



NOREC PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Updated August 2025

NOREC

NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR
EXCHANGE COOPERATION



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Photographs

All the images portrayed are real people working in a Norec project and their colleagues from all over the world. Consent has been granted to Norec to use these images to visualise our exchange projects and their effect.

For more information regarding specific photographs or any other content in this pamphlet, contact norec@norec.no

About Norec

The Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) is Norway's only competence centre for international exchange. As an executive body under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are a key part of Norway's integrated approach to achieving the UN's sustainable development goals.

Building Knowledge

As a centre of competence, we strive to build and expand knowledge on how to build strong global partnerships. In addition, Norec strives to build knowledge in the field of international work exchanges. Multi-method data collections are regularly carried out to inform and improve our trainings and programmes.

Norec has an interdisciplinary team of trainers. They facilitate 35 - 40 trainings for staff and partnerships that work internationally each year.

Grant Management

Norec supports work exchanges that provide global learning opportunities for staff and organisations. With a grant for a work exchange project, workplaces send employees and volunteers on exchange to another country. Norec also administers the grant Democracy Through Partnerships, which supports Norwegian political parties and youth wings in their work to promote democracy globally.

The UN and World Bank

Norec coordinates recruitment of Norwegian citizens to positions funded by the Norwegian government at the UN and the multilateral development banks. This includes positions as Junior Professional Officers and other secondments. We are currently funding 55 Norwegian citizens working for various UN agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Bank on all continents. Norec conducts pre-deployment trainings and follows up the secondees throughout their contracts, with an overall goal of increasing the number of Norwegian citizens in international organisations.

EVAL

Norec hosts the The Independent Evaluation Department of Norwegian Development Cooperation. Their task is to provide impartial assessments that hold Norway's development actors accountable and improve the quality and results of Norwegian development cooperation. Operating under a distinct mandate, the department reports directly to the Secretary Generals of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.



Overview

Norec and International Organisations

Recruitment to the UN and the Development Banks

Norec coordinates Norway's recruitment to the UN and other international organisations on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a link between Norwegian authorities and the multilateral system, Norec works to increase the number of Norwegian citizens in international positions.

A central part of this work is the national secondment scheme, which funds junior and mid-level roles in organisations such as the UN and the World Bank. Reserved for Norwegian nationals, these positions provide valuable experience that can lead to long-term international careers.

Norec manages outreach and selection for these roles, and offers guidance, training, and follow-up to secondees throughout their assignments to ensure professional development and the transfer of strategic knowledge back to Norway. The agency also contributes to policy development and talent pipeline strategies, and is establishing a professional network for Norwegians working in international organisations.

In 2025, Norway is funding 55 positions through Norec to the UN system, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, with a budget of 75 million NOK. The aim is to increase Norwegian representation in international organisations and encourage Norwegian-funded staff to move into regular positions beyond the funding period.

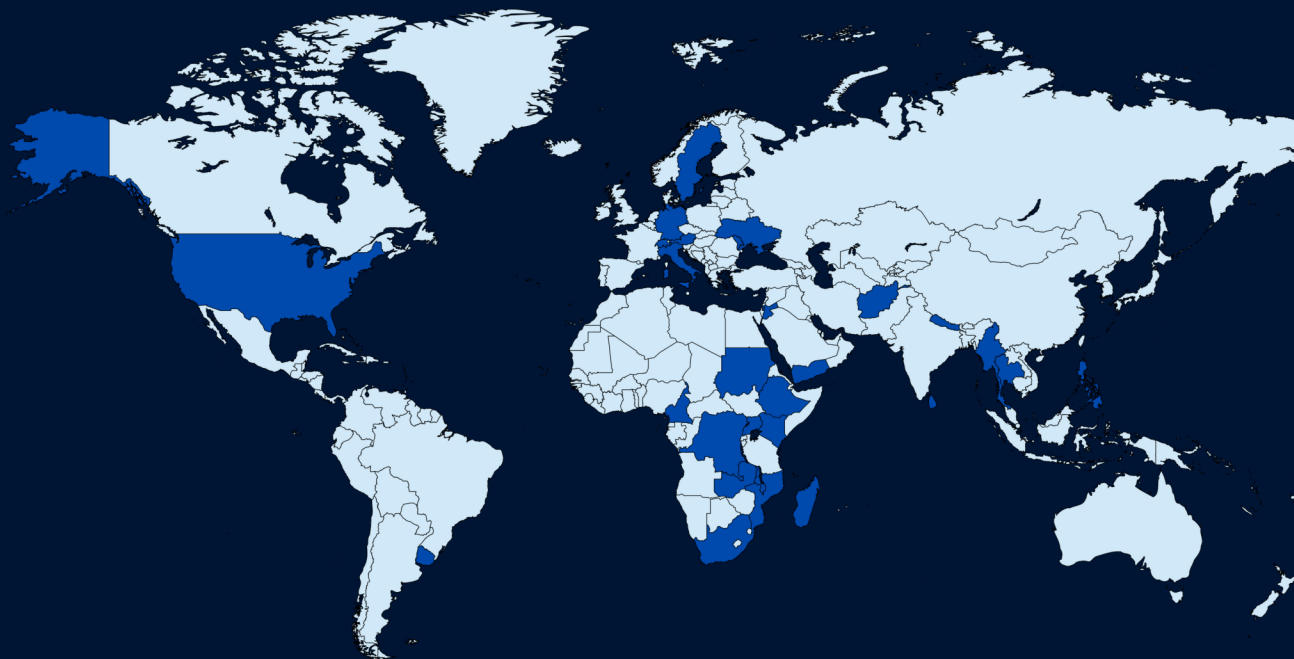
Two deployment modalities are supported:

- Junior Professional Officers (JPO): Usually three years fully funded by Norway, plus one year of co-funding, typically at P2 or GF level.
- Senior Professional Officers (SPO): At P4 or GG level, with two years of full funding, exceptionally three.

The recruitment cycle begins each September, when Norec and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs identify strategically important positions in dialogue with organisations and embassies. Suggestions can be sent to fn_stillinger@norec.no. Positions to be supported are confirmed in early December, with vacancies posted in late January and deployments expected in September.

Norwegian Secondees 2025

JPO, SPO AND SDP



ADB

1 JPO: PHILIPPINES

UN DPO

1 JPO: NEW YORK

UN DPPA

2 JPOS: NEW YORK, KENYA

FAO

2 JPOS: ETHIOPIA, KENYA

ILO

2 JPOS: NEPAL, SRI LANKA

OCHA

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, YEMEN

OHCHR

2 JPOS: UKRAINE,
SOUTH AFRICA

NEW: UN DESA

1 JPO: GENEVA

UNDP

6 JPOS, 1 SPO, 1 SDP:
THAILAND, MADAGASCAR
DRC, NEW YORK, GENEVA
UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, MALAWI
1 JPO: SUDAN

UNEP

1 JPO: KENYA

NEW: UNFCCC

1 JPO: GERMANY

UNFPA

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, NEW YORK

UNHCR

2 JPOS: MOLDOVA, CAMEROON
1 JPO: KENYA

UNICEF

3 JPOS: ZAMBIA, SWEDEN,
ETHIOPIA
1 JPO: MYANMAR

UNODC

1 JPOS: VIENNA
1 JPO: VIENNA

NEW: UNRWA

1 JPO: JORDAN/NEW YORK

UN WOMEN

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, NEPAL
2 JPO: UGANDA
**1 SPO: OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

WFP

4 JPOS: SOUTH AFRICA,
AFGHANISTAN, KENYA
2 JPOS: ITALY, MOZAMBIQUE

WORLD BANK / GEF

2 JPOS, 2 SPOS: WASHINGTON
**1 JPO, 2 SPO: WASHINGTON, UKRAINE,
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

WHO

1 JPO: URUGUAY

Overview

Democracy Through Partnerships

The «Democracy through partnership» scheme is a grant for Norwegian political parties and youth parties. It is aimed at democratic parties and party systems in ODA-approved countries.

Supporting democracy through political parties is a small but important contribution to the development of democracy around the world. Norwegian political parties can play a role in this through their established international networks, their commitment to democracy, and their expertise in party building.

With increasing internationalisation and globalisation, it is also important that Norwegian political parties are aware of, and involved in, international issues and development policy.



2024 - 2025

● Young Liberals of Norway (UV) Argentina, Colombia, Peru 840 000	● Christian Democrats of Norway (KrF) Belarus 2 440 000
● The Green Party (MDG) of Norway Lebanon 1 300 000	● Christian Democrats of Norway (KrF) Ethiopia 3 890 000
● The Workers' Youth League (AUF) Palestina 1 400 000	● Young Christian Democrats of Norway (KrFU) – Collaborative project Lebanon 3 880 000

Mobilization for Democratic Involvement

PROJECT KEY FACTS	Estimated total grant	Project start	Project end
	\$140K	2024	2025

The Workers' Youth League (AUF) will collaborate with Fatah Youth Movement (FYM) to strengthen the latter's ability to communicate and mobilise. Particularly, the project aims to strengthen FYM's communication in order to build a stronger and more inclusive organisation. There will be a particular focus on how to use communication tools and social media to get young people democratically involved.

The overall objective of the project is to increase gender equality and knowledge on democratic mobilization in FYM. Through the project, AUF members and Norwegian youth are to also gain insight to the situation in Palestine. The applicant emphasises that making sure that neither Palestinian or Norwegian youth lose faith in a political solution to the conflict in Israel and Palestine is vital at this stage, and that the project seeks to build hope and trust in the Norwegian and Palestinian stance of a two-state solution. The project builds upon a previous project under the same scheme with the same partners.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Arbeidernes Ungdomsfylking (AUF)	Norway
Fatah Youth Movement (FYM)	Palestine

Young Political Engagement in Latin America

PROJECT KEY FACTS	Estimated total grant	Project start	Project end
	\$85K	2024	2025

Women, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendant populations remain underrepresented in the national legislatures of Argentina, Colombia, and Peru. The project aims to promote political participation among young people and address key issues around female and minority representation in Latin America. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration between youth organisations across the region. The target group is young people aged 15 to 30.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Grupo Joven Fundaciòn Libertad (GJFL)	Argentina
Libertank	Colombia
Norges Unge Venstre	Norway
Instituto Pro Libertad Perú	Peru
La Liga Libertad	Peru

Inclusive Political Parties Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$389K

2024

2025

The partnership aims to support the Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council (EPPJC) in promoting peaceful competition, national dialogue, and inclusive policies in Ethiopia. It will strengthen the EPPJC's capacity to carry out this role effectively. The project also supports the Women and Youth Wings to improve representation of women and youth within Ethiopian political parties ahead of the 2026 elections. A key focus is strengthening regional structures to encourage wider participation beyond Addis Ababa. Overall, the project seeks to foster ongoing dialogue that leads to peaceful and fair elections.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council (EPPJC)
Kristelig Folkeparti (KrF)

Ethiopia
Norway

Deepening Dialogue Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$245K

2024

2025

The project aims to promote democracy in Belarus. It also seeks to strengthen international collaboration that contribute to democratic development in Belarus.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC)
Kristelig Folkeparti (KrF)

Lithuania
Norway

Youth Political Empowerment Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$389K

2024

2025

This project aims to increase youth participation in Lebanese politics. It supports young Lebanese politicians by helping them improve skills in working across parties, developing policies, and building strong organisations. The project continues a partnership between Norwegian and Lebanese youth groups that started in 2019.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

National Democratic Institute Lebanon

Lebanon

Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom (KrFU)

Norway

Collaboration between Green Partys of Lebanon and Norway

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$130K

2024

2025

The project aims to strengthen the Green Party of Lebanon (GLP) by enhancing its organisational structure and capacity. It also focuses on increasing the representation of women and youth within the party, fostering better understanding and cooperation between different political groups, and establishing a strong and lasting partnership between the Green Party of Norway (MDG) and tGLP.

Through these efforts, the project seeks to build a more inclusive and effective political organisation.

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Green Party of Lebanon (GLP)

Lebanon

Miljøpartiet de Grønne (MDG)

Norway

Overview

Norec Work Exchange Projects

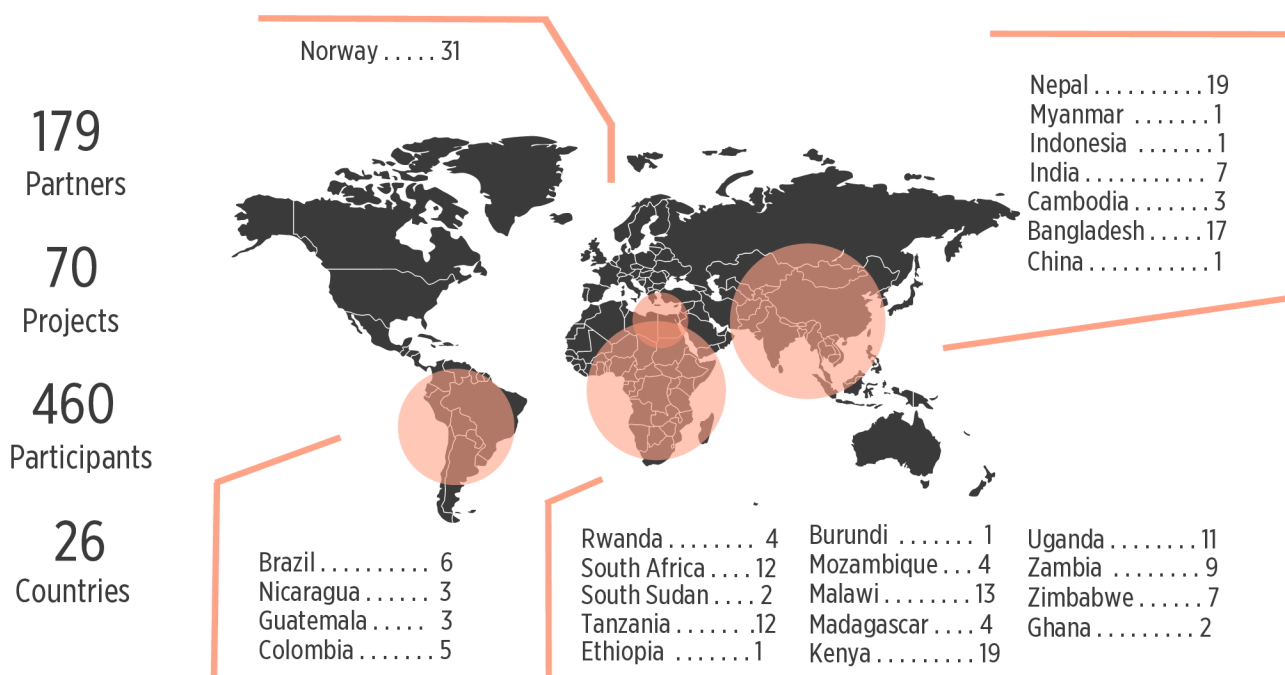
Work Exchange Projects

Yearly, over 175 organisations send their staff to work abroad to learn from partners in other countries, creating new or stronger partnerships through practical experience in different contexts and specialisations.

Norec is founded on the principle that collaboration is essential for addressing global challenges. Whether the partnerships are formed with like-minded or different organisations, they strengthen international alliances and work to reach the UN's sustainable development goals.

The majority of the staff that travel abroad in Norec supported projects, gain valuable work experience. Learning and skill transfer gives exchanged project staff professional growth, which upon their return, contributes to their organisations' efficiency and innovation. Over time, the skills and learning are transferred between those that have been on an exchange, the new staff received on job-exchange and the institutions' staff as a whole. This process also promotes organisational and community advancement.

Norec emphasizes the importance of bridging power imbalances and fostering international relationships as essential strategies for solving global issues. It fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among diverse groups, laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation and mutual benefits. Through a Norec exchange project, organisations gain the expertise needed to achieve their objectives and push for impactful changes, showcasing Norec's dedication to cross-cultural cooperation in global problem-solving.



Former Norec exchanged staff Jeromnie and her story

Jeromnie Akinyi Obwar grew up in an informal settlement in Kisumu, Kenya. She says this about her work exchange to Norway: “That is when I had my self-identity for the first time. I knew who I was. I knew the potentials that I had.”

Upon returning, she volunteered to inform young people about sexual health rights: “We realised that there was something going wrong in our community. The community members could not reach the higher people. We became the ladder for them to use.”

Jeromnie was selected into the Health Management Committee: “that to me is so big. I can meet with those people. I can now influence change directly.”



Partner Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK) and achievements

Staff from Youth Alive! Kenya learnt how to conduct action research while on exchange with Youth Empowerment Transformation Trust in Zimbabwe. YAK applied this method to map out the situation for youth in Kenya.

A report was compiled, which highlights the gaps in current policies as well as youths' views of what should to be done differently. YAK used the findings to draw attention to the need for change in the electoral process to bring young people out of voter apathy and into politics. The government used key findings from the report to inform governmental youth-focused outreach programmes.

The Norec Network

Since we started in 1963, Norec has supported the exchange of more than 13 000 staff and volunteers between different organisations. These individuals are a resource we want to continue to support. Therefore, we launched the Norec Network in 2023.

We enable the members of Norec Network to share knowledge and expertise, expand their professional network and join physical and digital network activities, and this way, we help keep their engagement going even after their exchange period has ended.

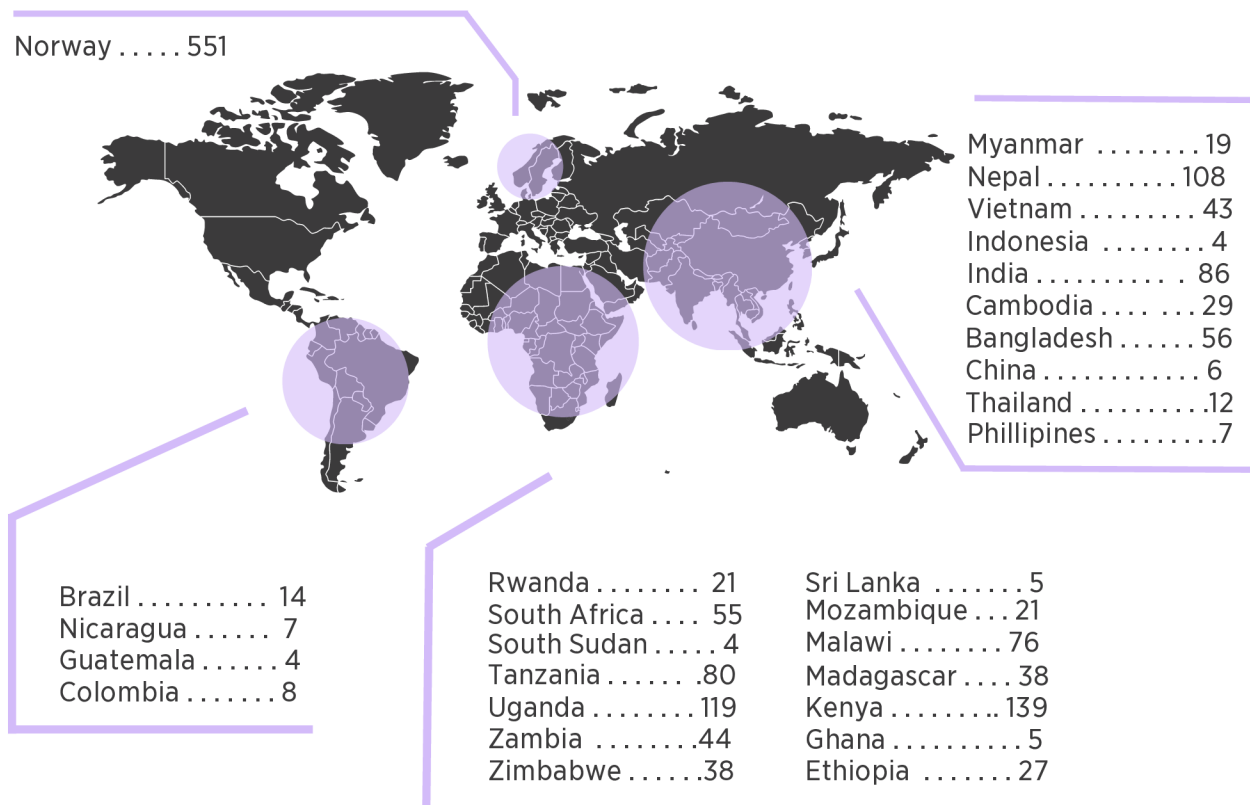
This network works as a resource bank for Norec, where we can gather advice and input from the members. They have helped with facilitation, logistics and interpretation for trainings we have conducted in their home countries.

The Norec Network is available for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and associated embassies to utilise as a resource.

If you wish to get further information on how you can utilise the network, or have any questions related to the network, please contact network@norec.no

Norec Network members as of August 2025

2,300 +





Overview

Norec
Work Exchange
Projects: **South Africa**

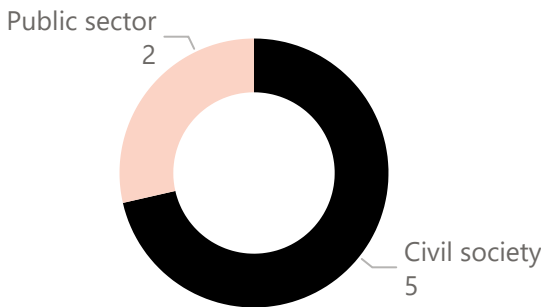
Norec Projects in South Africa

Collaboration Agreements	Partner Organisations	Norec Network Members
7	7	93

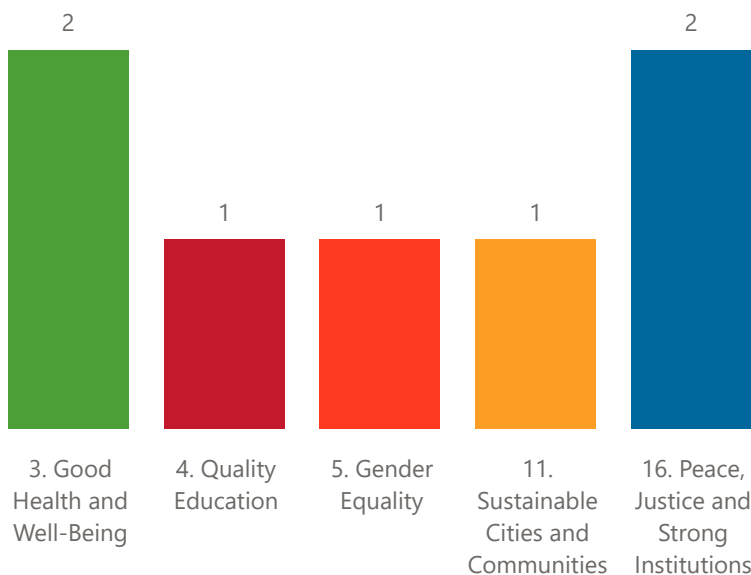
In 2024 the projects with Norec support received funds (USD) totalling to

1,2M

Partners are predominantly from civil society



Collaboration Agreements are working towards the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Organisations have partners in the following countries



Norec Partners in South Africa 2025

COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

Partner	City	Contact Person	E-mail
Africa Judges & Jurists Forum (AJJF)	Johannesburg	Arnold Tsunga	info@africajurists.org
Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital	Ga-Rankuwa	Colisiwe Ribombo	colisiwed@gmail.com
Equal Education	Cape Town	Nozipho Njomo	tebogo@equaleducation.org.za
Field Band Foundation (FBF)	Johannesburg	Peter Sello Maluleke	info@fieldband.org.za
Slum Dwellers International (SDI)	Cape Town	Simone Cupido	simone@sдинet.org
The Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender - University of Pretoria	Pretoria	Pfarelo Brandy Matsila	info@csagup.org
The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation	Johannesburg	Tsholofelo Nakedi	tnakedi@csvr.org.za

Traumatology and Emergency Medicine between Norway and South Africa, 2025-2028

The project improves patient care in trauma and emergency medicine by sharing skills and providing training between Haukeland University Hospital in Norway and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital in South Africa. It focuses on better communication and teamwork in emergency departments, helping South African staff manage their high number of trauma cases and giving Norwegian staff valuable experience with complex emergencies. Haukeland staff gain experience with rare injuries and ambulance services, while South African staff improve their trauma care, teamwork, and communication, supported by digital tools. The project also strengthens digital collaboration, allowing more staff to join meetings and training online.

DAC Sub Sector

12181 Medical
education/training

Sustainable
Development Goal

3. Good Health and
Well-Being

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$402K	12	2025	2028

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Helse Bergen HF	Norway
Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital	South Africa

Music Matters – PULSE 4

This project believes that music is important for creating inclusive and healthy communities. Young musicians on exchange work to build welcoming and supportive learning environments within their bands. They create content, run workshops and training sessions, and engage directly with band members, their organisations, and local communities. The Music Matters – PULSE 4 project aims to strengthen these learning environments by sharing knowledge and experiences, helping each organisation better support young people. Through music, the project boosts young people's confidence and resilience, contributing to stronger, more inclusive communities.

DAC Sub Sector

12261 Health
education

Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and
Well-Being

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$1,7M	47	2022	2027

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Norges Musikkorps Forbund (NMF)	Norway
Field Band Foundation (FBF)	South Africa

Youth Exchange Against Anti-Rights

This project explores how anti-rights movements – such as anti-gender and anti-environmental rhetoric – affect marginalised youth. By connecting researchers from the Global South and North, the project aims to build new knowledge about how authoritarianism and shrinking civic space impact young people. Participants will conduct research in their home contexts, share findings with their organisations, and develop strategies for advocacy. The goal is to support youth-led action, strengthen the partners’ ability to respond to anti-rights threats, and raise the profile of underrepresented researchers in the global debate.

DAC Sub Sector

15160 Human rights

Sustainable Development Goal

5. Gender Equality

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$273K	12	2024	2026

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpesfond (SAIH)	Norway
The Centre for Sexualities. AIDS and Gender - University of Pretoria	South Africa
Colors Rainbow	Thailand

A4A - Access for All

This project empowers young people to advocate for inclusive and accessible education in their countries, where many still face barriers to higher education. Participants will engage in education advocacy and activism, while sharing best practices and procedures between partner organisations to strengthen their work. Education is a fundamental right and essential for individual and societal development, playing a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. By building young people's skills and giving them a stronger voice, the project helps ensure their needs are heard and addressed. The exchange also fosters collaboration between organisations, encouraging the sharing of ideas and improving governance. The overall aim is to increase youth involvement and make quality, inclusive education available to all.

DAC Sub Sector

15160 Human rights

Sustainable
Development Goal

4. Quality Education

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$767K	18	2022	2026

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Equal Education	South Africa
Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC)	Zambia
Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT)	Zimbabwe

Building National, Regional, and International Networks

This project brings together partners from South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to prevent violence and promote peace. The focus is on youth and human rights. In all four countries, people face high levels of violence, inequality and weak support systems. Gender-based violence, youth unemployment and lack of safe platforms for participation are major challenges. The project helps build stronger networks between peacebuilders across Africa. It creates spaces for learning, dialogue and joint action. By working together, the partners aim to reduce violence and support young people to take an active role in building safer, fairer societies.

DAC Sub Sector

15160 Human rights

Sustainable Development Goal

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$817K	16	2024	2027

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Midrift HURINET	Kenya
The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation	South Africa
Children's Education Society (CHESO)	Tanzania
Justice Access Point	Uganda

Transforming the Justice Sector in East and Southern Africa through Exchange of Legal Expertise

This project brings together partners from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe to strengthen justice systems and promote democratic values. Through training and exchange, participants improve their skills in legal research, advocacy, and problem-solving. They also learn how legal systems work in different countries. The aim is to support SDG 16 by building strong institutions, promoting the rule of law, and encouraging fair and peaceful societies. By learning from each other, the partners help bring practical legal solutions to shared challenges across the region.

DAC Sub Sector

15130 Legal and
judicial development

Sustainable
Development Goal

16. Peace, Justice and
Strong Institutions

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$544K	16	2024	2026

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

International Commision of Jurists Kenyan Section (ICJ Kenya)	Kenya
Africa Judges & Jurists Forum (AJJF)	South Africa
Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)	Uganda
Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) - Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe

SDI Youth Leadership Development & Exchange Programme

This project brings together partners from the Slum Dwellers International (SDI) network to improve daily life for people living in slums. The goal is to help slum communities get secure homes, better services and be more prepared for climate change. The partners share skills in housing, mapping, savings groups, and small-scale upgrades like sanitation and safety. They support youth groups and women-led decision-making, and run awareness campaigns in local communities. A big focus is on training young leaders and making sure ideas that work in one country are shared across the whole network. This helps slum dwellers get more power to shape their own future.

DAC Sub Sector

16010 Social/ welfare services

Sustainable Development Goal

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$412K	15	2023	2026

PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Shack Dwellers International Kenya (SDI Kenya)	Kenya
Centre for Community Organisation and Development (CCODE)	Malawi
Slum Dwellers International (SDI)	South Africa
ACTogether Uganda	Uganda



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