



Siemenpuu Foundation

Results Report 2021

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Summary

Siemenpuu Foundation and its development cooperation programme support the efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality and to promote sustainable development in developing countries. The overall goal of Siemenpuu Foundation's programme is to contribute to a transition whereby biodiversity is protected, and everybody has his or her basic needs met by ecologically sustainable livelihoods and ways of life. To achieve this impact, in its development programme 2018-2021, Siemenpuu identified four long-term outcomes to strive for: Climate and environmental protection, Strengthened community rights, Sustainable economy and Comprehensive ecological democracy.

Siemenpuu contributes to these outcomes by granting funds for environmental and democracy initiatives of civil society organisations in the Global South. The key beneficiaries of the funded projects are communities that are directly dependent on their living environment as a source of their livelihoods and for the continuity of their life diversities. Groups of beneficiaries include indigenous peoples and other forest communities, and women. In addition to funding, Siemenpuu provides support to capacity building of the grantees, and enables networking in the Global South and North. Moreover, Siemenpuu's communications work in Finland supports reaching the programme goals.

Programme level results build up from the funded projects. In the projects, geographic and thematic diversity, as well as a variety of approaches and working methods are present.

Year 2021

This Results Report 2021 contains the result information based on the finalized funded projects, which have presented complete reporting in 2021. In 2021, the final reports were approved from 17 projects in Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Myanmar, Kenya, India and Indonesia (countries in descending order of the total Siemenpuu support during each projects). In addition, results related to the still on-going projects are included when related to Siemenpuu's project management developments, as well as results of the communications work. Figure 1 gives a short summary of the results achieved in 2021.

In the beginning of 2021 (the last year of the programme period 2018-2021), 34 funded projects were ongoing. During the year, funding was granted to 8 new projects in Mali (3 projects), Myanmar (1), Nepal (2), South America (1 regional project), and 1 international project. Five of the new projects were based on the applications received through thematically and geographically targeted open calls for proposals, and three projects were identified proactively from the partners networks, to either support Siemenpuu's programme in Myanmar or to enhance the international cooperation to confirm the results.

The total expenses of the Siemenpuu's programme in 2021 were 921,587 €. About 88% of the total expenses were covered by the programme support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Of the total expenses, 66.7% were used for project funding, 4.5% for communications (including global education), 20.3% for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and 8.5% for administration. Within the total project funding expenditure, the main target countries for cooperation in 2021 were (in order of the actual payments) Mali, Nepal, Liberia, Kenya, Mozambique and Myanmar.

Programme period 2018-2021

This report presents also an overview of the results of the whole programme period 2018-2021. Siemenpuu's funding policy with variety of themes and countries, and adaptive project management, proved to be successful approach. Targeted results were mainly achieved in the project as well as in the programme level. Siemenpuu's grantees showed their strength to cope and adapt to changing situation and to continue their work in support of local communities despite the global pandemic or political upheavals.

Figure 2 gives a short summary of the results achieved in 2018-2021 in the 63 completed funded projects and the communications work in Finland.

The total expenses of the Siemenpuu's programme in 2018-2021 were 3,963,313.74 €. About 88 % of the total expenses were covered by the programme support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Of the total expenses, 69,2 % were used for project funding, 4,6 % for communications (including global education), 17,9 % for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and 8,3 % for administration. Within the total project funding expenditure, the main target countries for cooperation in 2018-2021 were (in descending order of the actual payments): Nepal, Mali, Myanmar, Indonesia, Liberia, India, Mozambique, Kenya and Brazil.

Some of Siemenpuu's results in 2021

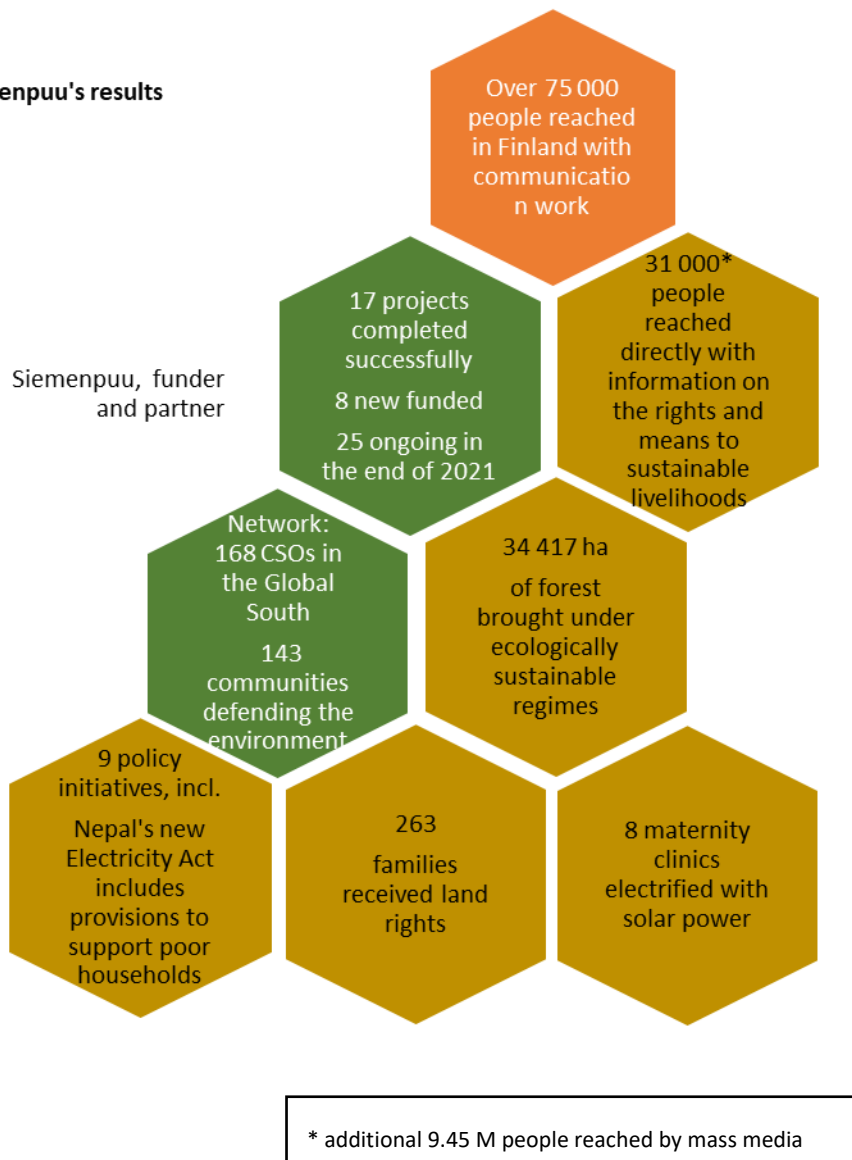


Figure 1. Selection of results in 2021

Some of Siemenpuu's results in 2018-2021



*additional 10.02 M people reached via mass media

Figure 2. Selection of results of the whole programme period 2018-2021

Result Analysis

Theory of Change and Result Indicators

Siemenpuu's Theory of Change (ToC) guides the implementation of the programme on the principle level, and it conveys our approach and how desirable the change will be. The ToC and the general funding criteria sustaining it guide the selection of the funded projects and planning of other activities. Results from 2021 and earlier programme years support the validity of the ToC.

2021

The results of the 17 completed projects in 2021 contributed to the achievement of the objectives and goals set for 2018-2021. Mostly the projects achieved their internal goals and result targets; however, in Myanmar the overall security situation and the restrictions imposed by the military regime hindered the implementation of the planned activities and thus obtaining of the originally targeted results. In the original plan, a few more projects were expected to be completed before the end of 2021, but in 12 projects there was a need to extend the timetable, especially due to the effects of the covid pandemics. Altogether there were 25 projects continuing to the next programme period.

Funded projects and their results have a strong local ownership, as they are planned and implemented by local NGOs, and as one requisite for funding is that also the communities involved take part in the definition, design and implementation of activities.

Basic assumptions in the work include the understanding that civil society is a key driver for social change in all societies, and that the human rights-based approach is essential in solving the complex development and environmental problems.

Siemenpuu's approach to effectiveness and lasting impact is based on diversity. It has been a deliberate choice to value the funded projects' geographic and thematic diversity, as well as a variety of approaches and working methods. Programme level results stem from the individual projects from different countries and themes.

Programmatic results are presented below and in the following results framework table. The chosen indicators do not cover all aspects of results achieved within the funded projects but give a programme level view on the results. More detailed information on the results of each of the 17 finalized projects in 2021 can be found in the attachment (in Finnish).

Goal 1: Poverty and inequality have decreased in the supported communities due to improved realization of rights over bio-cultural heritage, natural resources, food security and sustainable energy

- In the completed projects, at least 31,000 people were reached directly with the information on rights and sustainable practices. Additionally, information of the sustainable and just energy solutions spread also via mass media (radio programs, newspapers, tv programmes) to approximately 9.4 million people in Nepal, and 50,000 people in Mali.
- Improved realization of the rights to healthy environment, sustainable livelihood and/or services were improved for at least to 27,387 people.

Goal 2: Biodiversity loss and climate emissions have reduced in the supported localities due to maintenance and increase of land areas under conservation and sustainable use

- New land areas were formally included in regimes under conservation and sustainable use as a result (contribution) of 3 completed projects: in India Community Forest Right & Community Forest Resource Right entitlements were gained to 18,779 ha; in Indonesia 1,200 ha mangrove-forests included in conservation scheme and in Myanmar 2,087 ha forests.
- In Nepal, Siemenpuu's grantees developed sustainable ecosystem and forest governance plans for 15,638 ha in order to strengthen sustainable use and conservation of these areas.

Goal 3: Capacity of supported civil society organizations and community groups to advance rights to ecologically sustainable living for all has been improved

- 168 CSOs were actively involved in the 17 concluded projects in 2021. At least 143 communities were intensely involved in the completed projects. Partners report the lessons learned and advances in their own and the communities' capacity to address the issues.
- 5 of the completed projects were women lead or focused, and in most of the other projects women also recognized as beneficiaries or stakeholders.

Goal 4: Democracy, gender equality and sustainable development alternatives are advanced by civil society policy initiatives and popular demands

- 9 wider demands and initiatives were taken forward in the fields of renewable energy, agroecology, land rights, mangrove, and forest conservation. Two initiatives had already direct impact on changes in communal level planning or budgeting in Nepal and Mali, and two on legislative initiatives in Nepal: law proposal on Access and Benefit Sharing has biocultural rights and protocols and FPIC as guiding principles, and the final draft of the new Electricity Act includes the tariff revision and energy tariff exemption to poor households. In the case of most initiatives, it is a long-term process for actual change to happen.
- The selected indicators do not cover all the advocacy work done in the projects. Nor do they cover the demands or initiatives for the assertion or demand regarding recognition or registration of a specific land area, as it is reported under the goal 2 by the hectares gained. Rather, the indicators reflect initiatives on public policy debate to advance the policies on rights or conservation.

Goal 5: Awareness of the Finnish decision makers and public on overconsumption, global environmental challenges and the rights of the poor has increased through Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts.

- Approximately 75,000 Finnish people were reached, of which 1,500 people (conservative estimation) were reached by personal contact.
- One indication of the result of Siemenpuu's communications work is the continued requests received for collaboration in material production for global education, trainings and communications. Siemenpuu is sought after due to its expertise and close links to the realities of the environmental defenders in the Global South.

2018-2021

In the programme period 2018-2021, total of 63 funded projects were completed. Targeted results were mostly achieved in the project as well as in the programme level. Of the 63 completed projects, three (which had started before 2018) failed due to the internal problems in the funded organisations and three because of the extreme external challenges. This reflects the effectiveness of selection process of the funded projects in 2018-2021.

During the four years, 168 organizations and more than 600 local communities were reached. More than 20,000 families had their land rights confirmed, and more than 300 households have been electrified with renewable energy. In communications work, Siemenpuu has cooperated increasingly with different actors in different themes, organizing events and in communication and global education projects. With the increased cooperation and e.g. through radio/podcasts, film festivals and school visits, Siemenpuu reached more diverse and wider audiences than before.

In the programme level, most of the targeted result levels in the chosen indicators were achieved, and some were exceeded, as shown in the results framework table below. Differences in the targeted and actual results, as well as challenges of the chosen indicators, are analysed further below.

Results Framework

Overall Goal 1	Poverty and inequality have decreased in the supported communities due to improved realization of rights over bio-cultural heritage, natural resources, food security and sustainable energy					
Sub-goal	Short-term outcome	Number of funded projects contributing to the indicator 2021 / 2018-2021 - means/activities	Indicator	Targeted result for 2018-2021	Results 2021	Results 2018-2021
1.1	Members of low-income rural communities have received information about their rights to bio-cultural heritage, natural resources, food security and sustainable energy.	17 of 17 projects /58 of 63 projects - activities that provided information to poor women and men and their supporters through trainings, meetings, rallies, printed and digital publications and other means.	Number of people who have received useful information because of the supported activities.	At least 195 000 people reached.	At least 31 000 people reached directly.	At least 148 330 people directly + additional 10 020 000 people via websites and mass media
1.2	Members of low-income rural communities have defended or obtained ownership or users' rights to land and made ecologically sustainable use of them.	1 of the 17 projects/10 of 63 projects -activities including consultation, legal advice and campaigning for defending areas against land grabbing and making use of provisions in national legislation for land and users' rights.	Number of women and men who have benefited from the acquired individual and community land and tenure rights.	40 000 have got direct land related rights.	263 families have got land related rights	At least 24 163 families – 120 815 people calculated with an average family size of 5 members
1.3	Indigenous communities have documented and obtained rights to their bio-cultural heritage.	2 of the 17 projects /8 of 63 projects - production and use of bio-cultural community protocols and forest rights claims	Number of women and men who are members of the communities where biocultural rights have been documented.	23 000 direct beneficiaries.	10 714 people	At least 53 849 members of communities
1.4	Low-income female and male farmers have got improved access to indigenous seed systems, organic fertilizers and other means of agroecological production.	3 of the 17 projects /6 of 63 projects - advising and organising of farmers on agroecology and food sovereignty	Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities.	4 000 direct beneficiaries.	2 358 farmers	3 189 farmers
1.5	Low-income households have obtained access to ecologically sustainable energy	4 of the 17 projects /10 of 63 projects - installing solar electricity installations	Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities.	17 000 direct beneficiaries.	At least 13 000 people	At least 15 197 people
1.6	Members of low-income communities have improved their well-being by improved access to socially and ecologically sustainable livelihood sources, income generating activities, public services and commons.	17 of the 17 projects /55 of 63 projects -with a combination of the activities presented above.	Qualitative change that can be observed in people's lives.	Qualitative	Project reports include testimonies of qualitative change	Project reports include testimonies of qualitative change

Overall Goal 2	Biodiversity loss and climate emissions have reduced in the supported localities due to maintenance and increase of land areas under conservation and sustainable use					
Sub-goal	Short term outcome	Number of funded projects contributing to the indicator in 2021/2018-2021 - means/activities	Indicator	Targeted result for 2018-2021	Results 2021	Results 2018-2021
2.1	Land areas that are currently designated for conservation or are under ecologically sustainable use are maintained and not converted to monocultures or infrastructure	2 of the 17 projects /9 of 63 projects. - formulation of community conservation initiatives and activities that defend existing sustainable usage and tenure systems of communities.	Hectares of land that have been maintained under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities.	51 000 ha	15 638 ha	3 520 184 ha
2.2	New forest areas and other important ecosystems are formally included in regimes that maintain or improve their biological diversity and positive carbon balance.	3 of the 17 projects /15 of 63 projects - conservation efforts that emphasise on community benefits and responsibilities.	Hectares of forest land that have been brought under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities.	65 000 ha	18 779 ha	1 340 437 ha

Overall Goal 3	Capacity of supported civil society organizations and community groups to advance rights to ecologically sustainable living for all has been improved					
Sub-goal	Short term outcome	Number of funded projects contributing to the indicator in 2021/2018-2021 - means/activities	Indicator	Targeted result for 2018-2021	Results 2021	Results 2018-2021
3.1	Community based groups and local civil society organisations develop their knowledge and skills relating the rights-based approach to ecologically sustainable well-being and organisational management.	17 of the 17 projects /48 of 63 projects - training, mapping, information sharing, exchange-visits, and analysis.	Number of CBOs, informal community and movement groups and civil society organisations that have taken actively part in the project activities and management.	75 CSOs and thousands of community groups.	168 CSOs and 143 communities	326 CSOs and at least 682 communities
3.2	Women's role in all aspects, including leadership, is increased among the CSOs.	5 of the 17 projects /7 of 63 projects - support to women-focused approaches and activities.	Number of supported projects that are women-focused and/or women-lead.	Growing share of supported projects	5/17 projects were women lead or - focused.	Development towards more women lead or focused projects in the portfolio. In most of the other projects, women also as important actors.

Overall Goal 4	Democracy, gender equality and sustainable development alternatives are advanced by civil society policy initiatives and popular demands					
Sub-goal	Short term outcome	Number of funded projects contributing to the indicator in 2021/2018-2021 - means/activities	Indicator	Targeted result for 2018-2021	Results 2021	Results 2018-2021
4.1	Popular movements and civil society organisations formulate popular demands and policy initiatives to advance the rights to sustainable living.	6 of the 17 projects /19 of 63 projects -formulation of and campaigning with demands and initiatives (dialogues, workshops, gatherings)	Number of initiatives made at any level (local, national, global).	At least 170 policy initiatives and formulations of popular demands.	9 initiatives	109 initiatives (not including the general negotiations and permit processes and those demands with the administration and other duty bearers resulting under other indicators)
4.2	CSO demands and initiatives have an impact on policies and practices of institutions that have impact on people's lives (governments, companies)	3 of the 17 projects /7 of 63 projects - advocacy and campaigning to pursue the articulated demands and policy initiatives.	Number of initiatives that have an impact on policies and practices.	Tens of the demands lead to at least partially to the desired changes.	4 initiatives	8 initiatives (including only the initiatives clearly adapted by the duty bearers, and not including the general negotiations and permit processes)
4.3	Issues and perspectives regarding rights to sustainable living are expanded by the CSO discourses, including bio-cultural life heritage, systemic alternatives, ecological democracy etc.	2 of the 17 projects Support to the development of new ideas and discourses.	Expanded debates that bring forward new and innovative perspectives as well as forgotten perennial aspect.	Qualitative	Discourse on biocultural rights has been expanding in Nepal and Kenya	Discourse on biocultural rights has been expanding in Nepal and Kenya

Overall Goal 5	Awareness of Finnish decision makers and public on overconsumption, global environmental challenges and the rights of the poor has increased through Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts.					
Sub-goal	Short term outcome	Means/activities	Indicator	Targeted result for 2018-2021	Results 2021	Results 2018-2021
5.1	Siemenpuu's work, its results and the issues advocated by its Southern partners have gained publicity and more support for Siemenpuu's work in Finland	Updated information on Siemenpuu's work and results on website; active use of social media; publishing and circulating brochures and other printed material; organising discussions and other events; using the media channels of Siemenpuu's	Number of visitors on Siemenpuu website; followers in facebook and twitter; visibility in media and in publications of founding organisations; participants in Siemenpuu	30 000 Finnish citizens reached yearly	Estimation of 75 000 individual people reached	240 000 (yearly results summed up)

		founding organisations and cooperation with other organisations, participating in events organised by other organisations	discussions and other events; reach of Siemenpuu's publications			
5.2	Finnish people's awareness on environmental problems in the South and negative effects of overconsumption have been increased and they are motivated to act for a sustainable future.	Events/discussions; cooperating in global education projects	Number of seminar and other event participants, people met	Thousands of Finnish citizens reached with a personal impact	At least 1 500 people	7 500 people (yearly results summed up)
5.3	Finnish decision and policy makers directly or indirectly influencing the Southern communities and partners have been influenced by Siemenpuu	Co-writing the Finnish NGO demands; international; several online meetings with civil servants and politicians	Number of advocacy activities (statements, comments, campaigns); number of meetings with decision makers	Key Finnish decision makers have been influenced	2 position papers actively circulated, several impactful meetings with Finnish decision makers	9 major position papers actively circulated, several seminars and impactful meetings with Finnish decision makers

Successes and Challenges

The sustainability of the foundation's development cooperation program is based on the key role of the supported partners and the beneficiary communities in the South in the planning of the projects. Based on its strategy, Siemenpuu determines the themes in which projects to be supported are identified, but civil society actors in the South formulate their project plans independently, with guidance and support from Siemenpuu.

The diversity of the themes enables Siemenpuu to forward community-based holistic approach to the environmental challenges in the South. The themes are complementary: thus, gender and human rights, non-discrimination, community participation, forest and other ecosystem protection, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience and low-carbon transition are included in all of the themes, but from different vantage point of local civil society actors. The diversity has also brought a strong commitment and expertise from the Finnish network of environmental activists and experts to support Siemenpuu's work.

With targeting of the calls for proposals to specific themes and geographical regions, and with limited submission time, the number of the received concept papers has been reasonable, considering the resources available for project management. Data suggests that the open call for proposals might be useful in scoping the NGO actors in the field, but they should be combined with more pro-active identification of projects with high relevance, efficiency, and impacts.

Evidence from the funded projects mainly support the assumptions related to the ToC. However, worrying tendencies of narrowing space for civil society are affecting the projects. All governments are not accountable to the civil society, and operating environment is not favourable to the interventions in all societies. However, with adaptive project management, the grantees have been able to continue activities and achieve results.

Grantees were guided and encouraged to collect disaggregated information and to analyse the results of the projects not only on the output level, but also on the outcome level. However, this information is not available from all projects. Guidance for this need to be more systematic to build the capacity of the

In 2020 Siemenpuu's work was evaluated together with the Abilis and KIOS Foundations, with the purpose of appraising the relevance and efficiency of the foundations as an operating model. The conclusion of the evaluation summarised:

“The Abilis, KIOS and Siemenpuu Foundations continue to make a distinctive, relevant contribution to Finland's development cooperation. Their programmes clearly align to Finland's development priorities and their support to, and advocacy on behalf of, ‘hard to reach’ marginalised populations to defend or claim their rights is particularly relevant to the 2030 Agenda of ‘leaving no-one behind’. The concept of local ownership is key to the Foundations’ approach which is reflected in their ways of working. Project achievements demonstrate the ways in which Foundation projects help to strengthen civil society but there is a need for the Foundations to better conceptualise their approach, and establish a better evidence base for these achievements. Grant management systems are generally efficient and partners highly value their relationship with the Foundations for its mutual trust and flexibility.

However, many partners highlight the disadvantages of short-term granting and suggest that grant funding support should be relevant to the needs of different types of projects and partners. They would also like the Foundations to add value to their grant-making activities by, for example, facilitating peer learning. The Foundations should take advantage of the evaluation to sharpen their focus on civil society strengthening; refresh their human rights-based approach (HRBA); improve the evidence base for their achievements; raise the profile of the marginalised voices they support; and clarify and confirm with the MFA how they propose to ensure their ways of working are relevant to the needs of their partners. “

grantees in this.

Targeted results in the programme level were mainly achieved. The reported results are the verified minimum numbers; in the project reports higher numbers were present, but all of them were not fully verified. Differences between the targeted and actual results in 2018-2021 could be partly explained by the said smaller amount of completed projects during this programme period than expected. In 12 projects it was necessary to extend the timetables.

However, differences also show the challenges of Siemenpuu as a funder to set numerical result targets. Those indicators do not cover all aspects of the projects, and funded projects are not, for example, chosen only according to highest potential number of beneficiaries.

Especially new ecosystems or forest areas brought under regimes of conservation or sustainable use are usually results of very long processes. Those reported as results 2018-2021 have been obtained during this programme period, and with special effort of the funded projects, but not without input from earlier activities or other stakeholders.

Results show that Siemenpuu has been able to strengthen civil society actors, especially in the community level. More marginalised people, including women, have been included in the local processes of decision making concerning the environment and local resources.

With the support of Siemenpuu the grantees have been able to expand national discussions on biocultural rights and biodiversity conservation in Kenya and Nepal. This will strengthen possibilities of indigenous and local communities to protect and use sustainably their local resources, and to sustain their cultural heritage.

Risk Assessment

The Theory of Change and the project management based on it has proven to be functioning. Overall, Siemenpuu's results-based management and risk management is effective, and they guide the programmatic work in an increasing manner. One indicator of this is the absence of failed projects among the projects funded during this programme period 2018-2021.

The variety of projects, countries, and themes within the Siemenpuu programme lowers the risk of major impacts on programme level. The global pandemics or the military coups were not anticipated, but they made visible the strength of Siemenpuu's modality of supporting local NGOs and communities. The local actors were able to continue their activities far better than projects fully dependent on external inputs.

In 2021, the military coup in Myanmar interrupted the possibilities of Siemenpuu's grantees to continue the activities as planned. The projects and project management were modified accordingly, and with the support of Siemenpuu, the grantees were able to use fully the available limited space for civil society activities.

Earlier in the programme planning, the taken precautionary measures to concentrate the project funding to the southern parts of in Mali, the profound background information collected on the project partners, and the close follow-up and monitoring connections proved to be central for the successful funding.

Project funding

Total payments to the projects

Payments to the supported projects in different phases of the project span were in 2021 total 614,449 € (66.7 % of total expenses), and in the whole programme period payments to projects totalled 2,743,828 €.

The main target countries for cooperation in 2021 were (in descending order of the actual payments made) were Mali, Nepal, Liberia, Kenya, Mozambique and Myanmar. At the end of 2021, there were ongoing projects also in the Brazilian Amazonia and Indonesia, one regional project in South America and one international project.

In 2021, almost 80 % of the payments were made to projects in the Least Developed Countries and 16 % to the Lower Middle-Income Countries. 5% went to a regional project in South America. Biggest recipients by country were Mali and Nepal (26 % and 23 % of the payments respectively), following Liberia (13 %), Kenya (10 %), Mozambique (9%), Myanmar (8%) and Indonesia (6%).

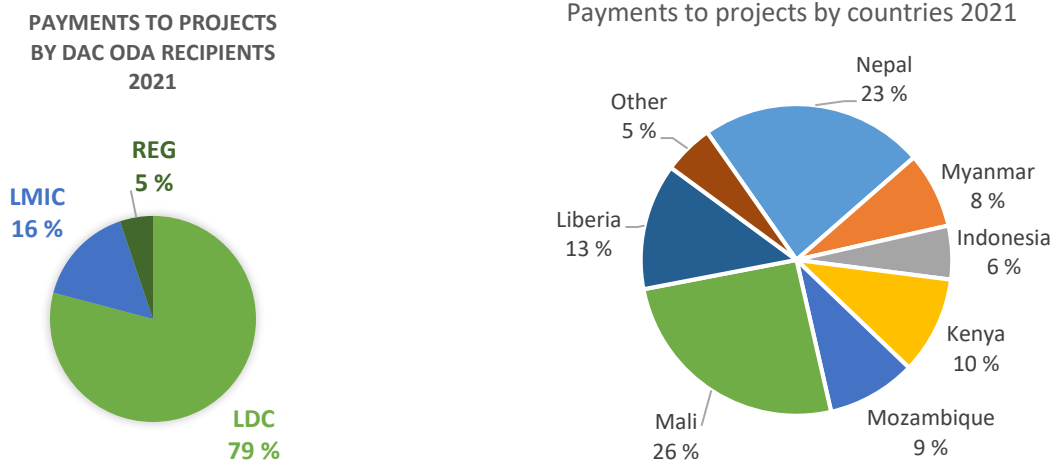


Figure 3. Actual payments to projects in 2021 by DAC ODA country categories and by countries

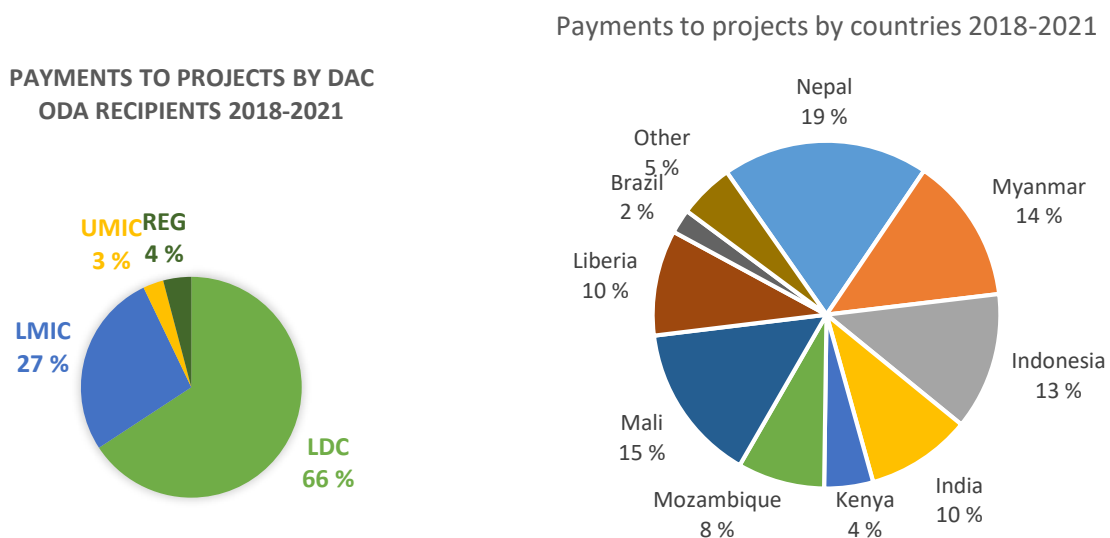


Figure 4. Actual payments projects in 2018-2021 by DAC ODA country categories and by countries

Funding schemes

- A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy
- Forest and Coastal Ecosystems
- Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities
- Rural Women and Food Sovereignty
- Climate and Energy Justice

From 2018 onwards, the funded projects have been grouped and identified through five funding schemes (see above). The funding schemes are interconnected, and optimally the funded projects could fall under several schemes, even if for administrative reasons the main “ownership” is only within one scheme.

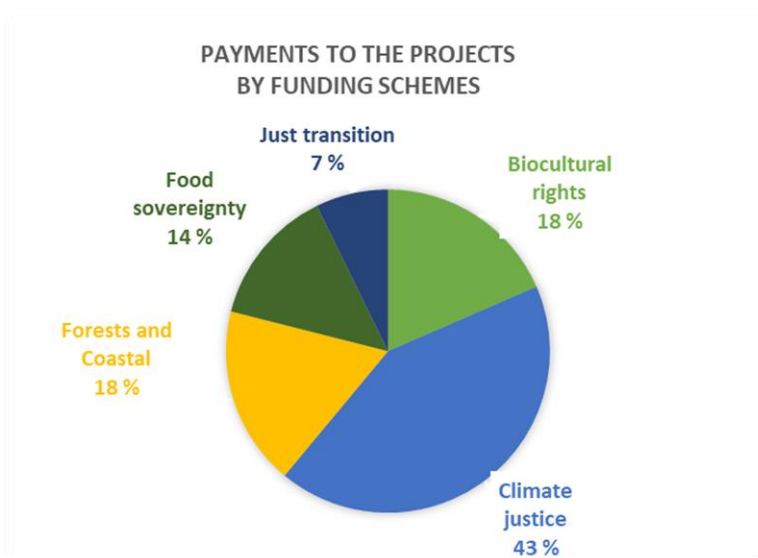


Figure 5. Payments to projects in 2021 by Siemenpuu’s funding schemes

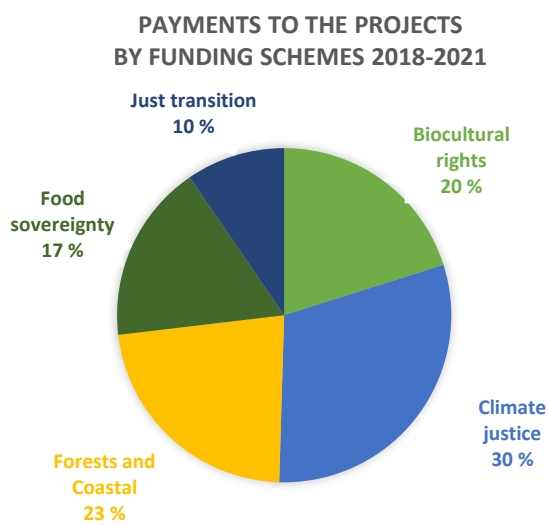


Figure 6. Payments to projects in 2018–2021 by Siemenpuu’s funding schemes

Completed projects

For the completed 17 projects in 2021, the total actual Siemenpuu funding during the whole project span was 718,649 €, the total self-financing by the grantees 143,980 €. The self-financing by the grantees and the other funding for the projects are not part of the bookkeeping and Financial Statements of Siemenpuu, but they are verified in the project audits, and included in the project management records of Siemenpuu.

In the completed projects, the target countries were (in descending order of the total Siemenpuu support during the whole project span) Mali (5 projects), Mozambique (2 projects), Nepal (3 projects), Myanmar (3 projects), and 1 project in each of the following countries: India, Kenya, Liberia and Indonesia.

In the programme period 2018-2021, total of 63 projects were completed, for which the actual Siemenpuu funding during the whole project span was 3,035,616 €, the total self-financing by the grantees 443,639 € and other funding 182,667 €.

New projects

In 2021, eight new grants were approved by Siemenpuu Board of Directors, seven of them being above 10,000 € limit, and subsequently approved by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Siemenpuu's funding commitment for these projects is 265,000 € and the commitment to the self-financing by the grantees minimum 26,500 €. Grantees are NGOs from Mali, Nepal, Myanmar and Argentine (for regional project in South America) and Paraguay (for international project) in descending order of the total grant amount.

In the programme period 2018-2021, total of 55 new project grants were approved. Siemenpuu's funding commitment for these projects totals 2,745,000 € and the commitment to the self-financing by the grantees is at minimum 274,500 €.

Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

Of the 8 new funded projects during 2021, 5 were decided based on a call for proposals launched in 2020: Energy-related advocacy work and small-scale renewable electricity projects (Mali and Nepal).

Three project decisions were based on a direct call for proposals identified from Myanmar and international networks. These direct calls were possible and needed as all planned allocations for projects to Myanmar could not be made after the military coup in 2021.

Of the total of 55 new projects during the programme period, 42 were selected through the 10 calls for proposals published in 2018-202, three (as explained above) through direct calls and 10 projects as follow-up projects from the previous project grantees.

Monitoring of the funded projects was based on the regular reports received and other communications with grantees and other stakeholders and donors. In 2021, monitoring visits were made only to Mali in December, as the global pandemics restricted travelling. Travels were compensated by more frequent virtual meetings and communication. Locally based monitoring was also in use in Mali. Also, information exchange in the form of virtual dialogues and meetings was initiated by Siemenpuu on all five themes and opened to wider public as well.

Results of the projects presented in the final reports of the projects were verified with the data collected during the entire project cycle through communication with the grantee, during monitoring visits and via information received through networks.

On the country level, coordination and information exchange with the other Finnish actors active in the

country, including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was an important part of the monitoring. Internationally, information exchange was active with a several likeminded funders. In Finland, Siemenpuu continued to co-ordinate the Myanmar focused network of NGOs, activists and researchers, as well as contributed to networking with the NGOs active in Mali, Mozambique and Nepal. Siemenpuu also continued to do some coordination with the Finnish organizations and individuals interested in the Amazon region.

Programme level evaluation was only made in 2020 together with sister foundations Abilis and KIOS.

Result based management system was developed constantly with the lessons learned. More profound updates were made to risk matrix and to the guidelines of possible recovery of funds from the interrupted projects.

Communications

In 2021, Siemenpuu Foundation's communications reached personally at least 1,500 Finnish people and at least 75,000 via publications and social media.

During the year, Siemenpuu organized six public webinars or other online events (four of them in English, some together with other organizers), They attracted altogether about 1,600 participants or viewers (mostly from Finland). The most followed event was the Finnish-language [discussion on good and sustainable life](#) (video) on 29 May at the World Village Festival.

The circulation of Siemenpuu's 4-page Finnish-language [supplement on climate justice issues](#) (pdf, 0.7 MB), which was published inside Voima 9/2021 magazine, was 60,000. In the publication, Siemenpuu brought up the importance of climate and energy justice, and the community and civil society perspectives from the Global South on the international climate negotiations.

In December 2021, Siemenpuu published the book [Luonnonsuojelun dekolonisaatio](#) (Decolonization of Nature Conservation), which is the first collection of articles in Finnish language on the need and ways of decolonizing the nature conservation practices, with examples from eight countries. The book was well received by academics and audience in the launching event. The book's circulation in different formats (pdf, e-book, audiobook) for wider public started in the beginning of 2022.

The [Muutosvaihtoehdot.fi](#) web publication (on systemic change alternatives, in Finnish) was updated with several new articles. The number of readers during 2021 was about 3,000.

Siemenpuu's website had about 8,000 different visitors from Finland, and similar number from abroad. On [Facebook](#), Siemenpuu's ca. 450 posts reached altogether about 270,000 people. On [Twitter](#), Siemenpuu's 238 tweets were shown 90,000 times. However, the social media statistics do not separate individual users; the active Siemenpuu followers can be estimated as a few thousand people. The Siemenpuu's electronic newsletter (4 times a year) had a bit over 1,000 subscribers.

In addition to Siemenpuu's own communication channels and organised events in 2021, our cooperation with other organisations (e.g., Maailma.net, Fingo, University of Helsinki, Helinä Rautavaara Museum, FEE Suomi, Emmaus Helsinki, Kohtuusliike (Degrowth movement)) and their events reached several thousand other people. For example, Siemenpuu participated the Fingo coordinated [Toimi koska voit](#) (Act because you can) campaign on civic activism and the space of civil society. The Helinä Rautavaara Museum's [Veden varassa](#) (At the mercy of water) exhibition continued until May 2021.

On advocacy work, Siemenpuu participated in Finnish and international NGO policy papers and open letters and supported Southern partners in amplifying their message also in Finland. Examples of these are the international open letter to Myanmar's donors, and the Brazilian partner CNS' position paper on gatherer

reserves in Amazonia.

2018-2021

The overall goal of Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts in 2018-2021 was to increase the awareness of Finnish decision makers and public on the issues of overconsumption, global environmental challenges and the rights of the poor. Communication work aimed at reaching 30,000 individual Finns yearly, and thousands more annually with personal impact through events, discussions and global education projects. The total public reach in 2018-2021 is estimated at 240,000, and about 7,500 people participated in events organised by Siemenpuu or communicated directly with Siemenpuu, making them motivated to act for a sustainable future.

There was an upward trend in Siemenpuu's public reach, which largely attributes to the publications and their circulation. As on 2018 the estimated reach was 20,000 people (no major new publications, except [Kirjeitä tulevaisuudesta podcasts](#)), in 2020 Siemenpuu could reach at least six times more Finns with widely circulated magazine [supplement on biodiversity issues](#) (pdf, 0.5 MB), newspaper coverage and more active use of social media.

Siemenpuu has also increased cooperation with different actors in 2018-2021 thematically, organizing events and in communication and global education projects. Siemenpuu reached more diverse and wider audiences than before e.g. through radio/podcasts, film festivals and school visits.

Siemenpuu's audience in Twitter (Siemenpuu joined 2017) and Instagram (2018) has grown steadily, although Siemenpuu remains most popular in Facebook. The number of website visitors (as well as new contents) remained rather stable during the four years.

During the programme period, Siemenpuu published two theme publications: in 2019 the [Muutosvaihtoehdot.fi](#) web publication on systemic change and alternatives, which now includes 30 articles mainly from Southern thinkers, and 2021 the [Luonnonsuojelun dekolonisaatio](#) book on the need and ways of decolonizing the nature conservation practices, with examples from eight countries. These publications, like the earlier ones (e.g. on water, forests, displacement) have been well received by students and people searching information for just alternatives and Southern voices.

The Covid pandemic changed many ways of working, both in supported projects and CSOs in the South, and in Finland. The face-to-face discussions and events were replaced by online meetings and webinars. In 2020 the public online webinars were few in number, but in 2021 Siemenpuu made advances in organizing and participating in numerous events, and the civil society and community participation from the South increased remarkably compared to earlier years. Thus, the online meetings have increased the possibility to increase Southern voices in Siemenpuu's communication work, with smaller financial cost and smaller climate impact.

Siemenpuu used 4.6 % of its budget for communication work, with the average working time of 0.5 person-years of the staff. However, in regard to the theme publications, the foundation's volunteers gave a remarkable work input in planning the publications and translating many of the articles.

Administration and Finances

The permanent positions in the personnel remained the same in 2021 as during the first three years of the programme: the director, the financial coordinator, the communications and programme coordinator and two programme coordinators. The calculated person-years were 4.3, a slight increase from 2020.

The Board of Directors (8 regular members and 5 deputy members in 2021) had ten meetings, and the Council (13 regular members and their deputies) had one annual meeting. Voluntary work of Siemenpuu's board members and volunteers in thematic groups/funding schemes as well as in communications working group, was essential to the development of activities. The chairperson of the board received a trustee fee, no other trustee remuneration was paid.

The total expenses of the programme in 2021 were 921,587 €. Distribution of expenses is shown in the figure 7.

About 88 % of the expenses were covered by the programme support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Donations and other funding from individuals, firms, foundations and NGOs covered 12 % of the expenses. The self-financing (83,873 €) and other funding (143,980 €) raised by the grantees to the audited finalized projects are not included in these figures.

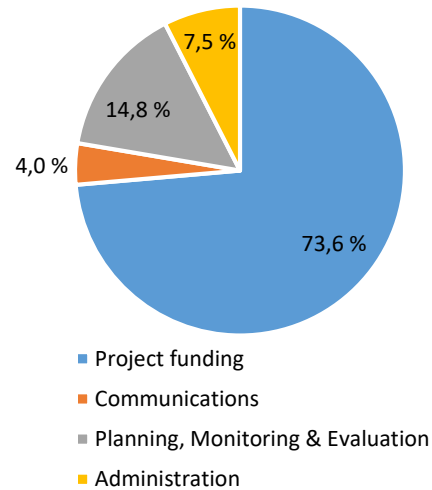


Figure 7. Distribution of expenses according to cost centers

In the whole programme period 2018-2021 total expenses were 3,963,314 €. Distribution of the expenses to different cost centers is shown in the figure 8.

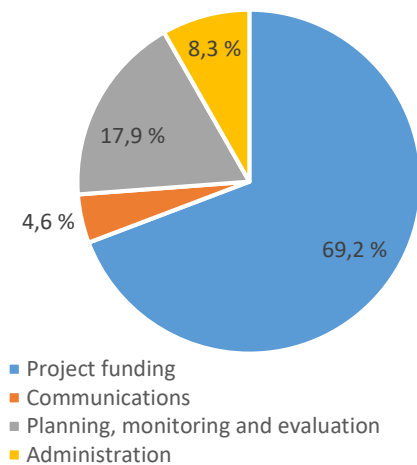


Figure 8. Distribution of expenses in 2018–2021 according to cost centers