

Gender, Human Rights and Governance

Help Desks and Framework Agreements



Gender, human rights and health resources

NIRAS International Consulting offers several different help desks to Sida and EU, covering a variety of thematic areas and offering broad expertise and human resources support. We are currently providing help desk resources in the following areas:

- Gender Mainstreaming and a Rights-Based Approach;
- Gender Support Service to EU's Gender Action Plan;
- Gender Reform Helpdesk for Eastern Partnership Countries;
- Global Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights;
- Peace and Human Security and Democracy and Health and Rights.

Through these help desk functions, NIRAS channels a large roster of experts. For starters, we offer extensive in-house expertise from the colleagues of the gender and human rights team and complementing that, our external network of experts is vast and diverse. The thematic competences of NIRAS experts are both multisectoral and sector-specific and cover language skills and work experience from all over the globe. These cutting-edge consultants function both as a human resource extension for competence the clients might already have but require more of, or as complementary competence - for instance offering capacity development to the client. NIRAS has significant experience offering various trainings and participatory capacity development schemes on a number of thematic areas and particularly in respect to gender mainstreaming.



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#3
Good health
and well-being

#5
Gender
equality

#6
Clean water
and sanitation

#10
Reduced
inequalities

#16
Peace, justice
and strong
institutions

#17
Partnerships
for the goals

Sida Help Desk on Global Health and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

The Sida Global Health and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) help desk provides quick and tailored support on requests from Sida staff at the head office and Swedish foreign missions with on-going bilateral or regional health strategies. NIRAS' roster of experts are available to take on requests with a response time of only two hours.

The help desk offers expertise on a broad range of topics relating to global health and SRHR mainly within the following areas:

- Health systems and health services, including universal health coverage (UHC) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH);
- Health equity, including social determinants for health, health promotion and social protection;
- Global health agenda, including governance architecture and emerging areas.

Different type of support is available but for instance include writing reports and studies, such as portfolio reviews, mappings, reviews of strategies and proposals, desk studies, geographical and/or thematic analysis (such as input into country plans, strategy and policy processes, synthesizing existing analysis). The help desk team also provides support and advice on programme and project development and implementation. This is a broad area covering - for example - appraisals, technical support, quality assurance, monitoring, evaluation and learning indicators, policy goal formulations, and midterm reviews.

Capacity development of Sida and foreign mission staff is also included in services offered by the helpdesk. This could be training such as short courses, development of training material, or organisation of seminars and other events.

Donor:

Sida

Client

Sida and Swedish embassies

Partner

CMI

Locations

Global

Ceiling budget

SEK 2 million

Duration

Sept 2020-Aug 2022



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Donor: European Commission
Client: DG INTPA G1
Consortium Partners: Yellow Window, International Training Centre of the ILO
Locations: Global
Contract value: €2,078,400
Duration: January 2017- April 2021

European Commission Gender Action Plan / Gender Support Service

The European Commission (EC) established the Gender Support Service to assist its Directorate-General for International Partnership (DG INTPA) and EU Delegations with the successful implementation of the second Gender Action Plan (GAP II) at all service levels. GAP II provides a framework for approaching gender equality through external relations and is targeted at the EC, the European External Action Services and EU Member States.

NIRAS manages the help desk and a team of experts provide services such as assisting DG INTPA with GAP II reporting, providing technical assistance to EU Delegations, supporting the EU's Gender Focal Points network, and developing knowledge products - like the collection of good practices in mainstreaming gender into the EU's external actions- and organising webinars on gender mainstreaming in the EU's work, especially where this is related to GAP II. Many of the support service's work / knowledge products can be found on the INTPA Academy website (login required).

Rights-Based Approach Help Desk

NIRAS is providing help desk services with the goal of improving INTPA's and EU Delegations' capacities to mainstream gender and a rights-based approach (RBA) in all their work, particularly EU-funded development cooperation projects.

Services include trainings for EU staff, revisions of action documents, development of toolkits and materials - such as updating of the EU's RBA Toolbox, briefs of Member States RBA approaches to development cooperation, and technical briefs on how to mainstream gender in the transportation sector.

Some of the services the help desk has provided include:

- +40 trainings and awareness raising workshops to EU delegations, reaching over 600 staff members;
- specific COVID-19 from a gender perspective and RBA-related trainings reaching 300 participants;
- assessment of and inputs to +500 EU action documents to improve gender perspective and RBA.

Donor: European Commission
Client: DG INTPA G1
Location: Global
Contract value: €2,806,000
Duration: May 2018- May 2022



EU4Gender Equality Reform Help Desk

To tackle deep-rooted gender norms in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, the EU has joined forces with the UN Population Fund and UN Women to launch a programme that challenges gender stereotypes and harmful practices against women and girls. EU for Gender Equality (EU4GE) is the first regional project covering gender equality and supports the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine as they work with civil society to shift perceptions about gender roles and increase men's participation in child care and the fight against gender violence.

NIRAS provides support and technical assistance in the form of the EU4GE Reform Help Desk, which offers expertise on the inclusion of a citizen and gender perspective in planning and implementation of major reforms to EaP countries' governments and EU Delegations in these countries. The Help Desk will provide support and assistance to increase the knowledge base and use of gender analysis in decision-

making and reforms. It will deliver on-demand assistance to EU Delegations on specific tasks related to gender mainstreaming in programme identification and formulation and to governments to include a gender and citizen's perspective in reform work.

Capacity development through a set of different activities includes: working on joint engagement plans with EU delegations and governments, facilitating and organising both cultural and thematic events across wider social actors, as well as arranging study visits to the EU. Equally important is the creation and dissemination of a sound evidence base, built from local and external knowledge, showing the positive impact of reforms on women in Eastern Neighbourhood countries and increasing knowledge sharing and learning around gender mainstreaming.

Donor: European Commission
Client: DG NEAR C1
Locations: Eastern Partnership countries
Contract value: €1,425,500
Duration: January 2021- April 2024

Framework Agreement on Health Systems (including health security and public health)

NIRAS is ranked second in the Norad Framework Agreement on Health Systems. Beyond health security and public health, the framework agreement places emphasis on country-level progress in realising universal health coverage (UHC) including human resources for health and supply systems, health financing and health sector reform. Aligned with Norwegian foreign aid policy, the framework agreement accentuates equity and inclusion of marginalised groups including people with disabilities and meeting the needs of women, infants and children.

Similar to NIRAS's other framework agreements, our roster of experts stand readily available to offer a wide spectrum of consultancy services. This includes, for instance, development of technical and analytical programme-related documents such as studies, briefs, concept notes and reviews and offering technical advice regarding country programme implementation including reporting on results relevant for Norwegian global health efforts. The primary targeted geographical areas include Malawi, South Sudan, Niger and the Sahel region.

Client

Norad

Partner

CMI

Location

Global

Ceiling budget

NOK 10 million

Duration

Aug 2020–Aug 2022



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Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services within the Thematic Area of Gender Equality

Challenges remain worldwide to achieve gender equality. We have seen a raise of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women (VAW) with the Covid-19 pandemic. Unpaid work and caring responsibilities are mostly managed by women, who generally do not have the same labour rights as men and are not as well represented within the political systems worldwide. The Swedish government policy framework highlights that a gender perspective shall be mainstreamed throughout all development cooperation. In addition, Sweden has a longstanding commitment to gender equality and women's and girls' rights in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Therefore, Sida has signed a framework agreement with different consultancy firms, including NIRAS for the provision of services within the following areas:

- Gender mainstreaming;
- Gender-responsive planning and gender budgeting;
- Women's economic empowerment;
- Women's political participation and influence;
- Gender equality, the environment and climate change;
- Social norms change, including through working with men and boys;

- Gender, peace and security;
- Gender-based violence;
- Gender equality in education;
- Gender equality and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR).

NIRAS has so far provided Sida with services related to capacity development and gender equality. One example of such a service was when NIRAS supported Sida and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) to mainstream gender in the ISO's overall capacity building programme and provided specific assistance to staff members' at ISO's capacity-building unit. Another example of our services within this framework agreement has been the support to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and their work to strengthen the Palestinian Environmental Action Programme from a gender perspective.

Donor: Sida

Client:

Sida, Swedish Embassies, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish Public Employment Service, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and The Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority

Consortium Partners: Yellow Window, International Training Centre of the ILO

Location: Global

Duration: May 2018 - January 2022



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Donor
Sida
Client
Sida, Swedish embassies, the Swedish Authority for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Public Employment Service, and Statistics Sweden
Consortium partners
ECORYS and PRIO
Location
Global
Ceiling budget
12 million SEK
Duration:
Nov 2020- October 2022

Sida Framework on Democracy and Human Rights (including Help Desk Services)

Sweden is engaged in development cooperation all around the globe including countries where peace prevails and where conflict is still active. It works with political regimes and systems in different stages of democracy. The thematic area of democracy and human rights is Sida's largest in terms of financial disbursement globally.

The purpose of the framework agreement is to enable the procurement of consultancy services in this area for staff at Sida and Swedish embassies. It is a broad tool designed to provide easy access to a wide pool of experts and reduces the administrative burden of a full-fledged procurement process. Under the agreement, NIRAS provides consultancy services in the following sub-areas:

- Local Democracy and Decentralisation;
- Political Institutions, Political Participation and Pluralist Civil Society;
- Public Financial Management;
- State building, Public Institutions and Public Administration;
- Human Rights Systems, Human Rights Defenders and Rule of Law;
- Equal Rights and Non-Discrimination;
- Freedom of Expression and Access to Information Online and Offline; and
- the Human Rights-Based Approach.

Examples of the types of assignments that NIRAS provides to Sida staff and Swedish embassies include:

- Country/context analysis, studies and analytical reports, thematic background documents, discussion papers, portfolio reviews, input to policy processes etc;
- Advice to and coaching of Sida and/or partners during preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes, including new flexible donor approaches such as problem-driven iterative adaptation (DPIA);
- Advice on and analysis of planning, capacity and result-based management related to communication for development projects / programmes;
- Support to staff in global, regional and country level advocacy efforts, dialogue and negotiations;
- Capacity development and training;
- Processing of data on democracy and human rights and quantitative and qualitative data analysis;
- Surveys on public attitudes and values;
- Methodological materials/tools, including strengthening of results analysis in programme and strategy development;
- Advice on the development and use of indicators for monitoring, evaluation and learning;
- Help Desk services for short term, timely and flexible services (≤10 days).

With the successful undertaking and coordination of these help desks, NIRAS demonstrates our ability to build vast experts networks, manage and quality assure innovative and cutting edge work."

Sida Framework Agreement on Peace and Human Security (including Help Desk Services)

According to the Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, all development cooperation efforts must be conflict-sensitive and opportunities to integrate conflict prevention, peace and human security must be identified.

Sida is expected to achieve this objective by deploying needs-based, fast and effective humanitarian response. It aims to ensure increased protection and greater influence for people affected by crises as well as greater respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. In addition, it will work to improve capacity and efficiency in the humanitarian system.

To that end, a consortium comprised of NIRAS, Ecorys and PRIO has been contracted to conduct assignments under Sida's Framework Agreement on Peace and Human Security. The agreement includes both medium and longer-term assignments in the following areas:

- Country/context/conflict analysis - including feasibility studies and appraisals - for input in strategy pro-

cesses, including needs assessments, operationalisation and contribution management processes;

- Advice to and coaching of Sida and/or partners during preparation, implementation, monitoring and follow-up of projects and programmes;
- Method support, including strengthening of results-based management in programme and strategy development;
- Capacity development and training, for example short courses, development of training material, organising seminars, etc.,
- Studies and analytical reports, assessments, thematic background documents, discussion papers, input to policy processes; and
- Support to, advice to and coaching of Sida in global, regional and country level advocacy efforts, dialogue and negotiations.

The consortium will work with a range of subcontractors. The geographical diversity in the subcontractors, together with the consortium partners' extensive experience and network in conflict-affected areas will ensure the highest possible degree of local or regional presence in implementation of tasks.

Donor:
Sida
Client
Sida and Swedish embassies
Location
Global
Contract value
€1,492,424
Duration
Nov 2020-Oct 2022