

NOTTAWASAGA INSTITUTE



Statement from the Director

Happy New Year from all of us at NI! To all our colleagues, clients, associates and friends welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. It's been a productive year for us and we would like to thank you for your support during the year. We hope that this newsletter will give you some insight into the work we do. Highlights this year include:

- Policy engagement with civil society on human rights in a time of declining civic space and looking at the challenges facing youth in Africa
- Strengthening our work with disadvantaged groups such as vulnerable rural women and working towards building sustainable futures through agriculture
- Supporting livelihoods in conflict zones through the provision of targeted training and infrastructure development for youth and war veterans

As we continue to expand our scope of work we welcome you all to collaborate with us for an even more successful 2018. All the best for the New Year!

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Overview of Work Done in 2017

Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) Strategic Review

The Agriculture and Livelihoods Programme of CFGB aims to build food security at the community level and reduce the need for food assistance.

The regions identified for the strategic reviews were South Asia (India and Nepal), East Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and Southern Africa (Malawi and Zimbabwe).

NI visited project sites in Kenya's Nakuru County in Maimahiu and in Ikutha and Mbitini areas of Kitui County. In Ethiopia NI visited several projects in Wolaita District. The findings and recommendations will be used to assist future programming in the area of Agriculture and Livelihoods.

Innovation for Change (I4C) Africa Project Mapping

I4C is a global network of on-line hubs and regional centres in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. To strengthen collaborative action under I4C among organizations across Africa working on human rights and transparency & accountability, CIVICUS together with Counterpart International is establishing mechanisms to support civil society networking at a regional level. One of the mechanisms is the Africa Hub based in Nairobi.

NI was engaged to undertake an assessment and develop an organizational directory on these issues as well as develop comparative case studies of best practice across the different regions.

Joint Action on Vulnerability and Marginalization of Girls in Pastoralist and other communities

Gender based violence and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) are a global problem that cuts across many countries and cultures.

Hivos Foundation in partnership with Indigenous Information Network and NI held a workshop in Nairobi in May attended by groups working on HTPs and human rights challenges facing girls and women. The forum sought to provide a platform for grassroots groups and key stakeholders to identify common capacity gaps, strategies for addressing them and opportunities to network and collaborate in joint action.

The groups will be assisted to apply for support from Hivos' new VOICE program.

Business Labs Training of Trainers Evaluation

In 2016, UN-Habitat organized a series of Training of Trainers workshops in Kenya, Liberia and Uganda in 2016 on 'business lab methodology' in cooperation with Carmel International Training Centre (MCT).

The objective was to provide young entrepreneurs and potential trainers with guidance and support to generate viable and creative ideas to start and develop their new businesses. NI was asked by UN-Habitat to carry out an evaluation to assess the quality and sustainability as well as to identify ways of improving the training. Findings will be used to build a network of trainers across Africa.

One Stop Youth Centres for Peace and Development in South Sudan

The prolonged instability in South Sudan since 2013 left many young people significantly affected as most of the combatants were youths recruited by both sides in the conflict.

UN-Habitat in partnership with the governments of South Sudan and Japan is developing a One Stop Youth Centre in Juba with focus on employable skills training, inter-community dialogue and exchange programmes aimed at fostering mutual understanding and common action for conflict resolution.

NI designed and facilitated a training workshop and carried out needs assessments, surveys and interviews in Juba at the inception phase of the program and continues to support implementation of the initiative.

Housing for Veterans for Sustainable Peace and Development in South Sudan

UN-Habitat, with funding from the Government of Japan and in cooperation with the Government of South Sudan and other development partners committed to fostering peace in the country implemented the 'Housing for Veterans for Sustainable Peace and Development' pilot project as a key strategy for entrenching sustainable peace in the country.

NI participated in the inception phase of the program by conducting a survey, mobilization and establishment of veterans' consultation workshops in Wau to determine local needs and aspirations.

NI's Impact in 2016

Number of published articles

7

Planning documents, evaluations and other research produced

16

Research documents edited

39

Number of people reached through public forums & workshops

388

Number reached through surveys

308

Number experts interviewed

57

Number of internships

3

Number of Associates engaged

26



Overview of Work Done in 2017 Cont'd

Youth Socio-economic Vulnerability, Exclusion, Inequality and Violence in Africa

In an effort to guide future youth strategies in the region, particularly on how to support policy-relevant research, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in collaboration with the African Migration Policy and Development Centre (AMADPOC), convened a stakeholders' consultative workshop in Nairobi, Kenya from 1-3 March 2017. The purpose was to identify key knowledge gaps on the interplay of youth socio-economic vulnerability, inequalities, exclusion and violence in Africa.

Nottawasaga Institute facilitated the workshop activities which included presentations from various delegates, regional group discussions and documentation of all activities undertaken.

Baseline survey for Better Business Practice for Children

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance through the KEPFA Foundation, in partnership with UNICEF is implementing the "Better Business Practices for Children initiative" to improve maternal and infant nutrition through making workplaces mother and baby friendly.

NI undertook a baseline survey on pre-project implementation conditions against which outcomes would be measured at the end of project. The survey established the level of knowledge, attitude and practices among companies on Better Business Practice for Children at the workplaces.

A participatory Assessment of several TVETs in Nairobi and Garissa Counties

The Kenya Youth Employment and Skills Program (KYES) is a five-year program funded by USAID and implemented by RTI International. It aims to take advantage of the demographic youth bulge in the country and help disadvantaged youth to acquire, share and apply appropriate knowledge and skills.

Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) institutes were identified as key structures in achieving this. We conducted an assessment for the Nairobi and Garissa based VTCs in order to establish a baseline of institutional capabilities and identify areas for support for the TVETs.



What's New?

Consultancy support system – NI has been strengthening our consultancy support system for NI Associate Consultants. This will seek to provide relevant administrative and program backing to our Associates across a range of services including fieldwork, workshop facilitation and reporting among others.

New Program Officer: Iqbal Basant recently replaced Salim Kombo as program officer. We wish Salim all the best in his future endeavours. Iqbal has an MA in Globalization and Development from the University of Warwick.

Internship Programme: We continued expanding our recruitment process for interns – involving more universities and therefore drawing from a wider pool of degree specializations.

Quotes from interns

"It was a wonderful experience. I thank NI for having given me the opportunity and allowing me to be part of them for this long. I wish them well as they move forward."
Wariara Karume, Former intern.

"I have gained knowledge and skills through direct involvement in all the projects. The staff is very friendly and I thank NI for the opportunity and experience gained."
Irene Wamukota, Intern.

Training at the launch of the One Stop Youth Centre, South Sudan



GOALS FOR 2018

- In 2017 we held a brainstorming meeting with our Associates to assess the current state of the market and our place in it.
- From this meeting we generated new ideas for expanding our business, being more pro-active, strengthening our market presence and seeking new directions and specializations for NI and our associates.
- Our plans for 2018 include developing comprehensive service packages for organizations seeking support focused on youth empowerment or climate adaptation programs. We also intend to expand our work in development communication services.



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