



South North Nexus

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

INTRODUCTION



2020 has been a unique and challenging year locally and globally. We end the year hopeful that we can truly come together to rebuild a better world for all. The South North Nexus founders started the organization because they saw a need to share learning and innovation between South and North to address pressing issues that affect us all. 2020 exposed that need more than we could have imagined.

In this first year in review, we share our 2020 successes in a time that started with ambitions that had to evolve as did all our lives. And we are optimistic that what we learned will help us advance our mission. With our great team, partners and donors, South North Nexus will continue to contribute to making the world a bit better in 2021.

ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

South North Nexus (SNN) is an international, non-partisan, non-profit platform that brings together South and North representatives to take risks to learn, innovate, share, and promote successful solutions within the framework of the United Nations Strategic Development Goals (SDGs). Essential is developing common understandings among South and North, communities, organizations, private sector, and individuals, to identify shared problems and commit to act on shared solutions.

OUR VISION

South North Nexus is committed to global development that sustainably protects livelihoods, communities, and the planet. SNN is a platform that brings people together to:

- Find and share solutions that build resilience in the face of climate shocks.
- Promote dignity for those furthest behind.
- Assure access to basic human rights, including food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education.

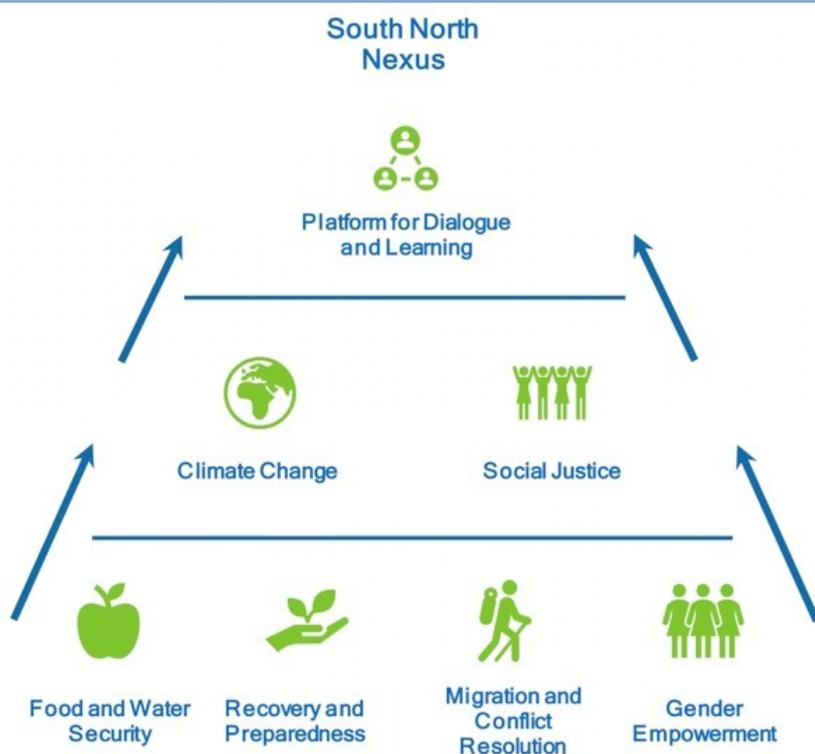


OUR VALUES

South North Nexus works for innovative solutions, equity and social justice for all, with special attention to the most vulnerable.

MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

SNN strives to lead dialogue on the most pressing issues of our day, and to be a catalyst for shared solutions and dialogue between the South and North and through South-South cooperation with focus on climate change and social justice. As these areas cannot be siloed, SNN brings an integrated approach to its mission.



TOGETHER WE CAN
POSITIVELY SHAPE
OUR FUTURE!

OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS



Colombia: Fundación Social Tierra de Indios

Kenya: ETC Consulting

Mongolia: BioRegions International

Nicaragua: CALPI (Centro de Asistencia a Pueblos Indígenas)

Ecuador: EcoDecisión

2020 SOUTH NORTH NEXUS HIGHLIGHTS

IN ITS' FIRST YEAR, SNN HAS ACHIEVED EXCITING RESULTS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS:

- Achieved non-profit status and is a fully compliant 501(c)(3) organization.
- Established partnerships on 3 continents, initiated 3 innovative projects, and established relations with partners and concerned citizens.
- Developed a strategic business plan and a goal-oriented strategy to promote our vision.
- Brought together a Board of Directors from a diverse range of geographic, gender, and professional backgrounds.
- Secured funding from committed donors, and support from a wonderful network of volunteers.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT OVERVIEWS

LIVELIHOOD ANALYSES

South North Nexus and BioRegions International (BRI) are undertaking “livelihood analyses” across bioregions to understand how communities and families are coping and adapting to a variety of shocks such as climate, conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic. SNN and BRI are lending experience to support local partners in tackling the past, current, and future challenges faced by families and communities in Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia, and Montana. The project examines livelihood impacts due to climate, environmental and economic shocks, such as the health-food security nutrition nexus, as well as relationships among conflict, loss of livelihoods, coping mechanisms and migration. Our approach relies on sharing experiences and engaging in collective, collaborative learning that will strengthen resilience and enable families, communities, and local entities to better plan for and respond to shocks. The results of the livelihood analyses will guide SNN and BRI's future initiatives to best serve vulnerable communities.



MIGRANT LEGAL FUND

The Migrant Legal Fund assists migrants and their families in Montana with legal advice that helps them deal with pressing issues related to their residency. Support includes document preparation, lawyers' fees, and travel for court appearances. Some of the migration issues that have come to our attention include: preparation for “court order to appear” dates, change of venue requests, assistance with asylum requests, and responses to deportation orders. Other needs are related to transportation issues and document preparation for health service-related matters.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN NICARAGUA

COVID-19 and Hurricane Eta and Iota have added yet another dimension to the crisis in Nicaragua, aggravating the deep political and economic situation. Nicaragua is fast approaching a humanitarian crisis. An economic recession that began with the April 2018 political crisis will deepen significantly. GDP growth fell by 3.9% in 2019 and is expected to fall by 8.2% in 2020 and by 2.0% in 2021. This will have a devastating effect on the population in terms of employment and income as well as access to basic services such as food, healthcare, water, and electricity. SNN and local partners are working to better understand the magnitude and nature of these social impacts. Our study will include projections based on available information and will facilitate an understanding of the humanitarian and early recovery actions needed to mitigate the impact among the more vulnerable segments of the population.



NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER

Separation of immigrant and refugee children and their families at the US-Mexico border is a public health crisis that has the potential to negatively affect children and their families for decades to come. When the COVID-19 pandemic settles, SNN and partners will conduct a nutritional assessment at the border and will identify appropriate nutrition and health support actions to assist partners' responses.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

TURKANA, KENYA

OVERVIEW

Lake Turkana, Kenya, was once a valuable and dependable livelihood source, but is quickly becoming a liability as water levels surge due to heavy rainfall, spillover from Ethiopia and Kenya highland riparian zones, and depleted vegetative cover from deforestation. The rising lake threatens the livelihoods of more than 500,000 people. SNN is working with local partners to understand how these climate-related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflict are affecting households and communities around Lake Turkana.

WHAT WE LEARNED

SNN conducted a livelihood analysis that highlighted several community concerns in Turkana. The project worked collaboratively with community members and key informants to identify sustainable solutions. Priority issues that emerged were food insecurity, gender disparities, and livelihoods that are vulnerable to climate, economic and social shocks. Communities identified the need to diversify livelihood assets and the urgent priority for more advanced irrigation techniques. The study also identified the importance of trainings related to gender roles/rights, efficient use of natural resources, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and more resilient agriculture processes.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Adopting solutions that build livelihood resilience for women was highlighted as a priority, with attention to develop more diverse and resilient assets. Objectives are, improving food security and nutrition for households, and increasing opportunities to enter markets and sell products locally for a fair price. Surveyed individuals indicated their strong interest in acquiring skills related to entrepreneurship, financial literacy, accessing capital, and preparing for future shocks. South North Nexus will work with local partners to effectively implement these solutions successfully with families, communities, and local governments.

59%

Households who rated droughts as "severe" or "moderately severe" leading to loss of livestock and crops and increased prevalence of food insecurity and undernourishment in households.



77.1%

Respondents who "strongly agree" or "agree" that women are more negatively affected by shocks than their male counterparts.



89%

Respondents who stated that children do not have sufficient access to food considering both quantity and quality.



OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEBORAH HINES
CO-DIRECTOR & BOARD
MEMBER

WILLIAM VIGIL
CO-DIRECTOR & BOARD
MEMBER

JUSTIN HARING
BOARD MEMBER &
TREASURER

SUSAN HIGGINS
BOARD MEMBER

HELEN PAPPER
BOARD MEMBER

JUAN PONCE
BOARD MEMBER

NICK SILVERMAN
BOARD MEMBER

HENRY VEGA
TECHNICAL ADVISOR

CO-DIRECTOR PUBLICATIONS



In "The United Nations and Nicaragua: Opportunities and Risks" SNN Co-Director William Vigil examines the difficult situation in Nicaragua and ways the UN might make a difference. Published by the Wilson Center, one of the most prestigious think tanks in the United States.

In "Reflections on Building Sustainable Resilience Solutions to Achieve SDG 2 in Colombia" SNN Co-Director Deborah Hines and Rondro Ranaivo discuss various techniques implemented in Colombia to increase community resilience and their implications for the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable. Paul R. Lachapelle, Isabel Gutierrez Montes and Cornelia Butler Flora (Editors). Routledge, New York.

In a forthcoming chapter of an edited volume titled "Critical Issues on Human Rights and Development" SNN Co-Director Deborah Hines examines the international legal bases that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition, and argues that hunger is neither inevitable nor acceptable. Edited by Stephen P. Marks and Balakrishnan Rajagopal. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

INTERN PROGRAM

SNN is grateful to work with an impressive group of university students from Claremont Mckenna College, Montana State University, American University, and Pitzer College. Our interns contributed generously to research on climate, agricultural systems, gender, and migration issues. Interns supported data analyses, prepared country briefs, and worked collaboratively with teams in Colombia, Kenya and Nicaragua. Experiences with SNN contribute to their professional development with “real life experiences”. SNN thanks each one of them wishes them the best as they move forward!

"Working with SNN has allowed me to adapt and solidify my academic and professional goals through meaningful hands-on experience working with individuals around the world. I also believe I have gained a broader, more holistic view of health that will continue to serve me throughout my future endeavors." — Madeline Metcalf



"My internship experience at SNN is highlighted by the people I met, the skillsets I developed, and the knowledge I gained. I had a wonderful time collaborating with folks around the world, working with teams in Kenya, Colombia, and Mongolia, all with the shared passion and mission to improve the lives of others. The SNN team is very knowledgeable on a range of subjects, and I found many mentors at the organization."

— Rei Imada

"While interning at SNN, I improved my research skills, I gained experience in working collaboratively with a large team, even across different time zones and languages, and I learned so much about the contributions that smallholder farming communities can make in the fight against climate change and other destabilizing forces. In terms of shaping my career path, this internship helped me to realize how important it was to me to do work that I feel directly benefits the lives of others." — Grace Hickey

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors, without whom SNN's progress would not be possible. Because of you, SNN is working on solutions for the most vulnerable and for a more sustainable and just future for all.

SNN IS NEW, FRESH,
AMBITIOUS. PLEASE
TAKE A LOOK AND
JOIN THE
CONVERSATION,
VOLUNTEER, OR
DONATE.



GET INVOLVED

Our shared climate, lands, food systems, and water sources directly affect our livelihoods, regardless of where we live today. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that more than ever. It's time to share ideas and solutions, and collaborate on how we can all be messengers of change for ourselves, our communities, and beyond. South North Nexus is deeply committed to a better and more just world for all.



**WE NEED YOU TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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[INFO@SOUTHNORTHNEXUS.ORG](mailto:info@southnorthnexus.org)

South North Nexus
P.O. Box 404
Bozeman, MT 59771