Sustaining development and equal global opportunities through research and learning in low-income and emerging economies.
In 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs mandated the Danida Fellowship Centre to offer learning courses and research projects under the new Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility. The facility was introduced in 2015 to pursue synergy between development cooperation and trade, and to strengthen bilateral relations with selected emerging economies of strategic importance to Denmark.
The capacity development of young universities takes a lot of time and effort. Six years of collaboration between SUZA and the University of Copenhagen has ensured very important institutional milestones.

Prof. Hamad Issa  
BSU3 Coordinator, the State University of Zanzibar.

Danida Fellowship Centre administers the support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to research collaboration projects and research capacity development in Danida priority countries and in the emerging economies with which Denmark collaborates under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

We manage the entire project cycle from the announcement of annual calls for applications to the completion of research projects.

Danida Fellowship Centre serves as the secretariat for the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) that advises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on research support.

In order to share research results and ensure collaboration among the supported projects and relevant stakeholders, the Danida Fellowship Centre facilitates knowledge dissemination and exchange.
Research in Danida priority countries
Research collaboration projects of up to five years’ duration are managed by research-based institutions in Denmark with partners in Danida priority countries, or are managed by research-based institutions in Ghana or Tanzania with research partners in Denmark.

Research in countries with emerging economies
Research collaboration projects of up to three years’ duration are managed by research institutions in Denmark with research partners in emerging economies under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

Building Stronger Universities
Capacity-building projects, aimed at strengthening the research capacity of six universities in Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana are managed by these universities in collaboration with Danish university partners.

Mobility grants
Grants for short-term research stays at research-based institutions in Denmark for researchers from countries under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

Study and research stays in Denmark
Administration of study and research stays in Denmark for researchers and PhD students on behalf of the research collaboration projects.

www.drp.dfcentre.com
We support education, learning and capacity development solutions for Danish-funded partner organisations in low-income countries and in countries with emerging economies.

We offer learning opportunities developed through a process of dialogue, co-creation, creativity and flexibility and with a strong focus on adaptability and usability.

Our support builds on the understanding that individuals matter: With the right knowledge, competencies and motivation, individuals can become key change makers in their organisations and societies.
Participants return with new skills and ideas - and so much motivation. It strengthens the momentum and the partnerships of the Strategic Sector Cooperation project. The Vietnamese ministries have great appreciation for Denmark’s support to capacity development.

Katja Goodhew
Sector Counsellor, Vietnam

Tailored courses
We offer 1-12-week courses designed in dialogue with Danish embassies, educational institutions and authorities. Most courses target only partners of the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility, while a smaller number target both the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility partners and partners in Danida priority countries.

Existing study programmes
We provide scholarships for existing degree programmes or summer courses at Danish universities or university colleges for Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility partners.

Capacity development financed by Danida programmes
We support Danish embassies and programmes in assessing capacity needs, procuring skilled practitioners and formulating relevant initiatives, such as courses, study tours or mentorships.

Our courses and capacity development activities are organised in a wide range of areas including health, food safety, value chain development, green growth and good governance.
Danida Alumni Network

Danida Alumni Network is a unique global network of highly qualified individuals with a special connection to Denmark. Danida alumni personalise the outcome of Denmark’s support to development research and the training and capacity development of partners in low-income and emerging economies.

Since the first Danida fellows came to Denmark in the 1960s, about 20,000 fellows have been awarded Danida fellowships to study in Denmark. They have pursued Master’s or PhD degrees or completed qualifying courses for professionals at Danish institutions of higher and further education.

Danida Fellowship Centre launched the network in 2016.

Charlotte Laursen
Danish Ambassador to Vietnam

The overall objective of the Denmark-Vietnam Alumni Network is to strengthen the relationship between Vietnam and Denmark. We are very keen to create bonds between Danish companies in Vietnam and Vietnamese who have a degree from a Danish university or college.
For Danish companies and institutions
A gateway to key local contacts in low-income and emerging economies.

For Danish academia
A platform to widen international and local networks and connections to universities and research institutions - and to promote Danish higher education among international students.

Public diplomacy
A valuable element in Denmark’s public diplomacy. Besides enhancing their professional qualifications, alumni acquire in-depth knowledge about Danish culture and values, challenges and opportunities.

Local alumni networks
An opportunity for Danida alumni to keep in touch with each other and to stay connected to Denmark. The local networks organise outreach activities promoting the professional knowledge and skills acquired by the alumni in Denmark.

www.alumni.dfcentre.com
A home away from home

Danida Fellowship Centre serves as a home away from home for hundreds of visiting Danida fellows every year.

The Centre provides accommodation for fellows in two hostel buildings located in the heart of Frederiksberg or arranges suitable alternatives close to the fellows’ places of study while they are in Denmark.

Danida Fellowship Centre arranges social and cultural activities and excursions and give the fellows an exceptional opportunity to network and make friends with Danida fellows from all around the world.

Our dedicated staff supports the fellows’ study-stays in Denmark from their arrival to their departure.

I loved the Danida Fellowship Centre – a huge multicultural family of fellows, and a highly professional and very warm group of staff. My Danish experience was great.

Festival Godwin Boateng
Now PhD Student, RMIT University, Australia.
When did you last hear about development research?

We tell the stories; from new discoveries in global vaccine programmes to research in sustainable forestry, land rights and investments in Africa.

The Danida Fellowship Centre also promotes the achievements of Danida alumni and the immediate and long-term effects of the Danida Fellowship Centre’s capacity development and learning courses and programmes.

We collaborate with specialised publications and the communication departments of universities and other research institutions to promote and share the result stories of Danish supported activities and programmes.
In many ways, 2017 was a rather special year as it marked a new beginning for the Danida Fellowship Centre.

We redirected much of our support to competence and capacity development to match the needs of Denmark’s new Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

We completed the application rounds for development research grants within a much shorter period of time than in previous years and we introduced a new funding modality to suit the new Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

We completed the second phase of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) Programme, launched the third phase, and said good-bye and good luck to the last BSU Masters as the programme has now ended.

Furthermore, we welcomed a new Board of Directors appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, celebrated 25 years in Frederiksberg and launched the new Danida Alumni Prize, a festive way to show-case and celebrate some of the effects of Danish Development Assistance. At the same time, we carried on our daily business with our usual diligence, energy and commitment to make tomorrow possible.

In 2017, the Danida Fellowship Centre ensured the effective implementation of a condensed application round, successfully managed the introduction of a new funding window, facilitated the bridging of Building Stronger Universities (BSU) from Phases 2 to 3, and took steps to further promote the exchange of knowledge and results from and between research collaboration projects.

Research programme management

In 2017, the Danida Fellowship Centre ensured the effective implementation of a condensed application round, successfully managed the introduction of a new funding window, facilitated the bridging of Building Stronger Universities (BSU) from Phases 2 to 3, and took steps to further promote the exchange of knowledge and results from and between research collaboration projects.

The previous two-phased application round of 21 months was reduced to 12 months in order to shorten the interval from project idea to funding. In Phase 1, a total number of 205 applications were received for research collaboration projects in Danida’s priority countries from research-based institutions in Denmark, Ghana, and Tanzania (Window 1). The large number of applications received was most likely a result of the government’s cancellation of the 2016 application round. At the same time, a new window of support (Window 2) was introduced for grants to research collaboration projects in the emerging economies with which Demark collaborates under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility. 51 applications were received for research projects within this new funding window.

The processing of 256 applications in Phase 1 and 43 prequalified applications in Phase 2, and the identification of around 210 peer reviewers led to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ final selection of...
11 projects to be funded in Window 1, and 11 projects in Window 2.

Other activities in 2017 included the administration of on-going project grants, the quality assurance of project reporting, the organisation of thematic meetings in Ghana (“Research and Capacity Development in Partnerships between Ghana and Denmark”) and in Tanzania (“Green Growth, Development and Climate Change”), the dissemination of good stories from the projects, participation in several international seminars and workshops concerning research and research support, and the introduction of mobility grants for research stays in Denmark for researchers from the countries with which Denmark collaborates under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

A new phase of Building Stronger Universities

The BSU2 projects officially ended in September 2017, after being extended to allow the finalisation of planned activities, including bridging activities to BSU3. The initial reports from the universities involved in BSU2 show that it has led to invigorated administrative research capacity and support across the universities.

The BSU3 programme was officially approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 September 2017, following a vast amount of preparation, including onsite visits to the six universities involved, reviews and the circulation of a number of draft project documents.
What we did in 2017

Competence and capacity development

In late 2016, the Danida Fellowship Centre’s support to continuing education was linked to the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility anchored in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building on our many years of providing learning opportunities for Danish supported partners, the new DFC Scholarship Programme was born.

A new DFC Scholarship Programme

The Danida Fellowship Centre took several steps in 2017 to ensure that the new DFC Scholarship Programme is relevant, needs based and complementary to the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

We held face-to-face and virtual meetings with the Sector Counsellors from 14 countries to understand the needs of our new partners and the context in which they operate. We discussed the content of the new scholarship programme with Sector Counsellors and focal points from Danish partner authorities during two Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ information seminars, and held individual meetings with many of the Danish partner authorities to discuss the best use of the programme.

We also established a reference group across the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sector Counsellors and Danish partner authorities. The group reviewed the guidelines for the new DFC Scholarship Programme, and the guidelines were finalised in December 2017.

Blanca Aurora Mena Vela, participant in the Danida Fellowship Centre’s “Cardio-metabolic diseases” course at the University of Copenhagen under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility.

People can make a difference - everyone is important and all changes count.
What we offered

Based on our dialogue with the Sector Counsellors, Danish partner authorities and Danish universities, the Danida Fellowship Centre developed and provided scholarships for 10 new thematic courses and 3 cross-thematic courses in 2017. The latter are open to partners from the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility countries and Danida priority countries.

Well-tested methods from our experience with tailored courses since 1990 were integrated in the new programme during 2017, making it mandatory for all tailored courses to focus on learning by seeing and doing, including action planning – a unique feature of our courses.

We granted 13 scholarships for university summer courses, 4 scholarships for full Master’s degree programmes and negotiated 130 seats for summer courses at the Universities of Aarhus and Copenhagen in 2018.

We continued to invest in eLearning, and we launched two new eCourses on results-based management and action planning in 2017.

We supported 10 tailored competence and capacity development initiatives funded by Danida programmes in 7 countries. These initiatives ranged from specialised courses, workshops and study tours to eLearning.

More than 300 staff of Danida funded partners took part in our short interdisciplinary courses held in Denmark and selected African countries.
What we did in 2017

Danida Alumni Network

It was an exciting and busy year for the Danida Alumni Network that now counts more than 2,000 professional profiles from the low-income and emerging economies with which Denmark collaborates.

Consolidating and expanding the network

Our prime focus this year was to consolidate and expand the network and to initiate relevant activities for alumni and network partners, Danish academics, private companies, public institutions and third sector actors.

The highlight of the year was the award ceremony for the newly inaugurated Danida Alumni Prize 2017. It was awarded to the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia.

In Ghana, Vietnam and Uganda, the local Danida Alumni Networks arranged networking activities with private sector partners and educational institutions. In Burkina Faso, Kenya and Tanzania, the initial steps were taken to establish local Danida Alumni Networks.

To boost the local alumni activities, the Danida Fellowship Centre offered activity grants to Danida alumni with an open call in December 2017. The plan is to advertise open calls 1–2 times a year depending on the lessons learnt from the first round.

Looking ahead, a number of new local Danida Alumni Networks will be established in 2018 to nurture and encourage activities involving alumni and relevant Danish stakeholders so that all parties can enjoy the benefits of the network and the ties between Denmark and Danida alumni around the world.

"The time I spent here as a Danida Fellow was so valuable. It made me a better scientist and a better human being. It gave me new knowledge and skills that I used to help my own people back in Ethiopia.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director-General."
Communicating Results

In order to promote the Danida Fellowship Centre’s activities and to be part of disseminating and amplifying results and stories of interest from Danida funded research projects and competence and capacity development grants, we rolled out a number of new communication activities.

The quarterly newsletter was relaunched in Mailchimp. The distribution list got an overhaul and maintenance and management was improved.

A new Facebook page and Twitter account were launched and the existing LinkedIn page revitalized.

We produced text, video and photo content to fit the new social media channels and significantly increased the visibility of the programmes and activities Danida Fellowship Centre supports and promotes to external interest groups.

Result stories and other stories of interest were posted on a bi-weekly basis throughout the year on social media. The festive 25th anniversary and the Danida Alumni Prize award event in particular, attracted attention, as did an end-of-year competition that ran on all social media channels during December.

Researchers, Danida fellows and collaborating universities expressed their satisfaction with the new communications effort. Some contacted us to promote their results and success stories.

In addition, selected external Danish media channels amplified the stories e.g www.globalnyt.dk and DR1.

The article went viral and became a powerful communication piece. I am grateful for all the LinkedIn and Facebook releases. Sincere thanks for the great work.

Dr Cheikh Mbow
Executive Director, International START Secretariat.

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointed a new Board of Directors in 2017. The Board consists of three external members and one staff representative. A representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is present at the board meetings as an observer.

We finalised the Strategy for the Danida Fellowship Centre for the period 2018-20.

Permanent staff at Danida Fellowship Centre totaled 17 at the end of 2017. An additional three staff will be recruited in 2018.

We arranged visa, travel and study stays and provided accommodation for 300 Danida fellows at the Danida Fellowship Centre in 2017, while 256 were provided with suitable accommodation at hostels outside Copenhagen or at hotels. We arranged evening debates and several excursions as part of introducing the fellows to Denmark in line with Denmark’s strategy for public diplomacy, one of the focus areas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ globalisation strategy.
Key Figures

We managed research collaboration projects totaling DKK 140 million in 2017. Twenty-two new research collaboration projects and one Mobility Grant were granted.

We implemented capacity development activities for a total amount of DKK 33 million.

139 staff from 7 Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility partner countries came to Denmark in 2017 through the new DFC Scholarship Programme. 118 additional scholarships were approved for courses and studies in 2018.

An additional 352 staff of Danida funded partners in 31 priority countries joined the Danida Fellowship Centre’s interdisciplinary courses held in Denmark, Ghana, Uganda or Burkina Faso.

The final 34 BSU Master’s students completed their studies in Denmark in 2017, the vast majority with excellent results.

2018 direction and goals

When Denmark’s Finance Act 2018 was adopted in December 2017, it included an increase in the budget allocated to the Danida Fellowship Centre.

The budget allocation for the capacity development of partner institutions increased from DKK 30 million in 2017 to DKK 45 million in 2018. The allocation for development research and research capacity development totaled DKK 140 million in 2017. In 2018, this has been increased to DKK 225 million.

The budget increase for the Danida Fellowship Centre in 2018 reflects the Danish Government’s efforts to strengthen international cooperation across ministries through the Strategic Sector Cooperation Facility, introduced in 2015. It also accommodates the continued support to research and learning programmes in Danida’s priority countries.

We look forward to scale up our support to Denmark’s collaboration with low-income and emerging economies.
The Danida Fellowship Centre is a self-governing institution founded in 1990 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directs policy and strategy, the Danida Fellowship Centre manages Danida’s grants to development research and research capacity development, plans capacity development for Danida’s partner institutions and coordinates the Danida Alumni Network.

Located in the heart of Frederiksberg, the Centre administers and hosts hundreds of research and study stays for Danida fellows on an annual basis.

Danida Fellowship Centre has a permanent staff of twenty and is governed by a Board of Directors.

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