

**Sharing knowledge** is essential for finding sustainable **solutions to global challenges**. Danida Fellowship Centre supports the creation of new competences and skills aimed at transforming **knowledge into action**.

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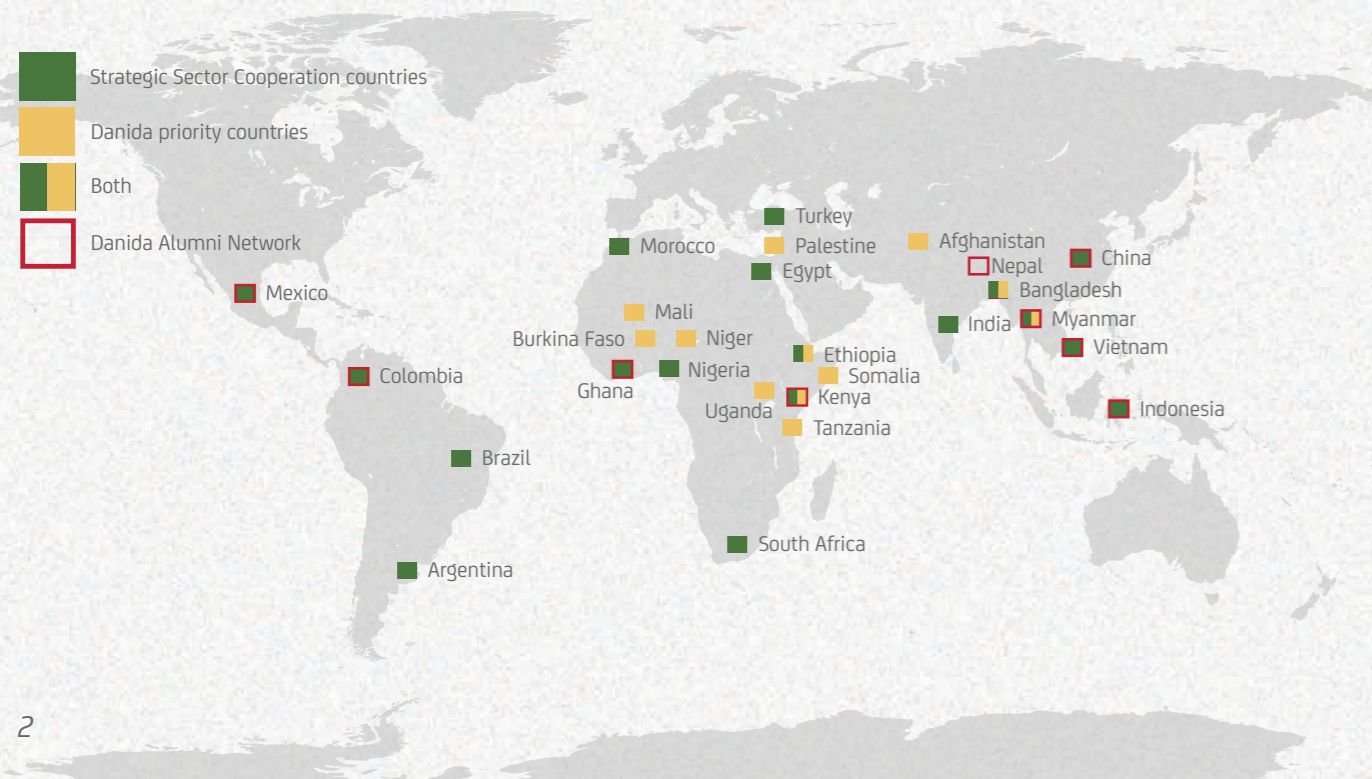
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**Danida Fellowship Centre**  
*Sustaining development through research and learning*

# LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL

Danida Fellowship Centre supports sustainable development and equal opportunities through training and learning programmes, collaborative research projects, networking and knowledge sharing in the developing and growth countries prioritized by Danida, Denmark's development cooperation.



**P. 4** Knowledge in action

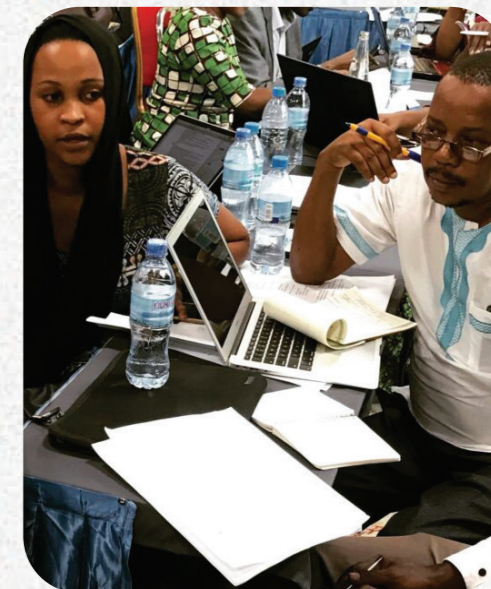
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*Denmark has longstanding experience with the transition to a green economy. Through capacity building and research partnerships, we can contribute with valuable knowledge and solutions to sustainable development challenges*

**FLEMMING MØLLER MORTENSEN**

Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Minister for Nordic Cooperation

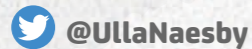
## KNOWLEDGE IN ACTION

Knowledge and skills must be transformed into action to add value to the society we live in. Sharing knowledge is essential for finding sustainable solutions to the challenges facing us today. However, knowledge sharing and transforming knowledge into action does not happen of its own accord. It requires a concerted effort.

At Danida Fellowship Centre, we support the creation of new knowledge and skills. We aim to improve the ways in which we prepare and inspire potential change agents to channel that knowledge and those skills into action.

To support the transformation of knowledge into action, we base our learning programmes on participatory and action-oriented approaches with a focus on learning by seeing, doing and reflecting.

Our approach to learning is practical and encourages the immediate application of new competencies. In all of our learning programmes,



action planning plays a significant role with the purpose of providing the participants with direct applicable tools relevant to their work situation.

We hold in-depth dialogues with all parties on how to contextualise and tailor the learning programmes and action plans in order to provide answers to the challenges of our partner organisations. We thereby ensure strong links between ongoing change processes in the organisations and the action plans prepared by their staff.

Although organisational change is the objective we aim for, we recognize that change starts with the individual. For the individual, the inspiration for change can come from what they learn in the classroom, or from a visit to a company or public facility in their field of expertise. It can also come from meeting a peer with new solutions to similar challenges. A central part of most of our learning programmes is, therefore, to bring participants to Denmark to interact with Danish stakeholders in fields where Denmark has extensive experience and knowhow. This allows participants to gain inspiration from Danish solutions to challenges within their own fields and to explore how to tailor and adapt these solutions to their own context. The peer-to-peer exchanges foster mutual learning between Danida partners from around the world and their Danish counterparts.

Supporting the uptake of research findings is also a priority for us as this is essential for transforming the knowledge generated by research projects into action. We therefore support skills in advocacy, communication and networking because we consider these important drivers for change. Through training seminars, we strengthen the skills of researchers to communicate new knowledge to the public and we guide journalists to where they can find stories in research results for mass media outlets.

To support the development of shared solutions to complex problems, we aim to provide online and in-person platforms for knowledge sharing – across organisations, sectors, disciplines and borders. Through these platforms, of which the Danida Alumni Network is one, knowledge is shared between researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

In our new strategy, Knowledge in Action 2021-25, we describe in more detail how we plan to support the transformation of knowledge into action. By doing our part, we aim to prepare individuals to act as change agents; support organisations in institutionalizing and applying new knowledge; and foster knowledge sharing

for sustainable solutions across organisations, sectors, disciplines and borders.

In 2021 and beyond, we look forward to collaborating with all our partners in ways that transform knowledge into action.

**Ulla Næsby Tawiah**  
Director



**SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR  
SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO  
READ OUR NEW STRATEGY**

# ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND LEARNING

We support organisational change and learning by offering degree studies, learning programmes and other relevant activities to our partner organisations, primarily in Denmark's partner countries under the Strategic Sector Cooperation and in Danida priority countries.

Our support is based on the understanding that individuals matter and that, with the right knowledge, skills and motivation, individuals can become key change agents in their organisations.

We encourage the immediate application of new competencies to develop concrete and practical solutions to real life challenges. Our learning programmes are therefore based on participatory and action-oriented approaches with a focus on learning by seeing, doing and reflecting.

## ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

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

## TAILORED LEARNING PROGRAMMES

We offer 1-12 week co-created learning programmes reflecting specific identified training needs. We facilitate sector-based dialogue meetings, bringing together sector counsellors, universities and Danish partner authorities to develop and design new learning programmes. Our learning programmes are for partners in Danida financed collaborations, and they focus on sectors in which Denmark has cutting-edge knowledge and extensive experience, for example in the environment and green energy sectors. We also offer a number of cross-sectoral learning programmes.

## UNIVERSITY STUDIES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

We offer scholarships for existing degree studies or summer schools at Danish universities to partners within 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. The initiatives may be in the form of learning programmes, seminars or study tours financed by the programmes.

Our **learning support** is based on the understanding that **individuals matter**



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*This [online learning programme] has given me the knowledge I need to build alliances – and to get others to realise that we need to hurry up and get things changed before it is too late.*

## MS FLAVIA COLLAÇO

Head of the Research of Climate and Corruption Unit,  
Transparency International Brazil.

Participant in the learning programme: Strengthening Policy Dialogue – the Role of Governments, Interest Organisations and Civil Society, 2020

## 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 selected growth countries prioritized by Danida, Denmark's development cooperation.**

We manage the project cycle from the announcement of the annual calls for applications to the completion of research projects. We support the management of ongoing grants and monitor progress, and we administer study and research stays in Denmark for researchers and PhD students. We also serve 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 uptake of research results for development and change, Danida Fellowship Centre offers research communication training and facilitates knowledge dissemination and exchange.

### RESEARCH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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

### RESEARCH IN GROWTH COUNTRIES

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

We promote **long-standing research collaboration** for individual and institutional **capacity development**



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*Being part of the Building Stronger Universities programme is a real-time mentorship and knowledge exchange experience. It has strengthened the teaching and research capacity at our university and, as a result, this has increased the quality of both our MSc and PhD courses.*

**BIUBWA ALLY**

PhD student, State University of Zanzibar

Research project: Environmental Sustainability of Hotels in Zanzibar. Building Stronger Universities: Works Package 1, Environmental Public Health

# 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. 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 26,000 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, online fora and exclusive alumni opportunities, members of the global Danida Alumni Network can stay in touch with each other, with 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 & 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 knowhow.

## 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.

A unique **global network** of **professionals trained from Denmark**



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*I firmly believe that as long as we work together we can all create great change in our communities.*

**PETER OKWOKO, DANIDA ALUMNI PRIZE WINNER 2020**

CEO Takataka Plastics, Uganda

Building Stronger Universities: Master of Science in Innovative Communication Technologies and Entrepreneurship, Aalborg University, 2017

## 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, green growth and global vaccines to 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.

We see communication as an amplifier and a powerful driver for reaching the objectives and goals of the programmes and projects we support. We therefore promote communication as a support tool - a forceful driver of change - to deepen the impact of research projects and learning programmes. We organise communication seminars that facilitate mutual learning and knowledge sharing among partners and shareholders, particularly on using communication as a tool to engage with the public and with policy makers.

### ORGANISATION

Danida Fellowship Centre has a permanent staff of 24 and is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Our Fellowship Centre is located in the heart of Frederiksberg close to the centre of Copenhagen. Here we provide accommodation for the research and learning programme fellows in our hostel or in suitable alternatives close to their 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.

In August 2021, the Danida Fellowship Centre's administration will move to the city of Holbæk, approximately 60 kilometers outside of Copenhagen.

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

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*Research is of no use to people if it is not communicated, so getting the tools and skills that will help you make your research findings known to the public is important.*

**EVA SENAM DZEGBLOR**  
Phd student, University of Ghana

Participant in Bridging the Gap: Science for the Public, December 2020.  
Research Project: Domestic Security Implications of UN Peacekeeping led by Danish Institute for International Studies, DIIS

# WHAT WE DID IN 2020

**2020 was a challenging year for Danida Fellowship Centre, as it was for people and organisations throughout the world. The COVID-19 pandemic stopped us from conducting our activities the way we have in the past, but also inspired us to find new solutions to the challenges facing us. The COVID-19 crisis reminded us of the necessity to innovate and to think outside the box. As we move on, we will remember how important it is to create an environment that is conducive for innovative thinking.**

## LEARNING PROGRAMMES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we could not implement the greater part of our in-person training courses in 2020. Only eight in-person training courses in Denmark were fully or partly implemented, six were cancelled, nine were postponed. Two in-person training courses were held in Burkina Faso for partners from francophone West Africa.

The challenges, however, also inspired us to develop new methods. Twenty training courses were redesigned and implemented as online courses, and 49 students attended online summer school programmes run by Copenhagen and Aarhus Universities. From our experiences, we conclude that although online training cannot adequately replace in-person training, it can be an excellent complement to in-person training. It can also play a vital role in the preparation of in-person learning and training modules and in their

follow-up. Online elements in blended learning programmes are therefore here to stay – also post COVID.

## RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected our research management portfolio. Travel restrictions stalled the progress of many research projects, affecting in country field visits and exchange visits between countries. Up-start meetings for new research projects had to be conducted online. A common piece of feedback on online meetings was that while it was relatively easy to discuss the organisation and planning of an already agreed strategy in online meetings, they were inadequate for strategy discussions or for meetings, where the possibilities for new partnerships were to be explored. Some research projects also experienced that a number of short online planning meetings spread out in time were more productive than, for example, a two days intensive in-person planning workshop. The short and spaced meetings allowed all participants to digest and reflect on issues discussed at one meeting before the next meeting began.

Towards the end of 2020, we introduced a new online application system for research project applications in 2021 and onwards with the aim of digitising and improving the user friendliness of our services.

## SYNERGIES AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR ALL

In 2020, we developed a new strategy for 2021-2025. The title of the new strategy is “Knowledge in Action”. The inspiration for this new strategy came from inputs by the Board of Danida Fellowship Centre and from online consultations with partners from around the world. The new strategy also builds on previous experiences of how Danida Fellowship Centre supported the transformation of the knowledge gained through our activities into action in Danida partner organisations and communities.

2020, a three-year “Knowledge in Action” grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled us to begin supporting knowledge sharing training and events with the objective of securing better up-take of research results.

Our Bridging the Gap – Science for the Public training workshops for researchers and journalists about the communication of research results were redesigned for online training. They were successfully implemented in two versions – one for Danish researchers and one for research partners from around the world. We also piloted a number of online Danida alumni webinars, in which some

alumni members shared their knowledge with other alumni, and we streamed the Danida Alumni Prize 2020 directly on Facebook. The Danida Alumni Prize was awarded to Peter Okwoko, MSc in Innovative Communication Technologies and Entrepreneurship, Aalborg University, 2017, for his quick, highly innovative and sustainable response to the COVID-19 crisis.



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WATCH OUR VIDEOS  
FROM 2020**