



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK

A CHANGING WORLD PARTNERSHIPS IN DEVELOPMENT

Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation



June 2025



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January 5, 2025

KSh60/00 (TSh1,700 : US\$2,700/00 : RFr900/00)

**Queries as
Waititu takes
over Kenya
Kwanza party** **P.6**



See chief's
sound...

DAILY NATION

America first Situation threatens to unravel decades of progress in Kenyan health sector, where USAID has been

Trump's US aid freeze to leave 35,000 jobs

Thousands of employees of United States government-funded health projects and other programmes in the country are staring at mass layoffs following president Donald Trump's order freezing aid, with the reality of the suspension starting to hit home as more than 2,000 workers have been sent on unpaid leave starting this week **Page 4**

JOB IMPACT ON KENYA

- 1,952 doctors and clinical officers
- 1,234 nurses and midwives
- 578 laboratory staff
- More than 340 pharmacists
- Over 24,577 community health workers



DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD

The world is in a state of upheaval. Geopolitics is dominating global affairs. We are witnessing major shifts in power dynamics and deeper divisions. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Powerful forces undermining multilateral cooperation, democracy and the international legal order. The framework for international cooperation, including development policy, is being reshaped.

The United States has disrupted the world order that has shaped global affairs for decades. This is particularly true in the field of development cooperation. Other countries and regional powers such as the Gulf States, China, Türkiye, and India are building alliances and translating their relative weight into influence. When one actor withdraws, others stand ready to fill the void.

Much is at stake. But if we have the courage to engage in strengthened and equal partnerships, and contribute to combating poverty, there is also much to be gained. Our role is not merely to fill the void as the United States shifts focus. As part of the EU and the Nordic countries, we must act where the opportunities for creating change are greatest. Denmark and the EU must stand firm in being a reliable and credible partner in the midst of geopolitical and development policy turmoil.

The challenges loom at every turn. Our planet is suffering from an accelerating climate crisis. Well over 100 million people are forcibly displaced, and irregular migration towards Europe is challenging the European countries and countries along the migratory routes. We are facing a massive job shortage in low- and middle-income countries, where 1.2 billion young people will be entering the labour market between now and 2035. The latest figures from the World Bank indicate that there are 808 million poor people in the world. Civil society and the rights of women and girls are under pressure. Time is running out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfil the Paris Agreement, while the financing gap and debt burdens continue to grow in developing countries. These factors are contributing to a crisis of trust between the north and south.

It is in our interest to engage with the world. This is essentially an investment in our own security and economy – in both the short and long term. An investment in

development is an investment in greater stability, strengthened trade, and less irregular migration. Going forward, development assistance must be more closely aligned with Danish strategic interests.

Development cooperation and economic diplomacy are two key areas for promoting Danish interests. These areas must increasingly work in tandem. When this happens, we can both deliver results that create development in our partner countries and open up new markets and investment opportunities for Danish companies. They hold positions of strength that are in demand by our partner countries.

Denmark cannot achieve this ambition alone. We are simply too small for that. The EU plays a central part of the strategy. It is in Denmark's interest that the EU becomes a preferred partner for developing countries. We must do our part to ensure that this happens.

The strategy must be underpinned by concrete action. This strategy has been developed based on the UN target of spending 0,7 % of GNI on development assistance. Denmark has met this target for 45 years. Development assistance gives Denmark a strategic advantage that only becomes greater when the world is in turmoil. Our development assistance is a geopolitical investment that opens doors and creates results and strategic alliances. It gives us a voice in countries and forums where decisions of great importance to us are made. It also has a tangible impact for poor and vulnerable population groups and contributes to a more secure, stable, and prosperous Denmark. Democracy, freedom, and human rights provide a better life no matter where in the world you live. At the same time, our approach to the world must be more pragmatic. We must view the world and act in it according to how it actually is – not as we wish it to be.

We stand on a strong foundation. For 60 years, we have created results, built bridges between people, and formed strong partnerships through development cooperation. We have contributed to strengthening democracy and human rights, and achieved significant results in the areas of green transition, education, health, gender equality, Indigenous People's rights, and civil society development around the world. Denmark is widely regarded as a leading and credible humanitarian actor. Danish development assistance delivers measurable impact. It provides a strong basis for continuing the work for social and economic development in partner countries.

Almost 90% of the world's young people live in a developing country. They take up more space in terms of demography and less and less in terms of democracy. We believe in giving children and young people better opportunities and viewing them as a resource that must be actively involved. No nation or region can solve its challenges alone. We must stand together and invest in the future generation.

Denmark cannot be present everywhere, and therefore we carefully prioritise how we use funds for development assistance. Thus, a more strategic approach is needed if we are to achieve the best results. We will maintain our support for many of the world's poorest and the most vulnerable countries, but also increasingly cooperate with high-growth countries and countries characterised by progress and stability. The weight of our bilateral engagement must lie with our neighbours – first and foremost Ukraine, but also the EU's eastern neighbours in a broader sense, as well as the Middle East and Africa. But we must not close our eyes to opportunities and challenges elsewhere. We will therefore also create strong partnerships in Asia, the Pacific region, and Latin America. Development policy must continue to meet the objectives section of the Danish Act on International Development Cooperation. In today's world, development cooperation is more important than ever before. The needs are increasing and funding is decreasing – but at the same time, development assistance holds great opportunities for us. However, we need to adjust the way we use development assistance if it is to remain relevant and effective.



FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION

Denmark stands on a solid foundation of close development partnerships and effective results. We must build on this foundation based on Denmark's development engagement, as anchored in the Danish Act on International Development Cooperation. We must also have the courage to take new approaches and to be honest about our own interests. We do not, and must not, agree on everything, but we should find common ground between our own interests and those of our partners. This is the essence of equal partnerships.

Therefore, we will:

- > pursue an honest and interest-based development policy, where the pursuit of mutual interests is the basis for our partnerships
- > ensure greater integration of economic diplomacy into our development policy
- > work for earlier and clearer involvement of external actors by establishing a Partnership for Global Development, which will provide input and direction for implementation of the strategy's objectives
- > focus on economic growth, education, health and job creation, including the many new young people entering the labour market
- > work in close collaboration with our EU partners to find new solutions to the challenges related to irregular migration and co-operate with partner countries along the main migratory routes
- > support lasting solutions to conflict and fundamental human rights, including through our membership of the UN Security Council in 2025-2026
- > ensure that Denmark remains a prominent humanitarian actor that defends humanitarian principles and delivers effective assistance to the most vulnerable
- > strengthen democracy and meaningful youth engagement. Cooperation must be carried out by, with, and for young people, so that they gain real influence
- > promote safe and equal access to education and health
- > develop innovative new financing models that can mobilise billions in private financing
- > take the lead in contributing to the new global climate finance goal
- > work to achieve the most effective and appropriate results through development cooperation. Our efforts in this respect must include supporting the work to reform and improve efficiency in the UN and the international financial architecture
- > contribute to making the EU a more effective geopolitical actor and to making the EU the preferred partner of developing countries.



OUR APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT POLICY

EQUAL PARTNERSHIPS BASED ON INTERESTS

Equal partnerships are the key to better results and greater political influence. Denmark and the EU can only be seen as attractive partners in the countries where we are actively engaged if we do a better job of listening to the needs and wishes of government partners, the local civil society, and businesses. Where we explore the opportunities for cooperation, investment, and increased trade with each other. And where we strengthen people-to-people engagement. We must be honest about our interests and jointly identify areas where we can – and cannot – collaborate. We must engage broadly. More listening, less lecturing.

The efforts we support are most often managed and run by local actors. We must strengthen their leadership and entrust them with more responsibility for translating development assistance into results. This means that the money must be channelled more directly of where it is to the greatest benefit. This is the essence of localisation.

All of Denmark must be involved

This strategy incorporates a broader range of Danish interests into the core of development cooperation. From idea development and knowledge sharing to execution and concrete action.

Our partner countries are seeking trade, investment, Danish experience and concrete solutions – areas where Danish businesses and authorities can contribute.

By strengthening cooperation with the philanthropic foundations, together we can mobilise more capital and bring more innovative solutions to the table. Together we can create results that go far beyond what we can accomplish individually.

The Danish civil society partners, big and small, and their local partners are crucial in this respect. They are present in crises and fragile contexts where conditions are most challenging. We have a strong interest in making even

better use of the full breadth of Danish civil society as part of Denmark's contribution to the world.

We will continue to prioritise our efforts to inform and engage Danes in development cooperation. This is absolutely central to maintaining the support of the Danes. We can do this most effectively in collaboration with civil society organisations, foundations, educational institutions, and the business community.

The strongest ties arise in the encounter between people across national borders. This also strengthens global cohesion and helps to secure the long-term conditions necessary for pursuing our interests. A main task of development cooperation is to promote people-to-people engagement in areas such as culture, education, and research – including training the farmers of the future – thereby strengthening mutual understanding and interpersonal relations. Among other things, this requires flexible processes for visa applications.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **pursue an honest and interest-based development policy**, where the pursuit of respective interests is the basis for partnerships
- > **promote contributions by more Danish actors** to development ambitions, with the business community in a much more prominent role, and
- > **strengthen people-to-people engagement** that creates stronger ties between our populations.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AS A STRATEGIC LEVER

Development cooperation must contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and support inclusive and sustainable economic development and higher living standards in developing countries. Denmark's economic diplomacy must promote Danish prosperity, security, and values. Across these objectives, there is a shared space that we must leverage more effectively – for the sake of our partners and ourselves.

Danish companies have solutions and technologies that already contribute to sustainable social and economic development. Their investments and trade create job opportunities and private-sector development, and their products contribute to concrete improvements in health, digitalisation, the maritime sector, water, agriculture, food, energy, and more. The engagement of Danish businesses in partner countries is mutually beneficial and contributes to sustainable economic growth and job creation – in Denmark and abroad.

But the potential is greater still. It will take an active effort to ensure the engagement of Danish companies, with Denmark's development policy engagement serving as a door opener. Risks must be reduced, and the potential in the markets must be made visible and activated through partnerships, pilot projects, and business instruments.

In developing countries, we must be better at utilising Denmark's existing financing instruments and developing new instruments to help Danish companies realise concrete projects. This requires patience, as returns rarely materialise quickly. But players who enter early and stay a little longer often stand stronger when an economy really takes off. By building relationships and a better understanding of local conditions, Danish companies can build the foundation for the growth of their own business and the partner country.

Figure 1: Development assistance creates value for Denmark, companies, and the partner country. Danish development assistance delivers on three fronts, where solutions from Danish companies contribute to sustainable development in partner countries as Denmark strengthens its global role by facilitating new markets, local production, sourcing, knowledge sharing, and partnerships.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, 2025.

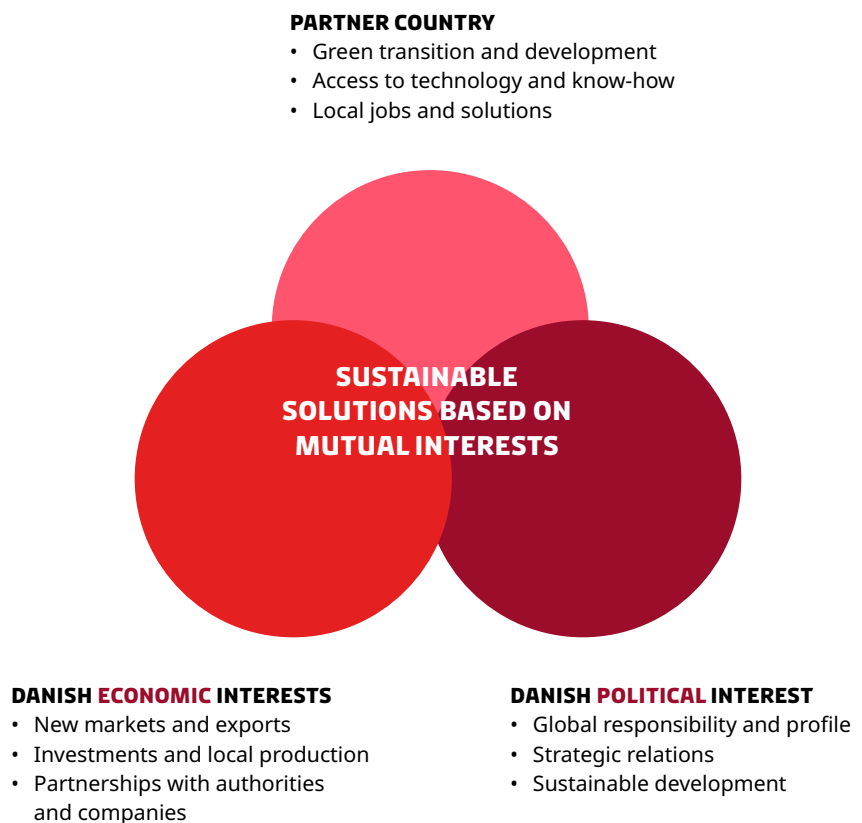


Figure 2: The map shows Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation in developing countries in 2025.

STRATEGIC SECTOR COOPERATION IS KEY



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Greater transparency – more solutions

Denmark already has a number of development instruments targeted at cooperation with Danish companies, but there is a need to strengthen and adapt these instruments. Companies engage in emerging markets in developing countries at many different levels, and the business instruments must be upgraded to better provide the capital, risk mitigation, and technical expertise needed to support companies where they are. These instruments are a helping hand to companies. But the companies must also take greater responsibility if we are to fully reap the benefits of the strengthened efforts.

Impact Fund Denmark (formerly the Investment Fund for Developing Countries) and the Export and Investment Fund of Denmark (EIFO) are important actors that, within their respective frameworks, offer financing that matches the needs of Danish companies in developing markets. Stronger cooperation is needed to better equip them to provide relevant financing packages for companies. Impact Fund Denmark already plays a central role in promoting sustainable development through investments in the private and public sector in developing countries. Impact Fund Denmark's impact investments must be a driving force in the ambitious scale-up of the coming years, as they combine beneficial development impacts with a financial return. EIFO plays a role in financing public and private buyers in developing countries when they purchase Danish goods and services. This financing also prioritises sustainability and responsibility. Finally, it must be easier for companies to get an overview and advisory input on developing markets and financing options.

Improved framework conditions and a diplomatic super tool

Denmark – in collaboration with our partner countries – must create better frameworks for growth. This is a matter of strengthening institutions, making it easier to do business, and maturing sectors, so that they are ready for investment.

Strategic Sector Cooperation – Denmark's diplomatic super tool – plays a central role in building capacity, improving framework conditions, and developing mutual knowledge and equal relationships based on the partner country's needs and wishes for cooperation with Denmark. We must intensify the good results and invest in them. With a focus on reciprocity in the exchange of experience and competences in this cooperation, Denmark can contribute to reducing the distance from policy to implemented solutions in partner countries.

Going forward, strategic sector cooperation will take a more targeted approach to improving framework conditions in partner countries – in areas where there is local demand and where Danish companies may also benefit. We must equip Danish companies with knowledge of commercial opportunities and access to decision-makers.

Sustainability and responsibility must go hand in hand with access to markets and capital. We must build bridges and avoid barriers. Denmark must work through the EU and other channels for improved framework conditions and to ensure that EU trade policy contributes to promoting close and equal engagement with our partner countries. This includes trade agreements, regional economic partnership agreements, tariff preference systems, and investment promotion agreements.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **establish a one-stop-shop at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to advise companies on financing and partnership opportunities in development cooperation
- > **reform business instruments** so that it becomes easier and more attractive for Danish companies to engage in emerging and developing markets. A new facility aimed at medium-sized companies will be developed
- > **intensify Strategic sector cooperation** to further strengthen framework conditions and relationships for the mutual benefit of the partner country and Denmark
- > **establish public-private partnerships** that can work together to solve major sector challenges in partner countries.

A REFORMED MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The obvious crisis in multilateral cooperation and the pressure on the international legal order do not change the significance of the underlying rules, values, and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. A majority of UN member states support the multilateral system and are working to revitalise it. Like Denmark, they have an interest in maintaining an effective, responsible, and democratic multilateral system where small countries also have rights and access to influence.

Multilateral cooperation is central to the realisation of Denmark's interests – not least as a platform for the foundation of global alliances. Both we and our partners in the south want an effective and modern multilateral system. And a system in which the key values and priorities that we have long championed with our allies – including the

rights of women and girls, gender equality, climate, education, and global health – are not weakened or undermined.

Denmark will work to reform the UN and the international financial architecture, so that it can adapt to the partnerships and global challenges we face today. We must show the UN our trust, while also insisting on extensive reforms. The decline in development assistance is hitting the multilateral system hard, but it also presents an opportunity to streamline and eliminate redundancy in our efforts. We therefore aim to maintain a high level of activity, yet concentrated around fewer organisations. We must ensure that we make our contributions in the most effective and appropriate way – for the benefit of the recipients, our partners, and ourselves.

Figure 3

Source:
United Nations Annual Report
2024.



THE UN SUPPORTS THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE



CLIMATE

In 2023, the UN supported the transformation of **178 million hectares of land** into protected areas and strengthened natural resource management.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In 2023, the UN helped mobilise USD 23 billion for critical humanitarian aid, which supported **128 million people** in crisis situations.



HEALTH

In 2023, the UN ensured that **133 million children** were vaccinated against measles and that 15 million refugees and asylum seekers in 77 countries received essential health services.



FOOD SECURITY

The UN ensured that **152 million people received food assistance in 2023**, supporting the fight against hunger and strengthening food security.

And in our collaboration with multilateral organisations and funds, we must work to ensure a visible Danish and European imprint – in the boardrooms and in the field.

It will take strong alliances to ensure that the multilateral system emerges stronger from the crisis – in the Nordics, through the EU, and across the globe. We must also strengthen our partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations such as the AU, CELAC, and ASEAN, which promote regional responses with local ownership.

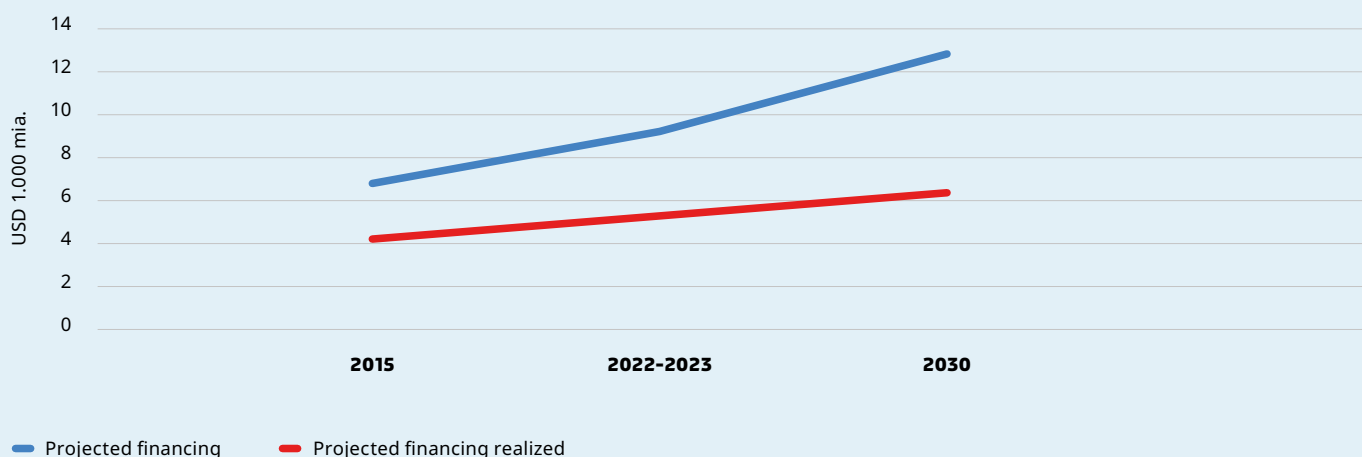
We are facing some difficult dilemmas. On the one hand, we want a greater bilateral imprint. At the same time, it is important that we support multilateralism at a time when multilateral cooperation is under pressure. Through multilateral assistance, we can reach millions of people – including in countries where Denmark does not have a presence of its own or bilateral engagements. This is particularly true in fragile contexts and humanitarian crises. But the UN system can and must be more effective, and we can reasonably demand more.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **create alliances and collaborate with partners** who work for an inclusive, international cooperation based on multilateralism and international law
- > **use multilateral cooperation as a lever** to promote Danish priorities and forge key alliances, enabling more effective support, better results, and greater global impact
- > **actively work for reforms in the UN**, the multilateral development banks, and the humanitarian system, so that the division of tasks is clear and efforts are effective.

Figure 4: The graph illustrates the widening gap between development financing needed to meet our SDG-targets and the actual financing provided. In 2030 the gap is estimated to reach USD 4.2 trillion.

MORE DEVELOPMENT FINANCING IS NEEDED TO MEET THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030



Source: OECD – Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2025. Data fra UNCTAD – World Investment Report 2023: Investing in Sustainable Energy for All.

GEARING OF RESOURCES

The world is facing a deep financing crisis and growing debt burdens. This has significant consequences for low- and middle-income countries. There is currently a financing shortfall of an estimated 4000 billion USD to achieve the SDGs and the gap is expected to grow before 2030. Access to quality education and health requires enormous resources. The humanitarian system lacks funding to respond to the rising number of conflicts. And as the need for capital grows, we witness a trend of more countries reducing their development aid.

Danish development cooperation makes a real difference, but we must be honest: Our contributions can by no means finance the immense challenges the world is facing. Our efforts must therefore increasingly serve as a catalyst for mobilising other resources – for example, where each Danish krone catalyses 3, 4, or 5 kroner in sustainable investments in partner countries.

We must ensure that Danish development cooperation functions more as an investment that aims to deliver the maximum possible development and political influence per krone spent. Both Impact Fund Denmark and EIFO are crucial players for mobilising resources and facilitating private financing. And we must continue this work. Denmark is a frontrunner in the mobilisation of sustainable investments. We must build on the success in mobilising climate finance and collaboration with pension funds, and apply these approaches across development cooperation in other areas. This also applies to support for the strategic civil society partners.

We need to develop new tools that enable financing for a broader range of actors. The focus has been too narrowly focused on the small and the very large efforts. The medium-sized efforts must also play a role. We are expanding the range of instruments that can accelerate impact investments in developing countries, including from Danish asset managers and funds.

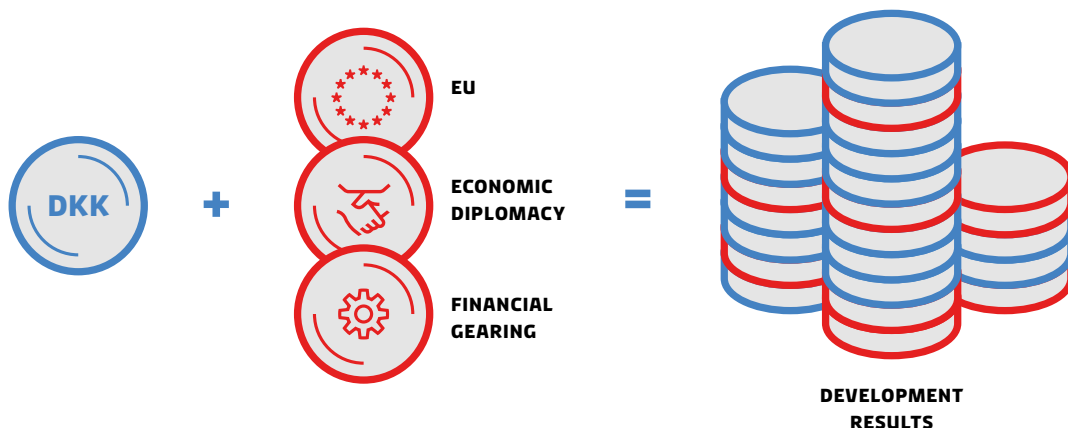
International financial architecture

Denmark will continue to support and push for reforms of the international financial architecture and the multilateral development banks. We must ensure the necessary financing, fair representation, and a financial safety net that works for everyone. This includes increased access to financing on concessional terms and support for responsible debt management. When the debt burden becomes untenable, Denmark will work for more effective mechanisms for debt treatment. The multilateral development banks are critical catalysts, as every invested krone leverages much greater financing.

At the forefront of climate finance

Denmark must remain at the forefront of climate finance. We must increase private investment, push the multilateral development banks to take greater responsibility, and ensure better access to financing for the most vulnerable. Mobilisation of private capital is crucial, and Denmark will continue to develop innovative financing instruments.

DANISH DEVELOPMENT IS CATALYTIC



A REFORMED IFU: IMPACT FUND DENMARK

Impact Fund Denmark (formerly IFU) plans to invest more than DKK 30 billion in the global south over the next five to six years. In addition to the directly invested capital, these investments create long-term sustainable development effects such as job creation, green transition, tax revenue, and access to key services. Through Impact Fund Denmark, Denmark is mobilising far more private capital by combining public and private financing sources. This makes investments in developing countries less risky for private investors. Impact Fund Denmark's extensive efforts are made possible by the reform of the IFU in 2023 and the planned government capital contributions in the period 2024-2030.

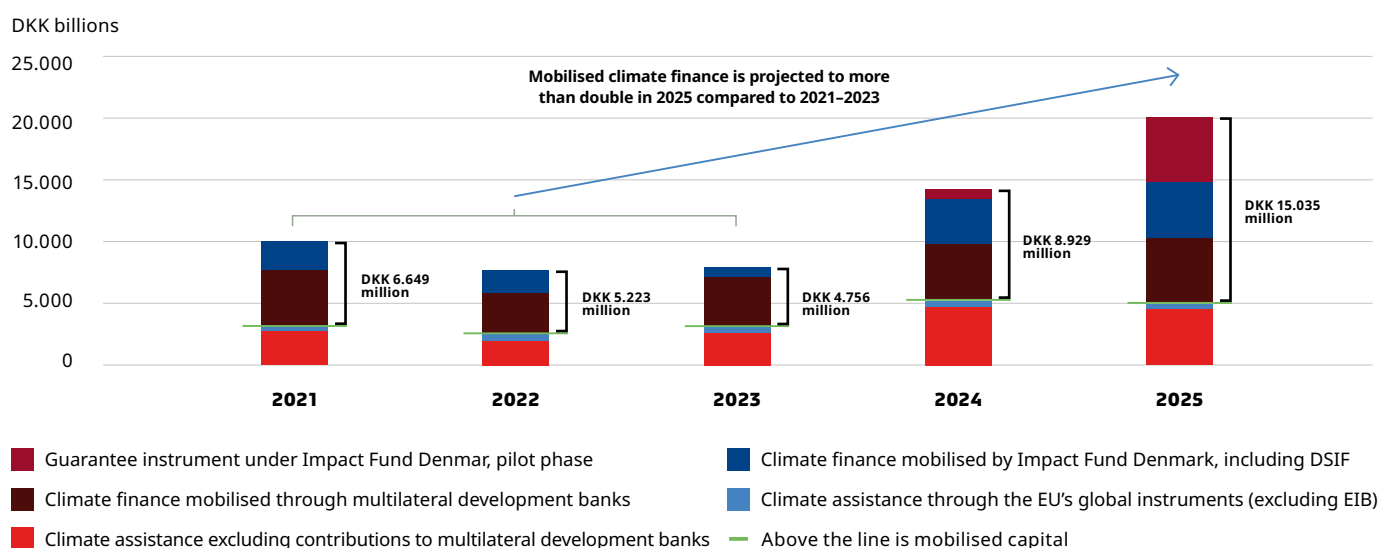
A more recent initiative, the so-called Africa Facility, initially totalling DKK 100 million, enables Impact

Fund Denmark to invest in small and medium-sized projects that involve partnerships between Danish and African companies. We must continue to build on this work. Another important pillar in the reform is that Impact Fund Denmark proactively engages on the development policy scene in Denmark and internationally. As part of these efforts and the reform, the IFU is changing its name to Impact Fund Denmark. **Impact** is the core of the fund's work – the fund's investments create development and sustainable solutions. **Fund** reflects the importance of capital as a means of realising lasting change, while **Denmark** cements the Danish foundation in international investments.



Figur 5: Danish development assistance is mobilising significantly more climate finance – a factor of more than twofold is expected from 2021-2023 to 2025.

OVERVIEW OF DANISH CLIMATE FINANCING 2021-2025



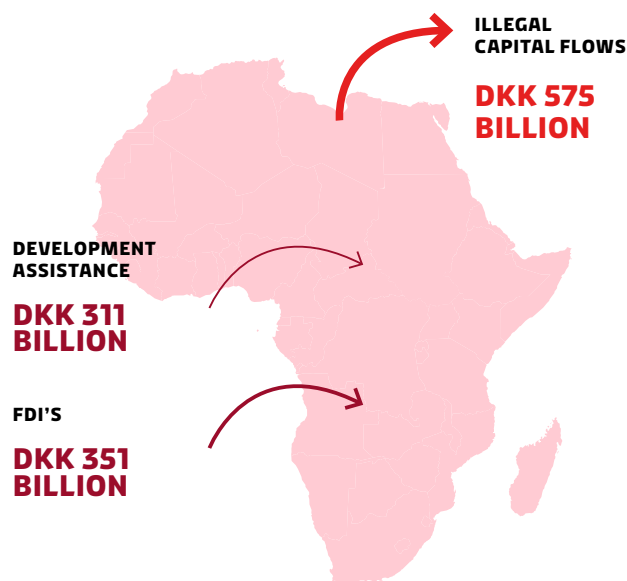
1) Figures for 2021-2023 are actual realised climate finance. Figures for 2024-2025 are based on funds allocated in the Danish Finance Act, as well as estimates for mobilised funds. 2) Estimates for climate finance via the MDBs were calculated based on Danish ownership shares of the MDBs and the projected growth of the MDBs' total contribution to climate finance, based on the MDBs' joint COP29 statement. 3) Estimates for bilateral climate assistance are expected to continue at the same level as in 2024 (30% of \$06.3. 4) Estimates for bilaterally mobilised private financing are based on figures from Impact Fund Denmark.

Source: The Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Figure 6: Capital flight from the African continent due to illegal capital flows, including tax evasion, was estimated in 2020 to be nearly on par with the inflow of development assistance and foreign direct investments (FDIs).

National resource mobilisation

Adequate framework conditions are crucial if investments are to thrive and grow on their own. Partner countries must strengthen their own capacity to finance development. This can be done by increasing tax revenue through fair, progressive, and transparent tax systems, issuing better and more sustainable and green government bonds, abolishing subsidies for fossil energy, improving public and financial transparency and administration, and fighting corruption and capital flight. Denmark must support such efforts. Every year, low and middle-income countries lose billions to illegal capital flight and tax evasion. Corruption is an enormous challenge that also affects Danish companies in developing countries.



Source: UNCTAD, 2025.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **promote reforms of the international financial architecture** in order to scale up financing for climate and development, including through the mobilisation of private capital and the strengthening of framework conditions
- > **strengthen financing instruments** that can mobilise billions for sustainable investments in Africa and other regions
- > **strengthen collaboration with Danish asset managers and civil society organisations** to find new ways of mobilising investments, including in more untested areas such as climate adaptation and humanitarian efforts
- > **deliver climate finance by allocating 30% of development funds for climate initiatives**, of which 60% will go to climate adaptation
- > **strengthen fair and progressive tax collection in partner countries** so that they can reduce dependence on external financing, fight capital flight and corruption, and strengthen cohesiveness in their societies.

EU IN A LEADING ROLE

The European Union as a united whole is by far the world's strongest actor in development cooperation. This position only becomes clearer as the United States cuts its aid – despite a number of European countries also reducing their aid. In 2023, the EU accounted for approximately 42% of official development assistance. With the changes in the United States' engagement, this share will only grow bigger. The EU accounts for approximately one-sixth of the global economy and is often a strong trading partner for, and investor in, developing countries. We must build on this position. But we must also acknowledge that the EU does not have the role, the attention, or the influence that the figures would suggest.

Therefore, we must be clearer in our communication about what the EU is, what the EU stands for and, not least, what the EU offers. The EU must differentiate itself more clearly from other geopolitical, such as the United States, China, Russia, and the Gulf States.

The EU must offer an equal and credible partnership. This is Europe's unique offer: a long-term engagement, a partnership founded on mutual respect, and a collaborative approach that prioritises shared prosperity and stability. This also applies to the migration agenda, where the EU will be central in the efforts to find new solutions to the challenges related to irregular migration in cooperation with our partners in the south. Denmark plays a leading role in this effort.

Joint action and a stronger Global Gateway

Denmark has a strong voice in the EU. We must use this voice to ensure that all of Europe pulls in the same direction, thereby significantly expanding our global reach. As the EU, we are already actively working towards this aim. Together, we work to strengthen real integration of development cooperation with other policy instruments such as trade, investment, and partnerships, where the EU holds a strong mandate. This work happens in Brussels and at the many EU delegations where our European interests are represented, and the development efforts play a central role in fostering partnerships.

We must use the Danish presidency of the Council of the European Union to make our mark on the EU's development cooperation, humanitarian efforts, and external affairs so that it becomes more effective, geopolitical, and integrated – not least in relation to the upcoming multiannual budgetary framework after 2027. The Global Gateway has the potential to strengthen Europe's ties with partner countries

and activate our own business community. However, this will require a more flexible and strategic use of funds, closer coordination with other external policies, and a focus on faster, tangible, and visible results in partner countries.

Trade policy and market access with green ambitions and Danish solutions

Many developing countries have great potential to increase their trade with the EU. This is in our common interest. But the countries often encounter barriers that limit market access. And they might have difficult framework conditions of their own, such as corruption or a lack of infrastructure and qualified labour. Through the EU, we will work for trade agreements that give countries better opportunities for exports and economic integration. We want strengthened trade cooperation with the countries that believe in free trade as opposed to protectionism.

Europe's green transition must create opportunities for partner countries – not close doors. Low- and middle-income countries must not be excluded from green markets; instead, they should be supported in integrating into green value chains. This also creates opportunities for Danish businesses, which have world-leading green technology.

BUILDING ON ITS PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, DENMARK WILL:

- > **work to strengthen the EU's role as preferred partner** with a more interest-driven, integrated, and geopolitical development policy
- > **contribute to creating coherence in EU policies**, e.g. so that sustainability regulation supports – and does not unintentionally hinder – the economic growth of partner countries
- > **actively contribute to shaping the EU's instruments** and supporting their implementation in practice, with a particular focus on the Global Gateway.

THE EU'S SHARE OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND DENMARK'S SHARE OF THE EU'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

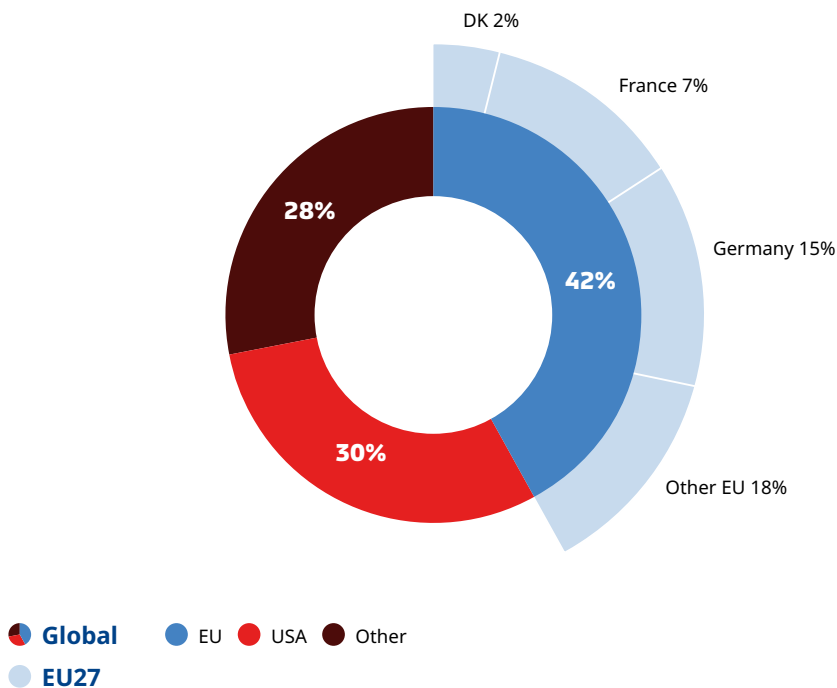


Figure 7: The EU's share of global development assistance. With EUR 88.9 billion in 2024, the EU's (EU+MS) total development assistance accounted for ca. 42% of global development assistance. Measured as a share of GNI, Denmark is the EU's third-largest development donor.

Source: OECD-DAC, 2025.

EU AND GLOBAL GATEWAY ARE PRESENT ACROSS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Country initiatives (Blue), Regional initiatives (Red)

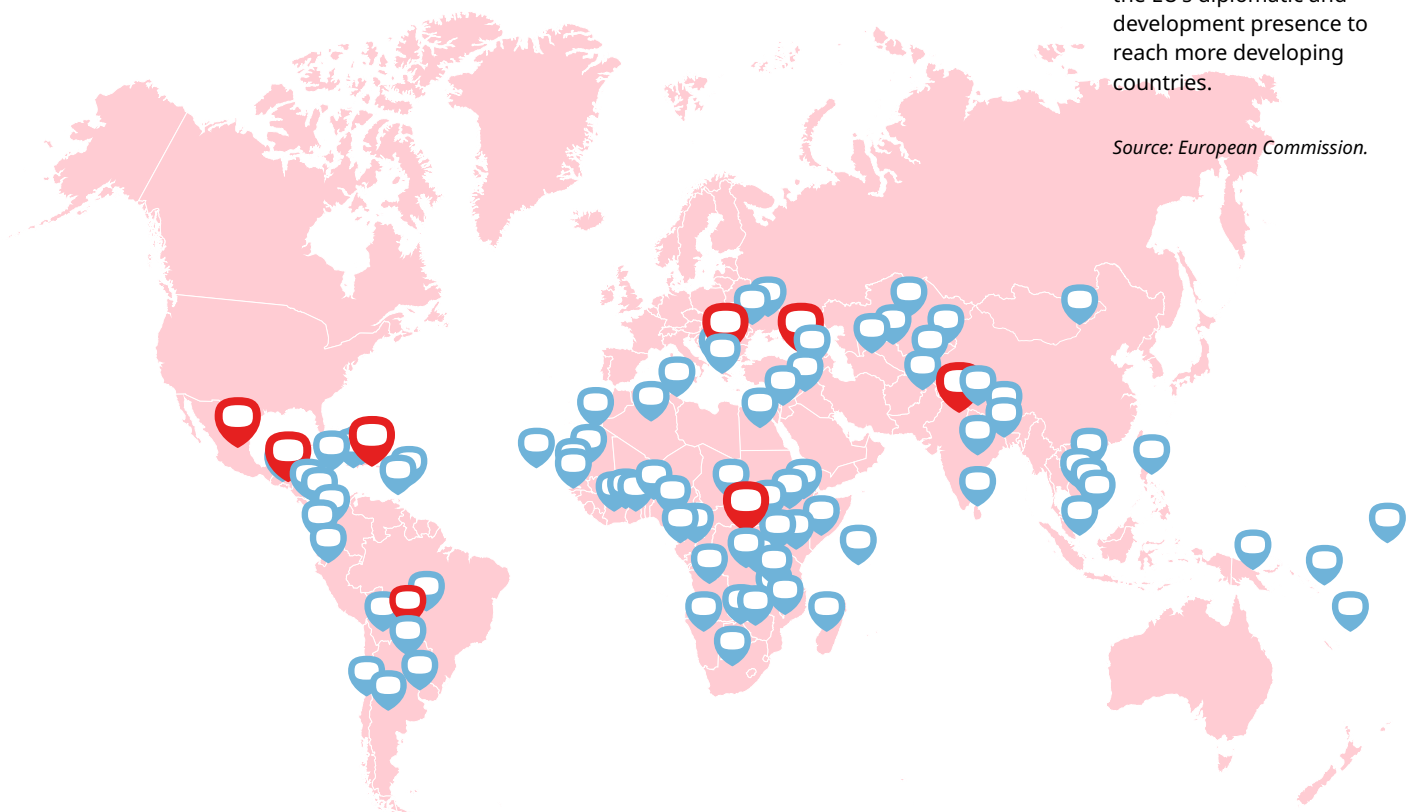


Figure 8: The map shows countries with EU Global Gateway projects. Denmark must work with and through the EU's diplomatic and development presence to reach more developing countries.

Source: European Commission.



PRIORITISED FOCUS AREAS

JOB CREATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT

Denmark must promote the development of modern, green, and digital economies that become part of the global economy. Contributing to the creation of stable societies with sustainable growth and business-friendly framework conditions, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts also paves the way for Danish companies' trade and investment in decent jobs and mutually beneficial industrial development.

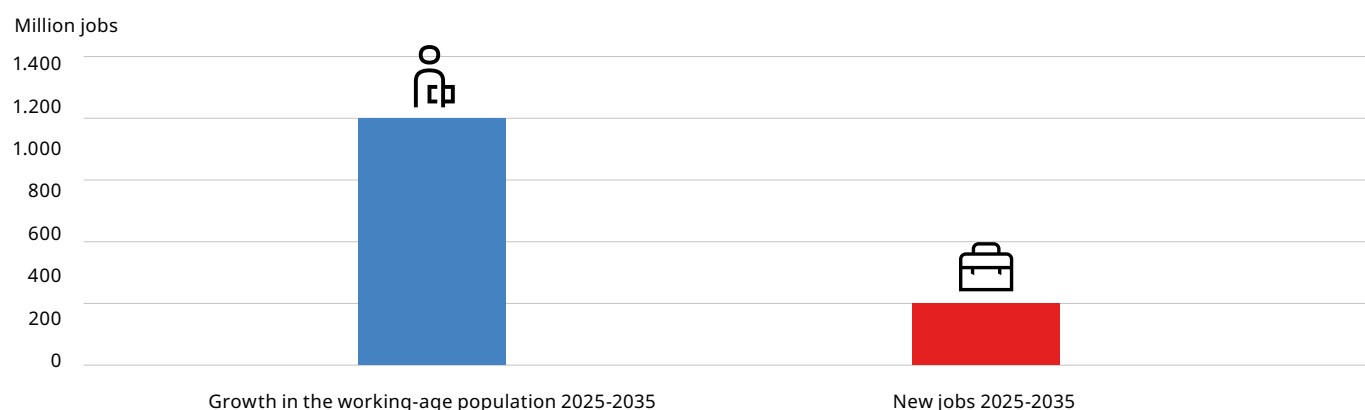
Job creation first and foremost

Creating decent jobs, where workers' rights are respected, is and will remain crucial for sustainable economic development, poverty reduction, and political stability – not least in light of the large and growing number of young people in developing countries.

A strong private sector in Denmark and abroad is key. Denmark must mobilise private investments in partner countries through new and targeted business instruments that can provide improved financing opportunities for small and medium-sized companies (SMEs). And we must strengthen sustainable value chains, including through direct advisory services and capacity building for companies in African countries. We also do this to promote sustainable sourcing and consumption. When we help partner countries meet European requirements for sustainable production, we also create the basis for increased export, growth, and employment.

Figure 9: The number of young people of working age is outpacing job creation in many developing countries. Between now and 2035, it is estimated that 1.2 billion young people will enter the labour market in developing countries. The global labour market is expected to create 420 million new jobs in that same period. "Developing countries" refers to recipient countries and territories as classified by the OECD-DAC.

BY 2035, AN ADDITIONAL 800 MILLION PEOPLE ARE PROJECTED TO BE WITHOUT A JOB IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Source: World Bank 2025 – Growth and Jobs Overview.

Job creation is also a matter of decent jobs. Wages, workers' rights, and decent labour market conditions are crucial to ensuring that growth is sustainable and inclusive. Denmark has experience with strong social dialogue, effective labour market partners, and a labour market that ensures both high employment and good working conditions. The Danish model must be more thoroughly integrated into our development efforts to ensure job creation – including for young people. Danish companies can contribute to these efforts through investment and establishing local operations.

Trade and investment – the path to lasting growth

Partner countries have great potential to increase their trade with the world, but may encounter obstacles such as limited market access. Denmark must support reforms that improve the business climate, fight corruption, reduce transport costs, and strengthen the rule of law. Investors and business owners – large and small – must be able to count on private property rights and independent courts to enforce contracts. Through the EU, we will work for trade agreements that give countries better opportunities for exports and economic integration. Together with our partners, we will contribute to the maturation of investment plans and channel available international capital into concrete investments in partner countries.

Digital transformation and new technologies can accelerate economic growth by increasing productivity and creating new jobs. Access to free information and knowledge can democratise innovation and technological development. But a third of the world still does not have access to the internet. We must work to close the global digital gap and reduce the barriers to participation in the global digital economy. We must work to ensure that partner countries reap the benefits of digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

Access to green energy and critical raw materials is vital to the green transition, and many of our partner countries also play a key role in this regard, as they hold extensive resources that remain underutilised. Denmark must work to ensure that the extraction of raw materials is carried out responsibly, including with respect for human rights, and that jobs are also created in processing industries in partner countries. This will require strengthened raw material partnerships through the EU.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **develop sustainable value chains** that create local jobs
- > **strengthen free trade, investment, and market access** between countries and with the EU
- > **intensify focus on job creation for young people** through new targeted efforts
- > **promote Danish/European commercial investments in developing countries**
- > **support entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized companies** to create more local jobs and growth opportunities, including through a targeted financing facility that meets the needs of “the missing middle”
- > **promote a secure and inclusive digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence**, so that more people can gain access to economic opportunities and knowledge.

RESPONSE TO CONFLICTS, FORCED DISPLACEMENT, AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Conflict, forced displacement, and irregular migration are among the greatest challenges of our time. Over half of the world's poorest people live in conflict- and crisis-affected areas. This is exposing the humanitarian system to increased pressure. Irregular migration towards Europe has significant human consequences and poses challenges for European societies and countries along the migratory routes. It is crucial that the EU delivers solutions that tackle the root causes of irregular migration while also working innovatively to curb the pressure on Europe's borders. This requires strong partnerships with countries along the migratory routes and a willingness to jointly explore new solutions to migration challenges. Peace and stability are the basis for social and economic development in developing countries, and it is in Denmark's interest to create better conditions and future prospects for people where they live.

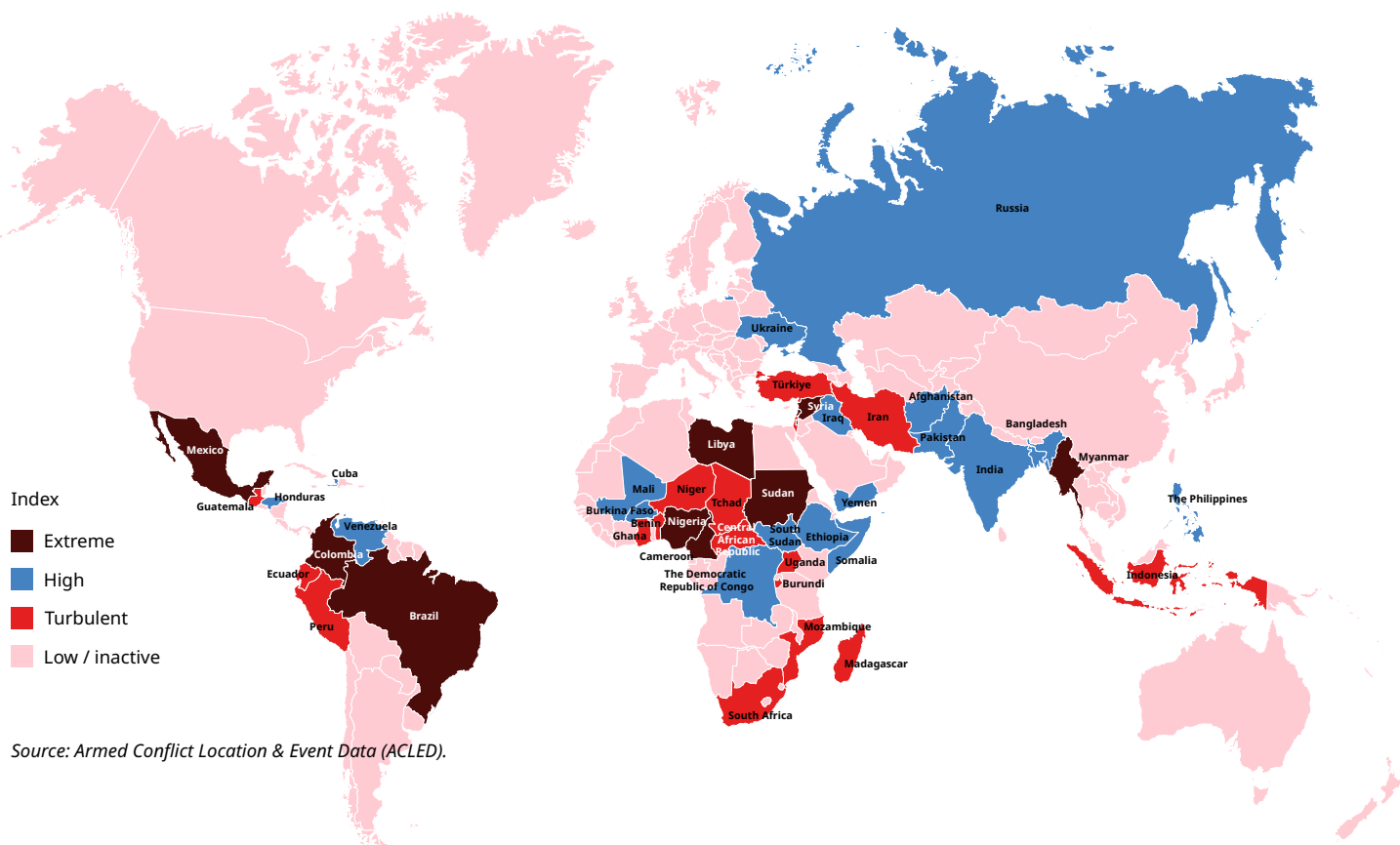
Strengthened efforts for peace and security

The number of conflicts globally has almost doubled in the past five years. One in five children worldwide lives in or is fleeing from a conflict zone. Climate change is exacerbating existing tensions and creating new ones – especially in fragile areas.

We must continue our long-term efforts for development, peace and security, counter-terrorism, prevention, and stabilisation. Denmark must be able to intervene quickly when there is a need for stabilisation efforts in Europe's neighbouring regions. And we must continue towards integrate civilian and stabilisation efforts.

Figure 10: Index of conflict-related deaths, December 2024. Since 2020, the global level of conflict has nearly doubled. By one conservative estimate, in 2024, there were nearly 233,000 conflict-related deaths, especially due to escalating conflicts in areas such as Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Myanmar, combined with high mortality rates related to criminality and terrorism in countries such as Mexico and Brazil, as well as in the central Sahel.

THE CONFLICT LEVEL IS SURGING GLOBALLY



Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED).



OUR ENGAGEMENT IN UKRAINE

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has had drastic consequences. Homes and infrastructure have been destroyed, and more than 10 million Ukrainians have been displaced. Since 2022, Denmark has given Ukraine approximately DKK 6.4 billion in development assistance. A significant portion of this assistance has gone to support Mykolaiv region and city in close partnership with local authorities ensuring local ownership of the efforts. Ukraine wants to rebuild better and greener, but the immediate focus is on re-establishing water, heat, and energy supplies; social infrastructure, and humanitarian needs. Alongside these efforts, Danish business instruments are being utilised to strengthen the private sector, while twinning initiatives with Danish municipalities and civil society contribute to knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Preventing conflict and ensuring lasting solutions requires local leadership and a clear role for women, young people, and the local civil society. We must do our part to ensure that the multilateral system steps in and provides credible solutions. We must support the UN's funds and programmes, as well as the multilateral banks' engagement in fragile contexts. Denmark's 2025-2026 membership of the UN Security Council is an important platform for these efforts.

Focus on humanitarian needs and long-term solutions

At the time of publication of this strategy, more than 300 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, yet there is insufficient funding to meet these needs and the pressures on the humanitarian system are greater than ever before. Attacks on humanitarian actors have reached intolerable levels, and the protection of civilians and humanitarian access is increasingly under threat.

Denmark must continue to fight for respect for international humanitarian law, international refugee law, and human rights. Our humanitarian support must remain neutral, independent, and needs-based. We must also maintain the necessary flexibility and work even more through national and local actors.

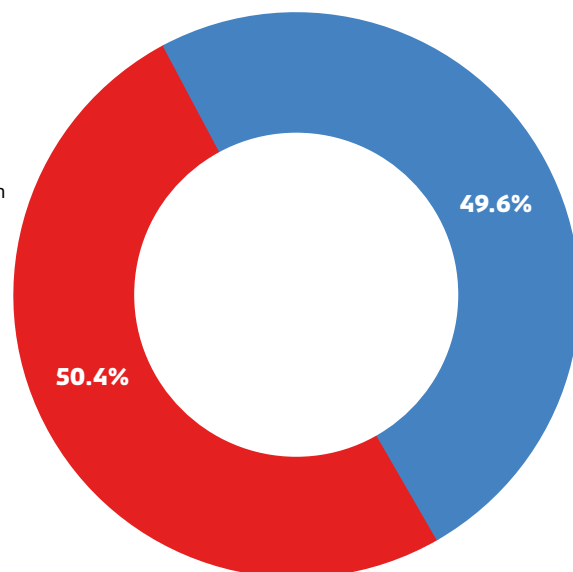
The vast majority of the world's crises prove to be protracted. Humanitarian support and efforts for peace and security must be integrated as far as possible with long-term development efforts focused on the most vulnerable. This applies, among other things, to access

Figure 11: The gap between funding of humanitarian appeals and estimated humanitarian needs (2024 figures).

Source: *Funding progress on 2024 coordinated plans*, OCHA Financial Tracking Service.

THE GAP BETWEEN FUNDING AND ESTIMATED HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Humanitarian assistance, DKK 169 billion
- Unmet needs, DKK 172 billion



to education and healthcare. Through prevention efforts, we must mitigate new refugee flows and continue our support for internally displaced persons and refugees, the majority of which are hosted in areas and countries neighboring conflict.

New solutions to address irregular migration

Conflict, poverty, population growth, climate change, and the lack of jobs are creating migration flows to Europe. The irregular migration pressure on Europe is not sustainable and threatens cohesion within the EU and Denmark. Human traffickers moreover exploit irregular migrants for profit.

Irregular migration is a major challenge for countries of origin, transit, and destination – and one that we can only tackle together.

Denmark has taken a leading role in the EU in finding new solutions to Europe's challenges with irregular migration. As part of these efforts, we will continue to lead the way through our approach to equal and long-term partnerships with countries of origin and transit, working together to address irregular migration along the routes towards Europe. Together with partner countries, we are working to strengthen migration management, fight human smuggling and trafficking, and protect migrants from exploitation.

Denmark must maintain its leading role in shaping a new European asylum system that genuinely dismantles the current incentive structure encouraging people to undertake the dangerous journey to Europe. Together with like-minded EU member states, we must promote new solutions to the challenges associated with irregular migration and, via our efforts, support the EU's strategic partnerships with countries along the migration routes.

We must continue to focus on the duty of states to take back their own citizens and work to ensure that migrants without legal residence cannot remain in Denmark and the EU.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **contribute to the stabilisation of Europe's neighbouring regions** and act quickly and flexibly at the intersection of development and security
- > **invest in prevention, development, and stability** before crises occur
- > **maintain its role as a leading humanitarian donor** with a focus on effective and sustainable solutions
- > **support locally led, long-term development efforts in protracted crises**, with a focus on peacebuilding, conflict management, and sustainable solutions
- > **maintain Denmark's leading role within the EU in efforts to develop a new European asylum system**
- > **promote new solutions to the challenges of irregular migration**, establish close partnerships with countries of transit and origin, and support the EU's strategic partnerships, so that migration challenges are addressed in close cooperation with the EU and Europe's neighbouring regions
- > **cooperate with countries of origin to strengthen the reception and reintegration of their citizens**, so they can return home in an orderly manner
- > **we will generally not provide long-term development assistance** to states that refuse to readmit their own citizens.

A JUST, SUSTAINABLE, AND GREEN TRANSITION

The global challenges of climate change, drought, floods, pandemics, reduced biodiversity, increased pollution, and food insecurity reinforce each other. Without investments in sustainable and green transition, climate adaptation, health, upskilling, and reskilling, we risk seeing development move in the wrong direction.

We cannot fence in climate and environmental challenges. Pollution, rising temperatures, and extreme weather do not stop at national borders. And although the world is preoccupied with other acute crises, we must remember that the climate crisis is the greatest challenge of our generation and requires international cooperation and extensive investments.

This is especially important now that the United States wants to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and is questioning the threat of climate change and the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

But there are also opportunities. Especially in Africa, there is enormous potential in green energy and raw materials that are crucial for the green transition. Renewable energy is not only good for the climate and air pollution – in the vast majority of cases, it is also the cheapest solution. Green transition in our partner countries is thereby in their own interest, and at the same time they can contribute to Europe's energy transition. We can also bring Danish companies that have relevant technology into play with our business instruments and strategic sector cooperation.

Implementation in focus – renewable energy on a large scale

Experts estimate that we are heading towards a temperature increase far exceeding the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the average global temperature increase under 2 degrees, and preferably under 1.5 degrees. The ambitions must be raised, and Denmark will take the lead in climate negotiations – also through the EU – while supporting the UN as the legitimate forum for addressing global climate issues.

But agreements are not enough. We must ensure the implementation of countries' national climate action plans. Fossil energy must be phased out and the COP-28 goal of tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency must be realised. This requires close

cooperation, especially through the Strategic Sector Cooperation and global energy partnerships. The transition must be just with jobs in the fossil sector replaced by more jobs in renewable energy. Over 600 million people in Africa lack electricity and 2.3 billion people globally are still dependent on polluting fuels for cooking. If we do not ensure access to green energy, developing countries will be locked into fossil fuel dependence and poverty.

Green synergies

Green initiatives must be more integrated across climate, water, environment, and nature, and closely aligned with other development goals such as health, food security, and job creation. We will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without addressing the climate crisis and we cannot solve the climate crisis without also protecting nature. Denmark has taken the lead with initiatives such as the Agreement on a Green Denmark, which can inspire other countries to adopt integrated green approaches.

Forest initiatives are a good example, as forests absorb a third of global carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, and regulate water cycles. Meanwhile, deforestation is responsible for 10-15% of greenhouse gas emissions, making forest conservation and restoration crucial.

Climate adaptation – a necessity for security and stability

Climate change has local impacts and is already a matter of survival for many countries. Climate adaptation prevents poverty, migration, and instability, and is therefore an integral part of security policy. Denmark was among the first countries to support the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, and this will continue to be a priority area, where Denmark will work to ensure more support for the world's most climate vulnerable countries. Denmark will support partner countries in strengthening their adaptation of infrastructure, communities, and livelihoods. The strengthening of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems such as wetlands and mangrove forests is essential – and we must also ensure climate-resilient agriculture, clean drinking water and sanitation, and sustainable food systems. Nature-based solutions are key. Danish companies can offer solutions, such as sustainable drinking water and wastewater management, as well as reducing food waste and loss through improved cold chain systems.

The needs are varied. A guiding principle in our climate adaptation efforts is that we listen and let efforts be guided by local needs. The protection and involvement of Indigenous Peoples, with respect for their rights, including

the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), as well as the involvement of local civil societies, is essential for sustainable efforts.



DENMARK WILL:

- **combine climate, environment and development goals to the greatest extent possible.** Ensure greater integration of the adaptation and mitigation agendas
- **expand renewable energy in partner countries** through Danish solutions, international alliances, and strategic sector cooperation
- **increase climate adaptation**, including through energy, sustainable drinking and wastewater management, nature-based solutions, flood protection, and drought-resistant crops – and work to ensure that a significantly larger share of climate financing from wealthy countries is directed towards climate adaptation
- **support the development of transparent and credible** carbon markets in developing countries
- **Protect and involve Indigenous Peoples** to ensure sustainable efforts.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The world order that has greatly benefited Denmark for decades is changing. Democracy is in decline worldwide and more than a third of the world's population lives under authoritarian regimes. Well over half of the world's population lives in countries with obstructed, repressed or closed civil societies. A large part of the global population lives in societies with restrictions on freedom of religion or belief.

It is in Denmark's interest to continue pursuing a development policy based on the values and principles that have shaped our own society. With a human rights-based approach to development, we must support strong, independent, and diverse civil societies, free media, independent judicial systems, responsible political parties, and independent state actors such as national human rights and ombudsman institutions. We must support those who fight for democratic self-determination. At the same time, we must base our efforts on a realistic assessment of the world in which we operate. We must also engage in dialogue with those we disagree with.

A GLOBAL MAJORITY LIVES UNDER NON-DEMOCRATIC RULE

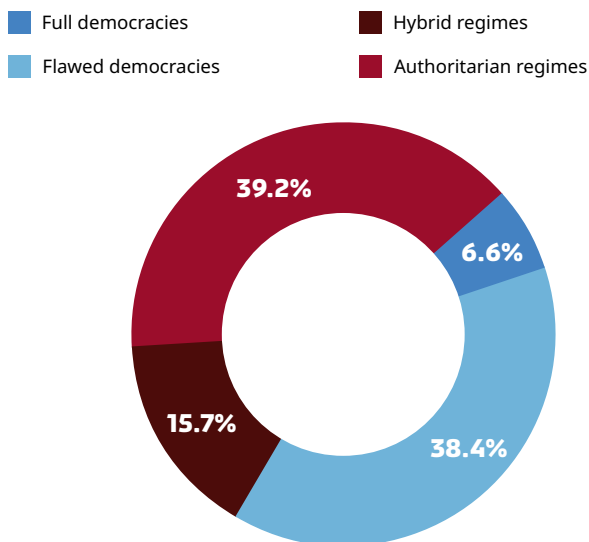


Figure 12: Share of the world's population by the type of government they live under. In recent years, the share of the global population living in "full democracies" has declined. The figure shows data from 2024.

Source: *The Economist Intelligence Unit* 2024.

We must also create room for democracy to take root and become resilient. This is about ensuring that all people are free to express themselves, think, believe, and assemble freely. Civil society plays an important role in strengthening and protecting fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. A strong and diverse civil society is an asset in itself. We will continue to advocate for credible and independent media to stimulate open and free debate and hold those in power to account. Danish development cooperation will continue to provide unequivocal support for freedom of religion or belief, not least with a focus on efforts for persecuted Christians.

It is also in our common interest to respond to the increasing misinformation and disinformation. Digital technology holds unimaginable possibilities for an active and vibrant democracy, but can be abused in many places for surveillance, persecution, harassment, and the spread of disinformation. It increases political polarisation, undermines public trust in the authorities, and shuts down democratic dialogue.

Young people – a driving force for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world

Democracy is synonymous with meaningful engagement – not least for the largest youth generation in history, where many feel marginalised and excluded from society. They also represent a tremendous resource.

Through collaboration by, with, and for young people, we will provide them with genuine opportunities for influence and action. We have a strong tradition in Denmark for promoting the participation of children and young people through community-based associations. Young people from Denmark and developing countries have a lot to learn from each other. We will collaborate with youth organisations that create change locally, nationally, and globally, as we will work to ensure that young people have a genuine voice in political processes.

Gender equality and the rights of women, girls, and LGBT+ people

Gender equality and the rights of women, girls, and LGBT+ persons are under pressure globally. Among other things, because the United States and other countries are

questioning values that we previously fought for together. Women are excluded from making key decisions about their own lives and the development of their societies. LGBT+ persons are experiencing criminalisation in too many parts of the world. Denmark must defend our fundamental values and actively promote gender equality and the rights of women, girls, and LGBT+ persons, including the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, both online and in the physical world. This is of crucial importance for individuals and for society, and we know that investments in gender equality pay off.

Respect for universal human rights

Human rights have not come about by themselves. They have been shaped and developed through multilateral cooperation between countries, including through the United Nations. It is also in this forum that we must defend human rights in order to safeguard them. We cannot take human rights for granted.

Denmark will actively oppose violence, the death penalty, and torture, and will remain a firm defender of the right not to be subjected to such practices. Denmark possesses particular expertise in this area, which we must continue to build upon. Nearly 3,000 human rights defenders have been killed in the past 10 years. 2024 was the deadliest

year for journalists ever. Yet others continue the fight. They deserve our continued support.

Despite the international community's recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples through the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), they continue to suffer from serious human rights violations, particularly concerning their rights to their traditional lands, territories, and natural resources. Denmark, together with Greenland, constitutes an important voice in the defence and realisation of their rights. Indigenous Peoples' rights are a shared priority for Denmark and Greenland, building on decades of engagement. We must continue and strengthen this engagement.

We must also contribute to ensuring a voice for and efforts in support of persons with disabilities. People with disabilities make up about 1.3 billion of the world's population. Of these, 1 billion live in a developing country. They are disproportionately affected by poverty and limited access to essential services, including education, healthcare, and opportunities for participation in society. Denmark will strengthen its efforts in this area so that people with disabilities can be increasingly seen as a resource.



DENMARK WILL:

- > **strengthen democracy, civic space**, involvement of young people, and efforts against misinformation and disinformation
- > **promote gender equality, the rights of women and girls, and the rights of LGBT+ persons across all efforts**
- > **support human rights through multilateral negotiations** and support for defenders, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and the fight against torture.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Access to education and healthcare is a fundamental basis for development – and for the flourishing of productivity, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Despite significant progress, the world still faces serious challenges in ensuring access to quality education and basic health services. Globally, around 250 million children are excluded from the formal education system – a figure that has remained virtually unchanged for 10 years. More than 4 billion people do not have full access to basic health services. And the regional differences are significant, as 33% of school-age children and young people in low-income countries do not attend school, compared with just 3% in high-income countries.

Denmark holds a strong position in healthcare, with internationally recognised expertise spanning disease prevention and treatment – including chronic illnesses – as well as the fight against antibiotic resistance and pandemics. We have a unique model for close collaboration between research, the public sector, and the private sector. We can inspire the rest of the world with this model, including through our strategic sector cooperation and in multilateral forums. Our civil society is also making significant contributions, especially in fragile and conflict-affected areas. Denmark also has unique expertise in vocational education that can inspire our partner countries.

Education as a driving force for development

Access to quality education is crucial to breaking the negative spiral and is also a prerequisite for economic growth and democratic participation. The growing young generations in many partner countries are putting tremendous pressure on existing education systems. In Africa alone, at least 9 million new classrooms and 9.5 million additional teachers are needed by 2050.

Denmark will continue to invest in building strong and effective education systems – both through our multilateral engagement and in close cooperation with civil society. We support partners to work with partners to develop curricula, purchase teaching materials and train dedicated and competent teachers. Women's and girls' access to education will be given special priority.

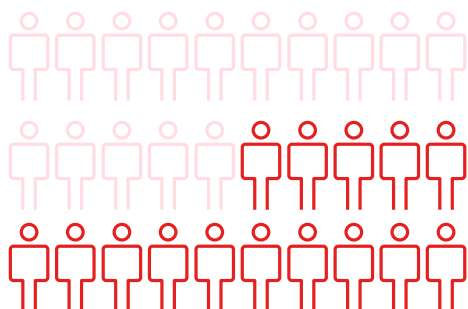
Vocational education programmes – the key to jobs

We must work for better and more vocational education programmes that provide access to decent jobs. This is something that the vast majority of young people in our partner countries are asking for. We must contribute to strengthening cooperation between the education system, labour and employer organisations, as well as businesses and public authorities in partner countries, to support young people in entering the labour market. Danish educational institutions must be brought into play as contributors to these efforts and to the exchange of young people between Denmark and partner countries.

DENMARK WILL:

- > **strengthen education and health systems** for development, and as a prerequisite for sustainable growth and job creation
- > **promote and export Danish solutions** built on our strong expertise in health and education, to inspire and benefit communities worldwide
- > **work for better access to vocational education programmes** and strengthen cooperation between the education system, labour and employer organisations, companies, and authorities
- > **maintain Danish leadership** in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through multilateral negotiations and support.

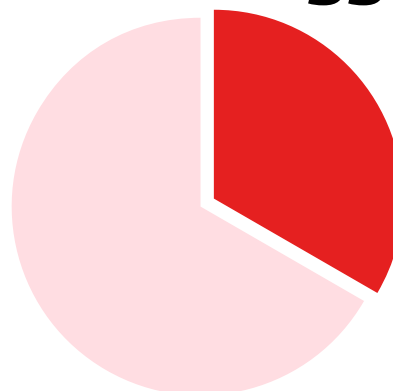
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MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION REMAINS WITHOUT ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

Source: Universal Health Coverage (UHC) | NCD Alliance.

33% =



ONE IN THREE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN LOW INCOME COUNTRIES DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Strengthened health systems – a cornerstone

Access to health services is essential for a well-functioning society. This applies in particular to primary healthcare, including maternal and infant health, as well as efforts to combat infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. However, this also applies to chronic diseases, which constitute a growing burden of disease in many developing countries. The impact of COVID-19 has underscored the ongoing need to strengthen health systems that were already under pressure. Denmark will continue to support efforts to build sustainable, strong, and effective health systems – with a particular focus on people in vulnerable settings and situations.

Mental health is an overlooked but crucial dimension of development work. More than one in five people in fragile and conflict-affected societies suffer from serious mental health problems – and for refugees, this figure is nearly 50%. Denmark possesses particular expertise and a position of strength in this area that we must build upon.

Danish leadership in sexual and reproductive health and rights

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are under increasing pressure. These are human rights that we and many others consider universal. It is estimated

that more than 250 million women of childbearing age in low-income countries do not have access to contraception. Once every two minutes, a woman or girl dies in connection with pregnancy or childbirth.

Therefore, Denmark will remain one of the front runners in the fight for women's and girls' right to make decisions about their own bodies – including in normative forums. We will continue to support organisations that work globally to ensure SRHR, and that deliver sexual and reproductive health services locally – such as access to contraception, safe childbirth, safe abortion, and comprehensive sexuality education – to people in vulnerable settings and situations

Sustainable financing through partnerships

Health and education constitute some of the heaviest items in national budgets. Cuts from other donors are increasing pressure on partner countries' ability to finance basic services. Therefore, there is a need for fresh thinking – including with regard to financing, which development aid is nowhere near sufficient to cover. Together with our partners, we must develop innovative models that can mobilise more funds and promote investments in education and health.



MORE STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

A partnership with Denmark on development policy

This strategy will only succeed if all of Denmark is on board. Development policy must be stronger and more broadly anchored through earlier and clearer involvement. This not only applies in the Danish Parliament and the ministries, but across the breadth of Danish society. This is why we are establishing a Partnership for Global Development – a forum where business, civil society, foundations, and knowledge institutions come together to collaborate on development cooperation, with active involvement from representatives of our partner countries.

The partnership will meet at the highest level once a year and provide input and direction for implementation of the strategy's goals. But it must be more than merely a discussion club. It must be a space where participants themselves identify concrete ways to contribute their resources, knowledge, and networks to bring the strategy's ambitions to life.

More development for the money – a lean development policy

Strong partnerships alone will not be enough. We owe it to both Danes and our partners to ensure that every single krone of development assistance delivers maximum impact and leads to lasting change. That is why we are already working purposefully to make our aid more effective, more focused, and leaner – and these are efforts that we must continue to develop and strengthen. At the same time, we must work to ensure that the EU's overall development assistance pursues the same objectives to the greatest extent possible.

We must continually simplify our workflows, reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, and ensure greater flexibility, so we can respond more quickly and act more wisely where the needs are greatest and the opportunities most promising. It is a matter of using resources where they make the biggest difference. At the same time, we must draw even more on the knowledge and experience that exists among Danish stakeholders and scholars. An expert panel can be engaged early and flexibly in the design of the efforts, contributing to strategic dialogue and quality assurance.

“Development policy must be stronger and more broadly anchored through earlier and clearer involvement. This not only applies in the Danish Parliament and the ministries, but across the breadth of Danish society.”

Figure 13: Danish Development Cooperations should involve a broader range of actors, including knowledge institutions and businesses.

A WHOLE-OF-DENMARK APPROACH



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 Copenhagen K

Tel: +45 33 92 00 00
um@um.dk
www.um.dk

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