.

6. Management of Cross-Cutting Risks

In accordance with the cooperation agreement (General Conditions, 2.2 d) with Norad, Digni hereby present an overview of relevant risks identified related to the cross-cutting issues of a) Corruption and financial irregularities, b) Environment and climate, c) Gender equality, and d) Human-rights. The report focuses on risks observed that may have negative consequences for said themes and mitigation efforts.

Below we have provided a revision/update on the risk analysis submitted in the annual report for 2019.

Corruption and financial irregularities	
RISK	MITIGATION
In some cases, poor monitoring of project results makes it difficult to document and trace costs to activities, resulting in a heightened risk of irregularities.	Continue competence building for members and partners on results-based management (RBM), particularly regional network meetings and workshops, for example in connection with project visits. Until March 2020 RBM and anti-corruption has been among the topics covered through physical projects visit. The rest of 2020, during the global pandemic, project monitoring has been digital and Digni has through two instances provided partners/projects with guidelines on how to reduce the risk of mismanagement and corruption during crisis. Especially this emphasized mitigation of the risks of theft, mismanagement of assets/vehicles and poor monitoring. Apply strict requirements to results frameworks, budgets, and risk analyses in applications and annual reports. Apply good documentation of application and reporting dialogues/processes. In 2020, external project evaluations were also used strategically for documentation of results and for checking that activities and costs were spent according to agreed plans and agreements. Digni's new project management system (NGO online), to be launched in 2020/2021, will further improve RBM and allow for better documentation of processes.
Some partners have weak control systems and/or operate in areas characterized by an informal economy with widespread use of petty cash and low standards of documentation (vouchers, invoices, receipts, etc.). In such situations compliance may be compromised when adherence to own manuals and systems is weakened.	Develop risk profiles of members and partners and apply follow-up measures when necessary. Continue to organize and strengthen systematic control measures through due diligence processes, organizational reviews and spot checks. Due to the Covi-19 pandemic, no spot checks were carried out in 2020. However, risk mitigating guidelines were given to our members for their dialogue with partners when there is no possibility for physical visits. Organizational reviews of members and partners, both physical and digital, are enhancing understanding of their risk levels (profile). Risk is specified as an area to be assessed in ToRs for these reviews. Recommendations are made to improve risk-based management and a follow up plan is prepared post-review.

	Make use of arenas of learning (regional meetings, project visits, etc.) to address the issue. Prioritize visits to partners/projects with known capacity and competence challenges. Conduct systematic competence building for member organizations. Emphasize members' responsibility to ensure that partners and projects adhere to satisfactory standards. NGO online will allow for better tracking of risk factors and levels among members, partners and projects. Develop competence building program to work systematically to enhance compliance and internal control systems in partners and members.
Some partners and members have limited capacity to undertake extensive control measures.	Control measures that need to be improved are identified through organizational reviews. The application process and criteria for potential new Digni members are made more stringent. Stimulate cooperation between members/partners with limited capacity, for example pooling of personnel/systems. For example, KNIF, the accounting firm used by Digni and several members, is also working to improve information sharing and are considering developing compliance services.
Strict rules regarding the use of project funds limit the partners' cash flow management and flexibility to respond to needs and adjustments.	Raise awareness among member organizations about cash flow issues and the need to plan well ahead to avoid stand-stills. However, during the pandemic, members have been more reluctant to make payments to their partners before they know the need. This is to reduce the risk of mismanagement in the projects. Predictability of cash flow has improved as a result of the current cooperation agreement and the funding advances received the past three years.
Some projects/partners do not identify relevant risks in project applications and reports and may struggle to understand the purpose of risks analyses. Low awareness on internal risks. This may also be related to a fear of presenting weaknesses and the strict application of the zero-tolerance policy on corruption.	Carry out competence building and raise awareness, making use of established arenas for learning and sharing of experiences. More focus has been paid to the safeguarding aspect of the zero-tolerance policy, for example Digni's project on the topic together with three of our member organizations. Create safe spaces to discuss issues that are often associated with taboo. Make use of grassroots anticorruption training material developed by Wycliffe. Discuss with Norad how to navigate the issue of sensitive contexts, in which displaying risks and weaknesses may constitute a considerable risk for partners or staff members. In 2019, the anti-corruption network made recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs related to management/outcomes of corruption cases. This was answered in 2020, and a committee has been established to focus on the raised aspects.
Projects are generally implemented in high-risk contexts, and grants recipients carry all risks in this regard. The risk profile is not	Invite political dialogue on the negative consequences of the zero-tolerance policy and voice the concerns of members and partners, with an emphasis on risk sharing. The recommendations presented to the MFA included proposals for this.

reasonable and may deter organizations from entering into development cooperation, especially in the most vulnerable areas and with relevant partners.	
Whistle-blowing mechanisms maybe exploited to retaliate or sabotage the work of partners/projects by people with ill-intentions. Consequently, partners may be reluctant to make whistle-blowing options known. Despite some whistleblowers having questionable motives, the risks are real and must be adequately handled.	Engage in discussions with members and partners about possible whistle-blowing mechanisms. This is covered when Digni conducts financial checks during project visits. Whistleblowing mechanisms appear to be effective, as most cases of fraud/suspicion of financial irregularities are discovered this way.

Environment and climate	
RISK	MITIGATION
Project results are affected negatively by the impact of environmental degradation and climate change, especially related to agriculture. Crops are unpredictable, and rights-holders are deprived of their livelihoods.	Conduct competence building and raise awareness about resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies. Further develop Digni's own expertise in this area and create a good evidence base for alternative methods. In 2020, there has been less opportunity for conducting competence building in this area of work, due to COVID 19. Priority has been given to carry out activities and reallocate project funds towards addressing more immediate and short term concerns related to shortage of food (food aid) and livelihood means (agricultural inputs such as provision of seeds and other) for people that have been directly and severely affected by COVID 19 situation. Digni continued to encourage more reporting on environmental indicators, which is increasingly becoming the case for economic empowerment projects (agricultural development), and better track resources and initiatives among partners. Digni is continues to be committed to applying stricter requirements to the submission of environmental analyses and screening in project applications. However, in 2020 less project applications than in a regular year was submitted to Digni for approval, due to COVID 19.
There is lack of awareness and knowledge on environmental issues among members and partners, as reflected in low number of projects actively addressing environmental challenges. Relatively few projects provide substantial reports on risks related to environment and climate change.	In 2020, Digni continued to invite discussions on the role of Digni members and partners in addressing environmental and climate change. Environment and Climate change was a topic that was discussed with members and partners in Digni's Global Consultation meeting. This consultation, that also included address theological aspects of environmental stewardship, served as input to the new strategy process. This is reflected in the new document "Digni 2030 – Statement of Principles: Overarching strategy for Digni". Digni also continues to use project evaluations to identify areas of intervention, as disaster risk preparedness is increasingly becoming a key word at communal level during such processes.

Gender Equality	
RISK	MITIGATION
Cultural and traditional norms limit the degree to which women and girls are valued, impeding *girl's participation, inclusion, representation and decision making*. This is risk is even more aggravated given the COVID 19 situation.	Partner organizations have experienced and competent project staff who have good and trustful relationship with target groups and that are able to address and change negative cultural gender norms and practices. In 2020, this work is reflected in the evaluation reports of projects ending, since project evaluations always include an assessment of gender equality. In the ongoing projects, COVID 19 have increased the relevance of increasing such mitigation measures as described below in this section. Projects continued to include objectives and activities for the empowerment of women and girls, such as: building their self-esteem, thematic competence building, organizational skills, leadership training, rights-based advocacy, etc. In addition, many projects have had their activity plans revised during 2020 due to COVID 19. These plans have been revised with a clear focus on gender equality and have taken into account women's and girl's specific concerns. In general terms, during 2020 Digni's project portfolio continues to include women as a major target group. (Currently an estimated 70% of the target population are women). Projects continued to include approaches and strategies to address stakeholders/powerholders (men, local leaders, religious leaders and others) to be able to negotiate space and increased women and girl's empowerment. But due to COVID 19, in various projects, there have been less opportunities to gather stakeholders, conduct meetings and trainings, due to government restrictions and fear of contracting the disease. Digni continues to require gender mainstreaming of projects, objectives and results frameworks, and improve the use of gender disaggregated data in its project portfolio. This is important for creating increased awareness and monitoring of women's and girl's participation, inclusion, representation and decision making.
Women and girls lack *access to basic services* such as education, health care (maternal and child health care), government welfare schemes, and water and sanitation, especially in rural contexts.	In 2020, projects continued to apply gender mainstreaming and target women and girls specifically such as securing emphasis on girl's education, maternal and child health care, welfare schemes and focus on provision of water and sanitation. Evaluations also show that projects are delivering results in this regard, particularly on gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment. In 2020, as a special measure to increase or continue the access to basic health care for marginalized population in Nepal, in particular women and children, two hospitals operated by United Mission to Nepal, got additional support from Norad (5 mill NOK).

Women lack *economic empowerment* and are economically dependent on household decision makers such as husband/father in law and others.	Projects continued to target women specifically with microfinance schemes, savings and loans in self-help groups, training in income generating activities, opening bank accounts, trainings on agriculture to increase productivity and income, etc. However, several projects reported less activity in such groups since the work has been affected by the COVID situation in several countries. Microfinance institution in Liberia have also been affected by COVID 19 with poorer performance than previous years as more clients have had difficulty with repaying their loans in time. In several projects, activities have been revised and funds have been redirected to income generating activities, some food and material assistance assist particular daily wage laborers, women and households in an acute poverty crisis due to COVID. Where possible, given the COVID 19 situation, projects continued to increase women's power and agency through their organization and women's formal and informal networks and organizations in order to strengthen their control over the use and decision-making power over newly acquired income and resources.
Women and girls *lack protection* and experience gender-based violence i.e. sexual harassment, abuse, rape in the public sphere and/or within the household. In 2020, in the COVID 19 situation, Digni, members and local partners are concerned that the situation for gender-based violence, in particular at the household level has increased in project areas.	On a general level, projects continued to increasingly include strategies, objectives and activities to address gender-based violence in target groups. Some few projects have this as a main objective. However, it is more common that this aspect is integrated in projects as one of several aspects and thematic focus. In addition, projects need to build in accountability mechanisms for reporting and handling of cases of GBV that can last after the completion of the project. In 2020, government restrictions on mobility have given projects less opportunity to carry out regular project activities aimed at reducing gender-based-violence at household level. As conditions on mobility are improved projects will continue the work.
In several cooperating churches, gender inequality has historically been legitimized on a theological basis, with restrictions on the roles women can assume and which decision-making bodies women can be part of.	Digni continued in 2020, to emphasize that organizational development projects directed at churches always have a strong gender focus, (as well as other projects carried out by Church partners.
Development cooperation partners may lack compliance with agreements regarding sexual harassment and abuse and mechanism for reporting and following up cases.	In 2020, Digni continued its efforts in this area, mainly through the Capacity Building Project "Power and Sexual Harassment". The aim of this project is to enhance the focus on issues related to power abuse and sexual harassment and provide tools and resources to work on these issues in the partner organizations. Parts of the project had to be redesigned due to the pandemic. The focus in 2020 was therefore to develop a toolbox on the online learning platform, Fabo, to make the guides and tools available for all of Digni's partners. The tools and guides for prevention, detection and handling of power abuse and harassment will be tested and given feedback on by the two pilot partners of this project in Bangladesh and Ethiopia during 2021.

Human Rights	
RISK	MITIGATION
The employment of *human rights is restricted by government* in many countries. Partners are therefore increasingly reluctant to include explicit objectives and result frameworks on human rights, as in many cases governments demand insight into or approve project plans/reports. Human Rights focus and language may put partners at unnecessary risks.	In 2020, some partners and project plans continued to abstain from using human rights language or referring to Human Rights conventions, but focus on "neutral themes/words" such as water, education, health, peace, income generation, environment and gender, in countries with government restriction, etc. In addition, partners used non-conflictive approaches in the cooperation with authorities, trying to negotiate change and space for target groups by creating win/win situations for target groups vs authorities. Partners continued to use their thorough contextual knowledge of the political situation to negotiate space for meaningful implementation of projects. In some countries, the human rights situation for project staff has deteriorated severely affecting the security as well as the implementation of the projects. In these contexts, members are working strategically and creatively to find ways to continue to support partners and the continuation of the work. Members continued to use their knowledge of partners and contexts and to follow-up partners and assess their relationship to government and/or space to act. Senior church leaders are encouraged to highlight concerns before relevant authorities, were possible, as such leaders might have power to influence political stakeholders and other powerful holders.
Rights-based approaches are poorly implemented by partners. The result is that projects lack necessary cooperation with (local) authorities and work too much in isolation obtaining poorer results. The authorities are hence not challenged to meet their obligations regarding provision of basic services, protection of citizens and other fundamental human rights.	In 2020, project applications, project design and strategies continued to reflect a deep understanding of root causes of the problem, including power structures to be addressed, stakeholder analysis, and how the project will empower rights-holders (target groups) to hold duty-bearers to account - given the limitations of the "space" in the specific context. A demonstrated understanding of this is a central criterion when Digni asses new project applications. Cooperation/ engagement/ challenging/ addressing/ carrying out advocacy with or towards authorities should always be explored and included in project plans, according to limitations given by context. During COVID 19 some projects have asked to reallocate funding towards COVID 19 related activities. In this work, they have always coordinated with authorities and operated within the regulations that have been given in each context. On a general level, project evaluations include assessment of relevance of projects, including coordination/engagement with relevant stakeholders, such as government/authorities. Risks related to this aspects and recommendations on how to improve the situation will be given in evaluation reports, when appropriate. This aspect is also followed up in dialog between members, partners and Digni.
The language of human rights may also be unfamiliar or is associated with a Western agenda. This is particularly so when it comes to	In 2020, Partners continued to adapt language to the local context and appropriate stakeholders- i.e. use religious texts for change and or "culturally appropriate words" with local communities/leaders/ authorities rather than human rights language.

more "controversial rights" such as e.g Sexual and reproductive rights, Freedom of Religion and Belief, Collective rights for Indigenous peoples and minorities, and others.	Members and Partners used their to relational skills, ability to engage in dialogue with deep contextual understanding, and apply a do no harm methodology in their projects and contexts. Partner continued to use strategies to empower rights holders (economic, cultural, social, etc.) to negotiate and have a dialogue with duty-bearers to increase their space and obtain positive change, where appropriate given the context of Covid-19. Project applications, project design and strategies continued to reflect a deep understanding of root causes of the problem, power structures to be addressed, and stakeholder analysis. In 2020, enhancing understanding and action around freedom of religious beliefs of minorities and other faiths/nonbelievers has been on the agenda, however challenging in a Covid-19 situation. The learning platform for freedom of religion and belief has been a resource.
Collecting human rights-related data, for example disaggregation by disabilities or ethnic/indigenous or religious minorities may be sensitive and cause tensions between project and target groups.	In 2020, Partners continued to apply culturally appropriate measures and a do no harm approach in their projects and take into consideration the views of the target groups in their project design, approach, and collection of data. Project risk analyses included considerations of this aspect whenever this was relevant.

7. External Project Evaluations

17 external evaluations were conducted in 2020 as detailed in Annex B – External Evaluations.

The main change compared with previous years is that a high proportion of the planned evaluations in 2020 have been postponed to 2021 (as explained in the table in Annex B). This is mainly due to the Covid-19 situation with periodic lock down in many of the project countries, in combination with other restrictions due to the pandemic. The planned that have been postponed will be part of the reporting for 2021. Others were postponed from 2019 and reported on for 2020.

Many of the conducted evaluations report on unforeseen challenges due to Covid-19 regulations like limitations on mobility due to lockdowns and restrictions on gathering people for group interviews etc. Nevertheless, most of the evaluations conducted describe a combination of physical and virtual interviews. The use of local evaluation teams has facilitated this process, instead of being dependent on evaluators from abroad who were not able to travel during the lock down. As many of the planned evaluations have been postponed to 2021, there will be more data to analyse in the 2021 Annual Report.

According to Digni's criteria for support, all projects must complete at least one external evaluation during each project phase. Digni's policy on evaluation was outlined in the 2019 Annual Report and has not changed since then. Digni is actively involved in preparing the Terms of Reference for external evaluations and advice member organizations with regard to possible evaluators and the focus and methodology of the evaluation. Evaluations are frequently used to verify results obtained in the projects and to measure the effectiveness of the project design and its implementation. All external project evaluations must include an assessment using Digni's Empowerment Assessment Tool (EAT). Evaluations are commonly based on OECD/DAC's evaluation principles.

All of the external evaluation reports from 2020 have been sent to Norad's evaluation database including Norad's cover letter. (See Annex B) Digni also shares main recommendations and lessons learned from evaluations with Digni's board annually.

Findings in evaluations 2020

There are no significant changes on quality and learning at general level from previous years.

Digni considers the quality of the external evaluations to be satisfactory both in terms of qualitative and quantitative methods. Although most of the evaluations have been affected by shutdowns and travel restrictions, they have been well followed up both in the forms of appropriate ToR and follow-up along the way. The analyses and recommendations presented in the evaluations were assessed to be relevant by partners, members and Digni. Partners and members report in their feedback that the evaluation processes have been useful both in terms of documenting results and learning, and not least recommendations for further work that will be part of the preparations for new project periods where relevant.

Of the 17 external evaluations carried out during 2020, 9 were final evaluations and 8 were mid-term evaluation.

This year we have chosen to present a short summary from one of the evaluation reports conducted in 2020. The report is important to Digni, since the asset-based approach named Use Your Talents has become deeply linked to an increasing number of projects and member organizations.

QZA-18/0159-434 NMS-Use Your Talents Innovation Project, RAF

Background

The Use Your Talents (UYT) approach to asset-based development is an initiative with the local congregation as a primary agent for change. The anchoring and origin in churches / congregations therefore makes it extra relevant in a Digni context. The process of conceptualising and developing UYT started in the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM) in Madagascar in 2002 and has since then grown to include churches in mainly Africa, but also in Asia. The process has been guided and strengthened by specific UYT projects financially supported by Norad through Digni and organised by NMS in Norway. The UYT project has cooperation with the following Digni members, and some of their partners: Norsk Luthersk Misjonssamband, Baptistkirken, Normisjon, Pinsemisjonen and Metodistkirken.

Key findings

Overall the evaluation shows that the Use Your Talents approach has had a remarkable impact over a relatively short period of time; congregations are active in development initiatives in their local communities, churches and institutions are engaging in concept development, there is sharing and learning between individuals and groups. Adopting a UYT approach contributes to strengthening the civil society and has increased people's trust in their own ability to influence their living conditions. Thus, a movement to foster self-reliance. There are 23 institutions linked to networks on research on Use Your Talents approach in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, and Cameroon. In addition, VID Specialized University (Norway) is also part of this.

(The project is also included in the Annex A, Special Report on Projects Ended 2020)

8. Report on the Global Results Framework (GRF)

According to the agreement with Norad (as specified in the Digni Global Result Framework), Digni should provide results on one or more indicators per outcome area in the Global Results Framework (GRF) in the yearly progress report, while a full report on all indicators is to be provided in 2020 and 2022.

Before presenting the GRF data and our analysis it is important to start by providing the following clarification. There is an important distinction in GRF that is made related to the data that is used for assessing and reporting on a) "overall program and thematic goals" (the top row in the matrix for each thematic area) on one side, and b) "thematic outcomes and output indicators" (the rest of the matrix) on the other side. For category a) the data material comes from EAT assessments of projects ending their project cycle, whereas data for category b) comes from all projects –i.e. both ongoing projects and those that are concluded the year of reporting. This implies that data from category b) gives an overview of the total status of the Digni portfolio per year, while a) only gives the results scores of projects ending in the year of reporting.

For category a) it is only at the end of 5 years when the accumulated EAT scores from all projects that have ended during the consecutive years during the Norad agreement period 2018-2020, that a full and more representative picture of the total results obtained in the Digni project portfolio can be presented. Digni underlines the word "representative", since not all projects in the Digni portfolio start and end at the same year, and hence there is an automatic "lag" in reporting of results between different Norad agreements periods, ref table 11 with illustration. The EAT scores of projects that ended in 2018 are mostly based on investments done in Digni's agreement with Norad 2013-2017. And likewise, in 2022, some Digni projects will be in their first year of the project cycle and are expected to report results years after the current agreement period with Norad ends in 2022. At the end of 2022 an estimated 100-115 projects will have been assessed and obtained EAT scores. The thematic analysis made based on this data material form a solid basis for presenting the level of results, reflective of Digni projects as a whole in the agreement period.

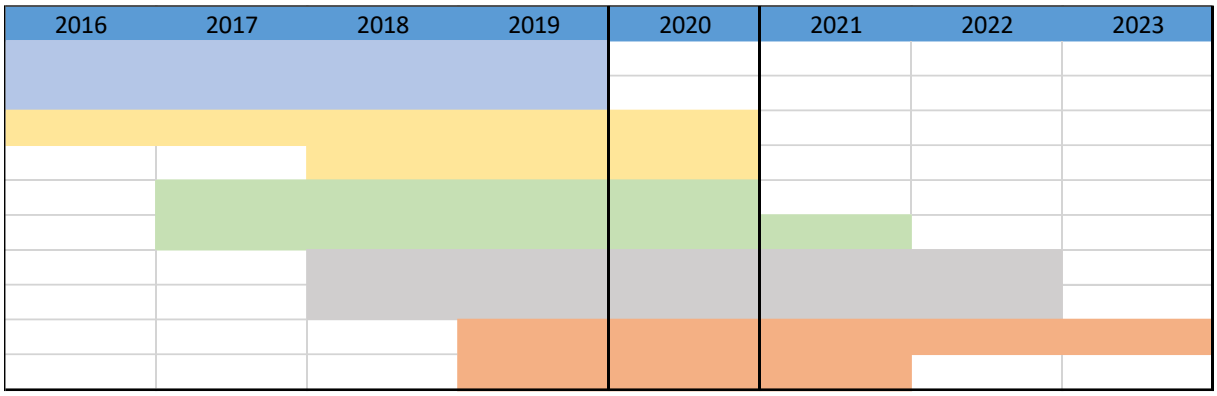
The data aggregated in the GRF are a combination of *final results* and *preliminary results,* depending on which stage the reporting projects are in. Overall EAT targets as well as other targets for 2020 and 2022 are consequently also based on estimations, as the exact future composition of the portfolio is unknown.

Reporting under the thematic area of Civil society is mandatory to all projects and the sample is extensive. For 2020 there are two projects (out of the total portfolio of 112) that are excluded from the sample under Civil Society[16].

[16] QZA-18/0159-538-539 NMS-Current Affairs Project has been excluded from the sample under Civil Society. This is a project the promote the rights of minority faith and belief groups and fight discrimination based on faith and belief in the MENA region, through producing TV-shows. This project cannot count beneficiaries or people organized in any way that is comparable to most of the other projects in the portfolio. We will however see have an assessment of their outcome and impact score, at the end of their project portfolio.

QZA-18/059-619 NOR-Covid-19 Hospital Support, has been granted a non-cost extension until July 15, and will report together with Annual Report 2021.

Table 11: Illustration - Results data from 2019 are sourced from projects with different life cycles



The full GRF-report can be found in Annex E as an Excel-file, in addition we have attached a slightly more reader friendly PDF-version in Annex F (excluding some of the columns, to make it fit at a printed A3 sheet).

There are different number of projects reporting for different indicators. Some indicators (under Civil Society in particular) are mandatory for all projects to report on, while most indicators are optional. Member organization/partners select relevant indicators from the GRF at the onset of their project, and report on the same set of indicators throughout their project cycle.

In this chapter we have commented on outcome statements and results on selected outcome indicators from GRF, i.e. related to category b). Whereas in chapter 2 and 3, the analysis of EAT results on projects that have been concluded is presented there, i.e. category a). The comments given in per thematic area in this section are to be considered supplementary comments to the figures presented in GRF log frame in (Annex E). Some excerpts from the GRF log-frame have been inserted in the commentary text below for the readers convenience, but Digni suggests to have the full GRF log frame at hand while reading the following thematic presentations below for a more fuller and more complete understanding of the results and data reported on in the GRF.

A Strong Civil Society

Outcome goal 1.1: There is a high degree of organization in the target groups

Indicator 1.1.1	# of persons organized over # of direct beneficiaries and # of in-direct beneficiaries					
	# of projects reporting	Total organized	Proportion women	Direct beneficiaries	Degree of organization	Indirect beneficiaries
Baseline	93	179 884	71 %	1 375 577	13 %	7 072 934
Result 2018	98	204 963	70 %	1 543 194	13 %	8 527 980
Result 2019	106	245 966	71 %	1 298 893	19 %	10 653 872
Result 2020	110	301 067	68 %	1 375 390	22 %	9 600 039

Indicator 1.1.1 tracks the degree of organization within and the scope of Digni-funded projects. The 2019-results show sharp increase in proportion of direct beneficiaries becoming organized, compared to baseline and 2018 result. This increase has continued at a slower pace into 2020. In

2019, we had around 2,300 organized per project, while the corresponding figure for 2020 was 2,700. When it comes to the number of beneficiaries per project, there has been a slight increase from 12,254 to 12,504.

The decrease in number of indirect beneficiaries for 2020 compared to 2019 is assessed to be the result of the regular shifts experienced in the portfolio from year to year. The projects ending in 2019 reached a total of approximately 1,2 million indirect beneficiaries, and as we can see from the figures, the projects continuing into 2020 did not entirely compensate for that. Although the Covid-19 pandemic and its restrictions cannot be blamed for the drop in this number, it is likely to have given several projects starting in 2020 a slower start than expected.

Last year we argued that a decrease in direct beneficiaries per project was due to a) the phasing out of projects with a high number of direct beneficiaries, and b) more precise reporting on or adjustments to the number of direct beneficiaries. This in turn explained the sharp increase in degree of organization from 13 % to 19 %. However, for 2020, the numbers show an increase in direct beneficiaries per project, but also an increase in the degree of organization to 22 %. It will be interesting to follow these figures in the years to come to see if they will stabilize on a higher level than in the past.

The proportion of women among rights-holders organized is at 68 %, which is slight decrease from the baseline (71%) and the previous years in this agreement period. This indicator is a good example of how a few large projects can impact the overall figures. In the 2020-sample we have one new, large project that so, far primarily organizes men. By excluding this project from the sample, the proportion of women among the organized returns to 71 %. On the other hand, the high proportion of women in this indicator has been due to the existence of another large project in Vietnam, that targets primarily women. If we exclude this project from the sample, the proportion of women sinks to 56 %.

For indicator 1.1.1, we have gender-disaggregated data for 98 % of the total, which means the data are quite reliable. Improved reporting on gender-disaggregated data is also an important indicator regarding gender mainstreaming in the projects. The strong focus on women remains a dominant feature of Digni-funded projects, and organization of women remains a key empowerment strategy.

Examining the results reported against indicator 1.1.2 (see table below) gives an idea about the number of groups and to which extent women are recruited as leaders for groups organized. The total number of groups have increased compared to the baseline. The proportion of groups with women as leader had increased for the 2019 respondents, but there has been a decrease in 2020.

Indicator 1.1.2	# of groups/networks organized			
	# of projects reporting	Total groups organized	Proportion with women leader	Proportion based on existing structure
Baseline (average status as of 2017)	93	18 058	44 %	39 %
Result 2019 (average status as of 2019)	106	23 941	51 %	37 %
Result 2020 (average status as of 2020)	110	29 777	46 %	40 %

Outcome 1.2: Local communities are able to identify and solve their challenges together

Indicator 1.2.2	# of volunteers mobilized to serve the local community and estimated # of man-hours			
	# of projects reporting	# of volunteers	Proportion female volunteers	Estimated # working hrs
Baseline	93	23 443	47 %	2 825 396
Result 2018	98	33 322	46 %	3 138 800
Result 2019	106	38 603	53 %	4 655 069
Result 2020	110	32 301	53 %	4 046 404

The purpose of indicator 1.2.2 is to measure voluntary contributions to project activities, to track local communities' ability to mobilize its own resources to solve local challenges, thus resisting aid dependency and demonstrating agency to take action. Results for 2020 have declined a little, compared to results for 2019. The GRF-matrix, showing overall targets, confirms that the results for 2020 are lower than anticipated.

Outcome 1.3: Communities provide equal opportunities for women and men

Indicator 1.3.1 – results				
# and % of reporting projects in the final year of project period documenting outcome results on how local communities have been able to lift social restrictions facing women and girls				
	# of projects reporting	Average score	Proportion > Outcome	Proportion EAT score 4-5
Result 2018	21	3,36	100 %	42,10 %
Result 2019	14	3,54	71,40 %	57,10 %
Result 2020	5	3,00	80 %	20,00 %

Indicator 1.3.1[17] is descriptive and to be answered at the end of each project. Although at a smaller scale, this year's results confirm the observations that were made in connection with the two previous reports, in that there is a positive trend of high level of gender sensitivity in projects and communities. The projects are applying positive discrimination of women and girls by for instance targeting them in project activities and having specific objectives directed to addressing women's and girls' concerns. This is reflected by the fact that the majority of the project beneficiaries are women, with the proportion of project participants organized in various groups and entities consistently reported at around 70 %.

Although women are heavily featured in organizations, a more telling indicator of empowerment is the degree to which women are able to obtain leadership positions within these organizations (self-help groups, community-based organizations, federations, etc.). Here, we have seen a decline from 51 % last year to 46 % this year, which is still higher than the baseline at 44 %. Given the fact that around 70 % of the beneficiaries organized are women, the share of women leaders is far from representative. There is still a considerable empowerment gap at work in women's disfavour at decision-making level. Women's assumption of leadership positions is restricted by several factors that in essence are structural and related to prevailing gender norms. For example, time constraints, a perceived lack of qualifications and social and cultural norms, are commonly presented as reasons why so few women are represented at decision-making levels. Affirmative strategies for women in projects therefore seem to be necessary and justified. There is also a need to continue the encouragement in projects for women's further empowerment to higher levels of influence and decision-making.

[17] A general remark on the use of EAT scoring for qualitative outcome and output indicators in GRF in category b), as demonstrated in outcome indicator 1.3.1: EAT scoring is done by the member organisations when reporting results from projects that are ending only.

Outcome 1.4: Rights-holders are holding duty-bearers accountable

1.4.1 # of persons participating in advocacy initiatives to influence decision-makers over total # of direct beneficiaries 1.4.4 # of persons trained on advocacy skills and/or human rights over total # of direct beneficiaries								
	# of projects reporting	# actively participating in advocacy	% women	% of DB	# of persons trained on advocacy	% women	% of DB	# of direct beneficiaries (DB)
Baseline	93	40 824	53 %	3 %	40,988	49 %	3 %	1 375 577
Result 2019	105	68 306	53 %	5 %	99,617	59 %	8 %	1 298 893
Result 2020	110	102 698	52 %	7 %	110942	62 %	8 %	1 375 390

Through the Global Results Framework, Digni collects data regarding the amount of advocacy training (indicator 1.4.4) and active participation in advocacy initiatives (indicator 1.4.1).

Comparing the results from 2020 with the baseline data, we find that both the amount of training and the degree of participation in advocacy initiatives have increased. 63 of the 93 projects/projects periods that constituted the basis for the baseline sampled have since ended, hence direct comparison cannot be easily made. In the baseline data, the numbers trained and actively participating where surprisingly congruent, raising suspicions of mistakes in the reporting.

Indicator 1.4.2	# of persons accessing public services as consequence of advocacy efforts		
	# of projects reporting	# accessing services	Proportion women
Baseline	17	12 861	68 %
Result 2018	17	27 704	58 %
Result 2019	17	31 839	58 %
Result 2020	14	51 258	57 %

14 projects have reported results on indicator 1.4.2, with a significant increase in the results from last year. This connects well with the increase in number of people trained and actively participating in advocacy efforts. The proportion of women beneficiaries is quite consistent at 58 %.

Outcome 1.5: Local partners have strong capacity

Digni's main indicator for tracking the capacity of cooperating partners, is the Partner Capacity Assessment Index.

Baseline			**Targets 2020**		**Results 2020**		**Difference Baseline-Results 2020**	**Appr. increase %**
# of partners in sample	**Index**		**# of partners in sample**		**# of partners in sample**			
53	Organizational identity	2,9	**N/A**		**61**	3,2	0,3	10 %
	Governance	3,12				3,27	0,15	5 %
	Leadership	3,14				3,27	0,13	4 %
	Organisational management	2,76				3,01	0,25	9 %
	Human resources	3,07				3,25	0,18	6 %
	Financial management	3,2				3,41	0,21	6 %
	External relations	3,04				3,28	0,24	8 %
	Organizational performance	3,02				3,15	0,13	4 %
	Gender mainstreaming	2,8				2,96	0,16	5 %
	Average total	**27,1**		**28**		**28,8**	**1,75**	**6 %**
	Average score	**3,01**		**3,11**		**3,2**	**0,19**	**6 %**

The Digni members collaborate with approximately 70 partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The numbers of partners in the sample increased from 53 in 2017 to 61 in 2020/2021. For the 2020 report, Digni received 67 Partner Capacity Assessment Index (PCAI) reports indicating that more partner assessments have been conducted in 2020 than in the beginning of this period. However, six reports have been left out of the sample. In four of those cases, two Digni member

organisations work together with the same partner. In one case, three Digni member organisations collaborate with the same partner. Some worked together and submitted identical partner assessment reports, while others delivered separate reports. In the latter cases, we chose to present an average score from the two member organisations. Thus, for this 2020 report, the number of partners in the sample is 61. Most of the assessments were carried out in 2020, and a few in 2021.

Based on Digni's Due Diligence tool, the PCAI covers eight categories. The categories are: 1. Organizational identity and strategy; 2. Governance; 3. Leadership; 4. Organizational management (structure, systems and procedures); 5. Human resource management; 6. Financial management; 7. External relations; 8. Organizational performance, and 9. Gender mainstreaming – which is based on a summary of the gender statements in categories 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 of the PCAI. Members were asked to score their local partner organizations according to a predefined set of criteria. The scoring scale ranged from 1 to 4, whereby 1 represents the lowest grade and 4 represent the highest grade.

The baseline total average score was 3,01, the target for 2020 was 3,11, and the result for 2020 is 3,20. The result for 2020 represents an 6 % increase from baseline, and is above expectation compared to the 2020 target. This indicates that the total capacity of partners in the Digni chain has increased considerably during the first four years of the 5-years' agreement period.

The scores for the different categories included in the PCAI have also increased between 4 % to 10 %. The indicator on organizational identity got the highest increase in score of 10 % while the two indicators on leadership and organizational performance have the lowest with an increase of 4 %. This indicates that the partners in the Digni portfolio have strengthened their legal status, their strategy, Code of Conduct and their gender policy. The low scores on organizational performance shows that we should work further on project effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability in the years to come.

Comparing the current results with the baseline scores, it is important to take into account that some of the partners that were included in the baseline might not be partners in 2020, and some new partners may have been added in 2018, 2019 and 2020. What can be concluded at this point in time is that these increases in PCAI overtime may rather be interpreted as Digni having a "stronger" partner portfolio in 2020 compared to the baseline. Whether this increase in PCAI is due to organisational development and strengthening of existing partners from the time of baseline, and/or partnerships with weaker partners have been terminated, and/or new strong partners have entered the partner portfolio, needs to be analysed further in the year to come. It is expected that a combination of all these factors, and possibly other factors as well may explain the increase.

Another indicator used to assess the general partner capacity in the portfolio, is the degree to which ongoing projects are progressing according to plan (indicator 1.5.2). For analysis of results related to indicator 1.5.2, please see chapter 4. Progress Report Ongoing Projects

Outcome 1.6: Partners mobilize faith-based assets for social justice

Indicator 1.6.1	# and % of partners documenting results with regard to how they are able to draw on faith-based resources to combat social injustice			
	# of partners in sample	Average score	Proportion >Outcome	Proportion EAT score 4-5
Result 2018	31	3,16	79 %	37 %
Result 2019	30	3,3	87 %	40 %
Result 2020	35	3,34	83 %	49 %

The purpose of this qualitative indicator is to gauge the degree to which partners in the Digni portfolio are able to draw on faith-based resources in order to achieve change, using the EAT methodology to assess results. The EAT assessments are made by the member organization for relevant partners each year.

For 2020 we have results on this indicator for 35 partners. The results on this indicator for 2020 is comparable and consistent with results from previous years, as displayed in the table above.

Good Health

Around one out of four projects in the Digni's portfolio works on health in some way or another. This has been a thematic area where the portfolio at large has received high overall EAT-scores as presented in chapter 2 and 3 in this report, even at the time of baseline. At the same time, we see that the numbers in the GRF are affected significantly by a couple of large health projects. Whenever a large health project ends or starts this influences the GRF results to a considerably extent.

Rights-holders have access to health services

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	Services established	Services strengthened	# of projects reporting	Services established	Services strengthened
(2.1.1) # of new health services established/strengthened	20	50	121	19	14	84

2020 shows a decrease in number of health services established compared to target, as well as baseline (41). The projects report on this indicator year-by-year (it is non-cumulative), meaning that this shows that activities included under here have had a drop under the pandemic. Projects report that due to restrictions it has been difficult to work on e.g. construction, however, we see that many of them are already working on catching up on this, as presented in 2021 activity plans.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	Directly benefitting	Indirectly benefitting	# of projects reporting	Directly benefitting	Indirectly benefitting
(2.1.2) # of persons directly/indirectly benefitting from new and running health services	25	528 397	2 149 763	24	326 310	1 846 779

7 health projects of the total 25 had their first year of implementation in 2020. Around half of the projects performed according to project targets for 2020.

With reference to the GRF, in 2018 the results under this target was 698,831, of which one large project in Ethiopia QZA-18/0159-288-289 NLM-Reducing Maternal Mortality accounted for nearly 60 %. This large project was part of the basis for estimating the targets 2020 for direct beneficiaries set at the time when Digni applied for a new agreement period with Norad in 2017. This project period ended in 2019, and although they have started a new period, they have not yet reached the numbers from the previous period. This in large part explains the overestimating of the target direct beneficiaries set to the high level of 528 397 as presented in the table above. (However, the project reached their project target for 2020).

Outcome indicator 2.1.3 # of health plans/policies adopted or amended by authorities

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
(2.1.3) # of health plans/policies adopted or amended by authorities	3	8		3	N/A	

Outcome indicator 2.1.3 shows annual figures for how many health plans or policies that have been adopted or amended by authorities. Our projects report that adoption or amendment of policies and plans are long-term work, and even though they work towards this target, it might make more sense to report on how much they have achieved over the full project period, rather than annually on this indicator.

(2.1.4) # of persons with physical and mental disabilities receiving specialized health care

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of PWDs receiving		# of projects reporting	# of PWDs receiving	
(2.1.4) # of persons with physical and mental disabilities receiving specialized health care	3	157		7	2 954	

We have seen a massive increase in number of persons with physical and mental disabilities receiving specialized health care, due to interventions by the projects. There is also an increased number of projects reporting under this indicator. At baseline only 3 projects reported on this indicator and a total of 163 persons with physical and mental disabilities received specialised health care. Particularly in Nepal, there has been an overall increased awareness and focus on this. But the high increase in these numbers for 2020 are in large part attributed to the project QZA-18/0159-137- 138 MKN-Community Based Mental Health Program in Afghanistan. Although this is a cumulative indicator, there are projects in the current project sample that show increased numbers compared to 2019, meaning that at least in some of these projects, an increased number of persons have received specialized health care, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health of households

(2.2.1) # of targeted households practicing WASH principles

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of households		# of projects reporting	# of households	
(2.2.1) # of targeted households practicing WASH principles	19	44 968		20	67 646	

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the projects already working on WASH, have seen the need to intensify their work this year. Results show that each project on average has reached around 700-1000 households more than the set targets for 2020. The baseline value for # of households practicing WASH principles were 45295, whereas the result for 2020 were 67646 households.

Target groups combat stigma related to health

(2.3.1) # of persons with physical or mental illnesses or disabilities reporting reduced stigma in local communities

As we can see from the table this indicator reports significantly lower than target, both in number of projects and number of persons reporting reduced stigma. This may be due to Covid-19 and projects being unable to carry out activities to address stigma in the local communities during 2020. However, the result on this indicator must not be interpreted in isolation, but seen in relation to indicators 2.3.3 and 2.1.4 that represent an important increase in results and improvements for these target groups.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons		# of projects reporting	# of persons	
(2.3.1) # of persons with physical or mental illnesses or disabilities reporting reduced stigma in local communities	6	1 812		1	181	

(2.3.3) # of patients referred to diagnostics, treatment, counselling from the local community

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of patients referred		# of projects reporting	# of patients referred	
(2.3.3) # of patients referred to diagnostics, treatment, counselling from the local community	6	3 399		6	8 762	

This indicator has some overlap with the projects reporting under indicator 2.1.4. It should be noted that a large contribution of the results to this indicator comes from project QZA- WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program in Pakistan. This project has reported consistent hight number on this indicator during the past years.

Peaceful Coexistence

Outcome 3.1: Target groups are able to promote non-violent coexistence

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women		# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women	
(3.1.1) # of persons actively promoting peaceful coexistence	10	14 443	43 %		16	10 801	53 %	

This indicator (3.1.1) tracks the extent to which projects are able to mobilize resource persons as agents of peace, which again is an indication of whether peacebuilding is taking root in target communities. The results from 2020 show a reduction in actual numbers compared to target values. However, the target is based on very high baseline values reported in one project, affecting the total baseline value considerably. Based on the number of projects reporting, we see that increasing engagement of persons engaged in peacebuilding in the Digni portfolio.

Outcome 3.2: Local partners and communities combat gender-based violence (GBV)

Outcome indicators	Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of cases handled	# of projects reporting	# of cases handled
(3.2.1) # of GBV cases reported and handled	11	3 000	14	4 857

Indicator 3.2.1. measures the degree to which GBV is uncovered and addressed in the project target areas. Reporting against the indicator is voluntary, which gives a risk of under-reporting. The projects in the sample exceeded targets. We have seen an increase, in number of projects reporting from 2018 to 2020, as well as an increase in cases reported and handled. The baseline value for this indicator was 1123.

There seems to be an increased awareness among Digni's partners working on gender, and as this awareness increases, the awareness and motivation to address GBV and include such activities related to the theme in the project.

Indicator 3.2.2 shows results closer to the baseline value (population 23,988), rather than the target for 2020.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# of communities	Total population	Average size population	# of projects reporting	# of communities	Total population	Average size population
(3.2.2) # of communities/villages and estimated population denouncing harmful practices	7	821	96 147	113	7	153	26 273	131

Outcome 3.3: Children grow up in a safe and caring environment

Outcome indicators	Baseline		Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of care-givers	# of projects reporting	# of care-givers	# of projects reporting	# of care-givers
(3.3.1) # of parents/families/care-givers demonstrating change in attitude towards child upbringing	5	1 603	5	1 442	3	1 872
(3.3.2) # of children positively affected by measures to improve safety and protection of children in target institutions	5	7 922	5	2 109	6	2 608

Indicator 3.3.1 shows a decline in number of projects reporting, while the result in actual numbers is still higher than the target. This is primarily due to the success of ICDP-programs in Nepal and China.

Indicator 3.3.2 measures the degree to which the safety and protection of children are improved in target institutions. Overall, the results for 2020 are on target. The baseline is high, because one project working with the situation for children in boarding schools in Mongolia (QZA-18/0159-314-315 NLM-Strengthening Children's Rights Project (SCR2)) accounted for the bulk of the numbers in the baseline and the numbers reported in 2018. The project was concluded in 2018 and has not been replaced by a similar project with the same scope. In the 2020-sample, the projects have an average reach of around 440 children, while the highest number in one individual project is around 840.

Outcome 3.4: Local partners and communities combat human rights violations against ethnic, indigenous or religious minorities

Outcome indicators	Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of cases	# of projects reporting	# of cases
(3.4.1) # of cases where laws/conventions have been adopted/amended/enforced to protect ethnic/indigenous or religious minorities from human right violations	3	6	6	4

We have seen a doubling of the number of projects reporting on indicator 3.4.1, compared to target 2020. In the baseline only 2 projects formed the basis for the value of this indicator. However, the results for 2020 are lower than both target and baseline. One partner reports high numbers of legal cases brought to the courts on behalf of minorities. Currently the GRF indicator do not capture this dimension.

When it comes to indicator 3.4.3, we see a slight increase in the results, compared to the 2020 target. The baseline value for this indicator is 2,756.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	# of projects reporting	# of persons
(3.4.3) # of persons gaining ownership of land	3	3 111	4	3 491

Environmental Sustainability

Outcome 4.1: Target groups are resilient to negative livelihood conditions

The purpose of indicator 4.1.1 is to track the extent to which climate smart agricultural methods are adopted, as a token of environmental resilience. Despite showing a lower result than the overall target for 2020, the projects in the sample for 2020 have shown increased results compared to the results from the same sample in 2019. Comparing it to the baseline of 15,700 farmers (13 projects) the results for 2020 can be considered quite good, ref table below. When looking at indicator 4.1.1 under this outcome area, we would want to see a connection between the high numbers of farmers trained (output indicator 4.1.3) and persons sensitized (output indicator 4.1.4) and the results under outcome indicators 4.1.1. and 4.1.2.

Indicator 4.1.3 states that in 2020 a total 24,150 farmers received training in climate smart agricultural methods, and hence we see that most of them adopted the methodology used and adopted it (ref indicator 4.1.1)

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Results 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of farmers	Proportion women	# of projects reporting	# of farmers	Proportion women
(4.1.1) # of farmers adopting climate smart agricultural methods	14	23 008	65 %	14	21251	54 %

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Results 2020		
(4.1.3) # of farmers trained in practices on sustainable agricultural production including animal husbandry	13	17 554	56 %	14	24 150	51 %

Indicator 4.1.2 shows a similar of increase from baseline to 2020. In 2020, 202 communities adopted plans and measures to mitigate deteriorating livelihood conditions. This is lower than estimated target for 2020, but higher than baseline (56 communities), ref table below.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Results 2020		
(4.1.2) # of communities adopting plans and measures to mitigate deteriorating livelihood conditions	10	268		12	202	

Outcome 4.2: Local partners and communities implement environmentally friendly measures

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Results 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons		# of projects reporting	# of persons	
(4.2.2) # of persons benefitting from sustainable energy sources	6	17 949		6	32 968	

Projects reporting on indicator 4.2.2 have results considerably higher than both baseline (20,251 persons) and target for 2020. However, it is important to note that this is a cumulative indicator, and the results do not reflect performance in 2020 alone, but results have been carried over from previous years in the project period. The number of projects reporting on this indicator is the same since the baseline (6).

Again, gender disaggregation is not provided for most of the projects in for this indicator. As these measures tend to benefit entire households, it is sometimes argued that gender disaggregation is difficult to carry out.

Quality Education

The education field has been particularly hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Projects report lower results than target, in part because of lack of data, but mostly because restrictions have made project implementation difficult and at times impossible. Schools have been closed and students have not been able to graduate. How this has affected result for 2020 is reflected in the tables below and commented in following text.

Outcome 5.1: Target institutions provide quality and inclusive education to learners

Reports for 2020 on this outcome show a clear picture how projects have been affected by the Covid-19 situation. The indicators for this outcome are year by year. Number of institutions documenting improved student performance has decreased, both compared to baseline and to target in 2020.

Outcome indicators	Baseline		Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of institutions	# of projects reporting	# of institutions	# of projects reporting	# of institutions
(5.1.1) # of target educational institutions documenting improved student performances	6	98	6	97	8	69

The number of learners graduating has dropped from 78 % in the baseline to 55 % in 2020. The overall target for 2020 was 83 %.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# of learners graduating	% of learners graduating	# of final year students	# of projects reporting	# of learners graduating	% of learners graduating	# of final year students
(5.1.2) # learners graduating from primary/secondary education over total # of final year students enrolled	8	21 593	83 %	25 972	10	18 181	55 %	33 150

Simultaneously, the reports on % of drop-outs of total students are the same in 2020 as at the time of baseline at 3%. However, several projects have reported that they do not have data for 2020 on this indicator, as schools have been closed, while two projects report that national governments have decided to let all students pass, due to the pandemic. Hence, we expect that the number of drop-outs can prove to be much higher, when the projects gets a more complete overview over their target schools.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# of drop-outs	% drop outs of total students	# students enrolled	# of projects reporting	# of drop-outs	% drop outs of total students	# students enrolled
(5.1.3) # of drop-out students over total # students enrolled	19	925	2 %	66 487	24	2 853	3 %	86 298

Outcome indicators	Target 2020						Result 2020					
Output indicators												
	# of projects reporting	# of learners enrolled	% girls	% minorities	% PWDs	% primary	# of projects reporting	# of learners enrolled	% girls	% minorities	% PWDs	% primary
(5.1.4) # of learners enrolled in target educational institutions	35	240 113	49 %	1 %	1 %	93 %	45	196 023	50 %	7 %	1 %	85 %

Similar to what we saw under the thematic area Good Health, there has been results lower than what was targeted for 2020 on indicators related to construction, improvement and rehabilitation of classrooms, i.e. output indicator 5.1.8. However, construction of WASH facilities was prioritized under Covid-19 and the projects delivered 231 WAS facilities, 139 toilet latrines and 35 safe water sources to schools in 2020, ref indicator 5.1.10.

However, as we have also seen under the projects reporting on health, trainings have in general been less affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. From narrative reports we know that projects have been creative when it comes to finding digital solutions, or re-designing trainings to fit within the restrictions they work under. Some projects have also provided training materials to facilitate and assist 27 563 children in their learning environment at school and/or at home. Ref indicator 5.1.9.

Outcome 5.2: Communities support the right to education for all

Outcome indicators	Baseline			Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# supported	% women/girls	# of projects reporting	# supported	% women/girls	# of projects reporting	# supported	% women/girls
(5.2.1) # of out of school children (drop-outs) supported to enroll into educational institutions	3	2 270	62 %	3	2 270	62 %	3	161	70 %

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the results under this outcome area are lower than expected for 2020. Indicators tracking results on enrolment of out of school children and literacy education for non-literates both show lower results than target and baseline. Considering that schools across the world have been closed for most of 2020, this is to be expected. The qualitative indicators 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 do not have reported results for 2020, as none of the projects ending reported against these two.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# students enrolled	# students passing	% passing	# of projects reporting	# students enrolled	# students passing	% passing
(5.2.4) # of non-literates completing/passing literacy education in reporting year	8	11 408	8 603	75 %	9	incomplete	2 078	64 %

Outcome 5.3: Learners trained in vocational skills are employed or self-employed

Outcome indicators	Target 2020					Result 2020				
	# of projects reporting	# trained previous year	# employed/ self employ	Success rate	Proportion women	# of projects reporting	# trained previous year	# employed/ self employ	Success rate	Proportion women
(5.3.1) # and % of learners employed or self-employed within one year of completing vocational training	4	304	201	66 %	61 %	7	not available	4 380	not available	68 %

The indicators under this outcome area track the degree to which vocational training leads to the desired outcome for target learners. Reporting on the indicator is voluntary, which increases the risk of under-reporting. Digni has seen an increased number of projects reporting results on indicator 5.3.1. It has proven challenging for some of the projects to report correct figures for number of students trained previous year. For 2020, we have the aggregated number of employed/self-employed, but we do not have numbers referring to the total number of participants in trainings for the previous year. Thus, we have not been able to provide the success rate. The large number of employed/self-employed compared to baseline and target is because of two projects in Pakistan and India, QZA-18/0159-459-462 WYC-Parkari Community Dev. Program and QZA-18/0159-514-516 NOR-Equipping Youth for Employment Through Skill Training Institute, that together constitute 64 % of the total result in 2020.

Economic Empowerment

Outcome 6.1: Women and men in target areas have improved their livelihood

6.1.1, see comments in GRF-log frame matrix.

Outcome indicators	Baseline			Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women
(6.1.2) # of women/men gaining an income	16	27 055	44 %	16	77 923	69 %	21	83 009	49 %

Indicator 6.1.2 tracks the degree to which target groups diversify or make use of alternative/new income sources to boost the household purchasing power and thereby reduce livelihood risks. By "gaining an income" we mean any new source of income gained during the reporting year by persons due to project activities. We see an increase in number of projects reporting against this indicator and the actual number of persons benefitting has increased compared to baseline. The while the number of persons gaining and income per project is lower for 2020, compared to baseline and target. This is latter effect is most likely due to regular changes of projects ending and new staring up in the project portfolio, and the number of persons they target(ed).

Outcome indicators	Baseline		Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	# of households	# of projects reporting	# of households	# of projects reporting	# of households
(6.1.3) # of households reporting increased yield from agricultural and livestock production	13	36 833	13	56 910	13	63 401

For indicator 6.1.3 we see a clear increase in households reporting increased yield from agricultural and livestock production, and this corresponds to a high number of farmers that have been trained (output indicator 6.1.8) in the projects.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020			Result 2020		
	# of projects reporting	# of farmers trained	Proportion women	# of projects reporting	# of farmers trained	Proportion women
(6.1.8) # of farmers trained in productive agricultural/husbandry/aquaculture methods	18	58 122	45 %	17	99 542	52 %

Indicator 6.1.4, number of persons accessing government welfare schemes which they are entitled to, shows a solid increase compared to both baseline and target, despite only two projects reporting. This is primarily due to the high results in QZA-18/0159-511-513/580-581 NOR-Community Actions for Peace and Reconciliation Project, in partnership with Lutheran World Service India Trust.

Outcome indicators	Baseline			Target 2020			Result 2020		
(6.1.4) # of persons accessing government welfare schemes which they are entitled to	2	897	63 %	3	1 346	63 %	2	6 241	N/A

Indicator 6.1.10, shows that a total of 97 587 persons are members of small-scale savings and loan groups in 2020. This is a large increase compared to the baseline value of 22 783.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
	# of projects reporting	# of members	Proportion women	# of groups	# of projects reporting	# of members	Proportion women	# of groups
(6.1.10) # of loan and saving groups members and # of groups	18	31 264	82 %	2 243	22	97 587	94 %	3 708

Outcome 6.2: Rights-holders are accessing financial services

Outcome indicators	Baseline		Target 2020		Result 2020	
	# of projects reporting	PAR30 average	# of projects reporting	PAR30 average	# of projects reporting	PAR30 average
(6.2.2) Portfolio at Risk (PAR)	2	11,7 % / 0,1 %	2	5,5 % / 0,1 %	2	19 % / 0,1 %

The indicator tracks the quality of microfinance loan schemes, which are presently provided in two projects supported by Misjonsalliansen (MA): QZA-18/0159-212-213 MA-Microfinance in Liberia QZA-18/0159-227-232 and MA-Climate Change Resilience and Inclusion in Vietnam.

The outlooks of the two microfinance institutions are very different. In the report for 2019 Digni reported that "the microfinance project in Liberia has experienced growth stagnation and high portfolio at risk (PAR) scores along with unfavourable development of core key performance indicators and poor staff performance, as Liberia has proven a challenging environment to operate in". This situation was further aggravated by the Covid-19 situation in 2020 and the PAR increased to 19%, much higher than above the set target of 5 %. Continued focus on training of staff, business development and solemnity in budgeting and spending are highlighted as mitigating efforts. In Vietnam, the microfinance services are one component of a large country program, which also includes components focusing on inclusive education and climate change resilience. The quality of the portfolio remains strong, even in 2020 with a PAR30 of 0,1 %.

The indicator 6.2.3 tracks the number of microfinance clients and total portfolio size of 3 projects in the Digni portfolio. But the numbers presented below are highly dominated by the following two major projects: The microfinance institution in Liberia in 2020 served 3,568 clients of whom 2,248 or 63 % are women, whereas the microfinance institution in Vietnam served 41,470 clients, of whom 100 % are women.

Outcome indicators	Target 2020				Result 2020			
Output indicators								
	# of projects reporting	# of clients	Proportion women	Portfolio size (NOK)	# of projects reporting	# of clients	Proportion women	Portfolio size (NOK)
(6.2.3) # of microfinance clients and total portfolio size	3	60 380	95 %	212 314 680	3	45 614	97 %	150 107 765

Conclusions and Learning Points

This is the mid-term report presenting results on outcome and output indicators in Digni's Global Results Framework (GRF) for the period 2018-2022. The process of collecting and analysing results data has provided further improved insight on the GRF as a monitoring tool. The summary of some of the most important conclusions and learning points presented in the 2019 report, still holds true for the 2020 mid-term report:

Accuracy of (baseline) data: The GRF was introduced to members and partners during 2017. Previously, projects had not reported data against a global results framework – only their own, project-wise LFAs/results framework. The onboarding process required sustained follow-up from the Digni secretariat and the members, and there was a steep learning curve at all levels. Despite working with short deadlines, most projects were able to report baseline values and set targets for 2018 onwards. Reviewing results data against baseline data and set targets for 2018, Digni observed that several corrections have taken place, with members reporting that baseline values/targets were wrong, usually because the methodology or definitions used when gathering

initial data were faulty. Consequently, the accuracy of progress data is, in some cases, difficult to assess. The results data for 2018 represent more accurate data than the baseline values; evidently much learning has taken place among partners and members in this regard. The accuracy has improved with time. As time has passed, Digni in 2020, notice that the quality of GRF data plotted from the projects have improved compared to earlier. However, quite a bit of time has been spent to do quality assurance of the GRF data for 2020. Digni remains firm on not wanting to change baseline values retrospectively as this would require considerable resources. Rather, the data from 2018 constitute a new more solid benchmark. While it does have some consequences for the calculation of the official, aggregated targets in 2020 and 2022, Digni continues to rather explain the deviations in the reports against the baseline, than reassessing and revising the baseline values.

Mandatory vs. voluntary reporting: Digni has made reporting on a number of civil society indicators compulsory for all projects. In addition, all projects with education components are also required to report on a set of mandatory education indicators. Reporting against other thematic indicators are largely voluntary – but all projects need to report on at least one indicator associated with each thematic component that applies to the project. As has been noted in the reports above, this increases the chance of under-reporting, as projects may choose not to report results on indicators even if they are relevant. Under reporting results and scope may be a characteristic of the mid-term report 2020. In addition, in some cases, the number of projects in the sample is too small to provide any meaningful insight about the scope and effectiveness of the projects to address the relevant outcome goals. Beyond assessing the scope and the degree to which projects reach their own targets, voluntary reporting has limited value. We are however reluctant to introduce more compulsory reporting in the middle of the agreement period, as it has been clearly communicated from partners and members that the present reporting regime is stretching their capacity. Limiting the number of indicators in the GRF may be necessary in the future. The challenge is to provide enough indicators to capture the breadth and depth of the results in the portfolio.

Deviations should be explained: The GRF set-up in Digni's management tool (Petrus) features comment boxes that members may use to explain deviations from baseline/target, and to provide description about what kind of data has been reported and which methodologies have been used. An increasing majority of the members make good use of this option, and this is useful for the Digni Secretariat as the information provided here is invaluable when analysing the data.

Disaggregation has improved: Digni have consistently challenged members and partners to provide gender disaggregation whenever applicable. We are pleased to note that this area has improved significantly, so also for the mid-term reporting in 2020. In most cases, disaggregated data now are available. This improves the accuracy of data and it also leads to a sharpened gender awareness in the projects.

Flexibility is an asset – and a challenge: The strength of Digni's GRF is that data can be broken down by projects, countries, regions, etc., allowing Digni to assess the data in detail. As projects vary in size and are at different stages in the project life cycles, this is important. In several instances, the results and/or deviations in one single project may impact on the total results. In addition, GRF include large number of disaggregation options. The problem with many disaggregation options is that both the collection of information, reporting the information and the analysis process becomes very time-consuming. Deciding which indicators to analyse in detail is a challenge, especially given the number of indicators.

Self-assessments are valuable sources of information: Through the Empowerment Assessment Tool (EAT) methodology, Digni has developed a method of converting qualitative data

into numeric scores. The same methodology has now been tested out for a number of "qualitative" indicators in the GRF. Here members are asked to provide a narrative description of the results projects have achieved related to certain indicators, and to provide self-assessment with regard to the results-level (this only applies to the final year of a project period). This has proven a valuable source against which Digni can triangulate results when summarizing projects ended (Annex A). Although there are some deviations, self-assessments were generally found to be in line with Digni's own assessments.

Cumulative vs year-by-year indicators: Some of the learning from doing the comprehensive analysis of the whole GRF framework and reporting on all the indicators for the mid-term report 2020 has led to Digni to reflect on the use of cumulative indicators. Many of the thematic indicators are cumulative. We realise that it may at times is difficult and time consuming to assess the specific results that particular year per indicator. It seems to Digni that it would in several instances have been preferred to use year by year indicators rather than cumulative. If more of the GRF indicators were year by year for instance the results of 2020 and the impact of Covid-19 could have more clearly have been displayed in the GRF.

Key numbers: Another key learning from the mid-term GRF analysis is that many of the GRF indicators are complicated and hold many dimensions/variables in one indicator. It would have been better to reduce the number of GRF indicators and supplement these by collecting some fundamental key numbers to display the scope and characteristics of the Digni portfolio.

9. Secretariat

The main responsibility of the Digni secretariat is to manage the framework agreement with Norad on behalf of the members and to secure good management of the programs and projects in the portfolio. Digni exercises control with and provides advice to projects in the portfolio, and provides competence building for its member organizations and their implementing partners in the South. In addition, Digni facilitates meeting places and networks for the purpose of information exchange and learning.

Main activities in 2020

As for everyone else, the work of the Digni secretariat was heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the secretariat, through its recent digitalization project, was well prepared to operate effectively from a home office environment. Planned project visits, evaluations and other meetings with partners had to be postponed or redesigned to fit in a digital format due to the travel restrictions. In addition to the regular portfolio management, the main efforts of the secretariat in 2020 include:

- Before lockdown in March 2020, staff of the Digni secretariat carried out project visits and/or organizational assessments with partners in Eswatini, Liberia, Kenya, India, Uganda and Kongo Brazzaville.
- Digni initiated the process of creating a new, overall strategy (Digni 2030 – Statement of Principles) and a strategic plan for the period beyond 2023. A project called "Global Innovation" was launched alongside, to bring about a context analysis and a deeper understanding of the global situation.
- Due to the pandemic, the scheduled network meetings with members and partners had to be postponed. The Global Consultation, planned as part of the Global Innovation-project, was held as a three-day digital conference. More information under "Regional Network meetings".
- Organizational reviews were initiated or carried out in four member organizations, as per plan: Frelsesarmeen (FA), Norsk Luthersk Misjonssamband (NLM), Pinsemisjonen (NPM) and Normisjon (NOR). An organizational review was also carried out in one of our partner organizations, the partner of Misjonskirken Norge (MKN) in Kongo Brazzaville.
- A comprehensive digitalization process was initiated in 2019 and continued in 2020. Due to the travel restrictions and home office situation, the secretariat, together with members and partners, went through a steep learning process in online meeting facilitation.
- The process of developing the new project management system for the Digni portfolio continued. The system, named DiP, is comprehensive and will include all data and information related to Digni's approximately 110 projects, including information on 18 member organizations and around 70 partners.
- Digni became member of the Fabo Learning Platform, an e-learning hub hosted by Danish Church Aid and ACT-Alliance. The plan is to use this platform to create and spread learning resources with our members and partners.
- The competence building program addressing the issue of abuse of power and sexual harassment had to make certain adjustments due to the pandemic. However, the work on creating a toolbox for partners continued.
- A comprehensive internal audit of Digni's ISO 9001:2015 certification continued in 2020.

Accounts

A total of NOK 16,754,567 was spent towards the secretariat and member activities, which represents a deviation of NOK 3,554,875 (under-spending) compared to the revised budget. The main deviation was due to fewer member activities implemented than budgeted for, while other activities have ended up less expensive than expected when using digital solutions.

Please refer to the financial report for further details regarding the accounts for 2020. Unspent funds will be carried forward to 2021 to cover planned activities.

Table 12: Accounts Digni secretariat in 2020

Digni secretariat and member activities	Application budget 2020 (NOK)	Revised budget 2020 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2020 (NOK)	Deviation
Personalkostnader	9 500 000	9 984 442	9 934 156	-1 %
Driftskostnader	4 000 000	4 200 000	3 750 719	-11 %
Kommunikasjonskostnader	300 000	225 000	177 550	-21 %
Programmer/aktiviteter i Digni-regi	1 200 000	1 200 000	1 458 288	22 %
Medlemsaktiviteter	3 500 000	4 700 000	1 433 854	-69 %
Total	**18 500 000**	**20 309 442**	**16 754 567**	-18 %

Human resources

Digni's Human Resource policy is gender neutral and there is equal opportunity and treatment for both genders. By the end of 2020, there were 11 employees in the Digni secretariat, five men and six women.

Digni had a staff of 11,78 full-time equivalents in 2020. The staffing situation and the work environment in the secretariat was overall good and stable this year. The absence was 0,56% of the total work force, of which 0 % were due to long-term sick leave.

Risk management

The projects that are part of the Digni portfolio, are mostly located in high-risk contexts. Some risks, such as those directly related to the projects, partners, members, and the secretariat, are within Digni's reach to manage. We analyse them, monitor, and establish mitigation measures. Digni continued to follow up on the risk management system during 2020, and the staff was involved in the identification and assessment of new and old risks. The risk analysis was presented to the Board twice in 2020, in accordance with the risk management guideline. The risk analyses carried out as part of the project applications were also reviewed by Digni staff and followed up through evaluations, project visits, etc. throughout the year.

However, many external risks are beyond Digni's control. The Covid-19 pandemic was such a risk that few had foreseen and prepared for. During 2020, the secretariat, in addition to its risk management system, developed a Covid-19 analysis based on a scenario thinking, where we tried to foresee the implications that both, the spread of the disease and the government restrictions, would have in the different countries represented in Digni's project portfolio. This risk analysis was updated a couple of times during 2020 and it was presented to Digni's member organizations and Digni's Board of directors when updated. It was also shared with Norad.

As mentioned above, the regular risk management system was reviewed as per plans during 2020. In addition to the Covid-19 analysis, some of the bigger risks associated with the Covid-pandemic were incorporated in the risk analysis. We tried to not only find mitigation strategies, but also identify possibilities related to the identified risks. As seen in the attached excerpt of the risk analysis, Digni has, after reassessment of the risks, identified 17 low, 25 medium and 5 high risks. A new risk was introduced in 2020: a possible low degree of implementation in the projects due to disease spread or restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. A more exhaustive assessment of the risks pertaining to this situation, are found in the above mentioned Covid-19 analysis.

As is visible in the risk matrix attached (Annex C), Digni's highest risks are still related to potentially weak organizational structures in member and partner organizations. Hence, poor financial management, corruption, and sexual harassment are among the risks we constantly need to monitor and mitigate. Reaching the most marginalized in difficult contexts and making sure that the organizations can meet the standards set by Norad, is and will always be a challenge.

Given that our members and partners operate in countries and contexts with widespread corruption, one of the big risks in the Digni portfolio is the risk of corruption. In 2020, Digni initiated a capacity building project on anti-corruption, with the intention to strengthen the prevention side of our anti-corruption work. This project is expected to run for two years.

Financial management in the Digni chain

All member organizations receiving funding from Digni in 2020 have reported on measures taken to strengthen the financial management of partners and projects throughout this year. This issue has been emphasized by all organizations. The focus has been to strengthen internal routines and controls using Dignis' different tools for partner monitoring. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, most members report on improvements and higher awareness concerning internal routines and adherence to agreements. This has, among other reasons, been possible through increased digital monitoring.

Actions taken by Digni:

Through 2020, Digni conducted organizational reviews of four member organizations, with the purpose of strengthening their capacity, highlight the risks and provide action points for further development. The reviews were either conducted by Digni or external consultants. Additionally, for one of our members, Misjonskirken Norge (MKN), an organizational review was carried out of their partner in Kongo Brazzaville. For the four others, travel restrictions limited the review to focus on the member's Norwegian office.

During the outbreak of Covid-19, Digni created a guide for members and partners, highlighting possible risks in crisis situations. The purpose of the guide was to secure a certain level of financial management to prevent corruption and mitigate risks of financial irregularities. It was developed based on knowledge from earlier emergencies and financial management risks connected to these, as well as ongoing and concluded fraud cases. After translating the guide to several languages, our members reported high value of this work.

Follow-up from Norway:

All our member organizations report increased use of digital follow-up with their partners. According to some, extended use of video-communication has allowed them to be more engaged in financial management at a more detailed level than they earlier used to be. Others report the

same or higher level of engagement during revision of budgets, follow-up on financial reports from the projects, in addition to giving advice and feedback to projects.

Regarding internal routines and control, Digni observes a tendency of increased awareness of the importance of good internal routines and control among members. Many organizations report increased focus on budget analyses, procurement procedures and follow-up of audit reports and management letters from local auditors.

External assessment of the management of Norad funds are often commissioned to follow up on noted weaknesses, and among other actions, spot checks of the accounting material are frequently carried out. The member organizations report that they actively use tools developed by Digni. In addition, one member organization reports to have designed and conducted a webinar for all partners with new projects in 2020 or 2021 where key staff participated. The webinar focused on project agreement and had a specific emphasis on financial management (procurement, audit, mismanagement etc).

Project visits:

Both Digni and our member organizations use project visits actively to monitor partners and projects, and conversation on financial matters are conducted routinely as part of these visits. Through 2020, seven of our member organizations were able to physically visit one or more of their partners before lockdown. When it was clear that no visits would be possible through the year, some organizations conducted digital projects visit in the second half of 2020.

Nine member organizations report that one or more of their partners have undergone a financial review, either as part of Digni's organizational review, assessment by the member, or an external consultant. In general, a high understanding and implementation of financial routines among partners and projects was reported. Findings and suggestions for improvement, both from digital and physical visits, and financial reviews, are listed in plans of action, showing the progression and the achievements made.

One of our member organizations conducted a digital meeting between their Norwegian auditor and the local partner's auditor to improve the collaboration and hence strengthen the mutual understanding through the chain.

Training on financial management, accounting, and anti-corruption:

Project visits give opportunities for training of project staff in terms of knowledge, efficiency and understanding of the importance of good management. In some cases, expatriate advisors with knowledge of the local context are supporting managers and accountants. Some member organizations have encouraged their partners to use Digni's self-assessment tool to monitor and report on improvements made. One of our organizations share that their follow-up after a spot check initiated by Digni in connection to suspicion of fraud, has given frank and sincere discussions as well as appreciated learning.

Ten organizations report that they have conducted trainings on anti-corruption or participated in seminars with special attention on the topic. From one organization, it is reported that they encourage good cooperation between project managers and accountants, to ensure that budgets and financial reports are useful tools for the project managers, and that they have a good understanding and implementation of financial routines. In addition, we learn that digital platforms are used also for competence building and anti-corruption trainings.

Training on Results-based management:

Digni also conducted a 2-day participatory digital training for member organisations in results-based management, based on the Logical Framework Approach (LFA). The training was given by the external consultant, Trond Botnen. The feedback from members was that the training was very relevant and gave useful knowledge for them to use in their dialog with partners and follow up of both ongoing projects as well as new projects being planned.

Special report on anti-corruption efforts and financial irregularities

Three cases of financial irregularities were concluded in 2020:

- Stefanusalliansen (SAI) for a project implemented in Myanmar. Due diligence and financial reports in 2018 revealed inadequate financial management for this year, as well as prior years. Comprehensive forensic audits concluded that there was grave misconduct and weak internal controls with the local partner. The fraud case concluded with NOK 1 521 865 being repaid to Norad.
- In February 2019, petty cash was stolen in a theft from the office of the local partner of Pinsemisjonen (NPM) in DRC. NOK 2 458 was repaid to the project.
- In April 2019, nepotism and breaches of internal routines were discovered with a local partner of Misjonsalliansen (MA) in Cambodia. NOK 533 was repaid to the project.

In two of the three cases concluded with repayment, the amount was paid to the project rather than to Norad. This is in accordance with the Norad guidelines as of December 2018, stating that repayment to project can be made when certain criteria are met, such as immediate reporting of the case and documentation of well-functioning internal control systems.

At the end of 2020, several cases of financial irregularities were still under investigation. The remaining cases vary in scope and complexity. These will be reported on when the cases have been concluded.

Handling of financial irregularities cases has, through the year, been quite time consuming both for Digni and for the member organizations and their partners. Some cases display varying degrees of weaknesses in the financial management of the partner organization. Cases on safeguarding teach us the importance of having internal routines and codes of conduct in the organizations – and complying with these.

Also, a lack of awareness of the contractual obligations was observed for some members and partners. Measures have been put in place to address critical capacity gaps and to raise awareness about the terms of the agreements. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Digni has not seen a particular increase of financial mismanagement or irregularities. A few cases were added in 2020, especially on thefts, due to external factors such as lock down during the pandemic. Since these cases will not be concluded before 2021, they are not reported above.

Digni will continue to prioritize capacity and system development related to financial management and anti-corruption measures in the secretariat and in relation to members and the implementing partners.

This report has also been published on Digni's website.

Special report on member activities

Regional network meetings

Digni has, for several years, arranged regional network meetings, bringing together local partners and members working in the same region, for joint competence building and sharing of experiences. In 2020, it was not possible to arrange network meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, "Global Consultation", a meeting planned to gather many of our partners to get their input to Dignis strategy process, was redesigned to a digital format. 9.-11. November 2020, approx. 90 participants from members and partners in 25 countries gathered for a digital conference. These were the issued debated and discussed during the three days:

- Global trends in development
- Covid-19 and climate change – how will it affect us?
- The SDGs and partnerships for a sustainable development
- The Digni networks added value
- The global church and changes in the power balance between North and South
- South-South cooperation
- Digni's future priorities

The input and feedback from our members and partners will feed into Dignis long term strategy.

Competence building programs

Digni has supported 5 major competence building projects in 2020. These are as follows:

1. Power and sexual misconduct (Digni, NLM, NMS and Normisjon)

This project was initiated in 2019 by Digni, to secure our organizations, partners and projects against power abuse and sexual harassment. Digni included NLM, NMS and Normisjon as member partners in this project, due to their international work and vast experience in this specific area. Professor Tormod Kleiven from VID Specialized University is the subject matter expert and has extensive experience in the field from Norway and has been instrumental in the development of guidelines for many Norwegian organisations.

Our aim is that this project will enhance the focus on issues related to power and sexual misconduct in Digni's partner organisations and to provide them with tools and the resources to build a culture where there is zero-tolerance towards sexual misconduct. The goal is that the organizations, because of this project, will have available tools to:

- Enhance the leaders' and the employees' competency in this area
- Build a healthy culture within the organization and good values in each individual
- Ensure that the organisation has guidelines and systems in place to prevent misconduct and tools to deal with cases that are reported or identified.

Activities in 2020:

Spring 2020	Meetings in pilot partner organizations on how to take this work forward in their organizations. Mapping in organizations.
Autumn 2020	Planned workshop with pilot partners had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Instead, digital meetings were held with the pilot partners. The resources group in Norway worked on the development on a toolbox with resources and materials on this specific theme.

2. Building ICDP competency in Bangladesh

Normisjon (NOR) initiated a two-year competence building project in 2019 to build ICDP (International Child development Program) competence in Normission Bangladesh. Having vast experience working in the context of Bangladesh, Normisjon observe a great need for introduction of the ICDP methodology. ICDP has been running for 30 years in 53 different countries. ICDP is built on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and research on what a child needs to develop into his or her full potential. Multiple studies have been conducted to document the strong effects of ICDP. The methodology is also being used in several other projects supported by Digni, with good results.

This program, which started in 2019, continued in 2020. However, Covid-19 made it difficult to carry out activities and reach the targets as planned. The goal for 2020 was to build competence on ICDP, strengthen and establish a strong national team for ICDP in Bangladesh and to further adapt the program to the Bangladeshi context. Despite travel restrictions, and challenges related to Covid-19, the program was able to carry out some of the ICDP trainings and a total of 15 certified facilitators received their diploma in 2020 (target was 43). Due to the delayed trainings in 2020, an additional 14 ICDP facilitators will received their certification diploma in January 2021.

During 2020, 2 facilitators have been trained to become official ICDP trainers, and will together with Normisjon's person in Dhaka, Ms. Haaland, be certified as ICDP trainers by Nicoletta Armstrong from International ICDP, in 2021. In addition to this, the program has adapted and revised the ICDP material and resources to better reflect the Bangladesh context. The program will continue and develop further in 2021-2023, within the approved project "QZA-18/0159-654-655 NOR-Healthy childhood development program (HCDP).

During 2019-2020 some Salvation Army staff in Bangladesh, supported with some small competence building funds from Digni, also joined the ICDP trainings facilitated by Normisjon. The ICDP competence was highly relevant for the Salvation Army staff working with children and sexually abused women in the project "QZA-18/0159-625-628 FA-Pathways to Empowerment for Sexually Exploited and Vulnerable Women".

3. Early Childhood Education Development in Southern Africa

Pinsemisjonen (NPM) received support for a competence building in pre-school teacher education carried out in a network collaboration between nine partner institutions in Southern Africa under the guidance of Queen Maud's University College of Early Childhood Education (QMUC) in Norway.

The present and final project phase (2019-2020) focuses on the development of action research in the institutions in the South, which will be jointly coordinated by a researcher affiliated with St. Mary's College in Tanzania and NPM/QMUC in Norway.

According to the report submitted for 2019, the project is mostly on track to reach set targets. However, due to the pandemic, this project was not able to carry out the planned activities for 2020. The project has therefore applied for an extension year in 2021.

4. Finalizing iodine research in Somaliland

Norsk Luthersk Misjonssamband (NLM) received support for a three-year project which aims to have fully analysed and published collected research data from the NLM-Capacity Building within

Neonatal Care (CBNC) GLO-07/107-337 aid project in Somaliland that was implemented between 2010 and 2014. This research is likely to inform maternal health services in the region. NLM's unique competence and position as a civil society actor has been instrumental to carry out this work, hence the rare decision was made to support this research initiative.

The competence project aims to present the research findings through three articles in international, peer reviewed journals: Two articles on iodine and fluid metabolism in women in Somaliland and one article related to improved survival of sick new-borns in hospitals. The knowledge is to be presented "open access" so that the authorities and local research and aid communities in Somaliland / Somalia can utilize the knowledge.

The initiative is anchored at the University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, since there already existed a collaboration on research, and the arrangement will provide quality assurance of the research.

The implementation of the project is delayed compared to the original plan. Firstly, it took longer time than estimated in 2019 to get the approvals that were needed from the Regional Ethics Committee (REK) South-East and the Norwegian Center for Research Data (NSD). Therefore, the project could not start until December 2019, with the Department of Community Medicine and Global Health. Secondly, 2020 has been a challenging year and Covid-19 has further delayed the implementation. The plan for 2020 was to have one of the articles published, but this has been delayed. The reasons for this delay are many: poor working conditions at home with children being in quarantine, periods of sickness for the main researcher and sub optimal conditions for meeting and coordinating with fellow researchers when working from home. The project is estimated to be about five months behind schedule. The research will continue into 2021.

5. Competence building on anti-corruption

A new competence building project on anti-corruption was established in 2020. Digni leads this project together with a resource group from our member organizations. The aim of this project is to gather experiences from Digni's earlier efforts in prevention and handling of corruption cases. We hope to improve both prevention and handling, and thereby reduce the risk of corruption and the amount of resources needed to handle corruption in the organisations of the Digni chain. One of the main outputs in 2020 was a report prepared by an external consultant where she analysed Digni's handling of corruption cases, and the lessons learned from 2018-2020, will inform our further work on the subject. The project will continue in 2021.