

Who we are

NIRAS International Consulting supports organisations in developing their capacities in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (PMEL). We are committed to providing advisory services based on innovative and iterative approaches while working collaboratively with partners to help improve organisational performance. We have expertise supporting a broad range of philanthropic partners. Our understanding of policy and strategic design helps us to efficiently and effectively provide foundation leaders with key insights and advice. We bring expertise in research and analysis and monitoring system design to help understand relevant issues, learn from diverse stakeholder perspectives, capture progress and key challenges to inform design and improve management. We have a wealth of expertise helping funders monitor and evaluate portfolios against defined metrics of success, helping gain a deeper understanding of impact.

In addition, we have experience delivering site-specific and complex multi-partner programme and portfolio level monitoring, evaluation and learning assignments across a wide range of sectors. We do this in partnership with over 30 in-house specialists located in our country offices across Africa, Europe, Asia, and South America and our extensive network of experts. We have expertise in sectors including climate change and sustainable land use, governance and democracy, civil society, gender and human rights, peace and security and economic growth (trade and private sector development). Consequently, we have a sound understanding of key drivers for successes, best practice and lessons learned.



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Livestock Portfolio M&E

Global

DONOR:
BMGF

DURATION
2018-2021

FUND VALUE
€408,462

NIRAS provided bespoke and flexible services to the University of Edinburgh in their support to Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)'s Livestock Portfolio in developing a consistent approach to data collection, implementation of a harmonised indicator framework and an open data modelling community of practice. The goal of this work was to strengthen and integrate systems to prioritise, design and track outputs and outcomes of livestock investments in BMGF anchor investments. The NIRAS team provided advisory support to BMGF in developing an overall monitoring framework for a portfolio of existing grants, improved the consistency of reporting and the evidence base for decision making, and identified solutions to address the diverse evidence needs for the range of stakeholders involved.



What we offer



Strategic advisory to best utilise evidence for strategic planning and decision-making.



Facilitation of theory of change development, including training in different planning and M&E approaches and management methods such as Results based management (RBM), outcome mapping, and harvesting.



Review and design M&E frameworks, including M&E systems and tools, quantitative and qualitative indicators, setting baselines, targets and risk management.



Monitoring and evaluation services across a wide range of sectors and geographies.



Design of approaches, systems, and tools for organisational learning.

Evaluation of the Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD) Initiative

Global DONOR: **Ford Foundation** DURATION: **2018-2021** FUND VALUE: **€3,021,600**

The Ford Foundation's Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD) initiative is a five-year, US\$1 billion investment in the long-term capacity and sustainability of 300+ social justice and civil society organisations around the world. The initiative aims to strengthen these institutions, making them more effective at achieving their core missions, and reducing inequality in all its forms. NIRAS conducted a developmental evaluation of the BUILD model. Designed to be participatory, iterative and adaptive, developmental evaluations are flexible, enabling programmes to track and understand outcomes as they emerge. The evaluation assessed the impact of the programme's approach and facilitated learning about the mechanisms and conditions for success and improved implementation. It covers BUILD in the US, in Europe and in the Global South. The NIRAS team collected quantitative and qualitative data, provided real-time feedback for learning and strategic planning, informed the next phase of BUILD, and tracked both emerging issues as well as longitudinal impacts. In the words of the Foundation: "Ultimately, our hope is that the evaluation will contribute to more nuanced evidence and compelling stories about BUILD as a grant-making approach, which will help shift the field of philanthropy toward providing more flexible, grantee-centered support."



Key strengths



Strong track record of delivering both complex and more modest evaluations to a high standard and on deadline, meeting requirements for credibility, independence, and usefulness.



Established relationships with a global network of evaluators and technical specialists, allowing us to tailor teams to suit the needs of each MEL assignment.



Application of innovative technology-based data collection, analysis and communication approaches with tools tailored to programme context, including satellite and remote sensing, natural language processing, machine learning, web-crawling, and integrated data visualisation.



Keen understanding of how to transmit and use knowledge to strengthen organisations and inform strategies through evaluations.



Expertise and systems for project management of multi-country teams, significantly improving value for money and efficiency.

Meta-evaluation of the Renewable Energy Portfolio

China Mexico Brazil DONOR: **India Southeast Asia** **CIFF** DURATION: **2018-2023** FUND VALUE: **€1,276,374**

Over a four-and-a-half-year period, NIRAS will be conducting a meta-evaluation of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation's (CIFF's) Renewable Energy Portfolio. The portfolio is currently comprised of eight investments representing five geographies which are focused on influencing and shaping climate and energy policy in middle-income countries, either through direct technical assistance to government entities or by strengthening civil society ecosystems. NIRAS is using a flexible and adaptive cycle for the evaluation to ensure the approach remains responsive to complex and evolving contexts and is capable of growing in line with the portfolio. The approach also relies on providing strategic M&E support and engagement with grantee organisations and programme staff to collect evidence of progress and collaboratively identify changes to improve performance. The assignment will deliver a range of products including investment level deep dives, light touch case studies, thematic portfolio-level evaluative synthesis reports and a suite of communications and learning materials.



NIRAS added value in PMEL:

- Strong **utilisation focus** in evaluation. New knowledge is communicated to enable partners to apply learning and enhance **evidence-based strategic development**.
- An approach **tailored to individual requirements** that is practical and rigorous guided by best practice.
- Integration of a **rights-based approach** and promotion of **gender equality**.
- **Strengthen the capacity of our clients and their partners** by reflection, learning, and development throughout our assignments and final reporting.

Our experience supporting philanthropists

Project Title	📍 Scope	Donor	🕒 Years	Value
Evaluation of the Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD) Initiative	Global	FF	2018-2021	€3,021,600
Climate Change Mitigation Indicator Compendium	UK	CIFF	2020	€92,717
Meta-evaluation of the Renewable Energy Portfolio	China, Mexico, Brazil, India, and Southeast Asia	CIFF	2018-2023	€1,276,374
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Livestock Portfolio M&E	Global	BMGF	2018-2021	€408,462
Mid Term Review for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme	Africa	MF	2020	€46,138
Climate Re-Grantors Evaluation	Global	QCF	2021-2022	€110,231
Mid-term Evaluation of Resources of Open Minds (R.O.O.M) Programme - Freedom of Expression in the 21st century	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lebanon	HF	2020-2021	€41,727
Evaluation of the Conservation and Sustainable Development Programme	Africa	MAF	2015	€48,622
External Evaluation of a Multi-Country School Infrastructure Program	Nepal, Malawi and Senegal	DC	2019	€82,015
External Evaluation of the Engaging Communities and Schools in Support of Adolescent Girls in Malawi (ECSSAGEM) Program	Malawi	DC	2019	€72,902
External Evaluation - Providing access to quality ECCD services for Syrian refugee children and girls & boys from host communities in Jordan (ECCDiE Jordan)	Jordan	DC	2022	€89,297
Research and Evaluation Partnership	Africa	FSFW	2019-2020	€85,763
Review of the Draft National Forest Policy and Conservation and Management Act	Kenya	GA	2020	€36,624