

A close-up portrait of a young girl with dark hair tied in pigtails, wearing a light blue denim jacket over a blue shirt with a red and white striped collar. She has a small bindi on her forehead and is smiling slightly. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

IOGT·NTO·MOVEMENT

Our work in 2020



A challenging year

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the world, us, our partners and our work. The pandemic has forced a change in our way of working and poses a challenge for both us and our partner organizations. The consequences for our target groups are, of course, more serious – the World Bank estimates that the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by over one hundred million people last year. We can also see how the pandemic has led to an increased incidence of violence against women – which we know is often linked to alcohol.

Alcohol affects the immune system, making people more susceptible to virus. The effect alcohol has on human behaviors further risks worsening the pandemic and its consequences. Different countries' corona strategies have handled alcohol consumption in very different ways. Some countries were quick to reduce the availability of alcoholic drinks, while others have viewed alcohol as a possible life saver for the local economy. During 2020, we made efforts to address these issues together with our partners.

Despite the pandemic we have seen progress in our work during 2020. Advocacy work for evidence based and effective alcohol policies has continued, to a large degree online. We have noted policy improvements in Vietnam, Uganda and Sri Lanka among others. One of our partners in Tanzania reported significantly lower levels of gender-based violence after completing their program.

During 2020 the IOGT-NTO Movements and partner organizations took large steps towards working effectively through digital channels. We have learned to host high-quality webinars and digital trainings – skills we will benefit from in years to come.

Gunnar Lundström
Director of International Department
IOGT-NTO Movement



Our vision, mission and goal

IOGT-NTO Movement is a non-profit association with four founding organisations:

- IOGT-NTO
- UNF (the youth organisation)
- Junis (the children's organisation)
- NSF (the scouting association)

Since 1879 when the temperance movement started in Sweden it has been an important actor mobilising people around public education, democracy, culture and human rights, building awareness of alcohol and other drugs and advocating for effective alcohol regulations. International solidarity is one of the core values, and since the 1970th The IOGT-NTO Movement support development initiatives around the world.

Our vision:

A democratic world characterized by solidarity and equality where alcohol and other drugs do not impede peoples' welfare, freedom and security.

Our mission:

To strengthen relevant actors in their work for reduced use of alcohol and other drugs in developing countries and thus contribute to democratic development, strengthen rights and reduced poverty.

Our goal is:

Strong communities where people are empowered, rights are protected and harm from alcohol and other drugs are minimised.

Our work in brief

We have
28
partner
organisations

We work in
14
countries

Operational budget: 27 million SEK

APPROVED GRANTS 2020

FORUMCIV: 19 MILLION SEK
RADIOHJÄLPEN: 1.8 MILLION SEK
FORUMCIV INFO: 0.6 MILLION SEK

We have 16 employees in 3 offices

Stockholm
office

Dar Es Salaam
office

Chiang Mai
office

ForumCiv funds by region

SOUTH EAST ASIA 28 %

EAST AFRICA 46 %

SRI LANKA
14 %

BALKANS
12 %

PHOTO BY ADOBE STOCK

What we do

The IOGT-NTO Movement works with long-term partnership and support to civil society that share our vision to reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs.

In total, we participate in and support around 28 partner organizations in 14 countries.

We believe in working together, both locally and globally. There is a special strength and value created when civil society organisations in different part of the world come together and exchange experiences. We enable networking and sharing of knowledge. We make voices heard.

We empower people

Our theory of change is based on the idea that people with evidence-based knowledge, tools and empowerment will make informed choices to protect themselves, their family and their community. Therefore, initiatives to increase awareness, on all levels, is

central in order to challenge harmful alcohol norms.

We influence policy

Alcohol regulations based on principles of public health and which limits the alcohol industry's unscrupulous sales strategies, are the most effective way to reduce harm to societies. This makes advocacy work crucial and we support various alcohol policy networks in East Africa and Southeast Asia as well as conduct policy work in Sweden and on a global level.

Our thematic areas

Our work mainly deals with five thematic areas: poverty, health, children's rights, women's rights and equity. These areas also reflect our work on Agenda 2030. ■



How we organize



RIGHTS HOLDERS



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



EAST AFRICA OFFICE



SWEDEN OFFICE



SOUTH EAST ASIA OFFICE



IOGT-NTO



JUNIS



NSF



UNF

FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS



MEMBERS OF FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

Some of our results from 2020



PHOTO BY ADOBE STOCK

Stronger alcohol policy in Vietnam

In **Vietnam**, advocacy and keeping alcohol related harm on the agenda by our partner Research and Training Centre for Community Development (RTCCD) and the Vietnamese NCD Alliance has led to five new sub-decrees to the Vietnamese national Law on Alcohol Control have been adopted and put into effect.



PHOTO BY ADOBE STOCK

Improved livelihoods in Uganda

Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH) in **Uganda** reported in their project evaluation report that during 2020 patterns of heavy consumption of alcohol in the project areas in Masindi reduced by 18.61%. Consequently, these communities engaged in more productive activities which led to improved livelihoods.



Local by-laws protect women and children

In **Tanzania**, Iringa Development of Youth, Disabled and Children (IDYDC) reported 11 new alcohol control bylaws approved in 2020 at village level in their areas. The by-laws comprise protecting children from alcohol use, alcohol abuse and gender-based violence, opening/closing time of selling points etc. Breach of any of these by-laws results in fines and criminal cases are taken to court.

Increased recognition in Serbia

In **Serbia**, Centar Za Omladinski Rad (CZOR) a youth organisation, organized a successful national round table with representatives of ministries, government, WHO, UNODC, UNICEF, the Institute for public health among others. At the end the participants agreed to cooperate on a national media campaign, to place alcohol on the government agenda and to work to harmonize public policies.



PHOTO BY CZOR



PHOTO BY YAN

Building new healthy norms

By the end of 2020, Youth Action Network (YAN) in **Sri Lanka** has grown to one of the nations largest independent youth networks and built capacity of over a thousand youth to become role-models and inspirational leaders their communities. Through their campaign “Drink revolution” they promote healthy food and drinks, and advocate for an alcohol, tobacco and drug free lifestyle.

Management report

Despite challenging circumstances we managed to deliver strong results – and we have learned a lot on the way.

For all of us, all over the world, 2020 exposed us to unimaginable challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Everything needed to be reconsidered, for everyone. Having that in mind, our partners and ourselves managed to re-organise and on the whole, our program continued to strengthen civil society organisations, individuals and communities.

When analysing the 2020´s reports from our projects and programs, we see that the work to secure human rights and protection against harm caused by alcohol and other drugs continued and that alcohol policy advancements were done through advocacy work on local, national, regional and global levels.

Covid-19 enforced digital solutions

This in spite the fact that our Stockholm offices (SO) was more or less closed from March, with staff working from home throughout the year. The staff in our East Africa Office (EAO) was closed from the end of March until beginning of July, whereas our office in Southeast Asia in Thailand (SEAO) has mostly been open.

The pandemic has had different effects for our work, for instance travel restrictions worldwide and as a consequence regular monitoring visits have not been doable. In EAO it was possible to visit some partners during the summer and autumn. SEAO was able to visit our partner in Vietnam just before the flights were stopped and have been able to meet partners in Thailand. Our annual partner meetings in East Africa and Southeast Asia have been cancelled, as has our annual staff meeting.

In the shadow of “in-real-life”-meetings we have been able to speed up the development and implementation of on-line-meetings. In many cases this has led to an increased participation and cost-effective and environmentally friendly work methods that may very well remain after the pandemic has ended.

New staff and locations increase networking

A special challenge that we are very pleased to have solved at the end of 2020, was that our regional office in Thailand lost most of its staff in the December 2019. The Regional Director resigned and with him left three senior members of staff. The work to recruit new staff as well as the administrative work with getting new authorizations, office permits etc has been work intensive, but since November our office is complete with a new, strong team in place.

Our office in Tanzania moved from Arusha to Dar es Salaam in April 2020. Just as expected the move has enabled our Regional Director to engage more

regularly with other stakeholders in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi, the regional hubs for other civil society organisations, institutions and governmental departments.

Both Regional Directors; Brenda Mkwesha (EO) and Tim Loke (SEAO), have as priority to enhance our outreach work such as networking with relevant stakeholders with the goal to put the harmful effects of alcohol higher up on the development agenda.

Brand new steering documents in place

After several years of processing ourselves, our existing and potential partnerships, our finances and the contexts we are working in; we are proud to say that we have a new strategy for 2021-2026 in place. It was approved by the Board on September 15, 2020.

The process has included intense work to update and produce a number of policies and guidelines such as an Incident Response Mechanism including Whistle-blower Mechanism, a Child Protection Policy, Program Management Guidelines, Grant Management-, Financial-, Human Resources-, Communication-guidelines etc. This has been an ambitious task for all staff, and while most were approved by the board in 2020, some are still in process and to be finalised in the first half of 2021.

We are excited to see the results of this substantial work and how it will improve and enhance our organisational efficiency, professionalism and secure high quality of all aspects of our work for the times to come.

But critical challenges remain...

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a new political climate in many countries where the pandemic has been used as a pretext to motivate restrictions to freedom of expression and assembly; i.e. “shrinking space”. This affected mainly our partners in South East Asia where governments have taken the opportunity to reduce the right to assembly and speech, claiming to protect people from false news and risk of unrest. National security laws have been strengthened, giving police and military more possibility to arrest people without due process.

In East Africa new rules have been introduced that restrict online content and people may be prosecuted for what they write or share on social media platforms. For our own offices this new situation has implied that more reports need to be submitted to Authorities, increasing administrative workloads and budgets for example audits. ■

Lessons we learnt and bring to the future

Every year there are always a number of lessons to be learnt – that is one of the great advantages of undertaking a challenging work in complex environments, such as ours. These are some of the things we bring with us to the future:

1. Web-based meetings are opening up for wider participation if digital equipment is working
2. When aiming to empower youth; conflicts may be mitigated by involving community leaders and parents.
3. A thorough understanding of culture, norms and traditions are vital in projects aiming to change people's alcohol norms and drinking patterns.
4. Changing policy is effective means of creating change. But it is not enough. You have to change norms and attitudes as well in order to secure compliance with for example age-limits on sale of alcohol to protect children and youth.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the world, us, our partners and our work. The pandemic has forced a change in our way of working and poses a challenge for both us and our partner organizations. We can also see how the pandemic has contributed to an increased incidence of violence against women – which we know is often linked to alcohol.

Despite the pandemic we have seen progress in our work during 2020. Advocacy work for evidence based and effective alcohol policies has continued, to a large degree online. We have noted policy improvements in several program countries and partners report improved rights for women and children after completing project activities.

We also learned a lot from being forced to work and communicate in new ways. These learnings will contribute to even better quality in our work in the future.