

# Call for Applications 2022 – Development research

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**Note: Updated by 16 November 2021**

**Text addition in section 2.2, yellow marking**

## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark’s international development cooperation. While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 constitute an overall framework for development cooperation and research, Denmark’s Strategy for Development Cooperation “The World We Share” constitutes the thematic framework for this call for research proposals. “The World We Share” also emphasizes the importance of development research collaboration between Danish universities and the research community in the Global South to generate knowledge and capacity as well as to contribute to creativity and innovation.<sup>1</sup>

Within this framework, the MFA invites **Phase 1 applications** from Danish research institutions for grants related to development research with partners in the Global South.<sup>2</sup> Phase 1 is the first step of a process in which applicants submit **project ideas** leading to prequalification. Phase 2 is the submission of a full application by those selected in Phase 1 (“prequalified”). Partnerships contributing to inter-disciplinary and gender sensitive research with a large role for research institutions in the Global South are strongly encouraged to apply for these grants.

The total allocation available for development research funding in 2022 is approximately DKK 200 million. Funding is conditional on approval by the Danish Parliament of the 2022 Finance Bill.

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<sup>1</sup> [Denmark’s Strategy for Development Cooperation “The World We Share” 2021-2025](#), August 2021

<sup>2</sup> It is not possible to apply for an extension project of a previous grant but an application can build on a previous/ongoing MFA supported development research project.

The deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications is **25 February 2022 at 13:00hrs CET**. Applications must be submitted in English and electronically via the e-application system, [SurveyMonkey Apply \(SMA\)](#).

Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) administers the MFA's support to development research. For questions concerning the application procedures and in general relating to this Call for applications, please contact the Research Management Team at DFC at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

An information meeting concerning this Call will be held online at 10:00hrs CET on 1 December 2021. For more details concerning the information meeting, please refer to [DFC's website](#). At the same webpage other relevant information can be accessed, e.g. advice on how to make a good application, and guidance to the e-application system.

## 2. Eligible countries and research themes

### 2.1. Climate change, nature and the environment

Making progress towards the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations in Agenda 2030 requires renewed research efforts, particularly to understand the causes and consequences of global warming and environmental degradation. An action agenda on climate change, nature and the environment is outlined in the development cooperation strategy "The World We Share" (2021-25), which constitutes the thematic framework for this call for research proposals.

For all proposals, it is envisaged that research will be conducted in collaboration with the appropriate authorities (in Denmark and overseas) and with Danish Embassy teams.

Research implemented in more than one of the eligible countries within the same theme can be considered. In such cases, the proposals must pay careful attention to the benefits (and complexity) of comparative research involving several countries under the same project frame.

### 2.2 Research in countries with expanded development cooperation with Denmark

The following theme outlines topics that may be investigated in selected countries with an **expanded** development cooperation with Denmark. In 2022, these countries are: **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Palestine, Uganda and Tanzania**.<sup>3</sup>

There is an urgent need to transition towards low carbon development pathways, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting nature and improving the management of the environment, while adapting to climate change by increasing resilience in the face of higher temperatures, sea level rise, extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and storms, etc. Environmental stresses may result in intensified conflict over access to and use of resources, as well as to displacement and flows of refugees. Demographic factors as well as the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls may also have a significant impact **on environmental stresses**. Improving the

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<sup>3</sup> As a consequence of security assessments and high risk ratings, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Somalia have not been included in the list of eligible countries.

governance of natural resources and institutional strengthening are important considerations in many countries and regions.

“Nature based solutions” entail reducing emissions and improving community livelihoods through better ecosystem conservation and natural resource management. In terms of adaptation to climate change, tackling the scarcity of water resources, impacts on human health and the introduction of “climate smart” agricultural techniques to reduce food insecurity, as well as the regeneration and protection of biological diversity are critical. At the same time, measures to mitigate climate change are required, particularly focused on transitioning towards clean and renewable energy as well as more efficient use of energy for domestic purposes and in industries, transport, etc.

### **2.3 Research in countries with targeted development cooperation with Denmark**

The following themes cover topics that may be investigated in selected countries with a **targeted** development cooperation with Denmark through specific strategic sector cooperation (SSC) programmes<sup>4</sup>:

The **energy sector** transition in **Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa and Vietnam**. Social, economic and technological assessments are required to understand the factors determining the development of renewable energy, including investigation of overall planning and modelling to increase power sector capacities and diversify supplies, as well as topics such as access to electricity, energy efficiency and the establishment of smart grids.

Enhancing **water resource management** in **Ghana and South Africa**. Understanding innovation in the context of adaptation and resilience to climate change, including analyses of groundwater supplies, demand factors and reduced water losses, infrastructure improvements and resource planning to ensure service provision, wastewater regulation, etc. Research may combine social and natural science perspectives, taking institutional factors into account.

International efforts to design and build **sustainable cities** in **Indonesia, Kenya and South Africa**. Investigation of the processes determining the transformation of urban landscapes, transport and infrastructure with a particular focus on waste management as well as innovation to promote recycling and the circular economy in urban development. Research into institutional factors may be particularly important.

**Food and agriculture** in **Indonesia, Kenya and Vietnam**. Investigations focusing on food quality, safety measures and legislation, through strengthening capacities for regulation and product control along value chains, as well as the promotion of “one health” approaches focused on reduced antibiotic use, improved hygiene and disease control. Sustainable livelihoods perspectives will be particularly important.

## **3. Project duration and grant**

The expected duration of research projects is up to 5 years within a maximum grant of DKK 10 million for each project.

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<sup>4</sup> Further information about the SSC programmes in each country can be obtained [here](#).

## **4. Main applicant**

Only universities or research-based institutions nationally registered in Denmark are eligible to submit an application. The application must be submitted by the researcher who will, if the project is granted, become the project coordinator (project lead) on behalf of the responsible institution. The project coordinator must have an affiliation with the applying institution.

At the time of submitting the application, the project coordinator must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification, documented clearly in the CV. Documented evidence that he/she is a Professor, Assistant Professor, or Associate Professor is regarded as equivalent to a PhD.

Experience shows that the project coordinator plays a key role in ensuring that a research collaboration project is successful. An effective engagement/involvement of the project coordinator will entail a substantial workload, noticeably at the beginning of the project.

It is important that the project coordinator and the research team are able to document relevant scientific merits and qualifications as well as a research background within the topic applied for. A person may appear as project coordinator on several applications, but only one project per project coordinator may be approved for funding.

## **5. Project participants**

The application must name the research partner institutions (nationally registered) and other collaborating partners in Denmark and in the country/ies where the research will be undertaken (refer to eligible countries in section 2), and if applicable partners in third countries and/or international partners. At least one researcher from each partner institution (project participant if non-academic partner) must be named in the Phase 1 application (task: Project participants in SMA).

Research collaboration is considered an important means to strengthen research capacity. In order for research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should be equal, and partners must contribute actively in preparing both Phase 1 and subsequent Phase 2 applications (if prequalified). Other important aspects of equal partnerships include joint fieldwork, joint publishing, knowledge sharing, access to databases and libraries, etc.

It is strongly encouraged to involve partners from the private sector and other relevant non-academic institutions in partner countries or in Denmark, and grant funding can be used for their direct input to project activities but not for overhead expenses. International research institutions and research institutions in countries outside Denmark and outside the partner country/ies can equally be supported by the grant for their direct input to the project activities with no overhead. All partners are encouraged to contribute with additional resources (funding or in-kind) for the projects.

Support to PhD students is considered an important part of research capacity strengthening of the partner institutions. The application should indicate the intentions for involvement of PhD students in the project. Danish PhD students may be included for their direct input to the project.

PhD students who are included in the project and from the country/ies where the research will be undertaken must seek enrolment at a university in their home country, alternatively at a university in the region. Enrolment in Denmark can only be considered if enrolment in the home country or the region is not possible, and if sufficient justification for this is provided.

## **6. Description of project idea**

The description of the **project idea** must be structured according to the indicated headings and in the stated order. All headings must be used and none added. It is important to ensure that the application is clear and focused, and although there are no requirements regarding the length of each section in the project description, the project description as a whole must not exceed 10,000 characters (including spacing) plus references.

### **Heading 1: State of the art, rationale, and relevance**

Background to project objectives:

- Based on a state of the art literature review and a broader development rationale, explain how the research will provide new knowledge in the scientific field concerned;
- Highlight how the proposed project relates to prior and on-going research in the specific field about which the applicant is aware;
- Present a rationale for the selection of the partner country/countries. If more than one partner country is chosen, the rationale for this and added-value and importance for the project should be clearly argued.

Describe the project's importance in relation to:

- Specific Sustainable Development Goal(s);
- The development strategies and specific development challenges of the involved country or countries;
- Danish development/Strategic Sector Cooperation priorities in the country
- Relevance towards the public and/or private sector where appropriate.

### **Heading 2: Objectives and results expected**

- Describe project objectives, including clearly identified research questions and research hypotheses;
- List the main expected scientific results and an indication of the research capacity strengthening.

### **Heading 3: Indicative project methodology**

Outline the methodology, research design, and approach to research capacity strengthening in general terms.

## **7. Assessment**

The Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (the FFU) in Denmark is assisting the MFA by providing professional and scientific advice in relation to research applications.

Prior to the FFU assessment in Phase 1 the Danish embassies<sup>5</sup> are invited to assess the relevance of the project idea with respect to national development priorities and Danish development cooperation/ the Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation.

The FFU assesses the Phase 1 applications on the basis of three equally weighted criteria as described below: i) scientific quality; ii) relevance; and iii) the potential effect of the research.

The scientific quality of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The research experience and qualifications of the project coordinator;*
- *The originality and innovative nature of the project, in terms of generating new knowledge.*

The relevance of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The focus of the project is well-defined with respect to the selected theme;*
- *The project responds to national development priorities relevant for Danish development cooperation/Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation;*
- *Opportunities for enhanced public and private sector development.*

The effect of the research is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The potential direct effects with respect to the selected sustainable development goal(s);*
- *The collaboration with public and private stakeholders which could promote use and uptake of the research;*
- *The contribution of the project to strengthened research capacity.*

It must be clear that the proposal constitutes a genuine research project rather than being registration of data, commissioned research, a product development scheme, a demonstration project, technology transfer, consultancy, or development project.

Research applications must pay attention to the “legitimacy” of the research, notably in so far as more inclusive approaches appear to be needed in order to ensure that gender bias and social inequities are tackled in the research. More reflections on this as well as a justification of the gender composition of the research team will be required in Phase 2, in case of prequalification.

In addition, applicants are encouraged to consider the potential of inter-/transdisciplinarity in the research, e.g. crossing natural and social science boundaries.

On the basis of the FFU assessment, the MFA determines which applicants will be invited to apply in Phase 2 of the application process. In Phase 2 the feasibility of the proposed research project will also be a criterion for assessment. Refer to section 12: Useful links for Phase 2 Invitation and guidelines from 2021.

International peer reviewers are involved in the assessment of scientific quality only in Phase 2. The final scientific quality assessment is conducted by the FFU and approved by the Innovation Fund

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<sup>5</sup> In countries with Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation the sector counsellor will consult the relevant Danish authorities during the assessment. Please refer to section 12: Useful links: “Guide to the role of sector counsellors”.

Denmark, cf. § 5, subsection 2 of the Act on Innovation Fund Denmark no. 306 of March 29, 2014, amended in Act no. 384 §35 of April 26, 2017.

If the total number of qualified applications exceed the available funding allocation, the MFA will select the best projects based on the FFU assessment of the above criteria. If and when required, the MFA will conduct a hearing in accordance with § 19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

The MFA may make the processing of new applications by the project coordinator conditional on compliance with the terms and conditions of previous MFA grants.

## 8. Application process

<b>Phase 1 – 2022</b>	<b>February</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Phase 1 applications: <b>25 February 2022 13:00hrs CET</b></p>
	<b>March</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections Embassy assessment of relevance Applicant hearing, if and when required (§ 19 of the Danish Public Administration Act)</p>
	<b>April - May</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">The FFU assessment of applications Selection by the MFA - prequalification Reply to applicants Invitation and instructions to a full Phase 2 application</p>
<b>Phase 2 – 2022/23</b>	<b>August</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Phase 2 applications: <b>19 August 2022 13:00hrs CET</b> DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections</p>
	<b>September - October</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peer reviewing and applicant hearing</p>
	<b>November</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">The FFU assessment of Phase 2 applications</p>
	<b>December</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Innovation Fund Denmark’s approval of FFU’s scientific quality assessment MFA selection Reply to applicants Letters of Commitment for approved projects</p>

	January - February	Agreement on budget, etc. <b>Letters of Grant</b>
	February -	<b>Endorsement of Letter of Grant and project start up (projects must be initiated in 2023)</b>

## 9. Project costs

In the Phase 1 application an estimate of the grant applied for must be indicated. The total grant is maximum DKK 10 million for a five-year period. Other funding sources and an estimated total project cost should be indicated.

The budget allocation between the involved research institutions in Denmark and in country/ies where the research will be undertaken must be balanced. International research institutions are not included in the calculation and PhD expenses for stays in Denmark should be included in the partner country/ies share.

For international research institutions, partners in third countries, national authorities, private sector partners, and other non-academic partners, the budget can only include salaries and travel expenses covering their direct input to the project activities, and no administration fees can be covered. These costs are not included when calculating the budget shares for Danish and partner country institutions.

### Eligible costs

It will be possible to apply for funding for the following budget items:

- Salaries and emoluments;
- Tuition Fees and educational grants to PhD students from country/ies where the research will be undertaken;
- Expenses for trips abroad and fieldwork;
- Project and research materials and equipment;
- Publication, dissemination and communication;
- Administration fees (overhead);
- Study stays in Denmark of PhD students;
- External audit.

## 10. E-application system

Submission of a Phase 1 application must be done via the [e-application system SMA](#), and from the SMA account of the prospective project coordinator. A video tutorial for the Phase 1 2021 application can be found [here](#).

For new users, it is necessary to create an SMA account, and once this step is completed, the programme “Call for Applications 2022 – Development research” can be accessed. It is possible to invite collaborators to join the online application process, once the application is created in SMA.

After submitting the application, the applicant will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt. It is also possible to see whether an application has been submitted or not under “My applications”. If any doubt occurs as to whether an application has been submitted or not, the applicant should send an e-mail to [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk) to enquire whether the application has been submitted. This must be done before the deadline, since applications will not be accepted after deadline.

The Phase 1 application must comprise the completed **e-application form, including CVs and endorsements.**

**CVs of project coordinator and other named project participants:** The CVs must specify the scientific qualifications, managerial skills, and experience from developing countries, and must include a list of key publications and patents relevant for the application. The length of the CVs must be no more than 2 pages per person. Signature on CVs is not required. Please note that the name and CV of the project coordinator should *only* be listed/uploaded in the task: Basic information.

**Endorsements:** The endorsements are mandatory by the Head of the responsible institution/department and project coordinator as per the e-application form.

**All tasks** in the e-application form must be completed, and the application including appendices must be written in English. Only the required appendices will be considered. The appendices must be named "CV - Name of the researcher/project participant".

It is advised not to wait until the last minute before deadline to submit the application to account for any unforeseen issues on the applicant’s side.

## 11. Obligations

Applicants should familiarize themselves with the following before using the e-application system and submitting an application.

### **The responsibility of the applying institution**

The applying institution is responsible for ensuring that all information in the e-application is correct, that the required appendices are uploaded with the e-application, that the contents of the appendices are correct and that the e-application has been submitted before the set deadline of the Call.

It is not possible to make corrections to an e-application after it has been submitted, except for corrections related to personal information, such as change of e-mail address.

In the event of any subsequent substantive changes affecting the submitted application submitted, the applying institution must immediately notify the Research Management Team at DFC at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

The application must reflect possible legal, regulatory or ethical issues and considerations, including required standards or authorization requirements (such as production standards, quality systems, scientific ethics, data handling and protection, use of animals), as well as research permits, provision of information to relevant authorities, etc., and a plan for obtaining these.

### **Rejection of applications without substantive consideration**

An application will be rejected by DFC without substantive consideration by the FFU and the MFA if the requirements concerning the eligibility of applicants and countries, the application format and attachments, and the deadlines as set out in these guidelines are not met.

DFC will not obtain additional information from applicants after the deadline, even if the missing information results in an administrative rejection of the application.

Requirements for the application to be considered by the FFU and the MFA:

- The application must be submitted by a nationally registered university or research based institution in Denmark.
- The proposed project coordinator applying on behalf of the responsible institution must at least hold a PhD or equivalent at the time of applying.
- The application must be submitted via the e-application system SMA
- The application must be submitted within the set deadline;
- The application must include correct CV of the project coordinator.
- All attachments must be complete and successfully uploaded, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this;
- The application must be endorsed by the project coordinator and the head of responsible institution. Names of endorsers must match the names of project coordinator and head of institution.
- If an endorsement is provided by another person on behalf of, and by mandate from, a head of institution, this must be noted in the comment for the endorsement;
- The application must include at least one nationally registered research partner in an eligible country.

### **Storage of information and data protection**

When the e-application system is used, the system will automatically register the applicant's identity, IP address, and the time at which the application was created or last edited. All personal data will be processed, stored and deleted in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and [DFC Privacy Policy](#). We also refer to the [privacy policy of Innovation Fund Denmark](#) being the institution approving the scientific quality assessment made by the FFU in the subsequent Phase 2 of the application process.

### **Technical disclaimer**

DFC is obliged to inform prospective applicants of any system errors that make the e-application system unavailable, affecting the applicant's possibility of submitting e-applications within set deadlines. Information regarding such unavailability or other unforeseen events will be posted on [DFC's website](#).

DFC accepts no liability for incorrect information due to software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, or for any claims for damages due to incorrect use of the e-application system.

### **Other data which may be obtained by official bodies**

The MFA and the FFU reserve the right to obtain information about any previous and current applications an applicant may have submitted to the FFU, and this information may be included in processing of the application.

In the event that project funding has been or will be applied for from elsewhere, the MFA and the FFU reserve the right to obtain information as to whether the amount has been granted.

### **Use of funding for other purposes**

The MFA may, at its discretion, decide that a proportion of the funding available is to be used for other research cooperation.

### **Announcement**

Once the submitted Phase 1 applications have been processed, an announcement will be made on [DFC's website](#), as to who have been invited to submit a Phase 2 application. In support of that announcement, the following information may be published on the internet: applicant name, title, workplace, title of application, and expected application amount. The purpose of this is to enable applicants to apprise themselves of other prospective programme applicants and research activities and possibly form their own networks with a view to submitting joint applications.

Information about applicants who are not invited to submit a Phase 2 application may be disclosed in the event that access is applied for according to the Danish Public Records Act (Offentlighedsloven). Access to such information may be granted in the form of lists of who has applied and for what purpose (applicant names and application titles). Applicants should, therefore, ensure that their application title does not reveal information about the activity that they wish to keep out of the public domain.

## **12. Useful links**

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Country policies](#)

[The Consultative Research Committee \(FFU\)](#)

[Guide to the role of sector counsellors \(in countries with Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation\)](#)

[Guide to making a good application by FFU](#)

[Guide to the e-application system SurveyMonkey Apply  
Phase 2 Invitation and guidelines 2021 \(for reference\)](#)