Contents

Forward — 01
Executive Summary — 02
Introduction — 04
Purpose — 05
Who is MINN — 06
Minnesota Strong — 08
Major Survey Trends — 09
2020 Limitations — 17
Organization Spotlight — 18
Data by Global Region & Budget — 21
  Data by Global Region — 22
  Opportunities by Budget & Region — 25
Measurement — 29
  Past — 30
  Present — 31
  Future — 32
Conclusion — 33
Call to Action — 35
Acknowledgements — 37
Forward

I am honored to introduce this second installment of our MINN Global Report. It was my privilege to serve as the 2020 Board President, and I speak for the entire organization when I say that we are very pleased to present you with our data and analysis.

MINN, including our volunteers, members, and the international NGOs we represent—we are fortunate to call Minnesota home. And we are thankful for the unique position Minnesota holds in the Midwest and the country, year after year sitting atop rankings for quality of life and wellbeing, business and infrastructure, as well as health, education, and philanthropy. As our shared interconnections grow, both within Minnesota and between Minnesota and the rest of the world, the state has consequently gained greater prominence on the national and international stages.

A primary goal of the 2020 Global Report is to shed more light on our network of Minnesota-based INGOs and the labor of their staff and volunteers. It is our hope we will be able to add to the state’s list of accolades the good work being done by these organizations and their members. The Minnesota International NGO Network believes that more investigation and data collection will reveal that Minnesota also stands out in terms of the number of international nonprofits operating here and the significant impact their work has on the world. MINN looks forward to continuing our effort to collect this important data and inform the public of the international development work being done by Minnesotans globally.

Krister Karlsson  
Krister Karlsson  
2020 MINN Board President
Executive Summary

The Minnesota International NGO Network (MINN) is committed to doing global good better by connecting international practitioners and supporters to learn, network, and exchange professional expertise. As part of this mission, MINN produces its Global Report every year to provide a picture of the current state of Minnesota’s international NGO (INGO) community. In 2020, data was provided by almost 60 international NGOs throughout Minnesota, highlighting the geographic, operational, and financial trends of the INGO community. Though this data was compiled before and during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, MINN is still publishing this data to help understand the pre-pandemic INGO situation and provide a baseline for analysis in future years.

From a funding perspective, MINN organizations are predominantly supported through foundation grants and individual donor contributions. Corporate and government grants provided funding for a smaller number of international NGOs, allowing potential for further growth in this area. INGO budgets tend to be small, usually under $500,000 per year. Despite these lean budgets, Minnesota’s international NGOs are implementing anti-poverty, social welfare, and educational program solutions. Measured against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), MINN organizations are focused heavily on SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 3 (Good Health & Well-Being).
Operationally, the biggest emphasis for Minnesota's INGOs is on international implementation of programs and solutions. A few organizations also reported working on advocacy and educational initiatives. In most cases, MINN organizations are completing this work with a small cohort of domestic and international staff and volunteers. Often, this work is being completed with fewer than two dozen paid employees and unpaid volunteers. These staffs are usually quite diverse, with most international NGOs comprised of a majority female staff and the average of all organizations reporting around 40% African American employees. Minnesota's INGOs tend to be very young organizations, with roughly 70% of organizations having been founded within the last two decades.

Geographically, Minnesota's international NGOs have a major impact all around the world. Over one third of organizations focus specifically on sub-Saharan Africa and roughly 15% work on projects in Latin America. Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda are among the most common recipients of Minnesota INGO services. Most organizations place a high emphasis on working directly in the locations they serve. Because of this, international staff members tend to outnumber domestic staff.

Moving forward, MINN encourages Minnesota’s international NGOs to use this report to find common ground in their missions. INGOs can work together to reduce costs, collaborate on related projects, and prevent the duplication of efforts in competing areas. Now more than ever, the world needs Minnesota's international NGO community and the services it provides. MINN hopes the data contained within this report will help make that job easier.
Introduction

The Minnesota International NGO Network’s (MINN’s) Minnesota Global Report 2020 summarizes the philanthropic international NGO (INGO) engagement of Minnesota-based organizations working on international development projects across the globe. This is the first comprehensive Minnesota Global Report 2020 published since the MINN 2016 Impact Report, which was a response to requests from MINN members, donors and public sector stakeholders for timely and disaggregated information on Minnesota’s many INGOs.

This 2020 report seeks to provide an updated inquiry into our current Minnesota-based INGO members and provide a more holistic view of Minnesota’s INGO impact across global regions, development sectors, organization financial and employee size, and highlight the major trends of MINN’s INGO network. The key indicators are framed in relation to the United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and interpreted through self-reported quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.
The purpose of this report is to summarize Minnesota INGOs robust engagement and efforts to overcome a variety of challenges facing our planet. The UN’s SDGs form the foundation of the analysis.

MINN upholds the standards established by the SDGs by centering our own work on SDG Number 17, strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development.
WHO IS MINN?

MINN is committed to strengthening the local international NGO (INGO) sector through opportunities to connect, share, and learn from one another.

Throughout the year, INGO professionals come together to connect with one another through a series of networking and educational events, as well as visits to various NGO offices. MINN also facilitates a fellowship program throughout the year that provides professional enrichment, networking opportunities, and seeks to elevate traditionally underrepresented voices in the international development sector. Additionally, MINN hosts an annual Summit conference that brings all of the Minnesota INGO community together to share information and learn from one another’s experiences. The MINN structure allows organizations to exist in a collaborative learning environment, where best practices and resources can be shared to continue working towards the greater good.

We believe that a thriving and connected INGO sector will enrich the lives of people around the world, enhance our collective impact, and inspire leaders and organizations in our state who are committed to making a positive difference in our global and local communities.

“As a leader in a small nonprofit, I greatly value the connections to others doing similar work... MINN is a perfect way to connect with a network of people who care about the same things you do!”

Katherine Wojtan
Executive Director, Mary’s Pence

“MINN is a tremendous organization that brings together all of the international non-profit organizations in Minnesota. It sounds like a cliché, but in this case it’s true - if MINN did not exist we would be discussing how to create an organization like it.”

Patrick Plonski, PhD
Executive Director, Books for Africa
The Minnesota International NGO Network (MINN) is a forum for international practitioners and supporters to learn, network and exchange professional expertise.

To be the leader in providing a collaborative environment for Minnesota international NGOs to learn and exchange ideas. Our efforts result in innovative and effective solutions that enrich the lives of the global community.

Founded in the spring of 2005, The Minnesota International NGO Network serves to connect all international humanitarian and development practitioners and supporters based in Minnesota, through education, networking, and information resources. Whether you are new to the world of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or a seasoned veteran, MINN is your forum to connect with colleagues and stay aware of what other NGOs based in Minnesota are doing around the world.
Minnesota’s strong representation of international development organizations was not born in a vacuum. Minnesota ranks highly among states for its economy, labor force, education system, infrastructure, and overall quality of life. These strengths mesh with a strong culture that prioritizes volunteerism and philanthropy, and creates a strong foundation from which Minnesotans contribute to global solutions.

This is informed by an increasingly diverse population characterized by an array of different cultures, most notably the indigenous peoples whose ancestors originally inhabited this land, as well as significant proportions of residents from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Minnesotans from all these backgrounds have devoted themselves to improving the lives of people around the world.

Unfortunately, high-minded ambition and strong overall metrics in our state have often obscured critical disparities and structural racism. The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May of 2020 garnered global attention for our state. Reckoning with these homegrown systems of oppression and violence is a monumental, but absolutely necessary, task. Our state’s achievements - and potential for global impact – ring hollow if Minnesota residents continue to be repressed under the shadow of systemic racism.

These factors also inform Minnesota-based efforts to drive global development, no matter how noble. In recent years, MINN has sought to highlight voices calling for the decolonization of international development — a movement that prioritizes diversity, inclusion, and true equal partnership with affected communities if the international development sector wishes to make meaningful impacts that achieve global good.
Organizations were asked to identify the focus of their work based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs on which the most INGOs identified as the focus of their work were #1 (No Poverty), #5 (Gender Equality), #4 (Quality Education), or #3 (Good Health & Well-Being). Other SDGs such as those centered on hunger, institutions, and infrastructure are of notable focus as well. No INGOs reported working on SDG #14 (Life Below Water).
MINN INGOs also tend to have a diversified portfolio of UNSDG focus. A little over half of all survey respondents reported working on three separate SDGs simultaneously. Most MINN international NGOs are contributing to more than one SDG at a time, with some reporting addressing as many as nine. Overall, this data emphasizes the interconnectedness of the UNSDGs and the ambitious goals of our nonprofits in International Development.
MINN INGOs reported a very broad global reach. Around one-third of survey respondents described their operation as globally rather than regionally focused. Of those that mentioned a regional focus, around 40% cited Sub-Saharan Africa as their region. Latin America is also a major focus area for a significant subsection of organizations.
MINN INGOS are by and large grassroots organizations, with nearly 80% organizations operating with budgets under $1m per year, and just over 3% exceeding $10m or more. Almost one-quarter of respondents come in under half a million dollars annually, and another 30% survive with below $100k annually. Recent data suggests that 66% of NGOs nationally operate under the one-million dollar threshold, which speaks to the great financial needs of Minnesota’s INGO sector.

MINN INGOs tend to have a diversified portfolio of support.

Almost all organizations reported individual donors as a significant revenue source, and nearly half of respondent groups claimed foundation grants as well. Barely a third of organizations listed corporate and other non-profit organization funding, suggesting more international NGOs could benefit from pursuing this possibility.
MINN organizations overall reported very small operating staffs of fewer than ten US-based people. However, many of these organizations also reported large percentages of internationally based staff. This indicates that most INGOs are focused on providing direct in-country support rather than administrative oversight.

**SECTION II, CHART D**

**NUMBER OF US-BASED FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES**

- 21+ FTEs: 9
- 10-20 FTEs: 13
- 6-10 FTEs: 8
- 1-5 FTEs: 17
- 0 FTEs (all volunteer): 12

**SECTION II, CHART E**

**NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALLY-BASED STAFF BY BUDGET SIZE**

- $1-9,999: 5
- $10,000-99,999: 15
- $100,000-499,999: 10
- $500,000-999,999: 11
- $1M-9,999,999: 20
- $10M+: 1

N = 59
Overall, Minnesota's INGOs tend to be very young organizations. Roughly 70% of respondent nonprofits were founded within the last two decades. Fourteen groups reported their founding date within just the last five years.

As international development organizations look to become more diversified, the vast majority of MINN organizations report a staff breakdown that is at least 50% female.
LOCATION OF MINNESOTA INGO HEADQUARTERS

TOP 4 CITIES FOR INGOS

#1 MINNEAPOLIS 21
#2 SAINT PAUL 10
#3 BROOKLYN PARK 2
#4 HOPKINS 2

21 CITIES WITH 1 NGO

Though a few international NGOs are based in locations in Greater Minnesota, all of the Global Report respondent organizations happened to be headquartered regionally in the Twin Cities metro area. Within this area Minneapolis is the most common. However, St. Paul and Brooklyn Park also host a significant number of organizations.
2020 Limitations

As an internationally focused organization working closely in partnership with member organizations, we are constantly reminded of how many challenges, during times like these, are also amplified in places our members serve. This year will be talked about for generations to come, in many ways for how it disrupted lives around the world, but also as a year of resilience, persistence, and both struggle and strength.

From everyone here at MINN, we look forward to starting a new year with our constituents and their partners, as we continue together as a network of people and organizations helping the world through these difficult times.

Below is a map developed by USAID that shows the impact of COVID-19 and international development funding in Global Health Security, as of March 2, 2020. Great strides have been taken in international development, which motivate us to overcome the challenges of our time, and guide decision-making in shifting priorities.
Organization Spotlight
QUALITATIVE SUMMARY

Of the 59 survey respondents represented in the quantitative data collection effort for the 2020 Global Report, seven organizations were selected to participate in a pilot qualitative survey to supplement this report with pull-quotes and use in this Organization Spotlight section. The seven organizations were selected because they are well-known and closely connected to MINN. The information learned from this first iteration is being used to discuss the possible evolution of similar data collection efforts and uses in the years to come.

Mary’s Pence

MISSION

Invests in women across the Americas by funding community initiatives and fostering collaborations to create social change.

VISION

We envision a world where empowered women and their communities flourish in solidarity and justice.

VALUES

Our commitment to justice motivates our work. We are grateful to walk alongside people of all faiths and beliefs on this journey toward justice.

“As a small nonprofit working in Latin America, it is always helpful to connect with and learn from other organizations doing the same. It provides us with a way to connect to a very powerful and diverse network of people for mutual benefit.”

Katherine Wojtan
Executive Director

ABOUT MARY’S PENCE

9 YRS IN MINN
EST. IN 1987

maryspence.org
“Books For Africa is an annual participant and sponsor of the MINN Summit and also attends various MINN networking sessions annually. It is impressive the numbers of people, the variety of people, and the number of organizations that MINN brings together for its MINN Summit.”

Patrick Plonski, PhD
Executive Director

MISSION

Books For Africa’s mission is to end the book famine in Africa. BFA collects, sorts and ships donated textbooks, reference and general reading books, as well as computers and e-readers, throughout Africa. BFA has delivered over 50 million books, serving all 55 African countries since 1988.

booksforafrica.org

ABOUT BOOKS FOR AFRICA

10 YRS EST. IN 1988

MISSION & VISION

We catalyze community-led transformation in rural Africa. We envision the people of rural Africa engaged in building thriving, connected, and resilient communities.

ABOUT ONEVILLAGE PARTNERS

3 YRS EST. IN 2000

“MINN creates opportunities for individuals and organizations to connect, learn and partner. It’s a privilege to be part of a group committed to tackling development challenges around the world in sustainable and creative ways.”

Jill LaLonde
Executive Director

onevillagepartners.org
In this section, there will be less focus on the big picture trends from the 2020 Global Report Survey. Rather, this section looks more deeply into the data to inform the micro-trends from the data by region.
This graph measures the budgets of Minnesota’s INGOs per region. The specific regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America have the most financial power by far. However, nearly 20 INGOs reported a broad global focus with most of those having budgets of at least $500,000 per year.
Dozens of Minnesota's INGOs reported having active volunteer or internship opportunities for individuals starting out in international development. Like other metrics reported here, the most represented areas of emphasis are Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America specifically, and a global focus more broadly.

In particular, INGOs that reported a global focus tended to have both internship and volunteer opportunities.
Dozens of Minnesota’s INGOs reported having active volunteer or internship opportunities for individuals starting out in international development.

Like other metrics reported here, the most represented areas of emphasis are Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America specifically, and a global focus more broadly. In particular, INGOs that reported a global focus tended to have both internship and volunteer opportunities.
Though globally-focused INGOs of all budget levels reported having volunteer or internship opportunities, the highest concentrations of those accepting applicants have budgets of over $1 million per year. However, a sizable pool of volunteer and internship help is available for smaller organizations budgeting between $10k and $100k per year.
Looking closer at opportunities with a Latin America focus, most organizations with reported positions have a budget between $10k and $100k.

A few larger INGOs also have opportunities, indicating that smaller organizations with slimmer budgets need to rely on unpaid support to complete their mission.
For INGOs that reported a focus in Sub-Saharan Africa, most organizations with budgets under $500k per year reported open volunteer or internship positions. Similar to the data presented for the Latin America focused organizations, most groups with a focus in Africa are utilizing unpaid support staff to help manage organizational responsibilities.
For INGOs with a focus in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia, the only organizations that reported volunteer or internship opportunities were those with budgets between $10k and $100k. Of those, half reported only volunteer opportunities, while one reported only internships and the other reported both opportunities.
This 2020 MINN Global Report is four plus years in the making. Initial steps toward publishing this report started in 2016. This current effort brings a re-energized focus on communicating the INGO impacts of MINN and our members. We look forward to continuing this work in years to come.
The MINN Global Report was created in 2016 in response to requests from MINN members, donors and members of government for timely and disaggregated information on Minnesota’s many international NGOs. Nearly fifty international organizations (see complete list of organizations below) with connections to Minnesota responded to the most recent survey on such topics as:

- **NGO Program Areas of Operation:** Health, Education & Training; Development, Economic Growth & Trade; Democracy & Governance; Agriculture & Food Security; Humanitarian Assistance; Children & Youth, etc.

- **Regions of World Operating:** East & Southeast Asia; Europe; Latin America; Middle East & North Africa; North America; Oceania & Australia; South & Central Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Sources of Funding for Activities:** Individuals; Foundations; US Government; United Nations; European Government; Program Income

- **Paid Staff Size:** In the Field; Domestically

- **Professional Opportunities:** Which NGOs are Actively Accepting Volunteers and/or Interns

The MINN Global Report was only available to paid MINN members and surveyed NGOs.

From the data collected, MINN was able to create the visual reference to the left and reported statistics. The work started in 2016 was incredibly formative.

We are thankful for all the organizations that responded, volunteers, previous MINN members who set the foundation for this work to begin. Looking toward the future, MINN is excited to continue its yearly commitment to producing a MINN Global Report.
This year, 2020, is the first year of a revitalized effort to provide MINN members, donors and members of government timely information on Minnesota’s many INGOs. We strive to build upon the foundations of 2016 and develop an even greater, holistic, and more rigorous analysis of Minnesota’s INGO landscape. As a result, the 2020 Global Report represents over 200 volunteer hours of a collective effort by 8 MINN board members, 3 consultants (See Acknowledgements), and countless hours of INGO support in survey response.

Data was collected with two instruments: A quantitative online-based survey and a qualitative online-based survey. The quantitative survey was distributed widely through an open (ad-hoc) survey link. The survey had 59 usable respondents. Many organizations did participate that were not able to be represented in the analysis. Such organizations were unable to be included due many factors including, but not limited to: They were not Minnesota-based, have international program work, or were a secondary program of a larger institution (such as a part of a hospital program).

The scope of this report was limited to organizations headquartered in Minnesota, including regional or satellite locations in Minnesota. The purpose of this limited scope was to showcase the impact of Minnesota’s global INGO network. The qualitative survey was conducted as a pilot and was limited to seven organizations. The data collected was used in two ways: 1) Some of the feedback was used to assist MINN in the development of future member surveys. 2). Some of the information was used as pull-quotes and used in the Organization Spotlight section of the 2020 MINN Global Report. Organizations that were selected were chosen because they were sizable, well-known, and connected to MINN.

This was MINN’s first qualitative survey for the Global Report and we are using what we have learned to build an instrument to get greater feedback and representation in the years to come.
MINN is committed to our Member Network. We strive to provide our members with up-to-date, accurate, and informative analysis that helps best empower organization operations, inform consultants when exploring job placement, and deliver on our mission. To enhance future insights, assist in more accurate and in depth analysis, and make feasible the ability to track trends and report longitudinal analysis, we look to our Minnesota-based INGOs (Members and Non-members). MINN is committed to producing a yearly Global Report.

As we go into 2021, we hope this report finds you all well and provides insight into Minnesota’s INGO landscape. We also hope this report inspires you to continue your support and engagement with MINN, energizes you to share your amazing work with MINN to keep the efforts of providing insight into the impact of our network growing, and encourages you to connect additional INGOs and MINN together.

Through growing data collection efforts by MINN from our members and greater reporting, we may continue to grow closer to our mission of learning, networking, and exchanging professional expertise. We are greatly looking forward to continuing our work with you all in 2021.
Conclusion

Despite enormous challenges in 2020, Minnesota’s international NGOs remain committed to fulfilling their missions and doing global good better. But the international development sector finds itself even more strained than ever — compounding problems for non-profit organizations that perpetually struggle to survive on already limited budgets, strained resources, and often difficult working conditions.

MINN seeks to support this diverse network of organizations that call this state home, and MINN’s goal with the 2020 Global Report is to provide valuable information to INGOs, donors, and volunteers, as well as the public at large, in order to improve transparency and enhance our collective understanding of the important work originating in Minnesota and being done abroad.

Looking ahead, MINN encourages Minnesota-based INGOs to continue to find common ground in their missions. Together, we seek to develop ways in which INGOs can reduce costs, collaborate on related projects, and reduce the duplication of efforts in overlapping areas. We believe that sharing this data today will lead to better work being done and better outcomes tomorrow, as well as increase the public’s understanding of the work itself in the process.

Now more than ever, the world needs Minnesota’s international NGO community and the services it provides. MINN hopes the data contained within this report will help make that job easier.
As we look to the year 2021, the global community faces new and unique challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended life for all people across the world, but the international development sector has been hit harder than most.

Though the coming year looks promising for the return to normal of some areas of the world, the regions in which Minnesota’s international NGOs operate will almost certainly be among the last to receive the critical support of the latest promising vaccines. Many organizations are having to quickly adjust their programs and tactics to stay afloat.

The Minnesota International NGO Network is here to help connect you and your organization to other practitioners to share solutions, brainstorm evaluation strategies, and navigate the complex rules of operating in a global pandemic.

Throughout the year, MINN will offer Special Events, our new Solutions Spotlight Series, virtual Talk & Tours, Executive Roundtables, Networking Events, Panel Discussions, and more. If you haven’t already done so, consider becoming a MINN member today to help stay connected to this community of individuals committed to doing global good better.
CALL TO ACTION

Become a MINN Member!
What’s in it for you?
- Special access to the Members-Only section of the MINN website with exclusive additional content
- Discounted tickets on MINN Programming & Summit
- Access to exclusive Members-Only events
- Be the first to be informed of international employment opportunities via the MINN Members-Only e-newsletter and Facebook group.

Support MINN by visiting:
bit.ly/SupportMINN

Become a MINN Organizational Member!
What’s in it for your nonprofit?
- Name & logo included on MINN’s website
- An annual spotlight feature on your organization in MINN’s e-newsletter
- Promote your organization’s news, updates, and fundraisers on MINN social media and e-newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive Members-Only events and Executive Roundtables
- Recruit talent directly from MINN members via targeted dissemination of your organization’s open positions
- A free platform on MINN’s website and social media to host blog posts and articles about your organization.

Support MINN by visiting:
bit.ly/SupportMINN
Thank you to our Donors, Members, Volunteers for making this work possible.

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Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee)              Iringa Hope
Anole Sisters                                            KOPI
Blue House Uganda                                        Liberian Business Association in the Diaspora
Books For Africa                                         Luminarias
Bountifield International                                Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
Bricks to Bread International                            Mary’s Pence
Carmen Pampa Fund                                        Minnesota SriLanka Friendship Foundation
Center for Victims of Torture                             Minnesota-Uruguay Partners
Children’s HeartLink                                      Mossier
Children’s Surgery International                         Nibakure Community Village
Cultivate International                                   Nonviolent Peaceforce
Disability Support International                         NPH USA
Educate Tanzania Inc (ETI)                                One Heart Health
Elimu Africa                                              One Village Partners
EOS International                                         Organization for Development through Cultural Expression
Ethiopia Reads                                            Partners in Food Solutions
Food for His Children                                     Print the Love
Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)                      Project Zawadi
Friends of Ngong Road                                     Rural Health Care Initiative
From Mother to You                                        See Them Grow Foundation
Give Us Wings                                             Silver Cord Ministries
Global Minnesota                                         Sundance Family Foundation
Global Rights for Women                                   Tractors for Africa
H2O for Life                                              Uniting Distant Stars
Haiti Outreach, Inc.                                      Vetiver Solutions
Holistic Ministry of Children of the Horn of Africa (HMCHA)  Vidya Gyan
Humanitarian Services for Children of Vietnam (HSCV)      WellShare International
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)          Women Against Military Madness
Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project                 Women’s Center for Job Creation

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