

The fulfilment of the **Sustainable Development Goals** is highly dependent on **research**, lifelong equitable **quality education** and **partnerships** between **governments**, the **private sector** and **civil society**.

DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

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Danida Fellowship Centre
- Sustaining development through research and learning



A broker for sustainable development
DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

Danida Fellowship Centre promotes sustainable development and equal opportunities through collaborative research projects, lifelong learning, and networking - and by offering educational opportunities to raise the capacity at an

individual and institutional level. We do so in line with Denmark's engagements in low-income and growth countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America and Europe.



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Introduction

CONSOLIDATING FOR THE FUTURE

This has been a noteworthy year. It started on a very positive note with the boost that the Finance Act gave to both the capacity development budget and the funds allocated for development research. This obviously gave all of the staff a heavier workload but everyone coped with the situation with their usual dedication and professionalism.

We consolidated the new research modalities and the procedures for matching the training needs of the Strategic Sector Cooperation projects with the opportunities offered by Danish institutions of higher education. Once again, the Danida Alumni Network expanded its reach and is now present in eight countries, four of which are Strategic Sector Cooperation countries.

To enhance the synergy among actors in research and Danish and national authorities in the Strategic Sector Cooperation countries, we initiated and supported a pilot knowledge sharing platform for research policy dialogue in Vietnam.

In the same spirit and in cooperation with the Dutch (Nuffic) and the Norwegian (Diku) sister organizations, we arranged and hosted the 2018 Donor Harmonization Group meeting, the group members being European based

sister organisations. Under the title “Business as Unusual: Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Research and Higher Education” the forum explored how to optimize the support of higher and further education within the global paradigm shift from “aid to trade”.

In addition, we organized thematic meetings to enhance knowledge exchange among the research projects and we raised the level of our external communication up a notch with impacts on social media and in news outlets in Denmark and abroad.

This is my final Danida Fellowship Centre report as I will retire after two decades as Director of the centre. It has been a most fulfilling and rewarding job and a fantastic journey together with the, at all times, very dedicated staff and a multitude of partners.

THANK YOU and all the best for Danida Fellowship Centre in the years to come.



Anne Christensen



2018 KEY FIGURES

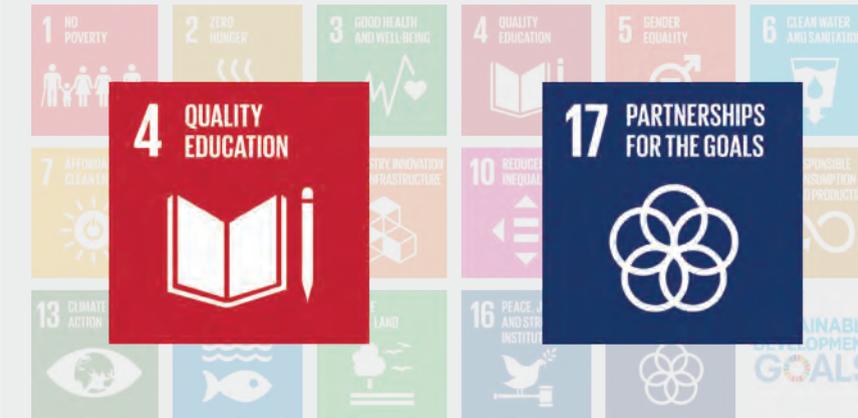
- DKK 110 million used by the research collaboration projects
- 23 new research projects and 2 mobility grants
- DKK 31 million used for capacity development activities
- 382 fellows trained from 11 Strategic Sector Cooperation countries
- 258 fellows trained from 21 Danida priority countries, of these 137 were from fragile states the majority from Burkina Faso and Mali
- 2,512 Danida Alumni Network member and 8 local alumni networks

OUR CONTRIBUTION IN 2018

The Sustainable Development Goals constitute the overall framework that guides Danida Fellowship Centre’s activities

In 2018, as in previous years, we contributed to every single goal.

However, #4: Quality Education and #17: Partnerships for the Goals, clearly surpassed our contributions to the others.



What we do

RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Danida Fellowship Centre manages the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark's support to research collaboration and research capacity development projects in Danida priority countries and in Strategic Sector Cooperation countries.

We manage the project cycle from the announcement of annual calls for applications to the completion of research projects. We support the management of ongoing grants and monitor progress.

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 promote the use of research results for development and change, Danida Fellowship Centre facilitates knowledge dissemination and exchange.

RESEARCH IN DANIDA PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Research collaboration projects are managed by research-based institutions in Denmark with research partners in Danida priority countries, or managed by research-based institutions in Ghana or Tanzania with research partners in Denmark.

RESEARCH IN STRATEGIC SECTOR COOPERATION COUNTRIES

Research collaboration projects are managed by research-based institutions in Denmark with research partners in Strategic Sector Cooperation countries where the research is linked to the country-specific themes. Mobility grants for research stays in Denmark are also offered to researchers from these countries.

BUILDING STRONGER UNIVERSITIES

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

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

We administer the application rounds and manage research support including the monitoring of project implementation. We support research partnerships and facilitate knowledge exchange and outreach. As part of our support, we administer study and research stays in Denmark for researchers and PhD students.



"The ongoing collaboration between international and local researchers, industrial managers and workers is leading to change in the garment industry in Bangladesh, not only in productivity but also in occupational health and safety."

Mohammad Abdul Latif

PhD student, "Health, safety and productivity in garment in Bangladesh", Aalborg University.

We promote the use of **research results** for development and **positive change**.



What we did in 2018

RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

2018 was another intensive year for the research management team. The new compressed application round process introduced in 2017 was repeated in 2018. Of the 193 applications received in Phase 1, 23 research collaboration projects were selected for funding.

The first batch of 11 research projects granted in 2017 initiated their research activities in the Strategic Sector Cooperation countries in 2018. The intention of these research activities is specifically to provide new relevant knowledge to the Strategic Sector Cooperation projects.

The third phase of the Building Stronger Universities programme was consolidated by the finalization of implementation plans for the projects managed by universities in Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana. Danida Fellowship Centre worked closely with the projects during the transition from the second to the third phase, supporting the consolidation of results for a more focused and research-oriented BSU3.

In addition, we initiated a retrospective study to examine the outcome of 30 years of Danida support to the enhancement of the research capacity of about 500 individual African researchers. The study will provide insight into the results of Danish research support over time.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Danish supported research collaboration projects explicitly define how they target the Sustainable Development Goals in their research. Taken as a whole, the 22 research projects initiated in 2018 embrace all the 17 individual goals.

#3, #4, #8, #9, and #17 are the most prominent goals encompassed by the research projects, and of these #4: Quality Education and #17: Partnerships for the Goals are covered by all projects.



23 new research collaboration projects.

Managed research collaboration projects for **DKK 110 million.**



What we do **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

We support education, learning and capacity development solutions for partner organisations, primarily in Strategic Sector Cooperation countries but also in Danida priority countries.

The activities are developed through a process of dialogue, mapping, co-creation, flexibility, creativity and collaboration – with a strong focus on adaptability and usability.

We always look for areas of synergy externally with stakeholders and internally with the research and alumni teams.

Our support builds on the understanding that individuals matter and that with the right knowledge, competencies and motivation, individuals can become key change makers in their organisations and societies.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

ANNUAL SURVEY AND MATCHING EXERCISE

We conduct an annual survey where course themes are suggested by the sector counsellors at the Danish embassies and, subsequently, an annual matching exercise where Danish universities are asked to provide input and expertise on courses matching the suggestions captured in the survey.

TAILORED COURSES

We offer 1-12 week co-created courses on various themes that address particular, identified needs. We facilitate sector-based dialogue meetings, which bring together sector counsellors, universities and Danish partner authorities to discuss, develop and design new courses. When substantial synergies can be found, some of our courses are also made available to partner organisations in Danida priority countries.

EXISTING STUDIES

We offer scholarships for existing degree courses or summer courses at Danish universities or university colleges to the Strategic Sector Cooperation partners.

OTHER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

We support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish embassies and programmes in assessing capacity needs, formulating relevant initiatives and procuring skilled practitioners. These initiatives, financed by the programmes, may be courses, seminars, study tours or mentorships.



“The setup with course participants from all around the world offers a rich learning environment; it adds value to learn and share in such an environment.”

Jane Lwoyero

Kenya, participant in the “One Health” course, University of Copenhagen.

Our **learning support** builds on the understanding that **individuals matter.**



What we did in 2018

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

We consolidated the annual process of matching the training needs of the Strategic Sector Cooperation activities with the competencies offered by Danish higher education institutions. Dialogue meetings with stakeholders to discuss new courses resulted in input from 10 departments/faculties at five universities for 150 courses/studies.

The intake for university summer courses increased significantly from 13 fellows in 2017 to 54 fellows in 2018 (111 candidates applied).

Overall, 57 existing/ tailored/ tailor-made activities were conducted with 648 participants from Strategic Sector Cooperation projects, and in addition 6 activities were conducted on behalf of and funded by embassies/ programmes.

A number of activities were piloted during 2018, such as differentiated courses (short management/long technical), courses for both Strategic Sector Cooperation and Danida priority countries, and mentorships.

The capacity development team facilitated a session at the annual Strategic Sector Cooperation seminar for sector counsellors on understanding and taking action on capacity development challenges.

Finally, the web pages covering capacity development were given a much-needed overhaul during 2018.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The output of the 44 implemented capacity development studies and learning courses offered by Danida Fellowship Centre in 2018 was diverse in scope and supported the attainment of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the most prominent goals supported by all the activities were #1: No Poverty, #4: Quality Education, #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institution and #17: Partnerships for the Goals.



89% of the participants rate the professional content **'good'** or **'very good'**.

95% of the **sector counsellors** were **'satisfied'** or **'highly satisfied'** with the courses.

Designed and implemented **courses** for **Danish partners** in **11 Strategic Sector Cooperation countries** and **21 Danida priority countries** for a total costs of **DKK 31 million**.



What we do **DANIDA ALUMNI NETWORK**

Danida Alumni Network is a unique global network of highly qualified individuals who have a special connection with Denmark. Danida alumni personify the outcome of Denmark's support to development research and the training and capacity development of partners in low-income and growth countries.

Since the first Danida fellows came to Denmark in the 1960s, about 22,000 individuals have been awarded Danida fellowships to study in Denmark or at Danish and local institutions abroad. They have pursued Master's or PhD degrees or completed qualifying courses for professionals arranged by or at Danish institutions of higher and further education.

In their home countries and around the world, Danida alumni hold important positions. As entrepreneurs, scholars and leaders they effect change in a broad spectrum of sectors.

FOR DANISH COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS

A gateway to key local contacts in the Strategic Sector Cooperation countries and in former and present Danida priority countries.

FOR DANISH ACADEMIA AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND RESEARCH

A platform to expand networks and connections to local universities and research - and to promote Danish higher education internationally.

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.

DANIDA ALUMNI PRIZE

Inaugurated in 2017, the prize is awarded annually to a distinguished Danida alum, who has made a significant contribution to positive change in his or her home country or professional field based on his or her studies in Denmark.



"Danida alumni who are familiar with both the Danish and Tanzanian systems and work culture may very well turn out to be the candidates of choice, if their professional skills also match our job descriptions"

Anne Mette R. von Benzon
Director, COWI Tanzania.

**A unique global network
of professionals trained in
Denmark.**



What we did in 2018 DANIDA ALUMNI NETWORK

It has been another exciting and busy year for the Danida Alumni Network, which now counts more than 2,500 professional profiles from low-income and growth countries and eight local alumni networks.

This year we have maintained our focus on expanding the global network as well as the local alumni communities and initiated relevant activities and services for alumni and network partners. As a result, five new local alumni networks were set up in Kenya, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Mexico. In addition, steps to establish networks in Bangladesh, India and Colombia have been taken.

To consolidate and boost the local alumni activities, we held the first Alumni Network workshop in Denmark, with the participation of alumni board members from six countries and a focus on sharing ideas and learning lessons.

The highlight of the year was the Danida Alumni Prize 2018, which was awarded to Dr Cheikh Mbow, Executive Director of the Washington based organisation, START International.

As part of our long term goal to expand the Danida Alumni Network to the Denmark Alumni Network further steps are being taken to include all international students from Danida's former and current partner countries.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Danida Alumni Network contributes especially to #17: Partnerships for the Goals by promoting and supporting inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge and technical expertise.

In 2018, Danida Fellowship Centre awarded 12 activity grants to support some of the activities organized by the local alumni networks.



2512 Danida Alumni Network members at the end of **2018**.

8 local alumni networks in Ghana, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Mexico.



What we do

COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATION

COMMUNICATING RESULTS

Many scientific results never make it to the public; knowledge is lost in the gap between the media and researchers. Danida Fellowship Centre tell the stories, from new discoveries in global vaccine programmes to research in green growth in Asia and land rights in Africa.

We also promote the effects of our learning courses and capacity development support and the achievements of Danida alumni. We collaborate with the mass media and specialised publications for outreach and dissemination.

ORGANIZATION

Danida Fellowship Centre is a self-governing institution founded in 1990 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

We manage the grants to the research collaboration projects in the low-income and growth countries with which Denmark collaborates. We design and implement continued learning and capacity development for Danish funded partners in the same countries. In addition, we coordinate Danida Alumni Network.

Located in the heart of Frederiksberg, Danida Fellowship Centre supports hundreds of Danida fellows' study stays each year. We provide accommodation for the fellows in our two hostel buildings or arrange suitable alternatives close to their places of study while they are in Denmark. In addition, we arrange social and cultural activities and excursions and facilitate networking with Danish partners and colleagues from around the world.



Sign up for our **quarterly newsletter** on dfcentre.com and follow us on **social media**:

-  **Danida Fellowship Centre**
-  **@DFC_Fellowship**
-  **Danida Fellowship Centre**

Danida Fellowship Centre has a **permanent staff of 20** and is governed by a **Board of Directors**.

