

NIPSA Funded Concern Project

In 2014 the NIPSA Charity donated £20,000 to this project which helped small farmers get the most out of their land to have year-round access to nutritious food. Overall 700 individuals, including 140 farmers and their families, identified as the most in need, benefited from this project.

Mozambique is the fourth poorest country in the world and Zambezia a particularly challenged region. Infant mortality is high, primary school completion rates low, and few families have access to safe water, 88% of the population rely on small family farms, yet much government support is targeted at Agribusiness and smallholders are reliant on out-dated equipment and methods which produce little yield. Storage of food is an issue, exacerbated by sudden shocks like cyclones and regular flooding, leading to a 'hunger period' that often lasts months. Chinde district is composed of 32 islands in the Zambezi river, less than 20 metres above sea level, with villages accessible only by boat. Most farming is done by hand, meaning long, strenuous and often dangerous days that don't always result in enough food to feed the family.

The project increased farmers use and knowledge of appropriate and sustainable agricultural methods to improve nutrition and quality of life, achieved through a collective and empowering learning process called Farmer Field Schools.

The project placed major emphasis on community ownership to ensure its sustainability. This allowed farmers to establish their own seed banks to meet the needs of vulnerable households and be directly involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The sustainability of this project was helped by the fact that it was part of a broader livelihoods programme across the region implemented by Concern. Concern was addressing the wider needs of the extreme poor in surrounding communities, helping ensure that improvements in Chinde were sustained in the future as well as helping farmers access markets and get fair prices.



Colombia

NIPSA Supported Trócaire Project



In 2012 NIPSA supported a two year project which provided comprehensive legal assistance and support to unions and their members. The two year project helped support victims of systematic persecution, harassment, forced disappearances and torture, while also addressing the cases of those who were murdered. Court cases were brought to the national and international courts which contributed significantly to the fight against impunity.

Through legal strategies, advocacy, social mobilisation, reporting and reclaiming the rights of victims, the NIPSA funded project helped keep the momentum for research on high-profile cases of crimes against trade unions. These included the cases of Freyter Jorge Romero, Hugo Iguarán and Juan Carlos Ramirez.



Egypt



NIPSA Funded Christian Aid Project

Christian Aid's analysis of poverty is that, more than just a lack of income, it is to do with the misuse of power, be it economic, social, personal or political. 'Poverty', as the Christian Aid Poverty Over manifesto puts it, 'is disempowerment, and the injustices that result.' In the limestone quarries of El Minia, Egypt, these injustices have resulted in thousands of workers being deprived of basic labour and human rights, such as holidays, decent wages and social security. But a Christian Aid project, which NIPSA supported in 2011, sought to challenge this situation and empower quarry workers and their families to claim their rights. A trade union focused project which helped quarry workers realise their economic and social rights and enhanced their participation in local decision making processes. It also addressed key labour concerns such as work and safety conditions, pay, training in human rights and literacy and skills training.

Sahar Yusef since her husband, a former quarry worker, had an accident and can no longer work, Sahar is now the main breadwinner for her family, running several small businesses including this shop.





nipsa

Global Solidarity

Promoting Solidarity, Equality and Social Justice

1993

Celebrating 26 years of NIPSA's Charity

NIPSA Developing World Fund was established and launched at the Annual Conference in June 1993. It was a granted Charitable Status by the Inland Revenue and was administered by the NIPSA Developing World Committee.



Message from Tony McMullan, first appointed Chairperson of the NIPSA Developing World Committee

"I was one of a small number of activists who drove this forward and was then enormously honoured to be the Committee's first Chair.

We recognised then, as now, that workers of all countries deserve good quality work for themselves and their families. They also need protection at work, access to the basics of life, health, education, housing, water, food and decent public services.

We also argued that all workers needed human and trade union rights, equal opportunities, social and economic justice. I'm so proud with everything that the Developing World Committee and it's successor the Global Solidarity Committee has achieved and will achieve in the future."

A Unique Fund

This was a unique and historical event in the history of the trade union movement. As no other union in Northern Ireland or the United Kingdom had such a Fund. The Fund was especially unique because all the money raised goes directly to the Fund - no money is used for administration.



Oxfam

At that time Oxfam became NIPSA's principal partner in Developing World projects and activities. Oxfam was actively involved in researching and identifying projects for consideration for support from NIPSA

"NIPSA has allowed our organisation to evolve from a small community protest group to a self-build housing project giving new homes to 42 families. Thank you NIPSA for your financial support!"



The first three projects supported by the Fund were:

Land Rights and Health in Colombia: The project helped improve the housing conditions of poor communities in Colombia by providing training for community leaders to acquire the necessary skills to advise and help the local people.

Working with Children in Indonesia: The project helped poor children in the community by providing them with education opportunities which they were otherwise denied.

Fighting the Slumlords in Western India: The project secured rights for the slum dwellers as well as the provision of basic facilities such as water, sanitation and electricity.

NIPSA donated £58,000 to the 3 projects which became self-financing in 1995.

NIPSA Global Solidarity Committee

In June 2004 a review of the work of the Committee was undertaken which resulted in the remit and scope of the Developing World Committee being extended to deal with international development issues and to provide for greater trade union focus and collaboration.

In line with the changes to the remit and scope the NIPSA Developing World Committee was renamed the NIPSA Global Solidarity Committee. The registered fund title of the NIPSA Developing World Fund was retained.

2004

Creation of NIPSA Global Solidarity Committee

Tanzania, Uganda and Belize

Three projects were supported in 2000. One involved the rehabilitation of a school in the Shinyanga region of Tanzania, another was an environmental project in Uganda. In addition funding was provided to help reactivate the Banana Workers Union in Belize and for the translation into Chinese of a pocket size workers rights guide for distribution to China and Hong Kong.

2000

Integration for people with disabilities in Bangladesh

NIPSA funded a project with an organisation called Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) which was set up to help disabled people in Dhaka. NIPSA supported SARPV's campaign in changing government policy on pensions so as to enable disabled children of civil servants to receive a pension in the event of their guardian's death. NIPSA also supported them in a major public and government awareness campaign to show how much disabled people can achieve.



Trade Union Education in Chile

Trade Unions were banned in Chile from 1973 to 1990 and it was only since the democratic elections which took place in 1993 that the Trade Union movement was beginning to re-emerge. Mujer Y Trabajo (Women and Work) was formed with Oxfam's help in 1985. The Oxfam/NIPSA funding of this project provided training for grassroots women workers and helped Chilean women take their rightful place in the re-emergent trade union movement.



Community Health Care in Ethiopia

Provided funding to run health clinics for mothers and children to ensure that children's growth was regularly monitored, that immunisations were provided, that mothers were taught about nutrition and that diarrhoea diseases, skin and eye infections and malnutrition in young children were detected and controlled. The project also provided education in preventative health care.



1996

Three New Projects Were Supported

2007

War On Want

The Songani Orphan Care Centre in Malawi

In April 2007 broadcaster and journalist Noel Thompson visited one of NIPSA's supported projects - The Songani Orphan Care Centre - and found the money donated by NIPSA had helped build lives ravaged by HIV/AIDS. The following is an edited version of his report for BBC Newsline. "Near the southern city of Zambia, about 400 children are registered at the Songani Orphan Care Centre. They live at home with the carers, often elderly grandparents who have themselves few resources, but they come to the centre for food, clothing and training.

War-on-Want, along with NIPSA, funds the centre, which Kennedy Mpoya runs. Kennedy said: "We teach the children skills like tailoring or carpentry, so they'll have some chance to stand on their own feet as they grow up."



2009

Global Solidarity Champions



In 2009 NIPSA submitted a funding application to the Department for International Development (DFID) to provide intensive training to NIPSA members in order to build a cadre of 40 Global Solidarity Champions who would build international solidarity structures within NIPSA and play a crucial role in mobilising and educating other NIPSA members to work towards the eradication of global poverty and hunger. Our application was successful and we have 40 NIPSA Global Solidarity Champions appointed.

2011

Tools for Solidarity



In 2011 we supported a local NGO, Tools for Solidarity, to deliver their programme of support for artisans living in Tanzania to help them grow their income generating capacity, improve the quality of their services and to increase employment opportunities.

Stephen Woods from Tools for Solidarity said: "We are indebted to NIPSA not just for the money the Fund provided but for the publicity we received through the Global Solidarity Newsletter - an excellent informative and well produced publication - and for the solidarity and warmth shown by NIPSA members to our organisation.

There are very limited avenues for funding for smaller NGOs working in development and the NIPSA Fund is a vital resource for such groups. We hope that the Fund continues its great work."

DISABILITY AID ABROAD

Our current project with Disability Aid Abroad has received international acclaim by the International Labour Organisation who are looking to using the Disability Champions model for their own work in other countries. The project is helping trade unions in Ethiopia to defend and develop the employment rights of workers with disabilities.



2018

CGE GAZA

Giving Hope To The Children Of Gaza

NIPSA's support has helped to improve the lives of children impacted by poverty and conflict. By supporting education and counselling programmes in Gaza, NIPSA members are making a real difference to young people's lives, strengthening their education and helping them manage the effects of trauma. Above all, NIPSA's support is an act of solidarity with the people of Gaza at a time when Israel is attempting to ensure their isolation from the world.



Since the Fund was established 25 years ago a total of £659,000 has been donated to projects throughout the world.

It has been an honour to Chair the NIPSA Global Solidarity Committee in its 25th year. I have had the privilege to be able to look back at all the amazing work that has been done by the committee in previous years and all the lives that have been changed with the help of the money raised by the Developing World Fund. I am confident that with the help of the donors, we have another fantastic 25 years to come! **Liz Skelcher**



2019

...and Beyond

To All Our Donors We Say Thank You For 26 Years Of Solidarity