



A QUICK GLIMPSE AT OUR WORK IN EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT



#1
No
poverty

#4
Quality
education

#8
Decent work and
economic growth



NIRAS: A recognised driver of positive change and innovation in sustainable development, empowering futures through education, skills development and employment promotion

Owned by a foundation and a percentage of its company employees, NIRAS is a global multi-disciplinary consultancy firm. Since 1912, we are committed to making a positive impact and we take pride in our dedication to social responsibility. Every year, a portion of our profits is channelled into grants that support PhD students and research initiatives. This financial commitment is an indication of our belief in the transformative power of education, research and innovation.

'Inclusive education for all' plays a critical role in reducing poverty, generating employment, and driving sustainable

development. Collaborating with a multitude of different development partners (EU, KfW, GIZ, SDC, Sida, MFA Finland, SECO, DANIDA, NORAD, FCDO, ADB, AfDB, MCC/MCA, WB), we continuously work to generate and share knowledge as a value-driven company powered by a diverse team of committed professionals. Our core focus is to design, implement and manage projects and investments (including the procurement of and contract management for works, equipment and services) that foster opportunities for individuals to enhance their lives and to contribute to a more equal and sustainable world.



Advisory Services to the Education Sector; EU, multi-country, 2020-2025

This strategic initiative supports DG INTPA, DG NEAR, EU Delegations, and education stakeholders across partner countries, catalysing reforms in the education sector. We provide expert guidance in the identification, formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of education projects and programmes, ensuring impactful implementation in EU partner countries. Additionally, we support the formulation of education policies and strategic frameworks by analysing emerging challenges and trends, and representing EU perspectives in global discussions, key to advancing the Agenda 2030.



Inclusive Education / TA Support for Enhancing Equality and Inclusion in the General Education Quality Improvement Programme in Ethiopia; MFA Finland, multi-country, 2018-2023

NIRAS collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Education and Regional Education Bureaus to enhance the effective use of school grants for special education needs and supported the expansion and strengthening of the Inclusive Education Resource Centres network. Activities included capacity-development, training of teachers and improvement of data collection, analysis, and reporting on learners with special education needs within the Education Management Information System.



Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA); KfW/African Union, multi-country, 2018 – present

SIFA aims to bolster employment opportunities for youth by supporting innovative vocational training initiatives. The programme emphasises enhancing education quality, fostering close ties with the private sector, and integrating innovation into vocational education across Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia, and South Africa. The SIFA project funds 3 types of investment projects: 1) Large-scale investment projects in skills development with support to infrastructure construction, rehabilitation, or expansion, as well as equipment procurement and scholarships; 2) Joint projects between African institutions and international entities; and 3) Smaller, innovative (pilot) projects to serve as incubators to test initiatives with potential for broader regional impact.

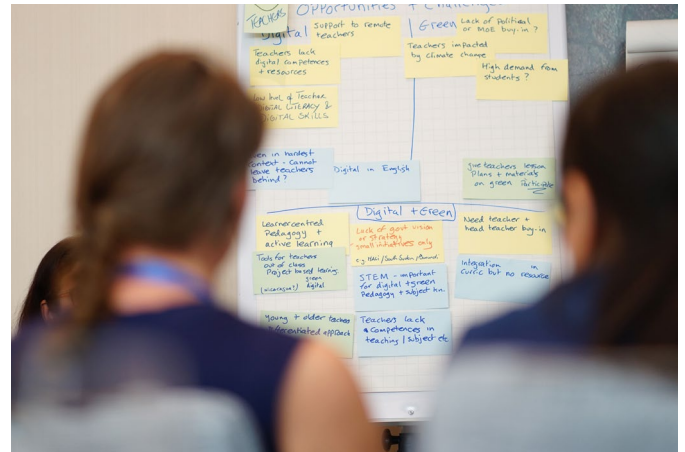


Feasibility Study: Digitalisation of Basic Education and TVET; KfW, Jordan, 2023-2024

NIRAS conducted a comprehensive feasibility study on digitalisation for the basic education and TVET sectors in Jordan in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to provide insights for planned grant commitments by the German Government to Jordan. The results aligned with Jordan's strategic framework for education, TVET, and digitalisation. NIRAS provided detailed analyses on policy implementation, alignment with other donor initiatives, and needs assessment covering digital equipment, software, systems, approaches, infrastructure, and human skills, and establishing e-learning platforms and Education Management Information Systems.

Championing quality and inclusive education for all

At NIRAS, we embrace the vision of quality and inclusive education as a driving force for positive change in line with SDGs 1, 4 and 8. Our commitment extends to project implementation that ensures these fundamental principles. Through our dedication to excellence and strategic implementation, jointly with our peers, clients and partners, we work to transform educational systems. We are empowering individuals to reach their full potential and equip them with 21st century skills and knowledge necessary to face complex challenges. We work to contribute to a more inclusive and prosperous world, embodying the principle that education should be accessible to all, regardless of differences in background, gender, ethnicity, ability, or socio-economic status.





Connecting skills development and enhancing employability through private sector engagement

At NIRAS, we understand the deep connection between skills development and labour market demands. Working closely with clients, partners, and the private sector, we aim to transform the workforce and boost individual workplace success through Technical and Vocational Education & Training (TVET) linked with labour market needs. We focus on enhancing employability in national job markets, as well as promoting entrepreneurship and business skills. We support lifelong learning by collaborating with the private sector to understand job profiles and work conditions. We are supporting schools, civil society, and business associations to match youth skills with local labour market needs. Additionally, we develop innovative skills funds and financing mechanisms.



Ongoing TVET projects; KfW, Ethiopia, 2012-present

NIRAS has a long and successful record of implementing projects in Ethiopia funded by KfW and GIZ. Ethiopia's structural reform endeavours include priority areas such as TVET and higher education, which are seen as the basis for transformation to an industrial economy and a means to address unemployment. Building on these years of engagement in the TVET sector in Ethiopia, NIRAS is currently engaged to bolster the Ethiopian TVET sector through six projects, including three flagship projects which began implementation last year. The first, "Organisational Support and Capacity-Building Support for the Basket Financing Programme" focuses on promoting private sector development within the TVET sector through active engagement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and private sector entities to improve the quality and labour market relevance of TVET services. The second, "Support of the Industrialisation Process" aims to enhance productivity in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors by equipping agro-industry-wide training centres within integrated agro-industrial parks. These centres will provide relevant and high-quality training for the workforce needed by private sector companies operating within and around the parks. Lastly, the "Support to the Ethiopian Refugee Programme," involves the deployment of needs assessments to identify opportunities for improving TVET services' availability and quality for refugees and Ethiopians in Addis Ababa. Additionally, a TVET Challenge Fund will be established to promote entrepreneurship.

Empowering digital transformation through education and skills development

In recent years, the rapid advance of digitalisation and IT innovations has reshaped teaching and learning, particularly during global emergencies, and accelerated change. Digital systems are now crucial throughout the educational lifecycle, from management to pedagogy, and in formulating and evaluating policies. We have experience in setting up e-Labour Market Information System, Virtual Reality concepts for professional orientation and digital learning platforms for teachers and students. Digital skills are vital across various sectors, essential for employability and career progression. NIRAS provides innovative solutions in developing Artificial

Intelligence engines as well as web-based monitoring, fund management and tracking tools. We are committed to leading this digital revolution, crafting innovative educational solutions and collaborating with specialised service providers.



From Education to Employment (E2E); SDC, Serbia, 2016-present

This collaboration between Switzerland and Serbia aims to accelerate youth recruitment and employment across 12 regions in Serbia. Through partnerships with the Serbian Government, private sector, and civil society, youth employment policies are modernised and competency development programmes, which are tailored to private sector needs, are implemented. Key initiatives include the establishment of a network of Job Info Centres providing career guidance and counselling services and an Opportunity Fund for companies that offer work-based learning programmes. The project reached already 35,000 young individuals, creating 1600 decent jobs through work-based learning. Additionally, the E2E programme has engaged over 250 companies across sectors such as metal processing, IT, manufacturing, hospitality and the service industry.





Supporting green skills and climate education

To foster a greener world, it's crucial for various stakeholders to prioritise the development of green and climate skills - key competencies needed for sustainable practices and professions. These skills encompass technical knowledge and abilities essential for using green technologies and facilitating environmentally sustainable decisions in professional and personal settings. Particularly vital for youth, these skills support long-term ecological contributions. At NIRAS, we promote sustainability through expertise in green education and skills development, collaborating with individuals, businesses, and institutions to enhance environmental protection and resilience. We support our clients and partner countries in their efforts to promote climate and environmental skills for all for the green economy.



Promotion of qualification and business models in times of climate change (DKTI-BB); GIZ, Peru, 2022 - present

NIRAS contributes to building a greener future in Peru by improving the conditions for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to implement the development of more climate-friendly business models in the area of energy efficiency in industry. Under the DKTI-BB project, NIRAS has been assigned to deliver services that improve the qualification and knowledge offers of energy service providers and advise on more sustainable production practices in MSMEs to improve their competitiveness. By delivering a technical training programme in cooperation with the German Chamber of Commerce and local educational institutions, NIRAS contributes to better and more sustainable production practices, the improvement of competitiveness and combating climate change.



Learn more about NIRAS

