Digni

Annual Report 2021

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1 Introduction

Digni is pleased to present the annual report for 2021.

In 2021 Digni, 17 member organisations and 73 partners have cooperated on 117 projects in 32 countries. A total of NOK 181 146 190 has been spent towards the projects[1].

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 the 29 projects that were concluded in 2021 and the remaining 88 projects that were ongoing as of 2021 and continued into 2022.

The aggregated results, thematic analyses and assessment of cost-effectiveness to be found in chapters two and three are based on *concluded projects* only (chapters two and three). In addition, a full summary and assessment of each project ended in 2021 is included in Annex A. We are pleased to observe that Digni projects at an aggregated average outcome level reaches a high level of results with EAT-score of 3.41 for projects ending during 2018-2021. We want to highlight the strong results within the thematic area Peaceful Coexistence, mainly due to solid work by our partners to combat gender-based violence. Digni's overall target for the five-year agreement period is 3.40 and we expect to submit a Final Report for the whole agreement period after 2022 where we present results above the targeted average EAT-score of 3.40. In chapter two, we have also provided an overview over partners in the Digni portfolio 2021, as per request by Norad.

2021 has been the first full reporting year affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. For parts of 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 made it more difficult for partners to carry out monitoring of projects. Lock-down and restrictions on mobility has not only affected results, but also to some degree the consistent documentation of results, and hence Digni's scoring of project results for 2021.

A progress report on *ongoing projects* in 2021 is provided in chapter four, which includes a reflection on the underspending in 2021. We see that despite being severely affected by Covid-19 the progress of ongoing projects had almost reached pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021.

In chapter five we present special reports on projects receiving earmarked funding from Norad. These include projects Strengthening the rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief, as well as one project in Madagascar and two projects in Nepal.

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 six. The cross-cutting concerns on environment, gender equality and human rights are also covered in the thematic reports in chapter three and financial management and anti-corruption is included in the secretariat report in chapter nine.

An analysis of external evaluations carried out in 2021 is included in chapter seven, including a summary of an evaluation report from *NOR-Organisation Development Project – DPAB (QZA-18/0159-506-507) in Bhutan*. A comprehensive list of external evaluations carried out in the period is attached to the report as Annex B.

In chapter eight, a report on selected outcome indicators in Digni's Global Results Framework (GRF) gives an overview of the total status of the Digni portfolio in 2021.

[1] *See Regnskapsrapport 2021, Ordinær prosjektportefølje; Øremerkede midler – Tro og liv; Øremerkede midler – Utdanning; and Covid-19 Respons i Nepal*

Finally, chapter nine gives an account of the Digni secretariat's main activities in 2021, including

analyses on risk management, financial management, a special report on anti-corruption efforts and financial irregularities, as well as brief reports on member activities funded from the secretariat budget.

The full accounts are submitted as a separate report, *Regnskapsrapport 2021*.

2 Aggregated Results Score

Below we have provided the combined results scores, based on in-depth readings and assessments of all projects concluded in 2021 (28 projects). We have also presented aggregated results scores for the total amount of projects ended in the respective years from 2018-2021 (74 projects) and carried out an analysis on the achievement of results.

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, 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
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.

General notes on Digni's end of project 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 (2018-2021). However, for parts of 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 has made it more difficult for partners to carry out monitoring of projects. Lock-down and restrictions on mobility has not only affected results, but also to some degree the consistent documentation of results, and hence Digni's scoring of project results for 2021.

As in previous 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 of the projects. The long-term effects and wider implications are also uncertain.

Aggregated results, projects ending 2021

Table 1: Achievement EAT-scores based on 2021 final reports, adjusted for expenditure per thematic area – 28 projects

Achievement of Digni goals 2021			
Contribution towards the realisation of:	# of entries	Level of results: Output … Outcome … Impact	Score
Goal 1 – Civil Society	28		3,37
Goal 2 – Good Health	11		2,96
Goal 3 – Peaceful Coexistence	12		3,64
Goal 4 – Environmental Sustainability	6		2,54
Goal 5 – Quality Education	10		2,87
Goal 6 – Economic Empowerment	8		3,04
Average all thematic areas			3,11

The results from the assessment of projects ending in 2021 is presented in table 1. In 2021, 28 projects concluded their project cycle. The scores have been weighted according to expenditure (accounts) on each theme in each project throughout their respective project periods, based on the DAC sector codes chosen by projects at the time of start-up.

Total aggregated results, projects ending 2018-2021

Table 2: Aggregated achievement EAT- scores, adjusted for expenditure per thematic area for period 2018-2021 – 74

Achievement of Digni goals 2018 - 2021			
Contribution towards the realisation of:	# of entries	Level of results: Output … Outcome … Impact	Score
Goal 1 – Civil Society	74		3,54
Goal 2 – Good Health	33		3,42
Goal 3 – Peaceful Coexistence	28		3,48
Goal 4 – Environmental Sustainability	15		2,76
Goal 5 – Quality Education	29		3,43
Goal 6 – Economic Empowerment	24		3,30
Average all thematic areas			3,41

projects

Total aggregated results, year by year

Table 3: Detailed overview of aggregated achievement EAT- scores, adjusted for expenditure per thematic area for 2018-2021 – 74 projects, including baseline and targets.

	Baseline*	Result 2018	Result 2019	Target 2020**	Results 2020	Results 2021	Result 2018-2021	Target 2022**
Overall goal (impact)								
Empowered communities and individuals living in dignity	3,17	3,67	3,57	3,25	3,54	3,11	3,41	3,40
Program goals (impact)								
1. A Strong Civil Society: Society is characterized by a high degree of civil society engagement for change* **	3,43	3,60	3,79	3,50	3,58	3,37	3,54	3,60
2. Good Health: Target groups are able to influence conditions regarding own health and wellbeing	3,80	3,72	3,92	3,90	3,00	2,96	3,42	4,00
3. Peaceful Coexistence: Target groups are coexisting in a safe and peaceful environment	2,00	4,21	2,73	2,50	3,77	3,64	3,48	3,00
4. Environmental Stewardship: Target groups exercise responsible stewardship of the environment	2,95	3,04	3,00	3,20	3,00	2,54	2,76	3,30
5. Quality Education: Learners in target areas acquire relevant education of high quality	3,22	3,74	4,07	3,35	4,00	2,87	3,43	3,50
6. Economic Empowerment: Women and men in target areas are economically empowered	3,02	3,11	3,78	3,20	3,75	3,04	3,30	3,30

**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017*
***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*
****The results framework 2013-2017 included nine thematic arears. The results from thematic areas 7 (Gender Equality), 8 (Human Rights and 9 (Civil Socety) have been combined to establish the baseline for thematic area 1 (Civil Society) in Dignis GRF for 2018-2022*

Results 2021 compared with aggregated results 2018-2021.

The aggregated results for 28 projects ending in 2021 shows an average overall outcome level with EAT-scores at 3.11 (table 1). This is lower than the average levels recorded in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (3.60; 3.57; and 3.54 respectively). The sample size of 28 projects for 2021 is larger than the sample sizes of previous years (2018=22 projects; 2019=17 projects; 2020=7 projects), hence, caution needs to be applied when comparing the EAT-scores for 2021 with the scores from previous years. The 28 projects ending in 2021 constitute 37.8 % of the total 74 projects ending

in the four-year period of 2018-2021. Comparing the 3.11 aggregated EAT-score for 2021 with the 3.41 aggregated EAT-score for the period 2018-2021, show that the results for 2021 is considerably lower than previous years. Still, the total average EAT-score for the 4-year period is 3.41, and thus right on Digni's target of 3.40 for the 5-year period 2018-2022. In this respect, it may be concluded that Digni is right on track when it comes to reaching its target for the agreement period. But before such a conclusion can be made, we need to examine and analyse causes for the lower results of 2021, to assess whether lower results can be expected for 2022 as well. Digni will argue that 2021 has been an exceptional year with specific challenges that have contributed to lower results:

The Covid-19 pandemic affected the implementation and results of projects during 2020 and 2021. Out of the 29 projects scheduled to end in 2020, only 7 of them did. The 22 remaining projects were heavily affected by Covid-19 and in some cases other factors (political unrest, natural disasters) and were granted an additional implementation year in 2021. Of these 22 projects, 15 were able to end and report results in 2021, whereas 7 of the projects were granted a second additional implementation year. In the sample of projects ending in 2021, a total of 15 projects originally "belonged" to the 2020 sample. Hence, Covid-19 has affected the implementation speed of the many of the projects.

In addition, some partners experienced higher turnover of staff during Covid-19. This affected project implementation, i.e. the continuation and follow up of activities, and most importantly the relations to project participants, all together factors that negatively influence the results of the projects. Covid-19 have also led to activities not being carried out as planned or to a lesser extent, for instance large gatherings, meetings, networking, and coordinating and engaging with multiple stakeholders. Digni know from experience that such activities are necessary for obtaining sustainability, local ownership, and "structural" changes in project areas, especially during the last years of a project's implementation period. Some project groups became inactive during Covid-19, and it was difficult to reach the same activity level during the last year of project implementation, which often also coincides with the year of external evaluation of project results. Furthermore, the pandemic also made it periodically difficult for staff to monitor and document activities/results, which implied that some of the results were difficult to verify and document in the end. Evaluation reports from projects ending testify to that. When project results cannot be properly verified, Digni applies a conservative approach and give the project an EAT-score that is lower than would have been the case with well documented results. This may have led to under-reporting, and subsequently "under-scoring" of results in the projects, particularly in 2021. Digni's assessment is that the Covid-19 pandemic negatively influenced results scores of the projects that ended in 2021.

In the mid-term report for 2020, Digni compared the aggregated EAT-results obtained from the concluded projects during 2018-2020 to the baseline EAT-scores. This sample of seven projects represent those that were able to continue implementation according to plan, despite of the pandemic. Most of the projects that applied for an extension year, did so because the project activities were severely affected by Covid-19. The baseline is based on EAT-assessments of 59 projects that ended in the years 2016-2017 and had an average EAT-score of 3.17. The overall aggregated EAT-score for 2018-2020 was 3.62 and is based on 46 projects ending after their planned implementation period. The comparison displays strong results[2] and suggests that the overall results increased from a low outcome level to a high outcome level during the three years,

[2] 3.62 is considered a "high outcome level", as it is closer to 4 than to 3, and it is not possible for projects to score above 5,0.

until Covid-19 emerged. Digni believes that the EAT-score of 3.62 for the period 2018-2020 is reliable and reflect the expected level of results in the Digni portfolio, in a "normal" situation.

The average aggregated EAT-score for projects ending 2021 is 3.11, which shows a considerable drop in results. Based on our assessment of the 2021-sample, we will argue that the drop from 3.62 (2018-2020) to 3.11 (2021) can partly be attributed to Covid-19, but we also see that weak results in Liberia and Sierra Leone has affected the aggregated score.

Around 27 % of the accounts spent on projects that ended in 2021 were spent on projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone[3]. Due to challenging contexts, projects in these countries rarely obtain EAT-scores higher than 3. Project evaluation reports point out that both Liberia and Sierra Leone are highly dependent on aid. In the Digni-funded projects we see that, although local authorities are involved and there are agreements in place, there are major challenges when it comes to resuming responsibility after projects end. Likewise, we see, with some exceptions, that interventions have not been sufficiently successful in engaging with project participants in local communities to secure follow-up and protection/maintenance of e.g. water pumps towards the end of the project periods. Several of the projects from Liberia and Sierra Leone that ended in 2021 received relatively low EAT-scores in the assessments done by Digni. Partly because of the extraordinary circumstances with the pandemic, but also due to challenges related to accountability and weak documentation/monitoring of results, there may have been underreporting of project results from these countries. If the Liberia and Sierra Leone projects are excluded from the 2021-sample, the aggregated EAT-score increases from 3.11 to 3.24. This implies that 0.13 points of the reduction in EAT- score for 2021 compared to 2018-2020 can be explained by the results from these projects.

There is a remaining discrepancy of 0.38 points between the EAT-score without Liberia and Sierra Leone and the aggregated EAT-score for 2018-2020. Digni assumes that it is reasonable to attribute this to the negative effects of Covid-19. We acknowledge that there are other factors, such as wars and civil unrest, humanitarian crisis, corruption etc, that affect project performance. However, these other factors are constantly present to a certain degree and affects results *every year* in the agreement period. Based on this analysis, our assessment is that the specific and extraordinary situation with the Covid-19 pandemic accounts for most of the decline in results in the 2021-report.

Thematic Results 2021 compared to aggregated average thematic results 2018-2021.

The aggregated results for the different thematic areas measured with EAT-scores for 2021 are lower for 5 out of 6 thematic areas compared with the average scores for the period 2018-2021 (table 1 and 2). The thematic areas of Good Health and Quality Education are the ones that have dropped the most in 2021. Their respective EAT-scores were 0.46 and 0.56 points lower in 2021 compared to the average EAT-scores for the period 2018-2021. The drop in results for these two thematic areas are in part explained by negative effects of Covid-19 on the projects in 2021, including those 15 projects that were scheduled to end in 2020, but received an extension year due to Covid-19 and reported after 2021. For instance, many schools had to close and educational activities slowed down during the pandemic. Planned health activities were also affected with often weak implementation of large-scale water and sanitation programs, as well as projects carrying out more "output"-oriented activities. The thematic areas of Environmental Stewardship and Economic Empowerment had drops in scores during 2021 as well, with respectively 0.22 and 0.26. The only thematic area that increased its EAT-score in 2021 was Peaceful Coexistence, with

[3] Appr. NOK 49 million of a NOK 180 million spent on projects that ended in 2021

an increase of 0.16 points. Several partners, many of them faith-based organisations and churches, addressed and obtained solid results in combatting gender-based violence, that in turn led to projects receiving high EAT-scores.

Table 4: Results 2018-2021 compared to results 2016-2017 (adjusted for expenditure)

	Share of accounts 2018-2021	Results 2018-2021	Results 2016-2017 (baseline)
A Strong Civil Society*	27 %	3,54	3,43
Good health	22 %	3,42	3,80
Peaceful Coexistence	15 %	3,48	2,00
Environmental Stewardship	5 %	2,76	2,95
Quality Education	20 %	3,43	3,22
Economic Empowerment	10 %	3,30	3,02
Average	**100 %**	**3,41**	**3,17**

** 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.*

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 (table 4).

EAT score results compared with project periods

Table 5 Average aggregated EAT-score results from 74 projects ending 2018-2021 after first, second and third project period.

EAT-scores 2018-2021 by project period	Pilot*	First	Second	Third	Total number of projects
2021		16	9	3	28
2020		1	5	1	7
2019	1	8	4	4	17
2018	1	8	8	5	21
Total number of projects	2	33	26	13	74
Weighted EAT		**3,26**	**3,54**	**3,49**	

**Pilot projects are shorter in time with maximum of 3-years implementation, have smaller budgets and are used for testing out new methodology or other dimension. These projects are not scored with EAT scores.*

Aggregated EAT-scores are based on 33 projects ending after first project period, 26 after second project period and 13 after third project period. There is also a fourth category of project periods called "pilot projects", often shorter in time with maximum of 3 years implementation, smaller budgets and used for testing out new methodology or other dimensions. These projects are not subject to EAT-scoring and are not comparable to the other projects.

As expected, the EAT-score for projects ending after one project period has a lower aggregated results score of 3.26, than the EAT-scores of projects ending after second or third period, with respective EAT-scores of 3.54 and 3.49. This is consistent with Digni's experience that it takes more than 3-5 years (one project period), to obtain results at higher outcome level. In any given year in Digni, there will be more projects in first project period than in the second and third. The projects ending after one project period, do so due to multiple reasons, such as challenging contexts making it difficult to obtain sufficient level of results, lack of motivation/ownership from project participants, issues related to partner capacity may be impeding, or that the desired results were obtained in one project period, and hence, there is no need for another project period. Before a new project period is granted, the results of an external project evaluation encompassing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the project is assessed. This implies that the projects with potential for scaling up and good results, and where sufficient conditions are met, continue to two or more project periods. It is thus expected that the EAT-scores after second and third project periods are higher than after first project periods. This is confirmed by our data from 2018-2022.

In the current sample for 2018-2022 there is an indication that projects with a third period does not necessarily receive higher EAT-scores than projects ending after two project periods. This aspect will be subject for further analysis in the final report after 2022.

EAT score results compared to funding per project

Table 6: Average aggregated EAT-scores compared with size of project budgets 2018-2021.

	Number of projects	Total accounts	Average project EAT score
Total accounts less than NOK 5 million	41	104 059 121	3,16
Total accounts NOK 5 to 10 million	22	149 586 588	3,31
Total accounts more than NOK 5 million	11	195 882 750	3,50
Total accounts (74 projects ended 2018-2021)	74	449 528 459	3,41

Based on the findings presented in table 6, the size of project budgets correlate with EAT-scored, and larger projects have better results. Comparing the EAT-scores of the sampled 74 projects to the total accounts, we see that the projects with larger budgets obtain better results. In the period from 2018-2021, 11 projects/programs had total project budgets above 10 million, these have obtained an average EAT-score of 3.5. These 11 projects are responsible for spending 43.6 %[4] of the total budget. There are 41 small projects with total budgets under 5 million NOK with average EAT-score of 3.16. The difference in results between these two categories of projects is considerable. However, the general finding that larger projects have better results is according to our expectations. Often projects start out with smaller budgets, and if potential and project results are good, they are scaled up in scope and receive larger budgets in the following project periods, yielding improved results. Although we see a correlation, it may be too soon to conclude that there is a causal relationship between budget size and EAT-scores. Many of the projects supported through Digni focus on leaving no one behind and operate in high-risk areas with marginalised and exposed groups. To improve Digni's overall results, the solution is not to stop financing these small projects and only provide support for the large ones. Particularly in complex contexts, an important risk minimising strategy is to start small, and then increase and expand projects if results are good. Furthermore, starting small gives time to grow local ownership, build relationships and trust, improve methodology and refine strategies, learn from mistakes, etc. The preliminary findings presented here will be subject to further analysis, including analysis of factors and dimensions that are important to obtain high results in the future Digni-portfolio.

Projection of results 2022

Despite the low EAT-scores from the 2021-sample, Digni believes that it is realistic to reach the target of EAT-scores 3.40 at the end of 2022. A total of 55 projects are scheduled to end in 2022, meaning that 2022 add substantially to the total sample. In normal years, a few projects are granted a one-year extension of their project period. In 2020, this reached an all-time high of 22 projects, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021, 16 projects were granted an extension, and we expect significantly lower figures for 2022. The majority of the projects that will end in 2022, will do so after at full implementation period according to plan, without the need for "added time". The high number of projects reporting in 2022 is expected affect the aggregated EAT-scores for the period 2018-2022, across thematic areas.

[4] NOK 195 882 750 million

Although we cannot know for sure that we are at the tail-end of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are strong indications that the effects of Covid-19 will be less on the projects ending 2022, compared to the ones that ended in 2021. Even though it is too early to talk about post-Covid-19, the reports from members and partners show that ongoing projects to a large degree have resumed pre-Covid-19 implementation speed and activities are to a large degree carried out according to plans. Based on this, we assume that 2022 will to a higher degree resemble a "normal" year. As Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in project areas and mobility has increased, project monitoring and documentation of results in 2022 will be substantially improved compared to the situation in 2021. This will lead to better and more reliable data for evaluations and project reports. With more reliable data, there will be less under-reporting of results, and the EAT-scores will reflect the results obtained by the project.

For the first time in twenty years, extreme poverty is expected to increase globally, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the pressures of conflicts and climate change. All projects due to submit final reports in 2022, are, in some way or another, affected by this. The effects the pandemic has on society in general, on education, health and the economy, will be present in years to come. This is likely to also be visible in future reports and results from the projects. Digni does not expect to reach average aggregated EAT-scores as high as the 3.62 obtained in pre-Covid-19 years, but we do expect to reach our target of 3.40 after 2022.

3 Thematic Reports

The results and analyses provided in the thematic reports are based on the assessment of the 28 projects that ended in 2021 and submitted final reports. QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 MA-Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County was terminated early 2021. For more information on this project, refer to chapter 3.8 Deviations in Projects Ending 2021.

In-depth summaries of results, scores, remaining challenges and added value of Digni and member organisations related to each project are included in Annex A to this report.

Table 7: Overview over projects ending 2021

Country	QZA-number	Project name	Period	Period years	Comment
Ecuador	QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Second	2016 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Madagascar	QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Third	2019 - 2021	Ended
Cameroon	QZA-18/0159-406-409	NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders	Third	2018 - 2021	Ended
Mali	QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	Second	2017 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Bangladesh	QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	Second	2016 - 2021	Ended
Ethiopia	QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	Third	2018 - 2021	Ended
Ethiopia	QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Second	2018 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Nepal	QZA-18/0159-101-102	HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy	Second	2016 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Nepal	QZA-18/0159-103-105	HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education	Second	2018 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Bhutan	QZA-18/0159-506-507	NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB	Second	2019 - 2021	Ended
Ethiopia	QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	Second	2018 - 2021	Third period started 2022
Liberia	QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	First	2016 - 2021	Ended
Liberia	QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	First	2016 - 2021	Ended
Africa Regional	QZA-18/0159-73	FA-Capacity Building for Community Engagement and Development Across Africa	First	2018 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Democratic Republic o	QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	First	2017 - 2021	Ended
Bolivia	QZA-18/0159-353	NPM-Desarrollo Organizacional de FES	First	2018 - 2021	Ended
Nepal	QZA-18/0159-504	NOR-Doing development differently- Cluster-approach for social change	First	2018 - 2021	Ended
Ethiopia	QZA-18/0159-296-297	NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project	First	2018 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Global	QZA-18/0159-435-436	NMS-Tamar Campaign Project	First	2018 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Sierra Leone	QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	First	2018 - 2021	Ended
Egypt	QZA-18/0159-412-414	NMS-Living for a better story	First	2018 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Eswatini	QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	First	2019 - 2021	Ended
Cambodia	QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	First	2019 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Cambodia	QZA-18/0159-574-576	MA-Empowering youth as agents of change in rural Cambodian communities	First	2019 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Ethiopia	QZA-18/0159-608-610	NLM-•Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE	First	2020 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Sierra Leone	QZA-18/0159-647-649	MA-Improving Access to WASH in Rural Communities	First	2021 - 2021	Ended
State of Palestine	QZA-18/0159-548-551	DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	Second	2018 - 2021	Ended
Pakistan	QZA-18/0159-535-537	NMS-Legal Aid Assitance and Settlement Project	First	2018 - 2021	Second period started 2022
Liberia	QZA-18/0159-240-241/567	MA-Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County	Second	2019 - 2021	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.

The 28 projects that submitted final reports in 2021 have received almost NOK 180 million in funding from Norad via Digni during their respective project periods. Accounts per project for the entire project portfolio can be found in Regnskapsrapport 2021.

The projects were implemented in 17 different countries, in addition to one regional project in Africa and one global project.

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 summarised and analysed according to EAT in the previous agreement period (2013-2017). By 2021, a total of 74 projects have been scored according to EAT so far in the current agreement period.

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

This chapter provides thematic reports and analysis, based on the projects that ended in 2021.

Partners in the Digni portfolio 2021, by country

Radetiketter	Association	Church	Faith-based Organisation	Foundation	NGO	Total per country
Afghanistan					1	1
Bangladesh					3	3
Bhutan					1	1
Bolivia		1			2	3
Burundi					1	1
Cambodia					8	8
Cameroon		1				1
China	1				1	2
Congo		1				1
Democratic Republic of the Congo		1			1	2
Ecuador					1	1
Egypt					1	1
Eswatini		1			1	2
Ethiopia		4			2	6
India					2	2
Indonesia					1	1
Kenya		1	1		2	4
Liberia		1		1	3	5
Madagascar		1				1
Mali					2	2
Mongolia			1			1
Mozambique		1				1
Myanmar					2	2
Nepal					4	4
Pakistan					3	3
Sierra Leone		2			1	3
Somalia					1	1
State of Palestine					1	1
Tunisia			1			1
Uganda		1			1	2
Viet Nam					1	1
Zimbabwe		1				1
Total	**1**	**17**	**3**	**1**	**47**	**69**

The table above provides an overview over the number of local partners in the Digni portfolio for 2021, distributed by country and type of organisation. All these are civil society actors that our member organisations have agreements and that implement projects with funding from Digni/Norad.

During this agreement period, Digni submitted a report on indicator 1.5.1 Partner Capacity Index (PCAI) in the Annual Report for 2020. Such report has not been requested by Digni from the member organisations for 2021, and we do not have readily data on the status of the partners, based on the distribution by country and type as presented above. Both Digni and our member organisations do however continuously work towards strengthening our partners. We are currently in the process of conducting new partner assessment of all partners in the Digni portfolio.

The following explanation was included in the 2020 Annual Report.

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 was 3.20.

Our report for this indicator in 2020 stated that the overall results for 2020 represented a 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 %.

The PCAI report in the Annual Report 2020 concluded that Digni had an overall stronger partner portfolio in 2020 compared to the baseline from 2017 but did not provide figures distributed by country or type of organisation.

3.1 A Strong Civil Society

Overall goal: Society is characterised by a high degree of civil society engagement for change		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	47	3,43
Results 2018	22	3,60
Results 2019	17	3,79
Target 2020**	43	3,50
Results 2020	7	3,58
Results 2021	28	3,37
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	74	3,54
Target 2022**	N/A	3,60

**Baseline is based on assessment of 47 projects ending 2016-2017*
***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 1, Civil Society, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 3,37						
		Output		Outcome				Impact
Goal 1 – Civil Society	**28**							

Basis

Submitted by 8 different member organisations, the 28 projects ended in 2021 all reported results on civil society as a thematic area (mandatory), of which 16 projects were in Africa, 9 in Asia, 2 in South America and one global. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 42.7 million, or 29.8 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. The projects established and provided training for community-based organisations and groups; mobilised 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	
# of projects achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	4
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	16
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	6
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	2
Total # of entries:	**28**

Overview over project

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	4	10%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Madagascar	Third	2019 - 2021	3	30%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-406-409	NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders	Cameroon	Third	2018 - 2021	4	90%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	Mali	Second	2017 - 2021	5	30%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	Bangladesh	Second	2016 - 2021	3	63%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	Ethiopia	Third	2018 - 2021	3	30%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	3	15%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-101-102	HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy	Nepal	Second	2016 - 2021	3	20%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-103-105	HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education	Nepal	Second	2018 - 2021	4	15%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-506-507	NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB	Bhutan	Second	2019 - 2021	5	80%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	2	10%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	3	20%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	3	15%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-73	FA-Capacity Building for Community Engagement and Development Across Africa	Africa Regional	First	2018 - 2021	3	100%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	First	2017 - 2021	4	15%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-353	NPM-Desarrollo Organizacional de FES	Bolivia	First	2018 - 2021	3	100%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-504	NOR-Doing development differently- Cluster-approach for social change	Nepal	First	2018 - 2021	3	100%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-296-297	NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project	Ethiopia	First	2018 - 2021	3	5%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-435-436	NMS-Tamar Campaign Project	Global	First	2018 - 2021	3	20%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	Sierra Leone	First	2018 - 2021	2	10%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-412-414	NMS-Living for a better story	Egypt	First	2018 - 2021	2	30%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	Eswatini	First	2019 - 2021	3	40%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	Cambodia	First	2019 - 2021	3	30%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-574-576	MA-Empowering youth as agents of change in rural Cambodian communities	Cambodia	First	2019 - 2021	3	100%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-608-610	NLM-•Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE	Ethiopia	First	2020 - 2021	4	10%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-647-649	MA-Improving Access to WASH in Rural Communities	Sierra Leone	First	2021 - 2021	2	10%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-548-551	DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	State of Palestine	Second	2018 - 2021	4	60%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-535-537	NMS-Legal Aid Assitance and Settlement Project	Pakistan	First	2018 - 2021	3	80%	Second period started 2022

Selected Results

There is a high degree of organisation in the target groups (Outcome 1.1):

The 28 projects that ended in 2021 had in total 4 399 070 beneficiaries, of whom 445 851 were direct and 3 953 219 indirect beneficiaries. These projects organised 78 211 persons, with 66 % women, into 5 078 different kinds of groups and associations during the project periods. The groups included Environment Committees/Associations, School clubs, Parent Teacher Committees, School Management Committees, Water and Sanitation groups, Loan and Saving Groups, Income Generating Activity groups (IGA), Entrepreneurship Associations, local Community Development Committees, Health Committees, Self-help Groups, Community Based Organisations, Gender Equality Associations, and Youth groups. Some of them have been officially registered, so they can access government-initiated trainings and funds for IGA activities.

Except four purely organisational development projects, the focus of the projects has been on one or more of the thematic areas strengthening Civil Society, Good Health, Peaceful Coexistence, Environmental Stewardship, Quality Education and Economic empowerment. There is a wide range of networking and types of cooperation between groups and organisations. For example, the Mission Alliance cooperated with twelve local civil society organisations in Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil, Ecuador) to improve and support inclusive education, basic health care, small enterprises, environmental care, prevention of violence against women and girls, HIV/AIDS services, democratic participation, and prevention of drug misuse among youth. The 2021 external evaluation states that this program had created and strengthened 134 grassroots organisations. By the end of 2021, the work of these organisations and networks have benefited 63 400 persons directly, and an estimation of 200 600 indirectly.

Depending on the projects' thematic areas, the group/association/organisation members have been trained in organisational and leadership skills, project management, financial management, Use Your Talents (asset-based approach frequently used in the Digni-chain), gender equality, loan and savings, climate change and environment, waste management, nutrition, agriculture and husbandry, literacy, human values, human rights, advocacy, citizenship, IGA, participatory facilitation, outcome and impact monitoring, accountability methodologies and outcome mapping.

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

In Nepal (QZA-18/0159-103-105 HP-An Integrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education), project initiatives led to 40 government owned preschools raising funds to pay for school furniture and the salary of the teachers appointed by the local school administration (not the government) by collecting money from parents and from the Annual Hindu Festival Deusi Bhailo. The project also trained 40 teachers to use local resources to make learning materials from scrap paper, empty bottles of juice, fruits, stone, and wooden log. So instead of waiting for external funding, they are now producing teaching materials on their own with locally available materials. Using own resources, manpower, money and time, youth groups in Eswatini (QZA-18/0159-544-547 FA-Youth Focused Development) also engage in their community by fixing rain damaged community roads, community cleaning-up campaigns, cleaning for sick elderly women, distributing food and clothes, constructing of footbridge, and houses for vulnerable community members. Similar strong youth engagement is seen in Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-256-259 MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development, QZA-18/0159-574-576 MA-Empowering youth as agents of change in rural Cambodian communities).

Communities provide equal opportunities for women and men (Outcome 1.3):

All projects report on activities related to gender equality and mainstreaming. The projects often do sensitisation activities on a large scale along with awareness raising on other topics like health, climate and environment, education, and human rights. Many projects put extra emphasis on strengthening women's participation in decision-making processes. Through years of systematic training and focus on this topic, many projects report a high degree of women being elected in leadership of groups, associations, and organisations. In Cameroon (QZA-18/0159-406-409 Project NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leader), the number of women in leadership position have increased significantly in decision-making bodies at district and regional levels. The current Synodal Council is chaired by a woman, and another woman has just been appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Church. Gender issues are no longer taboo as they are openly discussed and shared by church leaders and members, and there is a growing acknowledgment with the Church that women are as capable of being good leaders as men. Similar story appears in Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-415-417 NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program).

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

Many projects have conducted trainings on advocacy skills and human rights that have led to various initiatives to influence decision makers. For example, a project in Nepal (QZA-18/0159-101-102 HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy) sensitised and influenced government authorities, Members of Parliament, and political parties to reform and adopt a National Mental Health Legislation, to amend existing discriminatory laws/policies/ programs and practices, and to implement existing mental health policy and a Multisector Action Plan related to mental health. The evaluation report states that this project has succeeded in drawing the attention of national policy planners and decision makers to mental health issues. Engaging all concerned government ministries, constitutional bodies, human rights authorities, and other relevant stakeholders such as media, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and individual human rights defenders have generated collective strength for the promotion of rights of persons with mental health problem that yielded results. Moreover, this project adopted a "two-way" approach, on one hand, top-level advocacy for mainstreaming of mental healthcare; and on the other hand, awareness and capacity building to claim their rights at community level. This way of working is a recommended approach for such advocacy projects.

In a church partner in Cameroon (QZA-18/0159-406-409 Project NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders), 10 013 persons (5 574 women and 4 439 men), were trained on advocacy skills. The project's Theory of Change assumed that if the project managed to train elected and appointed leaders in good governance and democracy, they could use the knowledge to confront power misuse in a democratic way. After the training, 21 048 persons participated in advocacy initiatives to influence the election during the Church's General Synod that was held in July 2021. After having witnessed a conflict situation in the Church, the delegates elected new Church Council members and new persons for the two top leading Bishop positions, which in turn led to an election of new Financial Director and Internal Controller. The final evaluation of the project stated that "it has been observed that the delegates are increasingly awake and enlightened; they are holding the leaders of the Church accountable. This reflects the impact of the project".

Partners have strong capacity (Outcome 1.5):

Four out of the 28 projects ended in 2021 report specifically on strengthening the capacity, the competence, and the systems of the partner organisations. In Bolivia (QZA-18/0159-353 NPM-

Desarrollo Organizacional de FES), a partner strengthened its organisational capacity to meet governmental regulatory requirements for NGOs to continue being a relevant CSO in Bolivia, also after the end of funding from Digni. Facilitated by professional consultants, participatory processes over time have resulted in different policies and manuals being put in place and approved by governance bodies. The final evaluation confirmed that the project has strengthened and improved the capacity of FES so it can continue working with development work in the future.

Another project aimed at improving the partnerships and relationships between the 17 territories of The Salvation Army in Africa (QZA-18/0159-73 FA-Capacity Building for Community Engagement and Development Across Africa). After having reviewed, developed, and implemented the Territorial Strategy Plans and Community Development Strategies, 15 out of 17 of the territories have maintained or increased their capacity. All 17 territories report to work more effectively with local communities, local and national government departments, and other NGOs. The project successfully established nine Communities of Practice on Agriculture and Food Production, Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Savings and Loan Groups, Vocational Training, Child Protection, Early Childhood Education (ECE), Child Protection, and Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. However, the final evaluation report states that the positive changes have not yet resulted in tangible improved quality of work outcomes.

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

Five out of the 28 projects ended in 2021 reported on outcome 1.6. In Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil), local churches have been involved in community development based on the principles of diaconia and social justice. They have built the capacities of pastors, ministers, and leaders of ecclesial networks, through training in Leadership, Human Rights, Gender, and other topics. They have also raised awareness about the Integral Mission to get churches to commit to the social transformation of their community. This work was conducted with 548 churches, of which 228 have implemented diaconal projects. After the project initiative, there is now more coordination between churches of different denominations. In addition, the relationship and social engagement with the community have improved. However, the greatest effect of the training courses is related to people's personal life. People are seeing themselves as subjects of rights and duties, and they apply values such as tolerance, intra-family communication, and they stand up against gender violence.

Analysis

Considering the overall 2021 EAT-score of the thematic area of Civil Society in relation to the other thematic areas in Digni and the project sample for this analysis, the weighted score for the Civil Society is 3.37. This is lower than the baseline of 3.43 and the annual scores for this thematic area so far in this agreement period. Although the aggregated results score 2018-2021 of 3.54 is higher than the 2021 score, much effort needs to be done to achieve the 2022 target of 3.60.

In the 2021-sample, we observe that there may be a correlation between the funds allocated for a thematic area and the aggregated average EAT-scores. On one side, 26 % of the total Norad contribution during the project periods for this sample was allocated to strengthen civil society which is the highest share allocated for a thematic area for this project sample. The corresponding weighted EAT-score is 3.37, which is the second highest score among the thematic areas. At the other end of the scale, 7 % of the Norad contribution during the project periods was allocated to Environmental Sustainability, this is the lowest budget share of the thematic areas, and the weighted EAT-score of 2.54 is the lowest in the sample. However, we also observe that Peaceful Coexistence had the highest aggregated average EAT-score at 3.64 for the 2021-sample, with only

13 % of the total budget. Further analysis of the possible connection between aggregated EAT-scores for thematic areas and their share of the total accounts is required.

When assessing the 2021 EAT-score per project, two of the projects achieved a score of 5 (impact); 6 scored 4 (high outcome); 16 scored 3 (outcome) and 4 scored 2 (output). Thus, the overall result achievement of the projects on this theme is at outcome level.

By the end of 2021, 16 of the 28 projects in the sample ended their first project phase; 9 ended their second, while 3 projects ended their third phase. 20 projects got EAT-scores at 2 and 3 (output-outcome level) and only 8 projects at 4 and 5 (outcome-impact level). This may be explained by the overrepresentation of *first period* projects. Overall, we have seen a trend where most *first period* projects receive EAT-scores of 2 or 3, corresponding to output-outcome level; projects in their *second period* receive EAT-scores of 3 or 4, corresponding to outcome level; while some projects in their third period are more likely to reach impact level with an EAT-score of 5. This assumption does not really apply to this sample. The results at output-outcome level for the 16 *first period* projects are as expected as 3 projects scored 2 (output); 11 scored 3 (outcome) and 2 scored 4 (outcome-impact). But while 2 out of the 9 *second period* projects scored 5 (impact), none of the 3 *third period* projects reached this level, as two projects scored 3 and one scored 4. At the same time, it should be mentioned that only 3 projects ended their third period, so it is difficult to draw a pattern out of a such small sample.

Generally, the sample of projects that ended in 2021 show that a large part of planned activities was conducted despite Covid-19 restrictions, especially sensitisation and training activities (Outcome 1.1). Considering the Covid-19 situation, most projects deliver more results than expected at output level in terms of achievement compared to target. However, overall results at outcome and impact level are lower than before. Our interpretation of the content of the reports is that monitoring of activities on site and close follow up of results have been challenging. In addition, meetings involving different actors within networks and/or meetings with government officials related to advocacy work have been limited. We know that these activities are crucial to achieve results at impact level, and restrictions are thus likely to have affected results negatively.

The focus area of one of the projects that scored 5, and therefore got results at impact level, was peaceful coexistence (QZA-18/0159-559-561 NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti, Mali). This project's high score on Civil Society, is related to the high project performance within Peaceful Coexistence, as these areas are interrelated. The success of the project can be explained by the combination of active participation in the development of the National Strategy of Gender Based Violence in Bamako and in meetings and trainings both locally in Mopti and at regional level together, and the broad network that the project is part of. The key elements of the other project that scored 5 (QZA-18/0159-506-507 NOR-Organisation Development Project – DPAB, Bhutan) were a massive advocacy work for the rights of People With Disability (PWD) and lobbying following training and sensitisation of 2 712 local government leaders and participants. This resulted in establishment and adoption of a National Policy for PWDs. The common characteristics of these two projects are trainings of government officials followed by immense advocacy efforts and networking with different relevant actors.

For projects in their second or third period, gender equality and mainstreaming (Outcome 1.3) are no longer new topics and women continue taking space in decision-making and in leadership positions. However, systematic and intentional work on gender equality is still needed. This is pointed to in one project report (QZA-18/0159-296-297 NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project, Ethiopia) stating that one important step that was taken through the project period was to ensure the inclusion of women in all working groups established by the project, including steering committees, parents' committees, and school clubs. This indicates that

access to decision-making and normalising participation of women and girls in initiatives still do not always happen automatically. Therefore, this needs further follow up in the future.

It seems that advocacy initiatives (Outcome 1.4) towards governmental bodies are more likely to succeed if relevant government officials participate actively in project-initiated trainings/awareness raising on advocacy topics and/or the thematic area in focus prior to the project participants' claiming of rights and resources. This observation and learning point could be of great value for advocacy strategies in future projects.

3.2 Good Health

Overall goal: Target groups are able to influence conditions regarding own health and wellbeing		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	24	3,80
Results 2018	12	3,72
Results 2019	9	3,92
Target 2020**	N/A	3,90
Results 2020	1	3,00
Results 2021	11	2,96
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	33	3,42
Target 2022**	N/A	4,00

**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017*
***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 2, Good Health, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 2,96				
		Output		Outcome		Impact
Goal 2 – Good Health	**11**					

Basis

11 projects ending in 2021, from 6 different member organisations, reported results on good health as a thematic area. 8 projects were in Africa, 2 in Asia and 1 in Latin America. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 28.3 million, or 19.8 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the projects focused on basic drinking water and basic sanitation (4 projects), basic health care (3 projects), health education (3 projects), promotion of mental health and well-being (2 projects), reproductive health care (1 project), STD control including HIV/AIDS, (1 project) and Tuberculosis control (1 project).

The projects primarily address SDG #3 on Good Health and Well-Being, SDG #6 on Clean water and sanitation.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	6
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	3
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	2
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	0
Total # of entries:	**11**

Overview over projects

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	4	25%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Madagascar	Third	2019 - 2021	2	27%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	Bangladesh	Second	2016 - 2021	2	25%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	4	55%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-101-102	HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy	Nepal	Second	2016 - 2021	3	80%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	2	15%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	3	70%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	First	2017 - 2021	3	35%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	Sierra Leone	First	2018 - 2021	2	55%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	Eswatini	First	2019 - 2021	2	10%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-647-649	MA-Improving Access to WASH in Rural Communities	Sierra Leone	First	2021 - 2021	2	90%	Ended

Selected Results

Rights-holders have access to health services (Outcome 2.1):

In all the sample projects, health is one of several project components.

In Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil), the project reports increased access and quality of health services, both public and private, in the project area. In this five-year period, three implementing partners worked on this outcome, training health personnel on HIV issues and improving the infrastructure and equipment of Health Centres for youth health care. CEPAM (partner) and MANE (local partner) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health to start the operation of a health centre in the area of San Francisco. The Mariana de Jesus Foundation (FMJ) worked on disease prevention, health check-ups of children and pregnant women, and nutrition workshops. FMJ improved the infrastructure and the coverage of 4 health centres, bringing the service closer to the people. These centres are part of the Complementary Public Health Network and serve people referred by the organisations that participate in the Northwest Network. The Desarrollo y Autogestion (DYA) Foundation taught people about their rights to health care and how to access such services. The project final report states that families in the project area demonstrate increased knowledge about conditions affecting their health and apply basic preventive health knowledge due to project activities, covering around 30 105 persons. The project worked through local partners on the empowerment of young people and women living with HIV (PLHIV) by strengthening their knowledge of their rights to health services and protection measures. Another focus was on preventive health from a community perspective and comprehensive family approach which strengthened individuals, families, and the community in understanding existing health problems and learning how to address them. Through the project support with improved medical care and follow-up visits, there is a verified improvement of the health of children who arrived with malnutrition, low weight, and height. Improvements are also seen in the height and weight control records, for pregnant women and those with PLHIV, after receiving care and nutritional guidance and when the families comply with the instructions.

In Nepal (QZA-18/0159-101-102 HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy), a project has empowered target groups to influence conditions regarding their own health and wellbeing by advocating for changes of government policies and increased budgets for mental health services as part of primary health care. The allocation of the national health budget for mental health services at the start of the project period were 0.08% in 2015/2016. Koshish (local partner) had a very ambitious goal of seeing an increase to the level of 1.5% by 2021. Even though this target was not reached, there has been national budget increases to mental health services every year. The pressures and high demands on health budgets and scarceness of resources during Covid-19 made it difficult for the government to prioritise mental health. Despite this, the budget allocation by the government for mental health has increased significantly during the project period. Considering the first year of the project in 2016 and comparing it to 2020, the government budget allocation for mental health increased almost 100% (the 2021 budget allocation was 0.15%). Through interacting with various level stakeholders, including the local government authorities, the external evaluation (2021) found that the project has had a great impact at different levels. The project has raised awareness and influenced policy planning and promoted the rights of people with mental health problem through involving Self-Help Groups (SHG) and enhancing their advocacy capacity. Furthermore, they informed that they had better access to mental healthcare services (medicines and counselling services). However, they often face difficulties receiving their regular medicines through government system and have to buy from private pharmacies.

Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health of households (Outcome 2.2):

In Ethiopia, (QZA-18/0159-290-293 NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP)) 2 296 persons have benefitted from health services in 2021, in an area with no or very poor health coverage and with low awareness of health services before the project started. The project, together with the community and local government, built a health post to create access to primary health services at their kebele[5] level. 626 women in the four target kebeles gave birth at health institutions and were followed up with help of skilled health personnel. This happened with acceptance and support from their husbands and community leaders. Child morbidity and mortality have been reduced due to this initiative together with the practice of WASH principles (1010 households are now practicing WASH principles) and sensitisation about aspects related to good health. Community conversations (CC) were also held to create awareness on HIV/AIDS & HTP by collaboration of health extension workers and CC facilitators in the target kebeles. In addition, community conversations were held on gender issues in collaboration with health extension workers, community agents and CC facilitators. These initiatives encouraged community elders and leaders to identify harmful traditional practices and to take measures by consulting their community members. Furthermore, the focus on gender related issues and possibilities for women to generate their own income, and the possibilities of participating in conversations and decision on household resources, have positively affected the general health situation, together with increased yield from agricultural and livestock production and a better understanding of nutrition. Transmission of diseases of the livestock, which affect the

[5] *A **kebele** is the smallest administrative unit of Ethiopia similar to a ward, a neighbourhood or a localized and delimited group of people. It is part of a woreda, or district, itself usually part of a Zone, which in turn are grouped into one of the Regions based on ethno-linguistic communities that comprise the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Each kebele consists of at least five hundred families, or the equivalent of 3,500 to 4,000 persons.*

health of people, have been reduced after awareness creation on livestock diseases related to eating/ touching of raw meat of livestock and drinking of the milk from sick cows/ goats, as well as diseases like rabies related to dogs and wild animals.

Target groups combat stigma related to health (Outcome 2.3):
From the already mentioned project in Nepal (QZA-18/0159-101-102 HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy), Self-Help Group (SHG) members reported that their participation in group activities and local advocacy have built their confidence and reduced stigma in the society. The results from awareness and sensitisation on mental health were rated quite high. The evaluation found high awareness level among SHGs and project stakeholders on the issues. The project used different print materials and media quite well. Project participants reported experiencing that the attitudes towards them by their family and community have changed. SHG members also reported that they previously often experienced abuse and violence in the family and community. They feel it is reduced, particularly the domestic violence, after they formed groups and fought together against it.

In DR Congo (QZA-18/0159-359-362 NPM CAMPS-PREV - Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC), the project reports having sensitised communities and individuals by 290 sensitising sessions on mental health and sexual based gender violence (SBGV) for 31 699 participants. The sessions were run by community leaders and CAMP's (Centre d`Assistance Mèdico-Psychosocial) psychosocial assistants in the three health zones. Users of the mental health services spreading information in their communities, the use of mass sensitising in churches, schools, hospitals, radio broadcast, marketplaces, and other meetings, contributed to the large number of people reached. The sensitisation activities have led to reduced stigma related to mental health and SGBV, proved by 314 patients referred to diagnostics, treatment, and counselling from the local communities, and by reports from 431 persons with physical or mental illnesses.

Analysis

The average EAT-score adjusted for expenditure, of 2.96 is lower than previous years' accumulated results, bringing down the results over four years (2018-2021) to 3.42 from a high score of 3.73 in 2018-2020.

Out of the 11 projects reporting on "good health", eight projects report on outcome 2.1 (Rightsholders have access to health services), corresponding with SDGs 3.1-3.5 and 3.8. Nine projects report results related to outcome 2.2 (Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health and households), corresponding with SDGs 3.3, 3.4, 3.7 and 3.8. In addition, two projects report on outcome 2.3 (Target groups combat stigma related to health), corresponding with SDGs 3.1. In three projects, health is the main component, with 70-90 % of the budget allocated to this thematic area. In another three projects, the health component accounts for between 35-55 % of the budget allocation, and in the remaining five projects the health component constitutes 10-26 % of the projects' budget allocation.

We have in previous years seen a pattern indicating that projects where health constitutes the main thematic component (more than 50 % of the budget allocation) achieve better results within this thematic sector than projects in which health is a smaller part alongside several other thematic areas. The results this year are less clear. The two projects with the highest EAT-score

(high outcome level 4) on Good Health have spent 55 % and 25 % of their budget on health respectively (QZA-18/0159-290-293 NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP) and QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil). However, the last project has the highest investment in health of all the projects in the sample (around NOK 11 million). These projects have both finished their second project period, indicating that the implementation time also is an important factor to achieve higher EAT-scores. The project in Madagascar (QZA-18/0159-446-453 NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program) deviates from the hypothesis that projects get better results with longer implementation (several periods). This project has now ended its third project period and has only received a, EAT-score of 2. On the other hand, the project used only 14 % of the project budget for health. The low score can partly be explained by freeze of project funds from April 2020 to December 2021, and closure of the project one year earlier than originally planned. The project reported high numbers of beneficiaries and activities at output level, but the freeze severely hampered the monitoring of the results. Therefore, the project has very little to report except activities carried out. Even if the mentioned pattern with EAT-scores correlating to the degree of thematic focus is less clear this year, we can still say that projects with a clear focus on good health tend to achieve better results within this thematic sector than projects in which health is a small component among several other components.

Another finding this year is that out of six projects with an EAT-score of 2, five of them finished their first project period, and four of these worked with basic drinking water supply and sanitation. The challenges here are not a lack of output results, but a lack of verifiable data on what this has led to in terms of both the health situation of the population, and systems for maintenance and sustainability in the longer term. One of these six projects (QZA-18/0159-218-221 MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project) accounts for around 25 % of the total budget for health in the period and shows that a high or low score on one single project can influence the statistics positively or negatively.

Another very plausible reason why the thematic area good health receives lower scores this year than in previous years, is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Lock-down and restrictions from national and regional authorities have in many cases led to challenges in follow-up and monitoring. In many cases, this also had an impact on local statistics on illness and treatment, so that statistics from the government and other sources are less reliable than before. The health care system / health efforts have in most contexts had to focus on keeping the pandemic down, treating Covid-19 patients and in other ways dealing with the extraordinary situation. This also imply the health efforts in projects have not been able to focus so much on what they had planned to do.

3.3 Peaceful Coexistence

Overall goal: Target groups are coexisting in a safe and peaceful environment		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	2	2,00
Results 2018	7	4,21
Results 2019	7	2,73
Target 2020**	N/A	2,50
Results 2020	2	3,77
Results 2021	12	3,64
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	28	3,48
Target 2022**	N/A	3,00

**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017*
***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 3, Peaceful Coexistence, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 3,64								
		Output			Outcome					Impact
Goal 3 – Peaceful Coexistence	**12**									

Basis

12 projects ending in 2021, from 6 different Digni member organisations, reported results on peaceful coexistence as a thematic area, of which 1 was located in Latin America (Ecuador), 2 in Asia (Cambodia and Pakistan), 7 in Africa (Cameroon, Mali, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Liberia, Eswatini) and 2 in the Middle East (Egypt, State of Palestine). The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 17.2 million, or 12.1 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the projects covered areas such as Ending violence against women and girls (10 projects), Civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution (3 projects), Human rights violations against minorities/ethnic groups (3 projects), and/or safe and caring environment for children (1 project).

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 achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	2
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	6
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	3
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	1
Total # of entries:	**12**

Overview over projects

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	4	10%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-406-409	NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders	Cameroon	Third	2018 - 2021	3	10%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	Mali	Second	2017 - 2021	5	50%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	Ethiopia	Third	2018 - 2021	3	40%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	4	15%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	First	2017 - 2021	3	35%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-435-436	NMS-Tamar Campaign Project	Global	First	2018 - 2021	3	80%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-412-414	NMS-Living for a better story	Egypt	First	2018 - 2021	2	70%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	Eswatini	First	2019 - 2021	2	10%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	Cambodia	First	2019 - 2021	3	20%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-548-551	DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	State of Palestine	Second	2018 - 2021	4	40%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-535-537	NMS-Legal Aid Assitance and Settlement Project	Pakistan	First	2018 - 2021	3	20%	Second period started 2022

Selected Results

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

Three projects ending in 2021 worked on this outcome. However, since they also worked more specifically on outcome 3.4, selected results from these projects are presented under Outcome 3.4 below.

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

10 out of 12 projects ending in 2021 addressed gender-based-violence.

Two of these projects worked on reducing the harmful traditional practice (HTP) of female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender equality with good results. In Mali, the project *10654 QZA-18/0159-559-561 NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region*, obtained results at impact level (EAT=5) after second project phase. 18 communities/villages have denounced harmful practices, 17 communities have denounced Female Genital Mutilation, and one community have denounced forced and early marriages, directly encompassing a total of 1 958 persons. 11 excisors no longer practice excision and 4 of them do mobilisation within the communities against the FGM practice. This was obtained through massive awareness raising of 32 477 persons (24 304 women, 8 173 men) on GBV including community leaders, women, young people, men, religious leaders, excisors, students, school authorities, elected officials, government administration, health workers. Radio broadcasts, home visits, film screenings, training sessions, educational talks, organisation of courses on FMG have yielded results. Religious leaders and traditional communicators (High Islamic Council, members of Protestant and Catholic churches) have all benefitted from training sessions on excision, two forums were organised in their places to dispel the misunderstanding between religious leaders on the issue religion and excision and their important place in civil society. Similarly, in Ethiopia the project *10718 QZA-18/0159-415-417 NMS-Western Ethiopia Women* empowerment program, implemented by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus obtained results assessed at EAT-score level 3. After third project phase, it is reported by the project that a total of 297 communities (6168 individuals) have

denounced FGM. This comes as a result of engaging multiple stakeholders and using a diverse set of activities, and many participants have denounced FGM and are committed to hold each other accountable to this position.

Eight projects have worked on reducing other forms of GBV, most of them with good results. For instance, in Ecuador, in the large program 10070 QZA-18/0159-182 189 MA-Community Development Project, after second project period, results assessed at EAT-score 4 have been obtained. This program has been implemented in North-western part of the city of Guayaquil, an area with an estimated population of 450 000. Project has carried out awareness raising, mobilised, and worked with a large network of churches (more than 500), other grassroots civil society organisations, local government, community groups, schools, referral centres for rape, etc, on gender-based-violence issues, women's rights, and gender equality. This has resulted in that during the project period a total of 2 092 people, i.e. women, children and adolescents who were victims of domestic violence, have received psychological, legal and/or health care due to project activities. In addition, a total number of 6 634 people at risk in the community now know about the rights of women and children and how to activate/use/mobilise mechanism and support to prevent and reduce gender specific and domestic violence.

Similarly, in Liberia, the project 10799 QZA-18/0159-218-221 MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project, obtained results assessed by evaluation to have EAT-score of 4 after first project period. The project has engaged churches and networks (116), worked with multiple stakeholders, at community level, and other civil society actors in addition to local authorities, police, judiciary, social workers, and health personnel on Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV). The results are estimated to not only be at local level, but even reach national level. The evaluation reports, that 534 SGBV cases were supported during the years 2016-2020 in terms of medical treatment, transportation, feeding, materials support, and counselling. For instance, 24 cases reached the police, nine reached the circuit courts while others are pending police arrest/investigations. In addition, local partner Equip, reports that in 2021, 42 sexual and gender-based-violence (SGBV) cases were identified and assisted in the communities. Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is a major concern in Liberia, especial in Montserrado County. The evaluation established that there are five one-stop centres in the county, but the Equip supported centre remains the most preferred for referrals because of its organisation and service delivery. The evaluation point to that churches and networks have been mobilised for the work with SGBV. They observed that the relationship between the church and larger community are cordial and includes other faiths such Muslims and indigenous churches. This has enabled the church to effectively get involved. The evaluation also found out through consultations with Focus groups that matters regarding SGBV are being discussed also at national level. This is a multi-stakeholder approach, which brings together social workers, health facility employees, National Police Service, the Judiciary and affected communities. Equip's participation in this wider SGBV forum, means that its work is being amplified and profiled and able to effectively contribute to the progress of SGBV at national level. Some of the challenges discussed in these forums are delays of SGBV cases in the courts and sustainability support to one- stop centres which offer rescue services to the survivors. To-date this project has enabled survivors and their families to find redress and overcome the culture of compromising cases. Although the number of SGBV cases have kept rising, interviews from a cross section of respondents confirmed that this was due to the rise in number of people participating and willing to bring justice to survivors due to increased awareness and mobilisation.

In addition to the two projects mentioned, six other projects have reached levels of results on GBV with EAT-scores 3 and 2. These projects have worked on awareness raising and have encouraged action to address it. One example of such a project is 10833 QZA-18/0159-435-436 NMS-Tamar Campaign Project (EAT-score: 3) implemented by Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in

Ethiopia. Also, in Madagaskar (Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy FLM) and in Cameroon (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroun), churches have used Bible studies and the Tamar Campaign methodology to create awareness and address issues of rape, sexual abuse and GBV, among church constituencies and in communities. This was an important pilot project that has gone through a first project period that has equipped church members and leaders resulting in a willingness to break the cycle of silence, address stigma and denial of these issues, and make plans to address it.

Children grow up in a safe and caring environment (Outcome 3.3):
Even though other projects may include children as project participants or rights holders, one project ending in 2021 worked specifically on this outcome. In Ecuador, in the large program *10070 QZA-18/0159-182 189 MA-Community Development Project*, after second project phase, results assessed at EAT-score 4 have been obtained. The Mission Alliance in Ecuador partnered with 3 local grassroots organisations for the work related to drug use prevention and working on conditions for promoting safe and caring environment for children and adolescents, with positive results. Partner, JUCONI, developed the capacities of the community and families to prevent drug use. Partner, FutbolMas, promoted a healthy daily routine among young people from 6 to 18 years of age, increasing the protective factors in situations of domestic isolation, and reducing the risk factors associated with drug use. The Huancavilca Foundation strengthened the cultural and sports training of children and adolescents, for the prevention of drug use and favouring community development. As a result, a total of 5 798 children/adolescents/parents have participated in these activities, and 115 children/adolescents were referred to and got drug rehabilitation assistance due to project efforts. In summary, the project has contributed to a more supportive and united relationship between the neighbours of the project area since children at risk move away from drug use and trafficking. The Huancavilca Foundation, on its part, offers music and basketball courses to teach values, offer healthy activities and prevent drug use. Regarding the work of the JUCONI Foundation, the School Director in the Pedro Vicente Maldonado educational unit considers JUCONI's work as fundamental in a highly insecure sector, and with serious violence, drug use and trafficking issues. The workshops on drug prevention, aimed at almost 150 teachers, were very helpful, and led teachers to reflect on their behaviour on this issue.

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

Three projects reported on this outcome. In Cambodia, project *QZA-18/0159-256-259 MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development,* report results assessed at EAT-score level 3 after first phase of implementation. In the 18 participating project villages, the community leaders have increased their capacity in conflict intervention, mediation, and resolution. Most disputes were related to natural resources – illegal logging, forestland encroachment, and sometimes to domestic violence. For instance, in 2020, eight cases were completely solved by these community leaders. The community leaders were confident in leading their members who were affected by the land conflict to meet with involved local authorities to motivate land dispute resolution successfully. The community leaders used “do no harm” and rights-based approaches to influence the local authorities to respect the rights of local people and solved problems of land disputes in a peaceful and respectful manner. It is reported that the contribution of women and youth in leadership has made an important contribution in conflict resolution and land- and natural resource management at village level. They promoted collective

leadership and were important in building trust among community members and other stakeholders.

In the State of Palestine, the project *QZA-18/0159-548-551 DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU),* implemented by the Palestine Bible Society (PBS), after second project period, has obtained results assessed with high EAT-scores reaching level 4. The project has been working on the long-term goal of peaceful coexistence in Jerusalem, but for this project phase, the focus has been on coexistence between Christians and Muslims in East Jerusalem. The project has promoted non-violent coexistence that has led to the advancement and strengthening of Christian – Muslim relations. The evaluation states that JUU and PBS has done a great groundwork of helping many civil society actors in East Jerusalem get out of their denial and realize and admit that there are issues between Christians and Muslims. Changing the fact that Christians do have many biases against Muslims is not done overnight. This is a result of centuries of being a minority and a struggle to survive as one. It has also been strategic to improve the Muslim/Christian relations and appear unified in the face of the Israeli Jews. The last two years there has been shift in Christian – Muslim relations with a decreased level of tensions and violence. Last year, new organisations picked up the theme of the project and have carried out two large community initiatives in the city – one in October and one in December 2021. These initiatives have never happened before between Christians and Muslims. On many occasions Christian and Muslim visit have sent greetings to religious celebrations and participated in joint meetings (Eid, Christmas, Iftar, Ramadan). More meetings between the two groups started taking place in different settings and locations across the city. The project has produced an influential magazine which emphasise the contribution of both religions to the city of Jerusalem, and the need for freedom of religion and belief. The project has produced 20 editions distributed 104 000 copies. JUU have also worked with certain target schools in East Jerusalem with peace education, and with Muslim and Christian Civil Society groups.

In Pakistan, the project *QZA-18/0159-535-537 NMS-Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement Project,* after completion of first project period has obtained results assessed with EAT-scores level 3. The project is implemented by Center for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement. It has provided the provided immediate relief and preventive measures to the victims of discrimination on the basis of gender, race and religion in Pakistan through activities of legal aid, shelter support, skill-based training for women, awareness raising and advocacy. Legal aid provision has been given in 164 cases. The legal interventions had a significant positive impact in the reduction of pre-trial detentions in criminal cases. The legal aid provided to the prisoners increased their chances of receiving a fair trial. The prisoners incarcerated under blasphemy allegations, reported better attitude and behaviour of prison staff towards them due to regular jails visits of project staff and lawyers. Although the government has placed these detainees under high security alert and visitation of these victims is not easy, CLAAS's Lawyers deputed to represent these survivors in courts were able to meet each one of them. Through these jail visits, CLAAS were able to ensure that clients were kept up to date with their case and could actively participate in their defence despite being incarcerated. These visits also boosted the morale of the clients and affirm their trust that they were being taken care of. In addition, 323 women and 219 men (total of 542) were sensitised on GBV, and 83 cases reported and handled. Shelter and rehabilitation services provision for 121 women and 51 minors. The project identified women from the Marginalised community as crucial stakeholders who required specific intervention. The temporary refuge provided the much-needed assurance to the survivors that they were safe and well protected. It provided them the essential aspect of protection and resources which enabled these survivors and their children to recover from the violence, to rebuild their self-esteem and to take steps to reclaim their freedom and dignity. Through this project CLAAS was also able to reach out to 37 people from the transgender community and include them in their awareness program. This

collaboration has increased their potential in addressing diverse issues and making this platform more inclusive and diverse.

Analysis

The EAT-score for the thematic area Peaceful Coexistence for the 12 projects ending in 2021 is 3.64. This is higher than the average aggregated EAT-score of 3.48 for the period 2018-2021 for the total of 28 projects. It is much higher than the baseline score from 2016-1017 and exceeds to a high degree the set target of EAT-score 3.9 for (2018-2022). In 2021, the relatively high EAT-scores are in part attributable to 5 out of 12 larger projects having worked for 2 or 3 project periods obtaining results with EAT-scores ranging from 3 to 5. The remaining 7 projects that had undergone just 1 project period were generally smaller and got lower EAT-scores ranging mostly from 2 to 3, with the exception of one larger project, scoring 4. So generally, speaking the longer time partner have worked on the theme the greater the results. This finding for 2021 is consistent with the findings from previous years. It takes time to build trust, change attitudes, increase cooperation among people, build networks and sustainable community response to create peaceful coexistence that is supported by multiple stakeholders.

Another important aspect to emphasize for the many projects ending in 2021 is the striking fact that 10 out 12 projects address gender-based violence (GBV) (outcome 3.2) either as a main project objective or as a supporting theme, and the results are high and considerable in scope. Peace and (hence GBV), is the theme with the highest average EAT-scores in 2021. 7 out of the 10 projects working on GBV have mobilised and worked with large churches, faith-based-partners and engaged church networks to a large degree at grassroots level, in congregations, mobilised them for addressing GBV in communities and society, ref presentation of selected results for outcome 3.2. This implies that the themes of domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment, in combination with trainings on gender equality and human rights, has really been put on the agenda of many of the large faith-based partners/cooperation churches of Digni members. These mobilised church partners and faith-based-networks are from Ethiopia, Madagascar, Cameroon, Liberia, Ecuador, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Eswatini. The extent of the problem and challenges related to gender-based-violence in the respective contexts are huge, and more effort on this matter is needed. However, the results and thematic focus of GBV in projects ending in 2021 implies that during the period of 2018-2021 important steps have been taken to break the silence, and stigma surrounding the theme of gender-based-violence and that there has been an important mobilisation of the faith-based actors for action, bringing justice, and support to survivors of violence. What is important to note is that the most successful projects on GBV have applied multiple stakeholder approach to working on the theme linking a wide variety of actors together like communities, grassroots organisations, social workers, health facility employees, referral centres, police, the judiciary, local government, schools, etc. Engaging men, religious leaders, community leaders, in addition to working on the agenda to increase gender equality and gender mainstreaming, empowering women to get positions of decision making in projects and communities have been measures that has been emphasized as well in the work on GBV. The relatively high EAT-scores that these GBV projects have gotten is also a sign that faith-based actors are relevant, and important key agents of change when it comes to addressing and combatting domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, sexual and gender-based violence, and that this work needs to continue.

The two projects that worked on Outcome 3.4 which received earmarked funding for Freedom of Religion and Belief is presented and reported on in 5. Earmarked funding.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

One of the GBV projects that ended in 2021 have reported on results related to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This is the project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, *QZA-18/0159-359-362 NPM CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC.* This project was implemented by the local partner Christian Action for Aid and Development (ACAD) and the results were assessed with EAT-score 3 after first project phase. The project reports that 31 699 individuals were sensitised on gender equality and GBV issues. This has resulted in reduced stigma towards women victims of SGBV. Before, women were rejected from communities for crimes that others had committed on them. Now, they are defended, and they get help. SGBV cases reported and handled increased from 189 in the beginning of the project to 2 069 in 2021, which is about 4 % more than the target set for the end of the project period. More than 2704 women victims of SGBV received medical psychosocial assistance. Most of them were well received in their communities afterwards and 969 are documented reunified with family and partners, something that was not possible few years ago. The communities have also changed their attitudes towards the offenders in terms of support because of increased knowledge about their situation.

3.4 Environmental Stewardship

Overall goal: Target groups exercise responsible stewardship of the environment		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	8	2,95
Results 2018	4	3,04
Results 2019	3	3,00
Target 2020**	N/A	3,20
Results 2020	2	3,00
Results 2021	6	2,54
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	15	2,76
Target 2022**	N/A	3,30
**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017* ***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*		

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 4, Environmental Stewardship, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 2,54						
		Output			Outcome			Impact
Goal 4 – Environmental Sustainability	**6**							

Basis

6 projects ending in 2021, from 3 different member organisations, reported results on environmental stewardship as a thematic area, of which 4 were located in Africa, 1 in Asia and 1 in South America. 1 project have finalized its third and final period, while 5 projects have currently embarked upon their next project period starting 2022. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 5.4 million, or 3.8 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the project covered areas such as environmental education/ training (3 projects), agricultural development (2 projects), environmental policy and administrative management (2 projects), Livestock (1 project) and Agricultural education/training (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 achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	2
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	2
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	2
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	0
Total # of entries:	**6**

Overview over projects

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	3	10%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Madagascar	Third	2019 - 2021	2	14%	Ended
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	4	15%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	2	50%	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	Cambodia	First	2019 - 2021	3	40%	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-608-610	NLM-•Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE	Ethiopia	First	2020 - 2021	4	90%	Second period started 2022

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):

In Ethiopia (QZA-18/0159-290-293 Project NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project) pastoralist communities have increased and diversified the production of vegetables to balance diet, increase income and reduce food insecurity. Prior to project intervention, project participants had little or no knowledge of vegetables production and could only generate 60 quintal per hectare on average. Upon project closure project participants produce on average 150 quintal per hectare and the price of the vegetables is very attractive. Livestock health have also improved after comprehensive livestock vaccination campaigns (8666 livestock in 2021) leading to reduced livestock morbidity/mortality, increased milk production (from 2 litres to 2.5 litres per day per cow) and increased food security for a total of 87 households. (Outcome 4.1)

Initiated waste management initiatives in Ginir town in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia, (QZA-18/0159-608-610 NLM-Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE) has contributed to a cleaner town with aware citizens by making waste a resource instead of a problem. The introduction of donkey carts collecting and disposing waste for money has become small-scale business opportunities. Because of project efforts, new waste disposal sites, operated by service personnel, has been prepared by the town municipality. The donkey carts are disposing the wastes to these sites and personnel ensure that disposals are done according to certain guidelines. In addition, 30 trash boxes have been installed around the town and in the local hospital. Weekly sanitation campaigns have been initiated from the town kebeles for inhabitants of the town.

Local partners and communities implement environmentally friendly measures (Outcome 4.2):

Projects in Ethiopia, Ecuador, Madagascar and Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-290-293 Project NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project, QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil , QZA-18/01599-446-453 NMS – Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program, QZA-18/0159-418-422 NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia, QZA-18/0159-256-259 MA-Empowering communities for resource

governance and community development) have in the period 2018-2021 trained and sensitised in total 7 531 persons in practices on sustainable agricultural production and climate change adaptation. (Outcome 4.2). As a result, 2 938 farmers have adopted climate smart agricultural methods, 275 persons benefitting from sustainable energy sources and 68 communities have adopted plans and measures to mitigate deteriorating livelihood conditions.

Project efforts in Guayaqil, Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil) have led to the formation of 23 Community Risk Committees for people to develop skills and to identify and manage the risks they face. The committees also carried out *mingas* (volunteer work) in the community, for example, to clean a water channel together with the Interagua drinking water Company. Also, schools were sponsored, students and teachers were trained, and the school risk plans were reviewed. Risk management capabilities have been generated for events such as landslides, floods caused by rainfall, fires caused by poor electrical connections, and others. The Community Risk Committees coordinate their work with the Municipality, with the fire department, ECU 911, and the National Secretariat for Risk Management.

In Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-256-259 MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development) training of villagers in natural resource management and protection have mobilized community organisations and networks to defend their rights and demand authorities to solve problems of land and natural resources. A total of 31 cases of land and natural resources issues have been demanded to be addressed by the village organisations and community network and solved by the local authority. 23 of these cases were specifically intervened by the Prey Lang community network. These cases include timber illegal exportation from Prey Lang area, forestland encroachment, land grabs and use of wildlife hunting weapons. An important result from the resolution of these cases is that it has brought community networks to be more empowered and strengthened. 6 out of 11 communities have been the most active and effective in defending and protecting their natural resources. It is the communities with community forests and community fisheries. This work has led to a process of continuation of strengthen of networks and sharing experience from one village to another and increasing mobilisation. (Outcome 4.2)

Analysis

In the period 2018-2021 the sample of final year reporting projects on environment is 15 out of 74 projects in total. Six projects are reporting on environment in 2021, which is a significant portion (40 %) of the total of 15 projects registered on environment.

The 6 projects in the 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's reporting projects (2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020) 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 represent a key area in project interventions.

The average result score of reporting projects on environment in 2021 is 2.54 (lower outcome level). Compared to baseline (2.95) and results reported in 2019 and 2020 (3.0), results from 2021 stand out as with lower-level results achievement. Including reported result from 2021, the accumulated result (adjusted for expenditure) from the past four years 2018-2021 is 2.76, below

the estimated target both for 2020 at 3.20 and set target for 2022 at 3.30. This shows that reported results for this thematic are stabilising below target.

To identify the reasons for the result decline in 2021, it is necessary to look at different aspects affecting the score. There are relatively few projects (15 projects) in the total sample of reporting project from 2018 to 2021. The other thematic areas have 24 reporting project or more in the total sample. In effect, each reporting project under environment have the potential to impact the accumulated score significantly. Adding to this, two of the lowest scoring projects (QZA-18/0159-418-422 NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia and QZA-18/01599-446-453 NMS – Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program) in the 2021 sample, represent 54 % of the total funding on environment. These two projects have struggled to capture and verify results towards project objectives. This is in part due to weak results-based management design and a poor monitoring and evaluation system, leading to difficulties in tracking performance. In addition, the project in Madagascar was subject to funding freeze in 2020-2021 and in Ethiopia the project was subject to political instability and violence in the period of the project, hindering sound project follow-up, monitoring and consolidation of results. If these two projects are exempted from the scoring sample, the accumulated result for 2018-2021 would increase from 2.76 to 3.07, close to the set target for this thematic area.

Comparing 2018-2021 accumulated results on environment with other thematic areas, some trends are starting to become evident. Although not entirely consistent, there seems to be a correlation between the accumulated amount of funding used and the average level of scoring. Of the 74 projects in sample, only 15 are reporting on environment. In terms of funding, environment make up only 5 % of the total funding in the sample, lowest of the 6 thematic areas. Environment has also the lowest score (2.76), whereas civil society, with the highest proportion (27 %) of funding, has also the highest accumulated score at 3.54. Although this comparison can be challenged, partly due the different focus and feature of the two thematic areas, and due to Digni's partners' general focus and identity as civil society builders, it nevertheless draws attention to a general observation that the thematic areas with most funding tend to produce the highest aggregated results and vice versa. It can, however, be argued that this correlation is not only a matter of funding, but also relates to the focused competence and capacity enabled through funding. As seen in previous years' analyses, integral projects as opposed to thematic focused projects show a vague tendency to lower-level results achievement. Out of the 15 projects in the sample from 2018-2021, only four projects achieved score at 4 (higher outcome) for Environmental Stewardship. Two of those four projects had allocated more than 75 % of the budget on environment. On the opposite side, three out of four projects with the lowest score (2, output level) had allocated 14 % or less on environment. Coinciding with this observation is also the fact that projects with the lowest scoring and projects with highest scoring on environment have similar level scoring on other thematic areas. As exemplified in the 2021-sample, the two low scoring projects in Ethiopia and Madagascar (QZA-18/0159-418-422 NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia and QZA-18/01599-446-453 NMS – Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program) both report limitations on project management and monitoring and evaluation systems, causing difficulties to track and verify project performance in general. In both projects, EAT-scores on other thematic areas are also low. This reveals that the achieved scoring in general is closely related to the quality of the project, in planning, structure, management and monitoring and evaluation systems, not necessarily to the funding level of the specific thematic area.

In summary, analysing the collected data on environment from the past four years lead us to some key observations. Compared to other thematic areas in the Digni portfolio, there are relatively few projects reporting on Environmental Stewardship. Each project thus affects the average score

significantly. There are some indications that projects with proportionally less focus on environment struggle to achieve high-level results, but this often coincides with reported problems related to project management and monitoring and evaluation systems. Projects with low-level results on environment report generally low performance on other thematic areas as well.

3.5 Quality Education

Overall goal: Learners in target areas acquire relevant education of high quality		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	23	3,22
Results 2018	13	3,74
Results 2019	5	4,07
Target 2020**	N/A	3,35
Results 2020	1	4,00
Results 2021	10	2,87
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	29	3,43
Target 2022**	N/A	3,50

**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017*
***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 5, Quality Education, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 2,87				
		Output		Outcome		Impact
Goal 5 – Quality Education	**10**					

Basis

10 projects ending in 2021, from 6 different member organizations, reported results on quality education as a thematic area. Of these, 6 were in Africa, 3 in Asia and 1 in South America. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 37.1 million, or about 26 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample. In terms of project focus, the projects covered areas such as education policy and administrational management (2 projects), education facilities and training (2 projects), early childhood education (1 project), primary education (5 projects), basic life skills for youth and adults (3 projects), and vocational training (3 projects).

The projects primarily address SDG #4 on Quality Education.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	
# of projects achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	3
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	6
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	1
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	0
Total # of entries:	**10**

Overview over projects

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	3	30 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Madagascar	Third	2019 - 2021	3	1 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	Bangladesh	Second	2016 - 2021	2	13 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	4	15 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-103-105	HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education	Nepal	Second	2018 - 2021	3	85 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-506-507	NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB	Bhutan	Second	2019 - 2021	3	20 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	2	10 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	Liberia	First	2016 - 2021	3	65 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-296-297	NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project	Ethiopia	First	2018 - 2021	3	95 %	Second period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	Sierra Leone	First	2018 - 2021	2	35 %	Ended

Selected Results

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

Nine out of the ten projects have been working intentionally with existing schools and structures to improve the quality of education. Most of the projects provide capacity building for teachers and other employees or volunteers connected to the schools in a combination with other measures to improve physical access to schools, inclusion and a child-friendly learning environment. In some areas the projects have contributed towards physical infrastructure of schools in partnership with local authorities, while the focus has been more on capacity building in other areas.

The Mission Alliance program in Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil) has assisted public schools to fulfil their obligation to provide quality education for all, including children with disabilities. Together with local partners, it has improved the infrastructure of a total of 18 public schools, by improving conditions for physical access as well as providing equipment for inclusive education. On average, a total of 220 students with disabilities per year have now access to improved education, due to project activities. It has further provided specialized care in health, motor skills, psychology and therapy to children with disabilities from the most vulnerable families. Part of the intervention has been to train 604 persons, mostly teachers, but also some staff from the departments of student counselling and school administrations in these schools, on issues related to quality education and special educational needs. The trained teachers have followed the trainings, shared experience, and changes have been noted in their pedagogical practices. Participation of volunteers and participation of parents in work groups were successfully used as strategy to promote the rights of children with disabilities in the schools. The capacity building of the families with children with disabilities has empowered 460 families and resulted in some of them implementing actions to defend the rights of people with disabilities and carry out claiming actions with educational institutions

One of NLM's projects in Ethiopia, Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project (QZA-18/0159-296-297) has provided three schools, with more than 13 000 students enrolled, with improved teaching and learning environment. Two of the schools can document improved student performance. From having no extracurricular activities there have been established seven different school clubs, with different target groups and focus areas.

In Bhutan, lack of schooling continues to be a major cause of poverty and isolation of children with and without disabilities. Inadequate education and marketable occupational training for children and adolescents with disabilities results in a lack of opportunities for future personal development, increasing their marginalisation and vulnerability. During its three-year intervention Normisjon's project (QZA-18/0159-506-507 NOR-Organisation Development Project – DPAB) gave 97 persons with disabilities the opportunity to pursue formal education in central schools.

Communities support the right to education for all (Outcome 5.2):
The right to mother tongue education is part of the country policy in Ethiopia. In the project area of one of NLM's projects (QZA-18/0159-290-293 NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP)) this has not been available due to shortage of resources such as skilled teachers, textbooks and financial resources at local level. The project developed local teaching material in Tsemako and gave training on how to conduct mother tongue teaching. Through mother tongue-based literacy classes 80 pupils (50M/30F) in the two target *kebeles* (ward/neighbourhoods) learnt how to write and read.

One project in Madagascar (QZA-18/0159-446-453 NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II) has provided a literacy program where 1 086 farmers completed the course during the program period. The same program trained 230 parent and teachers' associations. These efforts have resulted in an increased number of people using mobile phones and registering their new-born children at the communes to get birth certificate. More people are also taking responsibility in the communities. For example, local FANILO (the development branch within the Malagasy Lutheran Church) committee members have become full-time mobilisers in local NGOs, and one of them have become a district chief in his area. In addition, 950 more children in the target areas have been sent to school and the number of school dropouts has decreased.

In Bangladesh, the Salvation Army project (QZA-18/0159-55-59 FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development) has worked with Parent Teachers Associations and School Management Committees in 11 primary schools on roles, responsibilities, governance policies, advocacy and networking and children's rights. Among the results from these efforts, there has have been advocacy initiatives to improve the situation for marginalised families and students. One such initiative has been to make it possible for marginalised families to claim subsidy from the local government for educational related costs.

Learners trained in vocational skills are employed or self-employed (Outcome 5.3):
The project in Bhutan (QZA-18/0159-506-507 NOR-Organisation Development Project – DPAB) has provided employment opportunities for people with disabilities through facilitating entrepreneurial training to establish their own businesses. 29 women and 39 men with disabilities were employed through this intervention. The local partner organisation, Disabled Persons Association of Bhutan has a positive reputation and have shown that facilitation can include people with disabilities in both education and the labour market.

Analysis

In all the projects above, quality education is one of several project components. Three of the projects report only on quality education and civil society (mandatory for all Digni-funded projects). Two, QZA-18/0159-103-105 HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education and QZA-18/0159-506-507 NOR-Organisation Development Project – DPAB receive higher scores for their civil society interventions than for the education

components. The third, QZA-18/0159-296-297, NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project, received the same score for civil society as for quality education. One large country program in Ecuador (QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil) has reported towards all six thematic areas, and one smaller project in Madagascar reported towards five thematic areas.

For 2021 the only project receiving a score at level four or higher, only spent 15 % of the accounts on quality education. This project (QZA-18/0159-290-293 NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP)) is among one of the smaller projects in the Digni portfolio but has received a high score across all thematic areas with a weighted average of 3,85. It reports towards 4 different thematic areas, Civil Society, Good Health, Environmental Sustainability and Quality Education.

The average thematic score for quality education, adjusted for expenditure, is 2.87 for 2021. This result is significantly lower than the 2019 result of 4.07 and 2020 result of 4.00[6]. As described in chapter 2. Aggregated Results Score, the Covid-19 pandemic has had implications for implementation of projects both in 2020 and 2021. As only one project in the 2020-sample reported towards education as thematic area, we did not see these effects on the final results in 2020. However, we know that school closures have had a major effect on access to education globally, both in 2020 and 2021. For several of the projects in the 2021-sample the EAT-scores have been affected by challenges in verifying results, due to, and in some cases intensified by, the pandemic.

Three of the four projects that have received EAT-scores at level 5 (impact) for quality education in the 2018-2021-sample have spent more than half their accounts on education, while two of them spent 20 % and 25 % respectively. A similar picture can be seen at the lower end of the scorings. With only one exception, all the projects with allocations less than 20 % their budget for interventions towards quality education, received scores of 2. However, we also have one project (NLM-Bena Tsemai in Ethiopia) that allocated only 15 % of a small grant for quality education and received a score of 4 (high outcome level). In the 2021-sample, two of the projects that received EAT-scores at level 2 (output) and 3 (outcome) respectively operate in very complex contexts in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In these projects it has been challenging to get good follow up on long-term commitments from government structures and the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the possibilities to achieve planned results. Both these two projects, as well as two projects that also were scored at level 2 (output), show weak monitoring and documentation of results. Such projects generally received a low score (output level 2, or outcome level 3) for the other thematic areas they report on as well. This indicates that the achieved level of EAT-scores for Quality Education as thematic area may be more closely related to the general quality of the projects (planning, structure, management and monitoring and evaluation) than to funding levels of the specific thematic area.

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 but has been confirmed by the highest scoring projects both in 2020 and 2021. From the total sample 2018-2021, we see that there is only one of the projects with scores at 4 (high outcome level) and 5 (impact level) that work exclusively on Quality Education and Civil Society. Most projects with high scores on education, include project components on at least two other thematic areas, in addition to civil society.

[6] For 2020, the one reporting project received a score of 4,00

Comparing 2018-2021 accumulated results on quality education with other thematic areas, we recognise some trends. Of the 74 projects that have submitted final reports from 2018 to 2021, 29 have reported results within quality education. In terms of funding, quality education makes up almost 20 % of the total funding across all projects, the third largest thematic area after civil society and good health. Civil society has the highest average thematic score (EAT), adjusted for expenditure, as well as the highest proportion of funding. Education is in "third place" both when it comes to the average thematic score (3.43), as well as the proportion of funding (20 %). There is however not a one-to-one relationship between these factors, as can be seen from the fact that Peaceful Coexistence had the highest average EAT-score at 3.64 for the 2021-sample, with only 13 % of the total budget.

3.6 Economic Empowerment

Overall goal: Women and men in target areas are economically empowered		
Average thematic score, according to Digni's empowerment assessment tool (EAT), adjusted for expenditure	# of projects	EAT score
Baseline*	22	3,02
Results 2018	8	3,11
Results 2019	6	3,78
Target 2020**	N/A	3,20
Results 2020	2	3,75
Results 2021	3	3,04
Aggregated results score 2018-2021	19	3,30
Target 2022**	N/A	3,30
**Baseline is based on assessment of projects ending 2016-2017* ***Targets 2020 and 2022 are based on assessment/analysis of projects ending in 2018-2019 and 2018-2021 respectively*		

Presented graphically on a scale, the 2021 results for thematic area 6, Economic Empowerment, are:

Impact score	# of entries	Level of results: 3,04				
		Output		Outcome		Impact
Goal 6 – Economic Empowerment	**8**					

Basis

8 projects ending in 2021, from 4 different member organisations, reported results on economic empowerment as a thematic area. 6 of them located in Africa, 1 in Asia and 1 in Latin America. The accumulated accounts (Norad-share) amounted to approximately NOK 12.1 million, or about 8.5 % of the total accounts of the projects in the sample for 2021. In terms of project focus, the projects covered areas such as informal/semi-formal loan and savings and income generating activities schemes (6 projects), agricultural development and livestock (1 project). Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development (1 project).

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 achieveing score level 1 (output):	0
# of projects achieveing score level 2 (output > outcome):	1
# of projects achieveing score level 3 (outcome):	6
# of projects achieveing score level 4 (outcome > impact):	1
# of projects achieveing score level 5 (impact):	0
Total # of entries:	**8**

Overview over projects

QZA-number	Project name	Country	Period	Project Period	EAT score	% of project accounts	Comment
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	Ecuador	Second	2016 - 2021	3	15 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	Madagascar	Third	2019 - 2021	3	28 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	Mali	Second	2017 - 2021	4	20 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	Ethiopia	Third	2018 - 2021	3	30 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	Ethiopia	Second	2018 - 2021	3	30 %	Third period started 2022
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	First	2017 - 2021	2	15 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	Eswatini	First	2019 - 2021	3	40 %	Ended
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	Cambodia	First	2019 - 2021	3	10 %	Second period started 2022

Selected Results

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

In all the sample projects, economic empowerment is one of several project components.

In Mali (QZA-18/0159-559-561 NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region), a project report 1 949 participants trained in income generating activities, and 51 functioning and self-sustained loan and saving groups/associations have been formed, with 1 903 women and 46 men. All the 51 groups were able to have in capital plus interest an amount of 32 038 995 CFA[7] francs in savings plus interest in addition to the subsidized amount which amounts to 17 300 000 CFA francs. The total working capital of the 51 groups including (46) women's groups and (5) youth groups is 49 338 995 CFA francs. All these groups were able to triple or quadruple the amount financed. In a survey carried out in 2021, 69 % of the women questioned say that they have been able to create new activities for the first time, 31 % say that they have been able to diversify their initial activities. All the women from the survey are satisfied because they have been able to save, they provide for themselves and their children and have contributed a lot to family responsibilities. These results have led to women having made a significant contribution to keeping children in school by paying for school supplies and costs and communities are better organised with concerted and coordinated management.

In Ecuador QZA-18/0159-182-189 MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil also report on how the project has economically empowered youth, women, and their families in project area by contributing to the formation of individual and associative micro-enterprises mainly in shoemaking, catering, sewing, and beauty care. The work was implemented by two local partners, Huancavilca Foundation and the Accion Solidaria Foundation. The evaluation states that in total, 10 entrepreneurship associations have been formed (approx. two associations per year), with about 12 members each, of which the vast majority are young women. However, in absolute terms, the direct beneficiaries are about one hundred women and young people (10 people per 10 associations). All are still in operating, but due to the pandemic they have limited their activity. In addition, individually, about 20 people used the training courses and set up a business. One started making glass and aluminum windows, another made and sold hair accessories like hairbands and headbands. Micro-enterprises were often born from other projects, for example, from the formation of the Risk Committee, where its members have been trained in entrepreneurship.

7. 1 West African CFA-franc = 0,0015 Euro (29.06.2022)

According to the technical advisor of this thematic area, MANE does not work on the issue of microfinance since the associations are very weak for this; only two or three associations were able to access a microcredit.

Another example could be given from Cambodia (QZA-18/0159-256-259 MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development). Here the report also explains how the annual incomes of the households have increased due to trainings from the project. Within the duration of the 3-year project period, it is estimated that there are 999 households in the target villages that have improved their livelihood. Households' annual incomes increased due to increasing alternative livelihood activities. In 2020, EHE through its annual income survey of 320 households estimated an annual income average of the amount of US$ 600 to US$ 690 per household. At the end of 2021, the local partner EHE conducted the annual income survey of 354 households based on 13 target villages and found/estimated that each households' average income ranged from US$ 750 to US$ 1 450, representing a considerable increase

Analysis

The average weighted EAT-score in 2021 of 3.04 on the outcome of economic empowerment is a bit lower than in 2020, with two projects in the sample obtaining a score of 3.75. Over time we see the average is very much the same. Out of the eight projects reporting on "economic empowerment" in 2021, all of them (8) report on outcome 6.1 (Women and men in target areas have improved their livelihood), corresponding with SDGs 3.1-3.5 and 3.8. 9 projects report results related to outcome 2.2 (Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health and households), corresponding with SDGs 1, 2 and 8. In addition, one of the projects also report on Outcome 6.2 (Rights-holders are accessing financial services)

As has been noted in previous reports, Economic Empowerment is seldom the main focus of the projects, which serves as an explanation to 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 2020 and do not represent any new findings in this aspect. The eight projects in this sample have all defined economic empowerment between 10-30 % of the budget allocation.

Another finding is that many of the results reported on economic empowerment are closely connected to environmental stewardship under sustainable agricultural production and animal husbandry, where new climate smart agricultural methods is the objective.

To organise participants 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 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. Empowerment of women in many contexts depends on women having an income, thus enabling women to participate in decision making context both within the household and at community level. 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 projects. 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 28 projects ended in 2021. We have chosen 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 years' have been strengthened or weakened.

What we have seen from studying the baseline, as well as the 2018-2021 data sets, is that: the projects with the largest total budgets achieve better 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.

Finding 1: The projects with the largest budgets tended to achieve the best results:
In Chapter 2. Aggregated Results Score, we have made an analysis of the entire sample of projects ending between 2018 and 2021. The same table is presented here in this chapter.

Table 8: Average aggregated EAT-scores compared with size of project budgets 2018-2021.

	Number of projects	Total accounts	Average project EAT score
Total accounts less than NOK 5 million	41	104 059 121	3,16
Total accounts NOK 5 to 10 million	22	149 586 588	3,31
Total accounts more than NOK 5 million	11	195 882 750	3,50
Total accounts (74 projects ended 2018-2021)	74	449 528 459	3,41

Based on the assessment made in chapter 2, there seem to be a correlation between budget size and results. In the period from 2018-2021, 11 projects/programs had budgets above 10 million during the project period, these have obtained an average EAT-score of 3.5. These 11 projects are responsible for spending 43.6 % of the total budget[8]. There are 41 small projects with total budgets under 5 million NOK with average EAT-score of 3.16. The difference in results between these two categories of projects is considerable.

However, as noted in 2020 as well, projects with larger budgets had been implemented for more years, compared to the projects with smaller budgets. Out of 33 projects that reported after first period in the 2018-2021-sample, 21 had a total budget size below NOK 5 million. This confirms our previous observation, that projects recently established have lower budgets. One hypothesis mentioned in the 2018-report is that projects are initially launched on a modest budget and are

[8] NOK 195 882 750 million

gradually scaled up through the project phases if results are good – or discontinued if the results are poor.

Finding 2: There seems to be no obvious correlation between results achieved and the level of expenditure per direct and indirect beneficiaries in the project

Table 9: Projects ended 2021, sorted by total project cost

QZA number	Project	Thematic scores	Total project costs	Period	Years	Direct Beneficiaries (DB)	Indirect Beneficiaries (IB)	Cost per DB/year	Cost per IB/year
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	3,45	**44 464 393**	Second	6	63 391	206 550	117	36
QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	2,85	**25 020 198**	First	6	2 500	36 531	1668	114
QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	3,15	**14 803 976**	First	6	105 053	335 297	23	7
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	2,30	**11 795 493**	Second	4	11 755	2 351	251	1254
QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	4,80	**8 631 691**	Second	5	6 853	41 118	252	42
QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	2,63	**8 262 058**	Second	6	32 325	145 463	43	9
QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	2,00	**8 235 105**	First	4	725	4 275	2840	482
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	2,59	**7 962 276**	Third	3	48 305	204 152	55	13
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	3,00	**7 256 508**	First	5	2 543	1 144 814	571	1
QZA-18/0159-548-551	DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	4,00	**5 060 240**	Second	4	18 500	21 790	68	58
QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	3,00	**4 593 483**	Third	4	26 596	106 384	43	11
QZA-18/0159-406-409	NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders	3,90	**4 234 300**	Third	4	40 943	660 000	26	2
QZA-18/0159-412-414	NMS-Living for a better story	2,00	**3 680 077**	First	4	12 198	36 594	75	25
QZA-18/0159-101-102	HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy	3,00	**3 326 194**	Second	6	2 061	111	269	4994
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	2,80	**2 746 619**	First	3	149	7 429	6145	123
QZA-18/0159-535-537	NMS-Legal Aid Assitance and Settlement Project	3,00	**2 580 511**	First	4	970	4 850	665	133
QZA-18/0159-73	FA-Capacity Building for Community Engagement and Development Across Africa	3,00	**2 470 354**	First	4	867	-	712	n/a
QZA-18/0159-103-105	HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education	3,15	**1 958 483**	Second	4	450	-	1088	n/a
QZA-18/0159-506-507	NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB	4,60	**1 787 170**	Second	3	2 001	6 003	298	99
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	3,85	**1 737 970**	Second	4	2 365	8 640	184	50
QZA-18/0159-574-576	MA-Empowering youth as agents of change in rural Cambodian communities	3,00	**1 695 130**	First	3	1 161	27 815	487	20
QZA-18/0159-435-436	NMS-Tamar Campaign Project	3,00	**1 423 758**	First	4	685	5 714	520	62
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	3,00	**1 306 905**	First	3	10 535	5 777	41	75
QZA-18/0159-504	NOR-Doing development differently- Cluster-approach for social change	3,00	**1 137 585**	First	4	1 043	13 478	273	21
QZA-18/0159-647-649	MA-Improving Access to WASH in Rural Communities	2,00	**1 054 616**	First	1	11 298	-	93	n/a
QZA-18/0159-353	NPM-Desarrollo Organizacional de FES	3,00	**999 090**	First	4	131	3 530	1907	71
QZA-18/0159-608-610	NLM-•Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE	4,00	**808 012**	First	2	26 948	890 103	15	0
QZA-18/0159-296-297	NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project	3,00	**707 737**	First	4	13 500	34 450	13	5
Averages		**3,11**	**6 419 283**			**15 923**	**141 186**	**669**	**308**
Totals			**179 739 932**						

For the projects that ended in 2021, Digni sees no apparent correlation between total expenditure and average reach and costs per direct and indirect beneficiary.

On average the projects that ended in 2021 reached 15 923 direct beneficiaries and 141 186 indirect beneficiaries, at an annual average cost of NOK 669 and NOK 308 per beneficiary respectively. The four projects with average weighted scores above 4, spent from NOK 15 to NOK 298 per direct beneficiary.

The lack of correlation between results and per beneficiary expenditure, has been observed in 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.

Finding 3: No simple correlation between results achieved and the voluntary contribution to the project:

Table 10: Projects ended 2021, sorted by thematic score

QZA number	Project	Thematic scores	Volunteers 2021	Hours contributed 2021	Total project costs	Period	Cost per DB/year	Cost per IB/year
QZA-18/0159-559-561	NMS-Integrated Program, Mopti region	4,80	212	5 426	8 631 691	Second	252	42
QZA-18/0159-506-507	NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB	4,60	77	9 240	1 787 170	Second	298	99
QZA-18/0159-608-610	NLM-•Clean and Safe Environment Project – CASE	4,00	106	6 784	808 012	First	15	0
QZA-18/0159-548-551	DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	4,00	62	1 900	5 060 240	Second	68	58
QZA-18/0159-406-409	NMS-Reinforcement of Capacity of Leaders	3,90	358	-	4 234 300	Third	26	2
QZA-18/0159-290-293	NLM-Bena Tsemai – Pastoral Community Development Project (BT-PCDP).	3,85	12	99	1 737 970	Second	184	50
QZA-18/0159-182-189	MA-Community Development Project, Guayaquil	3,45	80	120	44 464 393	Second	117	36
QZA-18/0159-103-105	HP-An Intergrated program on Early Childhood Development and Education	3,15	21	98	1 958 483	Second	1088	n/a
QZA-18/0159-218-221	MA-Integrated Ebola Recover Project	3,15	654	197 568	14 803 976	First	23	7
QZA-18/0159-101-102	HP-Mainstreaming Mental Health in Nepal through Self Advocacy	3,00	0	-	3 326 194	Second	269	4994
QZA-18/0159-535-537	NMS-Legal Aid Assitance and Settlement Project	3,00	0	-	2 580 511	First	665	133
QZA-18/0159-415-417	NMS-Western Ethiopia Women empowerment program	3,00	0	-	4 593 483	Third	43	11
QZA-18/0159-73	FA-Capacity Building for Community Engagement and Development Across Africa	3,00	0	-	2 470 354	First	712	n/a
QZA-18/0159-353	NPM-Desarrollo Organizacional de FES	3,00	0	-	999 090	First	1907	71
QZA-18/0159-504	NOR-Doing development differently- Cluster-approach for social change	3,00	4	-	1 137 585	First	273	21
QZA-18/0159-296-297	NLM-Jigjiga School Capacity Improvement Project	3,00	123	-	707 737	First	13	5
QZA-18/0159-435-436	NMS-Tamar Campaign Project	3,00	12	180	1 423 758	First	520	62
QZA-18/0159-256-259	MA-Empowering communities for resource governance and community development	3,00	11	1 588	1 306 905	First	41	75
QZA-18/0159-574-576	MA-Empowering youth as agents of change in rural Cambodian communities	3,00	3	110	1 695 130	First	487	20
QZA-18/0159-359-362	NPM-CAMPS-PREV: Mental health care to populations affected by war in DRC	3,00	0	-	7 256 508	First	571	1
QZA-18/0159-214-217	MA-Community Integrated Development – Needs Based Education (CIDNEP)	2,85	665	6 650	25 020 198	First	1668	114
QZA-18/0159-544-547	FA-Youth Focused Development, Swaziland	2,80	243	916	2 746 619	First	6145	123
QZA-18/0159-55-59	FA-Community Empowerment for Sustainable Development	2,63	12	12 672	8 262 058	Second	43	9
QZA-18/0159-446-453	NMS-Malagasy Integrated Rural Development Program (phase II)	2,59	854	41 846	7 962 276	Third	55	13
QZA-18/0159-418-422	NMS-Green Livelihood Program in Western Ethiopia (Green LIP)	2,30	338	2 448	11 795 493	Second	251	1254
QZA-18/0159-224-226	MA-Transformation, restoration and community Empowerment (Trace)	2,00	145	7 920	8 235 105	First	2840	482
QZA-18/0159-412-414	NMS-Living for a better story	2,00	20	150	3 680 077	First	75	25
QZA-18/0159-647-649	MA-Improving Access to WASH in Rural Communities	2,00	380	6 884	1 054 616	First	93	n/a
Averages		**3,11**	**157**	**10 807**	**6 419 283**		**669**	**308**
Totals			**4 392**	**302 599**	**179 739 932**			

Digni-funded projects boast considerable contributions from volunteers and other community members. The present sample is no exception from what we have seen in previous years, we have however seen a decrease in volunteer contribution during the pandemic. On average, the projects in the sample mobilized 156 volunteers per project in 2021, contributing 10 807 hours of labour

in 2021. Note that the number of volunteers and hours contributed is reported annually, these numbers do not cover the whole project period.

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 scoring scale, with EAT-scores at 3.15 and 2.59. It does however also show that the Mission Alliance project in Liberia (QZA-18/0159-218-221) with its score of 3.15, by far has the highest number of hours.

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.

3.8 Deviations in Projects Ending 2021

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.

QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 MA-Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County

A project in Liberia (QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 MA-Equitable and sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH, services in Bong County) implemented by The Association of Evangelicals in Liberia (AEL) was ended before planned. The project started its implementation of the project in 2019 and it was scheduled to end in 2023. The project aimed at contributing to ensure equitable access to safe water and sanitation facilities; improve hygiene and sanitation practices in schools and communities to enable development of life-long positive hygiene and sanitation behaviours; and thus support the Ministry of Education in their implementation and sustainability of their education program in Zota district in Bong County. Promotion of community led management of the WASH programs was part of the strategy to obtain sustainability of project results. The project ended prematurely in 2021 due to accountability issues and embezzlement of funds by partner organisation. It has not been possible to carry out an external mid-term evaluation of the project, so the results obtained during the implementation period from 2019-2021 is based on AEL's own reporting of results. However, it may be added that the Mission Alliance in Liberia have regularly visited the project and have observed constructed/improved water wells by the project, as well as visited the communities and schools and observed improvements in sanitation and hygiene practices. The project hardly had any activities going on in 2021 due to the investigation of use of funds, but in 2019 and 2020 the project carried out their activity plans. During those two years the organisation reports that they built/rehabilitated 36 water points in the communities and 9 water points in local schools. In addition, in 2020 a total 6 459 project participants were estimated by partner to be practicing WASH principles.

4 Progress Report on Ongoing Projects

The impact of Covid-19 is far-reaching and touched every area of development effort worldwide. After many years of progress on poverty reduction, healthcare and education, the pandemic set back much of the positive development results. School closures affected more than 1.6 billion[9] learners globally and two decades of global progress towards Universal Health Coverage was brought to a halt. The pandemic affected the projects in our portfolio severely. In 2021, however, the projects started to recover and as we will see later in this section, the progress of the ongoing projects in our portfolio had almost reached pre-pandemic level by the end of the year.

In this section we will give an overview and do a general analysis of the progress of the ongoing projects in Digni's as of December 2021. The assessment is based on financial spending by the projects, Digni's Project Status Reporting Tool, Digni's Global Results Framework, narrative reports from the projects for 2021 and the assessments done by our member organisations.

Progress compared to previous years

In 2021, Digni's portfolio initially consisted of 117 projects including three projects receiving earmarked funding for Strengthening the rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief, and two projects with earmarked funding for Madagascar and Covid-19 Response in Nepal respectively. Of the remaining 112 projects, one was ended before schedule (QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County; Digni project number 10804). This is included in this analysis but will be mentioned under 4.3 Deviations. 28 out of the remaining 111 projects were concluded in 2021. The results from these projects form the basis for the thematic analysis in chapter 3. The following analysis is based on the remaining 85 ongoing projects in 2021.

To monitor implementation of ongoing projects, Digni has devised a system for assessing *progress* in the projects based on assessments carried out by Norwegian member organisations on behalf of their partners and projects. Using the above-mentioned Digni's Project Status Reporting Tool, each member organisation 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.[10]

[9] The World Bank (2022). The state of the global education crisis – a path to recovery. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/416991638768297704/pdf/The-State-of-the-Global-Education-Crisis-A-Path-to-Recovery.pdf

[10] 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.

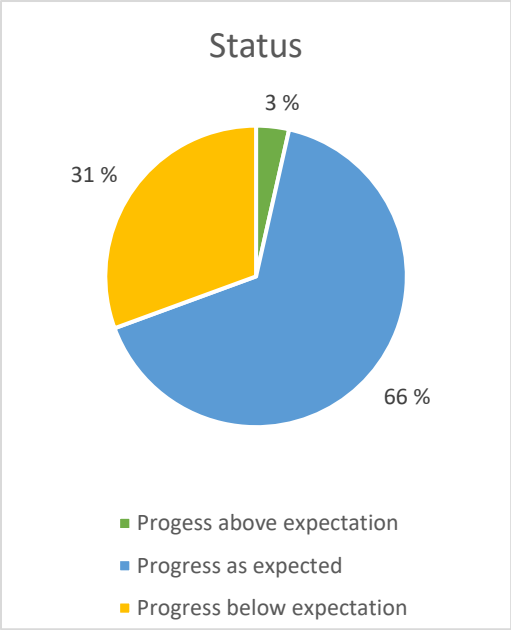


Figure 1: Project Status Reporting Tool 2021

According to the assessments made by members, 3 projects (3%) are progressing above expectation, 56 projects (66%) are progressing as expected, 26 projects (31%) are progressing below expectation.

In sum, 69 % of the ongoing portfolio is considered to progress as expected or better. The corresponding figure for 2020 and 2019 was 45% and 72% respectively. Thus, from this point of view, by the end of 2021, the progress in the projects was almost at pre-Covid-19 level.

The three projects progressing above expectation were supported through two different Norwegian member organisations. The two projects supported through one member organisations progressed above expectations also in 2020, and one of them reported the same status in 2019. This latest project explains the good results by referring to high engagement from churches and other partners while the other project reports on higher activity level and number of people reached than expected. The third project, which is organised as a programme, reports having finalised most of old and ongoing community-based projects as planned, which is remarkable considering the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 26 (or 31 %) projects progressing below expectation are distributed among 12 different Norwegian member organisations. The corresponding figure for 2020 was 57, or 54 %, so there has been a 23 % increase in projects having had the status of "Progresses below expectation" to "Progress as expected" from 2020 to 2021. 7 out of the 26 projects having reported progress below expectation in 2021 had the same status back in 2019. Taking in consideration that the funding of 2 of them have been frozen most of 2021, and 2 others are in Afghanistan and Myanmar respectively, where it has been difficult to carry out activities due to political issues; only 4 projects reported delayed progress from 2019 have the same status in 2021. Disregarding these projects, we can confirm our statement from 2020, that most of the projects running behind schedule had Covid-19 related reasons for the delays.

For 2021, the member organisations provided the following reasons for progress below expectation in the Project Status Reporting Tool:

a) **Covid-19**. Most of the projects that reported progress below expectation referred to the travel and gathering restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic as the reason for the delay in activity implementation.

b) **Political situation.** Five projects reported that political instability followed by national policy change forced them to narrow the scope and/or to downscale their activities. The concerned projects are in Pakistan (QZA-18/0159-459-462 WYC-Parkari Community Development Program); Myanmar (QZA-18/0159-525-526 SAI-Strengthening Human Rights Education and Advocacy and QZA-18/0159-60-63 FA-Integrated Community Livelihood Development); Afghanistan (QZA-18/0159-527-529 UiO-Female Teacher Education Program) and China (QZA-18/0159-586-588 HP- Empowerment of children and young adults in Qinghai).

c) **Technical capacity**. One project in Pakistan (QZA-18/0159-466-469 WYC-Kachhi Community Development Program) lacked capacity in the educational part of the project.

d) **Contextualisation.** One project in China (QZA-18/0159-336-337 NLM-ICDP China) reported being behind schedule because it turned out that the International Child Development Programme (ICDP) concept could not easily be introduced into a Chinese context. So, the project needs time to adapt.

e) **Mismanagement/irregularities**. Four projects reported that their progress was delayed due to suspicion of mismanagement/irregularities followed by corresponding freeze of project funding and/or investigation.

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 organisations. 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

27 of the 57 projects running behind schedule in 2020, were reported to perform as expected or higher in 2021. The Covid-19 outbreak was the main explanation provided by member organisation for being the cause of the delay of project progression in 2020. Therefore, as the countries and communities started reopening after the pandemic, this positive tendency of projects gradually catching up with activities was expected.

However, the pandemic alone cannot explain the low progress in projects as mentioned before. So, the mitigation measures taken by the projects, the partners and the Norwegian member organisations have been a combination of Covid-19 related and other measures. Most of projects have developed digital platforms for meetings, networking, training, and monitoring of activities and follow up of project participants. Activities have also been modified where possible, and some projects have extended the project period to catch up with activities and to get on track. In addition, some projects report having used the Covid-19 time well, by developing new and better systems for project monitoring. Concerning sensitisation, some projects report on having used mass media more actively than before to reach larger audience. This can be traced in the more thorough reports from some of the 28 concluded projects where we observe that sensitising activity have been performed and many projects have achieved good track record at output level, but it has been difficult to follow up the results at outcome level due to different types of restrictions.

Underspending in 2021

This analysis is based on the overview of ordinary projects in "Regnskapsrapport 2021" that contains 111 projects. As mentioned before, one of the projects (QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County) was ended before schedule. Therefore, the project is not part of this analysis, but it will be mentioned separately under "Deviations". Although included in the analysis of the progress of ongoing projects, the three projects with earmarked funding for Strengthening the rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief are also left out in this section. Thus, the following analysis is based on the information from 110 ordinary projects.

Most of the member organisations reported underspending in their projects in 2021. 36 of the 110 projects in the ordinary project portfolio had a negative deviation, i.e., underspent funds, or more than 10 % of their budgets. Of these, 13 projects had high underspending with deviations exceeding 20 %. In 2020, most of the projects with a high underspending reported to have progressed below expectation. This is not the case in 2021; only 7 out of the 13 projects having

reported progress below expectation also had high underspending. For 3 of them, major project activities are workshops, trainings and experience sharing that was impossible to implement due to Covid-19 restrictions; for 2 projects, the funds were frozen the best part of the year due to suspicion of mismanagement; and for 2 projects, activities were scaled down due to political instability.

As many as 14 of the projects reporting a negative deviation exceeding 10 % reported progress "as expected", and in one case even "above expectation". Like our observation in 2020, this still confirms 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.

The accounts show a total deviation of appr. NOK 12 million between the revised budget and the total accounts for the projects in the ordinary portfolio in 2021. However, although many projects can attribute some of the underspending to the Covid-19 pandemic; some to freeze of funding and a few to political instability, these do not present the whole picture. As can be seen from the total accounts, approximately NOK 10 million unused funds were carried over from the ordinary project portfolio in 2020 to 2021 and absorbed in the revised budget in 2021.

At member organisation level, only one organisation had deviations exceeding 20% (SAI). SAI was also one of the two organisations being in the same situation in 2020. This is due to the high underspending in a project in Myanmar (QZA-18/0159-583 SAI-From Hate Speech to Inter-Communal Harmony) that have been severely affected by the 2021 military coup in the country, in addition to the Covid-19 pandemic.

5 Earmarked Funding

In 2021, Digni had earmarked funding for three projects for Strengthening the rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief, one project with an education grant through the Norwegian Embassy in South Africa (covering Madagascar), one project with regional funding Asia for mental health in Nepal, as well as a no-cost extension for Covid-19 respond in Nepal (the grant was received in 2020).

Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief Funding Scheme

Table 11: Accounts projects receiving funding scheme for strengthening the rights of minorities of faith and belief

Rights of Minorities of Faith and Belief	Revised budget 2021 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2021 (NOK)	Deviation % 2021
QZA-18/0159-548-551 DELF-Jerusalem Unites Us (JUU)	1 497 202	1 356 664	-9 %
QZA-18/0159-535-537 NMS-Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement.	1 012 419	1 019 897	1 %
QZA-18/0159-538 NMS-Sat-7 Current affairs	3 482 869	3 391 866	-3 %
Total	**5 992 491**	**5 768 427**	**-4 %**

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 coexistence in Jerusalem, but for this project phase, focus is on coexistence 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 PBS was able to create a strong foundation for peaceful togetherness among the rights holders in East Jerusalem. In 2021, a new coalition of Jerusalem Christian organisations including church leaders, began to meet regularly and proposed an initiative to the JUU requesting them to carry out research mapping all Christian institutes and organisations functioning in the city. Then, this research was shared with the public to show the effectiveness of the Christian community even though they are few in numbers. Also, they wanted to show the public the important role the Christian minority plays in the day-to-day life in the city. This is one of the indications that the Christian community has started to consider the PBS a specialist in reconciliation and coexistence in Jerusalem.

For the last two years, there has been a shift felt in the Christian-Muslim relations in Jerusalem. More meetings started to take place between the two groups, and the JUU has reasons to believe that they are a key reason for this. 6 years ago, when the project started, few would admit that there were severe problems relating to coexistence between Christians and Muslims. Palestinians would rather focus on the Israeli/Palestinian divide and refused seeing the other internal struggles in the community. Now, the local community can identify these issues to a larger extent than before and have obtained some tools to solve their challenges. PBS finally witness many

organisations and individuals talking about the issue, working towards finding solutions and carrying out initiatives

There is no baseline to measure this, but the project has reasons to believe that all the editions of the magazine as well as radio programs, social media and all the other interventions have made a difference. The external evaluation report 2021 also state the following: The implemented project (JUU) was highly relevant and appropriate. The project targeted the conflict driving factors found in the city of Jerusalem, which is the existing divided Palestinian community, the tension found between Muslims and Christians, and the breakdown of social structures.

In 2021, two new organisations picked up the project aim of coexistence and carried out two large community initiatives in the city. The plan is that this will be continued in 2022 and beyond.

The key partners: NEI (Nakhleh El Shiber Institute – a Muslim organisation) and Radio Yaboos have greatly developed through the four years of the project – empowered by the JUU. In the beginning, NEI was slowly developing its structure to become a fully functioning civil society organisation in Jerusalem. The cooperation strengthened the NEI team and the organisation, and today they have become fully independent and functional. At first, many of their contacts opposed them to work with the PBS because it is a Christian organisation. In 2021, the NEI hosted 4 events in Christian organisations and scout clubs, and they also received generous funding from the EU to continue their children work on children rights education and environment related issues.

During 2021, 4 magazines editions were issued. Other initiatives and events started to copy the concept by adopting the name and the concept, which we consider a true success and a ground for sustainability. Examples are “Beit Sahour Unites us”, “Bethlehem Unites Us” etc.

The activities in schools were limited in 2021 due to Covid-19. Hence, the plans of adding more schools and pupils as well as the plans of arranging big events were not possible to carry through.

Through all the activities and events of the project, FORB was a crucial topic – also in 2021 – despite Covid-19 limitations. The JUU has introduced many inhabitants in East Jerusalem for this concept, both school children and adults.

Although the JUU project period now is over, the PBS has been empowered through the project, and the long-term goals of the project will continue to be pursued through NEI, Radio Yabous and with other partners to the JUU. JUU invested so much in these partners during the project years. Most of the project activities ended in 2021, however the project has a small budget for 2022 to finalise wage obligations, as well as complete reports and accounts.

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 intolerance, abuse and violence. The Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement Project (2018/19 -2021) has the following goals which are contributing to the accomplishment of the main objective of the organisation:

- To provide access to justice and safe shelter to those who are most vulnerable (religious minorities, women and children)
- To sensitise and educate young girls, boys, men and women about their rights and to make them effective members of the civil society.

- To empower marginalised and vulnerable communities (religious minorities, women and children) facing discrimination and violence.
- To mobilise 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 internationally recognised Human Rights organisations and public awareness raising on the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups in Pakistan and beyond.

Major results of the project

The following are highlighted results for the project period 2019 – 2021:

- 97% of the women expressed an increased understanding of their legal rights.
- 120 women and 51 minors were provided with shelter.
- Free legal representation given to 233 individuals, including people incarcerated under blasphemy laws.
- Prisoners incarcerated under blasphemy laws reported better attitudes and behaviour of prison staff towards them due to regular jail visits by project staff and lawyers.
- Support provided to 10 family members. This boosted the prisoners' morale and strengthened their hope.
- 17 community awareness raising events were conducted. Topics included legal rights, knowledge about local resources for help, preventative measures and importance of vote and political participation.
- 44 women were given skill-based training in the shelter homes.
- CLAAS organisation was strengthened by policy and procedure manual, procurement procedure, financial software and staff capacity building.
- 37 people from the transgender community were included in the awareness program.

Challenges

Major challenges included shrinking civic space, a surge in religious intolerance, a biased and corrupt police force and the non-existence of safeguards for human rights defenders. In addition, the partner organisation realised during implementation that the project logframe did not fully match the intended results. Combined with the Covid-19 pandemic, this led to challenges in achieving some of the planned results. This includes legislation on forced conversion, protection for blasphemy accused against mob violence and implementation of forced child labour laws. As for lobbying within the human rights movement in Pakistan for legal and political improvements for women and vulnerable minorities, the project has not reached all their goals. However, there continues to be a strong local participation and ownership to the work, which includes collaboration with other stakeholders like the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, National Minority Commission and others.

Other important information

During the project period all NGOs getting foreign donations were required to register with the Economic Affairs Division (EAD). An application was submitted in 2020. CLAAS has also begun the process of registering the staff in the Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI). Due to Covid-19, this process has taken longer than expected, and is believed to be completed by the end of 2022.

Towards the end of 2020, discussion started with the leaders of CLAAS regarding a possible application for a new phase 2022-2024. However, during the last phase of the project it was decided to wait for a year, giving CLAAS the possibility of building more capacity in the organisation to deal with the requirements for case handling. To do this, and to maintain some of the core activities, CLAAS was granted funds from the "extra million" in 2022, and an application for 2023-2025 is currently being prepared.

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

The Current Affairs project is a five-year project with a goal of fostering peaceful coexistence by promoting the rights of minorities of faith and believe in the Middle East and North Africa. 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 characterized by suspicion (if not hostile) to progressive values. The change that has been intended is that society would be characterised by openness and tolerance. Current Affairs sought to see the promotion and protection of 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 MENA to take responsibility for others within and outside their community and in turn, experience rights and protections as supported by their fellow citizens. 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.

Context 2021

2021 has been another challenging year. Unlike much of Europe and North America, the vaccine rollout has been slow. This has resulted in the continuation of public health measures that reduce mobility and the number of people gathered. On the positive side of things, Egypt's economy seems to be slowly but surely picking up after the Covid-19 slump. The government is in the process of moving to its new administrative home and new capital just outside Cairo. While this marks some significant progress in the countries plan for development, some are also worried that those left in the densely populated urban centre may fall even further behind. Moreover, the local authorities have recently ended their use of emergency powers and have released some rights activists that were previously detained. Though this is only a very small step, it is a welcomed one. In terms of national security, there remains the threat of religiously informed hostility and violence, particularly in the Sinai Peninsula, and tensions with Ethiopia – over access to water – remain high.

Results

A key development in 2021 that has come in parallel to the Current Affairs project is SAT-7s new Social Media strategy. The thrust of this strategy is for SAT-7 to better steward its audience through a consolidation of its platforms, whereby a more intentional online presence may be established, its brand established, and greater trust and engagement developed with key demographics audiences (women, children, youth, etc) rather than just individual program audiences. The broadcast of the components produced in 2021 is to be disseminated in 2022. For this reason, the results will be a combination of 2020 (broadcasted/disseminated) components and 2021 (produced) components.

The following activities and results have been accomplished in 2021:

- The Public Service Announcements (PSA) postponed to 2021 were all produced and broadcasted with content on cross-cutting drivers of marginalisation that impact refugees as a marginalised group.
- The combined broadcasted show reached out to 12 257 896 viewers.
- They produced and broadcasted the drama "Under the same sky". This drama unpacks the realities facing refugees and the cross-cutting themes that apply to marginalised groups such as discrimination, cultural or structural violence, religious discrimination.
- From surveys, 89 % of the viewers were willing to take part in initiatives supporting human rights (Gender, FORB and minority).
- 73 % of the viewers reported acting on inclusion and positive conflict resolution.
- 84 % would allow for immigrants to enter their home and 86 % would help in case they had heard about an immigrant who was suffering from discrimination.

In 2021 the Magazine program became a social media campaign. The logic here is that to benefit from the momentum gathered through the Magazine programs from previous years (You Enlighten Us, A Way for Tomorrow, etc) this activity sought to move the conversation online. This allowed for public discourse to exist more independently and for a greater degree of monitoring and thus, demonstratable change.

Education Grant

Table 12: Accounts projects receiving funding from the regional grant

Education grant	Revised budget 2021 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2021 (NOK)	Deviation % 2021
QZA-18/0159-556-558 NMS-Miara-Mianatra Project, MLC Indusive Education	1 536 182	1 606 462	5 %
SUM	**1 536 182**	**1 606 462**	**5 %**

Madagascar – QZA-18/0159-556-558 NMS-Miara Mianatra Project (2021)

The Miara-Mianatra Project, Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) Inclusive Education Project, started its first phase in 2018 in cooperation with Norwegian Mission Society (NMS). The Miara-Mianatra (learning together) is based on a previous project by MLC, Mampiaty Program, 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 and NMS in specialised education for visual impaired children (since 1924) and hearing-impaired children (since 1950). It's a close cooperation with the Ministry of Education that has an ongoing effort to draft and implement an Inclusive Education Policy. Miara-Mianatra (MM) capitalises 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 first project phase was initially planned to end in 2020. Due to the long lockdown period when the Covid-19 spread in 2020 and some finance assessments, 2021 was an extension year of the 2020 activities of the MM project.

Even though no major changes occurred in 2021, the report 2021 has had many positive results, both expected and unexpected, as progress mentioned below.

- Visibility of the MM project has increased at the national level, with active participation in many public events/workshops related to inclusive education. 2021 was especially marked with the celebration of the first Madagascar National Day of inclusive education, which was an initiative of the Inclusive Education Platform, which MM is an active member in. An opportunity for MM to strengthen its notoriety is the registration of IE Platform as an official formal association, which is under processing.
- Smoothly, the church has started taking more ownership of the Inclusive Education as part of the church work, and not seen as a project only through MM activities. Indeed, the newly elected church leaders decided to consider the case of MM in the agenda of the MLC Board Meeting held in October 2021. The revision of the agreement document between the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Population and MLC will be followed up closely. Besides, the new director of FFL (MLC Education Department) started follow up of 25/36 FLM inclusive schools in 8 synods. The objective was to know to what extent IE had been implemented in each school. The MLC Secretary General have monitored inclusive schools in 5 synods.
- In November 2021, the final draft of MLC IE policy was developed in cooperation with the MM Senior Consultant, Ms. Paula Hunt, and officially introduced to the members of MM Coordination Committee. Such policy is developed in order to increase the quality of education from teachers towards children with disabilities (CwDs).
- One significant change in 2021 was the first evaluation of teacher training carried out by MoE, Les Orchidées Blanches (one of IE actors in Madagascar) and the MM's pedagogical technicians. Key-findings reported demonstrated progressive motivation of CwDs at school attendance with less rejection; increase of school staff willingness to include CwDs; training contents correctly applied; more supportive parents and testimony of progressive change of mindset in the community towards CwDs. More teacher training is still required.
- MM health program was successful in 2021 with 121 CwDs beneficiaries of specific medical follow up. Out of 9 surgeries (4 ear-surgery and 5 eye-surgery), 2 deaf children recovered hearing.
- As recommended, MM should develop its own manual of procedures. The workshop to work on such document could not be held in 2021 but will be developed in the first half year of 2022.
- Because of intolerable professional misconduct, the project Educational Inclusion Coordinator was dismissed in the last quarter of 2021.
- With high success rate of learners with disabilities at Baccalauréat exam, the project had to support the double of the number of beneficiaries to follow training at SFM (Teacher Training Center) - 10 of them instead of 5 in the initial plan.
- To get more active commitment of the special schools, new strategies and plans should be elaborated to make such institutions to be inclusive, but the other way. Children without disabilities should learn with children having special needs.

QZA-18/0159-619 NOR-Covid-19 - Hospital Support

Table 13: Accounts projects receiving earmarked funding for Covid-19 response in Nepal

Covid-19 Hospital Support grant	Revised budget 2021 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2021 (NOK)	Deviation % 2021
QZA-18/0159-619 NOR-Covid-19 Hospital Support	5 000 000	6 534 614	31 %
SUM	**5 000 000**	**6 534 614**	**31 %**

Nepal – QZA-18/0159-619 NOR-Covid 19 – Hospital Support (2020/2021)

Background

In 2020, two United Mission Hospitals, i.e. United Mission Tansen Hospital – UMTH and Okhaldhunga Community Hospital – OCH, received funding from Norad, to secure continued, safe and adequate services during the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding came at a crucial time. The onset of the pandemic resulted in that the hospital's local income had decreased due to travel restrictions and people's fear of going to hospitals. On the other hand, this was not the time to downscale health services at the hospitals since they were needed to handle the increased health care challenges of imposed by the pandemic. The extra funding from Norad was approved with the double purpose of giving health care to Covid-19 patients and to non-Covid-19 patients. The focus was on maintaining provision of qualitative health care to all, which in part implied using some of the funding to provide subsidies or free health care to the poorest in the society. The funding was only planned for 4 months, September to December 2020. A no-cost extension was granted to 15th of July 2021. The gap funding provided the hospitals with the necessary resources to be able to respond to the direct Covid-19 challenges/patients, as well as secure that the "regular services" of the hospitals were continued and safe from Covid-19 infection. The funding was planned to be used during the 4 months of September to December 2020. However, a no-cost extension was granted for the use of the funding to 15th of July 2021. When the funding was originally granted it was decided to make a separate evaluation after the project period, in spring 2021, and that the evaluation should be funded by separate funding from Digni. In spring 2021, the second wave of Covid-19 hit Nepal and UMN and the Hospitals were very occupied with responding to the challenges, and hence the evaluation was postponed to autumn 2021. The evaluation assessed the period from March 2020 to July 2021 and evaluated UMNs response through both Hospitals and clusters. Please note that only the part encompassing the hospitals is relevant for the Norad grant. This evaluation is available in Norad's database.

Key findings from the evaluation

Both Hospitals were quick to set up a fever clinic by the entrance point of the Hospitals, which effectively prevented the disease to transmit and spread at the hospitals. In the project period from March 2020 to July 2021, 2675 patients were screened in the fever clinic at United Mission Hospital Tansen (UMHT), and 1742 at Okhalhdunga Community Hospital (OCH). Of these, 1500 tested positive, most of them had mild symptoms and were advised for home isolation, but 550 were admitted to the Hospitals. 397 were admitted for treatment of Covid-19 at UMHT and 153 at OCH. Of these 62 died, 54 at UMHT and 8 at OCH. In the same period the total number of patients were 112 144. Of these, 89 895 were outpatients, 18 662 emergency cases and 3 587 babies delivered. This also includes 15 501 patients admitted to the Hospitals and 7 250 surgeries performed. Before the pandemic, UMTH treated around 120 000 annually and OCH 32 000, totally 152 000 annually. During the pandemic the Hospitals were able to give good quality care to both groups. The evaluation team states that when many other Hospitals across the country faced acute

shortage of resources, demotivated staff and high mortality, both the UMN Hospitals "were found to have effectively managed the pandemic."

The Evaluation team identified the success factors to be:

- The Hospitals were not set up for the most severe cases, and these were referred to other more central Hospitals, these kept the numbers of patient who died low.
- Support from Norad/Digni/Normisjon and UMN helped to overcome problems like lack of essential equipment.
- Hospital management had effectively and efficiently responded to the pandemic through teamwork, incentives, and resource provision. Both Hospitals were well prepared thanks to the Incident Management team in UMN. The Hospitals were also part of their District Covid Crisis Management Committees.
- Motivated staff, despite having to work up to 24 hours shifts, and without receiving the same risk benefits as in Government Hospitals.

The challenges for the hospitals were identified to be:

- Not recognised by the government as official Covid-19 Hospitals. This would have given the patients free services paid from the government. The management of both Hospitals advocated for this without result.
- Lack of ventilators (until late phase second wave) resulted in seriously ill patients had to be referred to other Hospitals. In addition, in OCH there were a lack of portable X-ray and ECG machines in the isolation unit.
- Due to lack of RT-PCR testing, the hospitals were unable to manage cases in a timely manner. Confirmation of cases took up to 7 days in the initial wave, delaying the treatment process.
- The governments contact tracing guideline forced a large number of employees to be quarantine for several days, this made it difficult to deliver all services.
- Lack of understanding and lack of behaviour change in the general population towards wearing mask and maintaining physical distance were identified as the most difficult challenge in order to prevent the disease to spread in the entire districts.

The overall assessment of the evaluation team with respect to hospital's operation during Covid-19 is summarised in the following sentence: "…both mission-managed hospitals did their best to manage the epidemic to the best of their abilities, which greatly aided in the management of COVID-19 in both districts" (p. 16).

QZA-18/0159-740-745 Strengthening Mental Health in Nepal

Table 14: Accounts projects receiving funding from the mental health grant

159.76 - Mental Health in Nepal	Revised budget 2021 (NOK)	Total Accounts 2021 (NOK)	Deviation % 2021
HP/NOR, Mental Health in Nepal	9 951 000	-	-100 %
SUM	**9 951 000**	**-**	**-100 %**

In December 2021 Digni received an additional grant of NOK 9 951 000 for the project Strengthening Mental Health in Nepal. The project is a cooperation between two Digni-members, HimalPartner and Normisjon, and three partner organisations operating in Nepal. As the agreement was signed late 2021, the projects did not start implementing activities until early 2022. Digni has also received a no-cost extension for this grant, until April 2023. Results from the project will be reported on at the end of the agreement period with Norad.

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 previous annual reports (2018, 2019 and 2020).

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 digital or physical workshops, for example in connection with project visits. Due to the global pandemic, RBM and anti-corruption has in 2021 mainly been digital where members have conducted digital monitoring, and Digni has conducted a digital spot check on a partner. This learning will be used for further digital partner visits. Apply strict requirements to results frameworks, budgets, and risk analyses in applications and annual reports. Apply good documentation of application and reporting dialogues/processes. Digni's new tool for partner assessment emphasizes the connection between costs and activities. In 2021, 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 (DiP) is launched and 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. This has started in 2021, and will continue with Digni's tool for partner assessment which gives an overview of the risks connected to ten different thematic areas, grouped as organisation, finance, and common between these (compliance and anti-corruption). Continue to organize and strengthen systematic control measures through partner assessments, organisational reviews and spot checks. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a digital spot check of a partner was conducted in 2021. Organisational 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, both digital and physical, 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. DiP 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 organisational reviews and partner assessment. 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 organisations 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. Ask partners to use digital payments instead of cash payments when possible.
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 organisations. 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. Recommendation was given in the report, and Digni is still waiting for the final report which will give advantages to Digni. Through a competence development project Digni has identified risks and how to work in a more efficient way towards zero-tolerance.
Projects are generally implemented in high-risk contexts, and grants recipients carry all risks in this regard. The risk profile is not reasonable and may deter organizations from entering into development cooperation, especially in the most vulnerable areas and with relevant partners.	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, and Digni is excited to see how this will be implemented.
Whistle-blowing mechanisms maybe exploited to retaliate or sabotage the work of partners/projects by people with ill-	Engage in discussions with members and partners about possible whistle-blowing mechanisms. This is covered

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.	when Digni conducts financial checks during project visits and partner assessments. 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.	Digni is about to finalise a new policy on climate and environment with the purpose to provide direction and recommendations for all parts of the Digni fellowship in forming priorities and actions in care for climate and environment in line with the overarching strategy and strategic plan of action of Digni. Together with member organisations and local partners, Digni will ensure that all supported interventions are planned in a risk-informed manner and assessed with regard to potential positive or negative climate and/or environmental effects, and encourage members and partners to put more focus on interventions focusing on climate resilience and adaptation. The Digni secretariat have also started to strengthen own expertise in the area of climate resilience and disaster risk reduction by signing an associate membership with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction GNDR. We are currently exploring ways to link our members and partners with the online community platform where they can connect with each, contact national representatives, share news and events, start collaborating on projects, and learn more about disaster risk reduction.
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.	Digni is in the process of developing a new Capacity Development Plan with specific priority on increasing climate and environmental awareness among members and partners and to increase the number of initiatives focusing especially on climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity, climate justice, renewable energy and food security.

	Possible ways in which Digni might address this: - Make the new policy on climate and environment from 2022 known among members and partners. - Provide resources and tools on conducting environmental analysis for projects on Fabo (Digni's e-learning site) - Facilitate learning and sharing of good practice within the Digni fellowship. I.e., Disseminate learning from the Capacity Building Project" on climate smart agriculture within the Digni fellowship. - Extract learning and seek collaboration with our sister organisation, Swedish Mission Counsil (SMC), and their experience from the Global Network on Distaster Risk Reduction (GNDR) and their online learning resources on Fabo.

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 2021, this work is reflected in the evaluation reports of the 28 projects ending, since project evaluations always include an assessment of gender equality. Referring to the reporting from these 28 projects ending in 2021 and the information given in this annual report 2021 under the thematic area of "Civil Society" Outcome 1.3 it is stated the following: "All projects report on activities related to gender mainstreaming. … Many projects put extra emphasis on strengthening women's participation in decision making processes. Through many years of systematic training and focus on this topic, many projects report on a high degree of women being elected in leadership of groups, associations, and organisations". 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, some projects had activity plans for 2021 that included measures to mitigate for risks due to COVID-19. Most of these activity plans reflect project designs that have a clear focus on gender equality and take into account women's and girl's specific concerns. In general terms, during 2021 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. Despite 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. However, most projects have been able to resume and carry out planned activities in 2021. 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 2021, 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, and women's empowerment. In 2020, and continued in 2021, a special earmarked funding from Norad (5 mill) for COVID 19 was provided to increase or continue the access to basic health care for marginalized population in Nepal, in particular women and children, at two hospitals operated by United Mission to Nepal. Report with results from this specific project is provided in this annual report for 2021 in chapter on earmarked funding.

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 was affected by COVID 19 and had poorer performance in 2020 than previous years, but reports that in 2021 the economic performance is improving again. The bank has also expanded the % of women clients in the loan portfolio from 63% in 2020 to 67% in 2021. In some projects, some Covid 19 activities have been included for income generating activities, some food and material assistance assist particular for daily wage laborers, women and households in an acute poverty crisis due to COVID lockdowns.

	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 2021, 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 (GBV) in project areas. In the reporting for projects ending 2021 we see that many of the projects have worked systematically with this issue. Of the 28 projects ending in 2021, 10 of them specifically worked on GBV with solid results, for additional information see chapter on "Peaceful Coexistence" Outcome 3.2 which reports on results related to GBV. This shows that many partners and projects are working on GBV and protection issues in a serious and systematic manner. In the ongoing project portfolio, some 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 2021, government restrictions to some degree had implications on mobility, giving projects less opportunity to carry out regular project activities aimed at reducing gender-based-violence at household level, but to a less extent than in 2020. 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 2021, 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 2021, 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. However, in 2021 the work on developing a toolbox for the online learning platform Fabo continued. The guides and tools will be made available for all of Digni's members and partners and will be launched in 2022. In addition, Digni's Partner Assessment Tool was developed in 2021 and implemented. These assessments also include assessments on partners systems for reporting and handling of sexual harassment and abuse, and risks associated with them. These assessments are followed up by Digni members and their partners through plans of action.

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 2021, 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 restrictions, 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 2021, Digni continue to emphasise that project applications, project design and strategies need to reflect 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 included some specific measures in activity plans for 2021 to mitigate the acute challenges imposed by COVID 19. 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 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.	In 2021, 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. Members and Partners used their relational skills, their 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 2021, 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. Digni has on several occasions during 2021 had consultations and competence building sessions on the theme of Freedom of Religion and Belief with Digni member organisations.
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 2021, 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

28 external evaluations were conducted in 2021 as detailed in Annex B – External Evaluations.

Like in 2020, many of the planned evaluations have not been possible to carry out in 2021 and have therefore been postponed to 2022 (as explained in the table in Annex B). This is mainly due to Covid-19 with periodic lockdown in combination with other restrictions in many of the project countries. Other evaluations were postponed from 2020 and reported on for 2021, and the postponed evaluations for 2021 will be part of the reporting for 2022.

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.

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. Digni is actively involved in preparing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for external evaluations and give member organisations advice regarding 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.

19 of the 28 external evaluation reports from 2021 have been sent to Norad's evaluation database including Norad's cover letter (See Annex C). The remaining 9 will be sent in August (2021). Included in the table is also an evaluation of QZA-18/0159-619 NOR-Covid-19 Hospital Support (financed from additional health grant for Covid-19 Response). The external evaluation was financed from the budget of the Digni secretariat – member activities, as it was not allocated funds for evaluation in the original plan and budget for the project.

Digni also shares main recommendations and lessons learned from evaluations with Digni's board annually.

Findings in evaluations 2021

On a general level there are no major changes on quality and learning from previous years. However, we see that a higher number of the evaluations have weaknesses in terms of the methodology, and the basis for some of the recommendations that are presented. We interpret this as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions and limited opportunities for group interviews, physical gatherings, travels, etc. Our impression is that there has been to the best of one's ability to get the most out of the situation with the limitations that have been.

The analyses and recommendations presented in the evaluations were mainly assessed to be relevant. 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.

Digni follows up these learnings in 2022 and put more emphasis on the ToRs with a special focus on methodology for the evaluations. When preparing for a new agreement period, Digni will assess how to make best use of project evaluations, to increase both learning and control, as well as cost-effectiveness.

Of the 28 external evaluations carried out during 2021, 23 were final evaluations and 5 were mid-term evaluation.

To focus on the disability movement, we have this year chosen to present a short summary from one of the evaluation reports conducted in 2021. The Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2022 was arranged by Norway, Ghana and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) from February 14th to 17th 2022. The first Global Disability Summit was held in 2018 and was a milestone for the disability movement. The chosen project from Bhutan will therefore be a good example of how Digni also has and will continue to have the disability movement on the agenda, together with the principle of "leave no one behind".

An interesting aspect of this project is that despite having a relatively low annual budget and been the only project supported in Bhutan, it has achieved results on impact level. In this sense, it refutes the belief that concentration and larger programs or projects achieve the best results.

QZA-18/0159-506-507 NOR-Organisation Development Project - DPAB

Background

The Organisational Development for Sustainability (ODS) is a project implemented in Bhutan by Disabled Peoples Organisation Bhutan (previously called Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan). The previous project was a five-year project titled Organisational Development Project to the DPOB for the period 2014-2018. The project made significant impact in the areas of advocacy, empowerment and rehabilitation, networking, organisational capacity, and registration of PWDs. The project entered a second phase of 3 years i.e., 2019 - 2021 with project titled 'Organisational Development for Sustainability: 3 Year Phase-out Period'. With the three years extension, the project expected to make DPOB a financially sustained institution.

Key findings

The evaluation report found that the project contributed to organisational development in the following ways:

- The project's overall outcome, output, and activities have been determined to be consistent with and supportive of national and international aims and objectives.
- The lobbying has resulted in the establishment of a National Policy for persons with disabilities have been adopted by the government.
- The organisation has been recognised as the Disabled Peoples' Organisation of Bhutan.
- The projects support- and rehabilitation program appear to have substantial influence on PWDs.
- The DPOB staff and interns are trained on various fields within their expertise.
- DPOB will not be able to continue the project's programs once the funds end due to lack of own income.
- The organisation has managed to generate some income through a membership base (2521 members), but this is not enough to stand on its own feet.

- However, the Gross National Happiness Commission has decided to include the construction of the Resource Centre in the 13th Five-Year Plan. This centre is considered the most important part of the sustainability plan for DPOB.

Normisjon will continue to support DPOBs with a smaller amount for salaries and some administrative costs while the centre is being built, to help the organisation for a short period in this transitional phase.

(The project is also included in the Annex A, Special Report on Projects Ended 2021)

8 Report on selected outcome indicators (GRF)

According to the agreement with Norad (Specific Conditions, 12 a), Digni should provide results on minimum one outcome indicator per outcome area in the Global Results Framework (GRF) in the report for 2021. A full report on all indicators was provided in 2020 and will be made available for 2022.

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" on one side, and b) "thematic outcomes and output indicators" 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 2018-2022, 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 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 120-125 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.

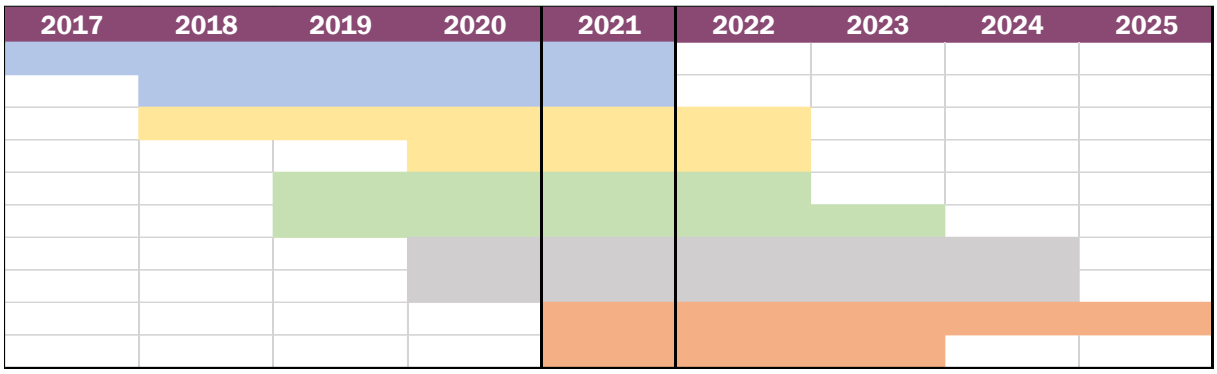
The data aggregated in the GRF is a combination of *preliminary* and *final results,* depending on which stage the reporting projects are in. Overall EAT targets as well as other targets for 2020 and 2022 are consequently also based on estimations, as the exact future composition of the portfolio is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

Reporting under the thematic area of Civil Society is mandatory to all projects and the sample is extensive. Of the total portfolio of 117 projects in 2021, there is one project that is excluded from the sample under Civil Society[11], and two projects excluded from the whole GRF-report[12]. The total number of projects represented by the figures in this chapter is therefore 115. Even for mandatory indicators, there will always be a few projects that are not able to submit data.

[11] *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 have an assessment of their outcome and impact score, at the end of their project period.

[12] *QZA-18/059-619 NOR-Covid-19 Hospital Support* received a special grant for Covid-19 response in Norad. The project is reported under 5. Earmarked funding. *QZA-18/0159-240-241/567 MA-Equitable and sustainable WASH services in Bong County* was pre-terminated and did not submit GRF-report.

Table 15: Illustration - Results data from 2021 are sourced from projects with different life cycles



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 organisation/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, i.e. category a).

A Strong Civil Society

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

Indicator 1.1.1	# of persons organised over # of direct beneficiaries and # of in-direct beneficiaries					
	# of projects reporting	Total organised	Proportion women	Direct Beneficiaries	Degree of organisation	Indirect beneficiaries
Baseline	93	179 884	71 %	1 375 577	13 %	7 072 934
Result 2018	98	204 863	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
Result 2021	113	318 046	72 %	1 499 728	21 %	16 687 502

Indicator 1.1.1 tracks the degree of organisation within and the scope of Digni-funded projects. The 2019-results show sharp increase in proportion of direct beneficiaries becoming organised, i.e 19 %, compared to baseline and 2018 result, 13%t. Although the degree of organisation has gone down from 2020 to 2021, the percentage is still significantly higher than the baseline. The number of persons organised per project has also continued to increase from, it was around 2 300 in 2019, around 2 700 in 2020 and approximately 2 800 in 2021. The slight increase in number of direct beneficiaries per project that we saw in 2020 has also continued in 2021.

We assess the variation in number of indirect beneficiaries during the agreement period is due to natural shifts experienced in the portfolio from year to year, as some projects end and others begin every year. We are uncertain of how Covid-19 affects these figures.

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 organisation from 13 % to 19 %. For 2020, the numbers show an increase in direct beneficiaries per project, but also an increase in the degree of organisation to 22 %. The numbers of direct beneficiaries have continued to increase, and the degree of organisation has remained relatively stable in 2021.

The proportion of women has increased again in 2021, from 68 % in 2020 to 72 % in 2022. As we have also observed in previous reports, the strong focus on women remains a dominant feature of Digni-funded projects, and organisation of women remains a key empowerment strategy.

Indicator 1.1.2	# of groups/networks organised			
	# of projects reporting	Total groups organised	Proportion with women leaders	Proportion based on existing structure
Baseline	93	18 058	44 %	39 %
Result 2019	106	23 941	51 %	37 %
Result 2020	110	29 777	46 %	40 %
Result 2021	110	25 251	55 %	26 %

Examining the results reported against indicator 1.1.2 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, although we see a drop in the 2021 report, compared to the report from 2020. The proportion of groups with women as leader has however increased again from the drop in 2019. The sharp decrease in the figures under proportion based on existing structure is primarily due to one large project in Madagascar that ended in 2020, that greatly affected the high figures on this indicator during its project period from 2018-2020.

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 number of man-hours			
	# of projects reporting	# of volunteers	Proportion female volunteers	Estimated # working hours
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
Result 2021	112	24 746	52 %	2 463 537

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 2021 have declined significantly, especially in number of man-hours. This is largely due Covid-19-related restrictions on gatherings.

Outcome 1.3: Communities provide equal opportunities for women and men

Indicator 1.3.2	# of persons sensitised on gender equality		
	# of projects reporting	Total persons sensitised	Proportion women
Baseline	93	260 124	58 %
Result 2020	110	738 706	57 %
Result 2021	111	788 463	58 %

Indicator 1.3.2 shows an increase in the number of persons being sensitised on gender equality.

Indicator 1.3.1	# and % of reporting projects in final year 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 scores 4 and 5
Result 2018	21	3,36	100 %	42 %
Result 2019	14	3,54	71 %	57 %
Result 2020	5	3,00	80 %	20 %
Result 2021	25	2,84	64 %	16 %

Indicator 1.3.1[13] is descriptive and to be answered at the end of each project. For 2021 we see a decrease in average score from the projects reporting in 2020, as well a lower proportion of projects reporting scores at high outcome level (4) and impact level (5).

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

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 %
Result 2021	19	29 041	61 %

19 projects have reported results on indicator 1.4.2 in 2021. As we can see from the history provided in the table, the results on this indicator have gone down from 2020 and is also lower than the results from 2019. The decline from 2020 to 2021 can be explained by the fact that five projects that reported towards this indicator in 2020 was in their last year. Combined, these projects achieved results of more than 26 000 persons accessing public services as consequence of advocacy efforts over the course of their project periods. Although there are other projects with significant results on this indicator, those starting implementation in 2021 has not yet seen results at the same level as those that phased out. The proportion of women beneficiaries has seen a small increase compared to recent years.

Outcome 1.5: Local partners have strong capacity

Analysis of the degree to which ongoing projects are progressing according to plan (indicator 1.5.2) can be found in chapter 4. Progress Report Ongoing Projects.

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

Results from this Outcome Area is covered under Thematic Reports 3.1 A Strong Civil Society.

[13] 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.

Good Health

Outcome 2.1 Rights-holders have access to health services

Indicator 2.1.2	# of persons benefitting from new and running health services		
	# of projects reporting	# of direct beneficiaries	# of indirect beneficiaries
Baseline	25	598 512	2 296 143
Result 2020	24	326 310	1 846 779
Result 2021	26	211 124	1 054 859

Four projects, reporting a total of 145 784 persons benefitting from new and running health services in 2021, did not report details on whether these persons were direct or indirect beneficiaries. Digni has added this number under indirect beneficiaries in the table above. The total number of persons benefitting from new and running health services in 2021 is around 1.2 million.

In 2020, we reported a massive increase in number of persons with physical and mental disabilities receiving specialised health care (indicator 2.1.4). In 2020, 7 projects reported a result of 2 954 persons receiving such care, while the results from 2021 from 8 projects is 5 715 persons. 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 both 2020 and 2021 are in large part attributed to two projects by Misjonskirken in Afghanistan.

Outcome 2.2 Target groups demonstrate knowledge about conditions affecting the health of households

Indicator 2.2.1	# of targeted households practicing WASH principles	
	# of projects reporting	# of households
Baseline	19	45 295
Result 2018	19	58 927
Result 2020	20	67 646
Result 2021	22	79 387

In 2020, we observed that projects already working on WASH, saw a need to intensify their work, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The results from 2021 show a continued increase in this indicator. The baseline value for # of households practicing WASH principles were 45 295, whereas the result for 2021 were 79 387 households.

Outcome 2.3: Target groups combat stigma related to health

Indicator 2.3.3	# of patients referred to diagnostics, treatment, counselling from the local community	
	# of projects reporting	# of persons
Baseline	6	1 836
Result 2018	6	2 541
Result 2020	6	8 762
Result 2021	6	9 562

The purpose of indicator 2.3.3 is to track the extent of patients being referred. A high number of referrals is assumed to be related to reduced stigma. Five out of six of the projects reporting towards this indicator are the same projects that reported in 2020, and the increase in patients referred to diagnostics, treatment and counselling in 2021 is due to increased results from these five projects. It should be noted that a large contribution of the results to this indicator comes from one project by Wycliffe 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

Indicator 3.1.1	# of persons actively promoting peaceful co-existence		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women
Baseline	11	8 265	37 %
Result 2018	11	7 414	58 %
Result 2020	16	10 801	53 %
Result 2021	13	10 783	50 %

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 2021 show a relatively stable number of persons, despite a reduction in the number of projects reporting towards this indicator.

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

Indicator 3.2.1	# of GBV cases reported and handled	
	# of projects reporting	# of cases handled
Baseline	11	1 123
Result 2018	11	3 056
Result 2020	14	4 857
Result 2021	15	7 380

Indicator 3.2.1. measures the degree to which gender-based violence is uncovered and addressed in the project target areas. Reporting towards the indicator is voluntary, which gives a risk of under-reporting. We have seen an increase, in number of projects reporting from 2018 to 2021, as well as a significant increase in cases reported and handled.

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 gender-based violence and include such activities related to the theme in the project. As observed in chapter 2. Aggregated Result Scores, we see an increase in faith-based partners and churches addressing and obtaining solid results in the area of gender-based violence.

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

Indicator 3.3.2	# of children positively affected by measures to improve safety and protection of children in target institutions	
	# of projects reporting	# of children
Baseline	5	7 922
Result 2018	5	9 246
Result 2020	6	2 608
Result 2021	5	2 714

Indicator 3.3.2 measures the degree to which the safety and protection of children are improved in target institutions. 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 2021-sample, the projects have an average reach of around 540 children, as opposed to 440 children in 2020, while the highest number in one individual project is around 900.

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

Indicator 3.4.3	# of persons gaining ownership of land	
	# of projects reporting	# of persons
Baseline	3	2 756
Result 2018	3	2 996
Result 2020	4	3 491
Result 2021	4	4 129

The purpose indicator 3.4.3 is to gauge the effectiveness of advocacy initiatives aimed at local/national authorities to safeguard the rights of ethnic/indigenous and religious minorities. For 2021, we see a continued increase in results from 2020. The baseline value for this indicator is 2 756, while the result from 2021 is 4 129. The high result on this indicator is largely due to one successful project by Wycliffe in Pakistan.

Environmental Sustainability

Outcome 4.1: Target groups are resilient to negative livelihood conditions

Indicator 4.1.1	# of farmers adopting climate smart agricultural methods		
	# of projects reporting	# of farmers	Proportion women
Baseline	13	15 700	N/A
Result 2018	13	22 604	52 %
Result 2020	14	21 251	54 %
Result 2021*	13	22 714	51 %
*proportion women based on disaggregated data from 10 projects			

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. The projects in the sample for 2021 have shown increased results compared to 2020. This indicator can be seen in relation to the number

of farmers trained in practices on sustainable agricultural production, including animal husbandry (indicator 4.1.3). For 2021, the number of farmers trained were 28 380.

Outcome 4.2: Local partners and communities implement environmentally friendly measures

Indicator 4.2.2	# of persons benefitting from sustainable energy sources	
	# of projects reporting	# of persons
Baseline	6	20 251
Result 2018	6	30 275
Result 2020	6	32 968
Result 2021	7	39 648

The purpose indicator 4.2.2 is to track the extent to which people are benefitting from sustainable (new and improved) energy sources. Projects reporting on indicator 4.2.2 have results considerably higher than both baseline (20 251 persons) and results for 2020. his 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.

Quality Education

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

Indicator 5.1.2	# learners graduating from primary/secondary education over total # of final year students enrolled			
	# of projects reporting	# of learners graduating	% of learners graduating	# of final year students
Baseline	8	17 625	78 %	22 581
Result 2020	10	18 181	55 %	33 150
Result 2021	12	3 977	37 %	10 643

Based on reports from the projects, the percentage of learners graduating (indicator 5.1.2) in the target institutions dropped from 78 % in the baseline, to 55 % in 2020 and further to 37 % in 2021. These figures are however greatly affected by one large project in Mozambique, where the project has reported more than 5 000 students enrolled. None of the final year students graduated in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid-19, as the government has postponed graduation until they can keep the schools open. If we take this one project out of the sample, the total percentage of learners graduating is 75 %. As the table shows, there has however also been a significant drop in the number of final year students in the target institutions. In most countries schools were affected by lock-down throughout 2021. Although the percentage of graduates may increase in 2022, there is a risk that many of the students that did not enrol in 2021, will not return to school to complete their education.

Indicator 5.1.3	# of drop-out students over total # students enrolled			
	# of projects reporting	# of drop-outs	% drop outs of total students	# students enrolled
Baseline	19	1 510	2,6 %	57 782
Result 2018	19	775	1,2 %	66 333
Result 2020	24	2 853	3,0 %	86 298
Result 2021	27	1 702	2,3 %	74 411

Indicator 5.1.3 shows a relatively low drop-out rate compared to expectation. However, the results on this indicator reflect the number of already enrolled students that drop-out during the school year. We do not have numbers from the projects on how many students that were expected to enrol in 2021 that did not show up at the beginning of the year.

Outcome 5.2: Communities support the right to education for all

Indicator 5.2.4	# of non-literates receiving literacy education/enrolled	
	# of projects reporting	# of students passing
Baseline	8	6 025
Result 2020	9	2 078
Result 2021	10	4 152

The purpose of indicator 5.2.4 is to track the degree to which literacy is improved in target communities. 4 747 students were enrolled to receive literacy education, which gives a result of 87 % passing the training.

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

Indicator 5.3.1	# of learners employed or self-employed within one year of completing vocational training		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women
Baseline	4	162	85 %
Result 2020	7	4 380	68 %
Result 2021	8	5 576	68 %

The indicators under this outcome area track the degree to which vocational training leads to the desired outcome for target learners. Reporting on indicator 5.3.1 is voluntary, which increases the risk of under-reporting. Digni has seen an increased number of projects reporting results on indicator 5.3.1, with eight projects reporting results for 2021, compared to the 2020 target of four projects. Results show an increase in numbers from 2020, while the proportion of women is stable.

Economic Empowerment

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

Indicator 6.1.2	# of women/men gaining an income		
	# of projects reporting	# of persons	Proportion women
Baseline	16	27 055	44 %
Result 2020	21	83 009	49 %
Result 2021*	23	63 227	53 %
*proportion women based on disaggregated data from 13 projects			

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, despite having gone down from 2020-results.

Outcome 6.2: Rights-holders are accessing financial services

Indicator 6.2.2	Portfolio at Risk (PAR)	
	# of projects reporting	PAR30 average
Baseline	2	11.7 % / 0.01 %
Result 2018	2	5.5 % / 0.01 %
Result 2020	2	19 % / 0.1 %
Result 2021	2	17 % / 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 the set target of 5 %. For 2021 results show a slight improvement to 17 %. 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 2021 with a PAR30 of 0,1 %.

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 previous reports, including the mid-term report for 2020, still holds true for the 2021 Annual Report:

Accuracy of (baseline) data: The GRF was introduced to Digni members and partners during 2017. Previously, projects had not reported data against a global results framework – only their

own, project-wise LFAs/results frameworks. 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 and 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 2021, notice that the quality of GRF data plotted from the projects have improved compared to earlier. However, quite a bit of time still has to be spent to do quality assurance of data. 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 annual 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. 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 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 has consistently challenged members and partners to provide gender disaggregation whenever applicable. We are pleased to note that this area has improved significantly. 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 led Digni to reflect on the use of cumulative indicators. Many of the thematic indicators are cumulative. We realise that it may at times be 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 preferrable 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 been displayed in the GRF.

Key numbers: Another key learning from the mid-term GRF analysis that still holds true in 2021 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 competence building for its member organisations 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 2021

The operations of the Digni secretariat were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 as well. The secretariat, through its recent digitalisation project, was well prepared to operate effectively from a home office environment in the periods where this was required. 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 2021 include:

- Due to the pandemic, we did not visit any projects in 2021. However, one spot check and project review with a partner in Eswatini was conducted through digital means.
- Digni's new, overall strategy *Digni 2030 – Statement of Principles* was approved by Digni's general assembly, *Representantskapet*, in April 2021, after a highly participative process with members and partners. In 2021, the secretariat and board initiated the development of *Digni's Strategic Action Plan 2023-2027, "Together for Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Development",* which was approved by the Board in March 2022.
- Due to the pandemic, the scheduled regional network meetings with members and partners had to be postponed. Digni therefore organised a three-day global network meeting for all members and partners in November 2021. More information under "Regional Network meetings".
- Organisational reviews were carried out in five member organisations, as per plan: the Blue Cross Norway (BKN), The Norwegian Mission Society (NMS), The Mission Alliance (MA), The Pentecostal Mission (NPM) and HimalPartner (HP).
- The digitalisation process initiated in 2019, continued in 2021. Due to the travel restrictions and home office situation, the secretariat, together with members and partners, took new steps in the use and development of new digital tools. The General Assembly was held on Zoom and the election was carried out through digital means.
- 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 organisations and around 70 partners. The system has already proven highly effective and will both save us time on certain operations and reduce the risk of human errors.
- Digni has developed several trainings on 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 at an even larger scale in the coming years.
- 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 in 2021.
- Digni's ISO 9001:2015 certification was renewed in 2021.

- Digni is a contributor to the network on *Religion and Development* and has taken part in many meetings with the Minister of Development. We also contributed to the Scandinavian High-Level meeting on Religion and Development.

Accounts

A total of NOK 18,251,026 was spent towards the secretariat and member activities, which represents a deviation of NOK 2,445,342 (under-spending) compared to the revised budget. We have overspent on one budget line, "operating costs", this is related to some higher costs in the development of our new project management system, DiP. However, the main deviation was due to fewer activities implemented by the members 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 2021. Unspent funds will be carried forward to 2022 to cover planned activities.

Human resources

Digni's Human Resource policy is gender neutral and there is equal opportunity and treatment for both genders. By the end of 2021, there were 12 employees in the Digni secretariat, four men and eight women.

Digni had a staff of 10,33 full-time equivalents in 2021. The staffing situation and the work environment in the secretariat was overall good and stable this year. The absence due to illness was 2,5 % of the total work force.

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 2021, and the staff was involved in the identification and assessment of new and old risks. Risk management was discussed at board meetings twice in 2021, 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.

As for all other organisations, there are many external risks that 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. In 2021, the pandemic and its consequences were still a part of risk analysis in the Digni chain, but many organisations had already adapted to new ways of working within the restrictions and other impediments and they proved to be highly flexible in their approach.

Cybersecurity is an important risk for any organisation these days. The pandemic made us even more dependent on different digital tools and services and also made us aware of our vulnerability in this field. We therefore did a screening of digital tools and service providers that are essential for our core operations and discussed the probability and consequences of certain risks, such as downtime. The main mitigation measures taken to reduce the risks related to digital services are the transfer of all documents to a Microsoft Cloud Solution and the development of DiP in a

SharePoint environment, which is not dependent on a specific service provider. In addition, we also focus on awareness raisin among staff and the human dimension of cyber security in cooperation with our IT-supplier Skykontoret.

As seen in the attached excerpt of the risk analysis, Digni has, after reassessment of the risks, identified 28 low, 14 medium and 4 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. This risk was a high risk but is now rated as a medium risk due to the development of the pandemic and the follow up work from partners, members and the secretariat.

As is visible in the excerpt from the Digni risk matrix (Annex C), Digni's highest risks are still related to potentially weak organisational structures in member and partner organisations. Hence, poor financial management, corruption, and sexual harassment are among the risks we constantly need to monitor and mitigate. Reaching the most marginalised in difficult contexts and making sure that the organisations can meet the standards set by Norad, is and will always be a challenge. As part of the overall risk management in the Digni's Chain, Digni developed a new tool in 2021. The Partner Assessment Tool is a comprehensive tool made with the intention to map the partner level of the Digni chain. This tool is made both with control/quality assurance purposes and with capacity building in mind.

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 2021, Digni initiated a capacity building project on anti-corruption, with the intention to strengthen the prevention side of our anti-corruption work. See more below.

Financial management in the Digni chain

Financial management is emphasized on all levels of the Digni chain, not only as a compliance effort, but mainly to ensure that funds are being used by the projects in a way that make them reach their targets. Like in 2020, there has in 2021 been restrictions and lockdowns leading to a lower level of physical visits then earlier. Despite this, 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 organisational reviews of five of its member organisations, with the purpose of strengthening their capacity, highlight the risks and provide action points for further development. The reviews were all conducted by external consultants. Due to travel restrictions, the reviews were limited to focus only on the member's Norwegian office and not one of their projects as originally planned.

A digital spot check was conducted of DFEF's partner in Eswatini. This was done over two days and included a financial review of the partner. The "financial" and "common" parts of the newly developed partner assessment tool (see below) was used for the purpose. This was a good and useful experience both for Digni, DFEF/NPM and the partner.

Digni has during the year developed a new tool for partner assessments with the aim of assessing the capacity of all partner organisations across a broad range of topics within the thematic areas organisation/program, anti-corruption/compliance, and financial management. It is developed in English and translated to French and can be conducted either by the member organisation itself, or by an external consultant. The outcome is a follow-up/capacity building plan developed for the member and partner to work with. The assessment is mandatory for all partners receiving, or

planning to receive, funds from Digni. In general, the assessment is made before Digni applies for a new agreement period with Norad. This implies that an assessment will routinely be carried out with five-year intervals, starting in 2021/2022. All information on partner assessment is made available in Fabo, where instructional movies and a course is published.

During 2021 Digni's new portfolio management system DiP has been implemented. This will strengthen the financial overview of our portfolio and gives new possibilities for members and for Digni. There have been educational sessions for our members on how to use the DiP.

During the last years since we entered into a new Agreement period, Digni has paid attention to the financial management especially through yearly reporting of the project's financial management. Through a tight follow-up process of asking questions, giving guidance and arranging "Økonomiforum" for our members we see that the financial management in member and partner organisations has been strengthened.

Follow-up from Norway:

All our member organisations 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 organisations report increased focus on budget analyses, procurement procedures and follow-up of audit reports and management letters from local auditors. Some members started to use the partner assessment tool in late 2021.

External assessment of the management of Norad funds are often commissioned to follow up on noted weaknesses. Such assessments can be carried out as financial reviews or special audits. Among other actions, spot checks of the accounting material are frequently carried out by member organisations. The member organisations report that they actively use tools developed by Digni.

Project visits and training on financial management:

Both Digni and our member organisations use project visits actively to monitor partners and projects, and conversation on financial matters are conducted routinely as part of these visits. They also 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. Though 2021 was a year of lock downs and restrictions, several of our member organisations were able to physically visit one or more of their partners. When it was clear that the access to visit projects was limited, some organisations conducted digital projects visits.

Special report on anti-corruption efforts and financial irregularities

Digni takes anti-corruption seriously, and work systematically on both preventing, detecting, and handling cases of mismanagement and financial irregularities. Please refer to capacity development projects to see an example of how we work. In 2021 we also initiated a project aimed specifically on churches in our portfolio. In September we therefore gathered all our members cooperating with churches to analyse and discuss challenges and what can be done. This focus will continue.

Our members and partners also spend resources on anti-corruption; both to strengthen financial integrity and to encourage fighting corruption in the local contexts. One example is a member organisation that held a two-day workshop on anti-corruption for staff and volunteers in Burundi, including officers from the police and army.

Digni has at any time several ongoing cases of mismanagement and financial irregularities. We see this as a sign that both our mechanisms for whistleblowing and reporting are safe and used, and that internal control within either member or partner is strong enough to detect irregularities. Five cases of financial irregularities were concluded in 2021:

- Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirke (DELF) for a project implemented in Palestine where funds were used for purposes and activities outside the project. NOK 419.089 is repaid to the project.
- Det Norske Misjonsselskap (NMS) for a project in Cameroon where documentation at local partner was forged. NOK 26.622 is repaid to Norad.
- Misjonsalliansen (MA) for a project implemented in Liberia where there was a theft of cash from a safe with the local partner. NOK 5.309 is repaid to the project.
- Det Norske Misjonsselskap (NMS) for a project implemented in Cameroon where Norad funds were lent out to purposes outside the project. NOK 150.436 is repaid to Norad.
- Misjonsalliansen (MA) for a project implemented in Cambodia where costs were not satisfactorily accounted for. NOK 251 is repaid to the project.

In three of the five cases concluded with repayment of funds, 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 grant manager detecting the mismanagement, immediate reporting of the case, and documentation of well-functioning internal control systems.

At the end of 2021, 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 organisations and their partners. Our hope is that as we learn from the cases, we could spend more resources for preventive measures then for handling cases. Therefore, we started in 2021 to write learning notes from every ended case. These are short and gives a brief overview of what happened, why it did happen, how the case was handled by Digni, member and partner, and how Norad concluded the case.

Some cases display varying degrees of weaknesses in the financial management of the partner organisation. 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. Our new tool for partner assessment is the highlight in that way. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Digni has not seen a particular increase of financial mismanagement or irregularities. A few cases were added in 2021, especially on thefts, due to external factors such as lockdown during the pandemic.

Overall, the level of irregularities we believe is related to adequate internal control within the partners and in the projects. 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

Network meetings

The network meetings are important arenas for learning, competence building and relationship building for partners, members and Digni. 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. Due to the pandemic, a global, digital network meeting was held in November 9-11, 2021. There were about 250 participants from members and partners from 30 countries. In 2020, Global Consultation was conducted digitally, but it was the first time Digni arranged a network meeting digitally. The experience was that this required a lot of time for technical and logistical preparation, but that the meeting was well received and was largely successful. The experience from the meeting and the evaluation afterwards gives us good input on how digital network meetings can be developed and improved. Even though these digital meetings are more climate-friendly, there is still a desire for physical meetings when the situation allows for it. Lectures and input in the Global Network Meeting have been included in the work on the strategic action plan and are available on the Fabo platform.

Among the topics covered on these days were- Digni's' strategy

- The SDGs and Leave No One Behind
- Strategic partnership in a Digni context
- Strengthening civil society
- Fabo and e-learning, capacity development
- Thematic workshops for education, health, economic development, climate and environment, peaceful coexistence / FORB.
- Power and sexual abuse
- Anti-corruption work and partner reviews
- Process towards a new Norad application

Competence building programs

Digni has supported five major competence building projects in 2021. These are as follows:

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

In 2019, Digni started a Competence building program on «Power and sexual abuse». 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.

Due to Covid and political upheavals, the collaboration with pilot partners in Ethiopia and Bangladesh had to be redesigned. In 2021, the steering group has prepared a toolbox on the Fabo learning platform and obtained input and feedback from pilot partners on the various elements in it. The toolkit is created to assist Digni's partners in preventing, detecting and dealing with cases of power abuse and sexual harassment in the organisations. It will be launched mid-2022.

2. Anti-corruption work

In the autumn of 2020, Digni launched a Competence building program in the field of anti-corruption with the aim of "strengthening the Digni chain's work with prevention and combating corruption, and thereby reducing the risk of default and the use of resources for handling fraud

cases." The project has appointed a steering group consisting of employees in both large and small member organisations. An external consultant has prepared a report in which she has reviewed and analysed Digni's' handling and learning of fraud cases from 2018 to 2020. The project has worked in 2021 and completed its report in February 2022.

3. Fabo learning Platform

In the autumn of 2021, Digni also started a Competence building program with the goal of developing the use of Fabo as a new platform for capacity development among members and partners. Fabo was used as a platform for the network meeting to share information both before and after, as well as to obtain feedback from the participants in some areas. The evaluation showed that the participants found Fabo's site useful and user-friendly.

4.Early Childhood Education Development in Southern Africa

Norsk pinsemisjon (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. The project got an extension year for 2021 due to the pandemic, with the intention to finalise the activities according to the plan. Since the situation related to the pandemic was the same in 2021, the planned regional conference and workshops were suspended and changed to digital follow up.

5.Finalising 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. Somaliland is one of the countries in the world with least capacity to perform health research. A bibliometric (publication) study, assessing the number of clinical health research articles originating in Somaliland between 1991 and 2013 found only 37 studies.

The competence project aimed to present the research findings through three articles in international, peer reviewed journals. Four articles have been finalized and published:

- **Estimates of fluid intake, urine output and hydration-levels in women from Somaliland: a cross-sectional study**
  - Published in *Journal of Nutritional Science*
  - Open Access: https://doi.org/10.1017/jns.2021.54
- **Household Water Is the Main Source of Iodine Consumption among Women in Hargeisa, Somaliland: A Cross-Sectional Study**
  - Published in *Journal of Nutrition*
  - Open access: https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/nxab377
- **Experiences with establishing a neonatal special care unit in Somaliland**
  - Published in *Journal of Global Health Reports*

    - Open access: https://doi.org/10.29392/001c.33619
- **Neonatal morbidity and mortality in Hargeisa, Somaliland: an observational, hospital based study.**
    - Published in *Pan African Medical Journal*
    - Open Access https://doi.org/10.11604/pamj.2020.37.3.24741

The articles have been (including the one in review) presented "open access" so that the authorities and local research and aid communities in Somaliland / Somalia can utilise 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. We consider this to be an important contribution based on knowledge and experiences from the project work in the area, which can be left as research-based articles available for everyone to work further with the topics discussed here.