

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.**

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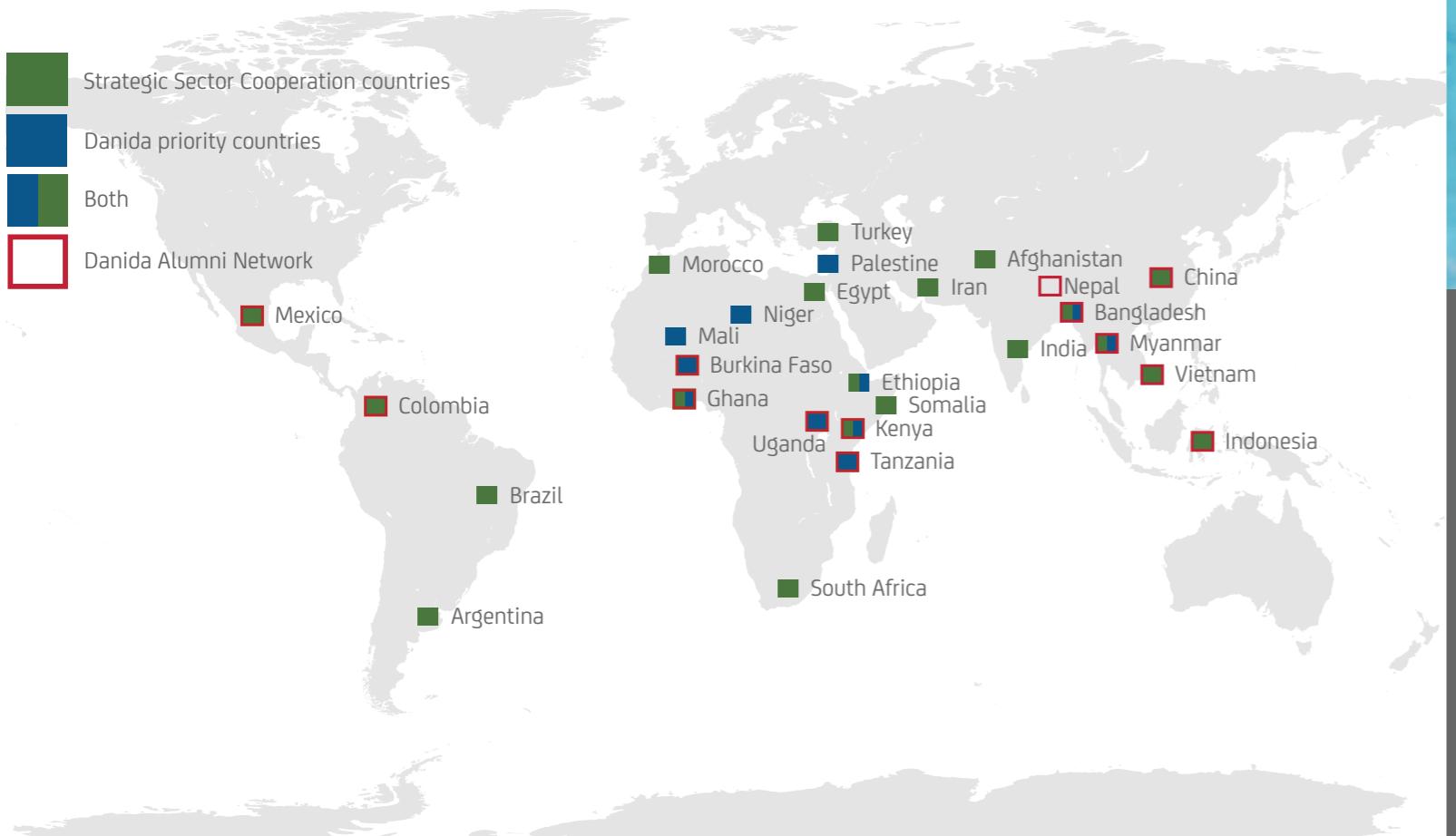
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**Danida Fellowship Centre**  
*Sustaining development through research and learning*

# LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL

Danida Fellowship Centre supports sustainable development and equal opportunities through capacity development, learning programmes, collaborative research projects,



networking and knowledge sharing in the developing and growth countries prioritized by Danida, Denmark's development cooperation.



*“Support to strengthen skills, competences and research partnerships is an important part of Denmark’s contribution to making the world more just and more fair – now and for future generations.”*

**Rasmus Prehn**  
Danish Minister of Development Cooperation

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## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

In 2019, climate change was at the top of the international agenda, where it is likely to remain for many years to come.

At the Danida Fellowship Centre, we are engaged in building capacities for climate change prevention and adaptation, water management, environmental sustainability, green growth, green energy and circular economic systems.

We administer over 100 research projects where researchers from Denmark and researchers and PhD students from developing and growth countries partner to search for answers to development challenges. Almost half of the projects focus on climate change or climate change related issues like water and sanitation, aquatic environment, energy and economic growth and value chains. Some of the many other thematic areas are health, agriculture, entrepreneurship and human rights.

In 2019, we developed "Bridging the Gap" workshops where we brought researchers and journalists together so that they could learn from each other's experience of how best to share the results of research projects for the benefit of the public and for policy makers.

 @Ulla\_Naesby



### Building research capacity for climate change prevention and adaptation

In 2019, 926 Danida programme partners from 28 countries participated in our learning programmes developed to meet their specific needs. The participants shared ideas with Danish companies, public institutions and organisations with the aim of mutual learning and inspiration. We offered a total of 41 learning programmes all developed and conducted in close collaboration with Danish embassies, Danish agencies involved in the Strategic Sector Cooperation programme, Danish universities and selected Danish companies. One third of these learning programmes focused on climate change, water management, sustainable environment, green growth and green energy.

### Facilitating best practise and knowledge sharing

In 2019, we developed new learning programmes in the following fields: Environmental governance, solid waste management, wastewater management, cooperative governance, transparency and good governance, health, and technical and vocational education and training.

Through our Alumni Network with its more than 3,000 members and many different types of knowledge sharing activities, we encouraged and facilitated lifelong learning for all of our partners.

### Offering learning programmes and organisational capacity development

In 2020, Danida Fellowship Centre will prepare a new strategy. It will include ways of increasing our contribution to the important objective of developing climate change prevention and adaptation solutions. We will continue to innovate and improve our communication about the activities we coordinate and administer and the results they produce.

### Sustainable solutions to development challenges

In everything we do, we strive to build knowledge and partnerships, and to strengthen the

competences of Danida partners around the world.

With the assistance of Danida funded research programmes and capacity development provided by Danida Fellowship Centre, sustainable solutions to development challenges are being developed. It is in this manner we contribute to the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development goals.

Please follow us on the Danida Fellowship Centre communication platforms and let us know what you think we can do better.



**Ulla Næsby Tawiah,**  
Director



## RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Danida Fellowship Centre manages the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' support to research collaboration and research capacity development projects in developing and growth countries prioritized by Danida, Denmark's development cooperation.

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 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Research projects are conducted in collaborations between research institutions in Denmark and research partners in developing countries prioritized by Danida.

### RESEARCH IN GROWTH COUNTRIES

In growth and transition countries, the research collaboration projects are aligned with the Strategic Sector Cooperation programme funded by Danida.

### BUILDING STRONGER UNIVERSITIES

The Building Stronger Universities programme develops the research capacity of six universities in Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana. The programme activities are conducted 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 Danida research fellowship has given me the opportunity to work with prominent researchers in my area of research: Immunology, cell and molecular biology. I will make sure to pass on the skills I have acquired to others and thereby be part of raising the research capacity at home and in the network."*

**Cecilia Smith**  
PhD student, University of Ghana

**We promote research collaboration for development and positive change.**



## ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND LEARNING

We support organisational change and learning in the form of education, learning programmes and other relevant solutions for our partner organisations, primarily in the growth countries with which Denmark collaborates under the Strategic Sector Cooperation but also in Danida priority countries.

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

In order to achieve the best possible results from our learning programmes, we subscribe to an approach where we involve the participants' organisations before and after the learning programme.

### ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

An important element of our support to organisational change is the option of providing short tailor-made programmes for participants from the Strategic Sector Cooperation partner organisations, and additional meetings, workshops etc. with their Danish partner organisation. Other support includes coaching, mentorships, and advice on strategic, structural and technical adjustments.

### TAILORED LEARNING PROGRAMMES

We offer 1-12 week co-created courses on themes reflecting specific identified training needs. We facilitate sector-based dialogue meetings, bringing together sector counsellors, universities and Danish partner authorities to discuss, develop and design new courses. Most of the learning programmes are for partners in the Strategic Sector Cooperation projects. When substantial synergies can be found, we offer a number of the courses related to cross-sectoral themes to partner organisations in Danida priority countries.

### UNIVERSITY STUDIES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

We offer scholarships for existing degree studies or summer schools at Danish universities to partners affiliated with the Strategic Sector Cooperation.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

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



*"The course provides useful practical tools for strategic leadership and change management. These tools will enable us to both analyse and create plans to deal with the challenges of climate change in Buenos Aires."*

**Mariano Jordan Kristoff**  
Social Expert, Hydraulic Plan of Buenos Aires  
City

**"Increased Performance through Strategic Leadership and Change Management" course participant.**

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



## DANIDA ALUMNI NETWORK

Danida Alumni Network is a unique global network of highly qualified individuals who have a close affinity with Denmark. The network fosters a global community and platform for building connections and exchanging knowledge across borders, disciplines and sectors, whilst maintaining ties to Danish values and way of life. Danida alumni personify the outcome of Denmark's support to development research and the training and capacity development of partners in developing and growth countries.

Since the first Danida fellows came to Denmark in the 1960s, about 24,000 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.

### GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Through the Danida Alumni Network web platform, closed online fora and exclusive alumni opportunities, members of the global Danida Alumni Network can stay in touch with each other, Danida Fellowship Centre and Denmark, whilst gaining access to new insights, knowledge and connections from around the world.

### LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local alumni networks provide the Danida alumni with an opportunity to keep in touch with each other upon their return home and to stay connected to Danish partners locally. These networks organise knowledge sharing, networking and outreach activities, building on the learning and professional skills acquired in Denmark.

### FOR DANISH COMPANIES, INSTITUTIONS AND ACADEMIA

The network is a gateway to key local contacts in countries with current and former Danida financed programmes, and a platform to expand networks and connections to local universities and researchers with context-specific insights and know-how.

### DANIDA ALUMNI PRIZE

The prize is awarded annually to a distinguished Danida alumni, who has made a significant contribution to positive change in his or her home country.



*"Knowledge is not knowledge unless it's shared."*

**Dr Phan Thi Van**  
Vietnam, Danida Alumni Prize 2019

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



## COMMUNICATION & ORGANISATION

### COMMUNICATING RESULTS

Many scientific results and outcomes of capacity development, learning programmes and research never make it to the public.

Danida Fellowship Centre tells the stories. From research in climate change adaption, renewable energy, migration or civil rights to discoveries in sustainable value chains and the outcome of sector cooperation and learning programmes. We highlight the experiences of our fellows and alumni, and collaborate with the mass media and specialised publications for outreach and dissemination.

In addition, we promote communication as a support tool to deepen the impact of research projects and learning programmes. We organise communication seminars that facilitate mutual learning and knowledge sharing among partners and stakeholders, particularly on using communication as a tool to engage with the public and policy makers.

### ORGANISATION

Danida Fellowship Centre has a permanent staff of 23 and is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Located in the heart of Frederiksberg, Danida Fellowship Centre provides accommodation for the research and learning programme fellows in our hostel or arranges suitable alternatives close to the places of study or research in Denmark. In addition, we arrange social and cultural activities and excursions and facilitate networking with Danish partners and colleagues from around the world.



*"The "Bridging the Gap: Science for the Public" workshop was very beneficial as it threw more light on the importance of making our research findings accessible to the public."*

**Rashida Resario, PhD Lecturer - University of Ghana**  
Danida funded researcher

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## WHAT WE DID IN 2019

2019 became another year of expansion for the Danida Fellowship Centre. We expanded our portfolio of learning programmes, the number of research projects and we developed innovative knowledge sharing activities. We facilitated new local alumni networks and saw an increase of Danida alumni signing up as members of the network. We also welcomed our new Director, Ulla Næsby Tawiah.

We aim to develop the capacity of Danida partner organisations through a multitude of activities.

### ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND LEARNING PROGRAMMES

The annual grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Danida Fellowship Centre's capacity development and learning programmes has doubled since 2017. Consequently, we have developed new learning programmes and increased the intake of participants from 534 in 2017 to 926 in 2019.

### Developed new learning programmes and increased the intake of participants from 534 in 2017 to 926 in 2019

In 2019, the majority of the learning programmes were tailor-made courses developed for Danida's Strategic Sector Cooperation in growth and transition countries. In addition, eight master students and 65 summer school students from Strategic Sector Cooperation programmes studied at Danish

University programmes in 2019.

We also offered 11 training courses for a mix of participants from different types of Danida programmes. Many of these training courses were so popular that we had to run them twice. One course was held in Burkina Faso for francophone partners in West Africa.

### RESEARCH COLLABORATION

22 new research projects were approved in 2019 out of 188 applications. In 2019, there were 61 research projects in Africa, 17 projects in Asia, and 6 projects in Central and Southern America. In Africa, six universities in Uganda, Tanzania and Ghana participated in the Building Stronger Universities programme together with six universities in Denmark.

### 61 research projects in Africa, 17 projects in Asia and 6 projects in Central and Southern America

An important function of the support given to research projects is to strengthen the capacity of PhD students and researchers. African researchers involved in Danida funded research capacity building between 1989 and 2019 shared their experiences and reflexions in the research report "Opportunities, challenges - and bad weather". We launched the report at an event that also celebrated the award of the annual Danida Alumni Prize for 2019. This year, the prize was awarded to Assoc. Prof.

Dr Phan Thi Van in recognition of her ambition, drive and tireless promotion of scientific research in the sustainable development of aquaculture, both within Vietnam and internationally.

### The communications initiative “Bridging the Gap. Science for the public” supported uptake of research results

The research projects produce important results that ought to be widely communicated to allow people to act on them. There is, however, often a gap in understanding between researchers and journalists. In 2019, we therefore, started a "Bridging the Gap" initiative in Ghana, Tanzania and Denmark where researchers and journalists worked together to improve their understanding of how best to communicate research results. In 2019, we also focused on communicating our results stories as video-shorts for social media and circulated them via our national and international networks. In the years to come, we will continue to work on how we can support the uptake of research results from the Danida funded research projects.

### SYNERGIES AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR ALL

Our learning programme participants are experienced practitioners and leaders from the public and private sectors with valuable knowledge to offer researchers. Similarly, our researchers have findings and results that are useful for practitioners. To facilitate mutual learning, we organised knowledge sharing activities for researchers and practitioners in areas such as water resource management, and labour and employment conditions. We will continue to develop new methods for knowledge sharing between our research projects and our learning programmes.

### Our Alumni Network reached more than 3000 members

Our Alumni Network, which now has more than 3,000 members in twelve countries, also creates an important platform for knowledge sharing between members, sectors and countries. In Mexico, Uganda and Ghana, the alumni groups organised knowledge sharing forums. Ten alumni members were selected to participate in the UNLEASH innovation lab in China in 2019 where 1,000 participants from all over the world collaborated on finding sustainable solutions to development problems. Besides coming up with new ideas and answers to development challenges, they gained insights and tools for conducting innovation processes to find innovative solutions to pressing problems at home.