

IPPR - Narrative Report

January - December 2019



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General Situation

During 2019 the IPPR received N\$3.1m from ten donors for 22 different projects of which half were supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). Just over a third of total funding came from the HSF.

Other donors and partners that supported the IPPR in 2019 were: US Embassy, Canadian High Commission, Embassy of Finland, FHI360, British High Commission, International Budget Partnership, World Economic Forum, Namibia National Farmers Union, and Uppsala University.

The IPPR continued with its cost-effective and streamlined approach to staffing with the only contracted office staff being the full-time Executive Director and the part-time Administrator - both positions are supported by the HSF through its institutional assistance for the IPPR.

In terms of other staffing 14 research associates were connected to various projects during 2019. Most were part-time although 3 had enough project work to make their commitments to the IPPR more or less full-time.

The IPPR published 41 different publications during 2019. With so much project work completed and underway, the stress placed on the IPPR's limited staff complement was extreme. Ideally, to ensure the effective implementation of the IPPR's mandate, there should be a better-staffed and funded administrative base for the organisation.

The IPPR continued to receive acknowledgement and praise for the relevance and high quality of its work through 165 media citations during the year and significant interaction on its social media pages. The 165 media citations are the equivalent of more than 3 reports per week. These are either based on IPPR publications or comments from IPPR research associates.

In addition, the IPPR is recognised globally as being in the top 50 think tanks in sub-Saharan Africa by the University of Pennsylvania (36th in the just released 2019 rankings).

The IPPR's longest running project - Democracy Report which monitors the work of parliament - has been funded by the Embassy of Finland since 2009. The current phase of the project is due to end in January 2020.

The IPPR played a key role in civil society coordination during the year - being a founding member of the CIVIC +264 project which seeks to promote and share information among CSOs. It is expected that CIVIC +264 will be launched in during 2020.

In addition, the IPPR brought together over 25 Namibian CSOs to work with government on the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism in Namibia. Under the IPPR's supervision, the CSOs produced a report on key issues for the APRM process which was submitted to government during 2019 and will be presented to the APRM governing council appointed by President Geingob in 2020.

What's next?

2019 was a pivotal year in Namibia's political history. The #Fishrot scandal and other corruption cases such as the looting of the SME Bank made clear that Namibia faces a severe corruption problem which if not tackled immediately and with vigour could seriously undermine Namibia's development goals and democracy as a whole.

Of all Namibia's civil society organisations, the IPPR is strongly placed to play a key role in both alerting the nation to the dangers of the growing corruption problem and mapping out strategies and policies to tackle it.

At the end of 2019 the IPPR set out an 8-point plan for tackling corruption (<https://ippr.org.na/publication/a-call-for-action-on-corruption/>) which is already gaining traction in the media.

2019 was also a ground-breaking year due to the national elections in which the ruling party lost its two-thirds majority and the president faced a protest vote from (primarily urban) youth over a stagnating economy and rising youth unemployment. The IPPR, particularly through its Executive Director, was a key player in providing non-partisan, expert commentary on the election throughout the year.

It is clear that, going forward, the IPPR working together with other leading CSOs, has a crucial role to play in the development of Namibia as a working democracy with effective transparency and accountability systems.

The importance of the IPPR's democracy-related work was emphasised when the IPPR's new fact-checking project spotted a serious error in the election results whereby totals for presidential candidates in one constituency (Windhoek Rural) had been wrongly calculated. As a result of the IPPR's work, the official election result had to be changed by the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

Over the years, the IPPR has established itself as Namibia's leading CSO dealing with a broad range of governance issues.

The IPPR, through its reputation as a strong, consistent, and non-partisan organisation, is well positioned to become even more effective and influential in the coming years.

However, establishing and developing the IPPR's institutional base will be crucial if this potential is to be realised.

Graham Hopwood
Executive Director

2019: The IPPR in Numbers

Donor income received: N\$3.1 million

From **10 different donors:**

Hanns Seidel Foundation

Embassy of Finland

US Embassy

Canadian High Commission

FHI360

British High Commission

International Budget Partnership

World Economic Forum

Namibia National Farmers Union

Uppsala University

Number of on-going projects in 2019: 23

11 projects supported by HSF:

Namibia Fact Check

Namibia-China Relations

Quarterly Economic Review

Procurement Tracker Namibia

Social Media & Elections

Conservation and Climate Change

Towards a Blue Economy

Namibian Media - Facing the Digital Challenge

Electoral Integrity publication

Electoral law review

Namibia Governance Report

plus

12 projects supported by other donors:

Democracy Report (parliamentary monitoring),

Anti-Corruption Research Programme,

Extractive Industry Transparency Project,
Open Budget Survey,
Civil Society Sustainability Index,
Livestock Marketing Study,
AGOA Trade Study,
IJG Business Climate Monitor,
Attitudes to Tax Study,
World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey,
Election Watch
Improving the Business Environment

Number of publications launched in 2019: 41

Media statements: 2
Briefing papers: 12
Bulletins: 25
Research Reports: 2

Number of research associates working on various projects: 14

6 males
8 females

10 previously disadvantaged
4 previously advantaged

IPPR on social media:

Facebook likes: **6 332**

Twitter followers: **10 535**

IPPR in the media:

165 citations in the local and international media in 2019

2019 IPPR Website Statistics

Most popular paper:

Landscaping Gender-Based Violence - **2 525** views

Most popular blog:

Is the ACC fit for purpose? - **932** views

International audience:

Of 15 107 site users during the year:

49% were from Namibia, **51%** from other countries:

11% USA
8% South Africa
8% Morocco
3% UK
2% Germany
1% China
1% Canada
1% Rwanda
1% India
15% Others