



# Call for research applications 2024 – Climate change action and reducing inequity

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## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark’s international development cooperation. The mandate to provide support to development research is explicitly stated in §7 of the Danish Law on International Development Cooperation with the purpose to strengthen research capacity and generate new knowledge in developing countries. “The World We Share”, Denmark’s current development cooperation strategy, highlights the importance of partnerships between Danish universities and the research community in the Global South. The strategy furthermore sets clear goals for development cooperation funding targeting climate, nature and the environment, including regarding climate adaptation and climate mitigation initiatives.<sup>1</sup> The thematic focus of calls for development research projects have since 2020 focused on climate change.

The MFA invites applications from Danish research institutions for grants related to development research with partners in the Global South. The application round consists of two phases. Phase 1 is the first step of a process in which applicants submit an application presenting the **project idea** leading to prequalification. Phase 2 is the submission of a full application by those selected in Phase 1 (“prequalified”).

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<sup>1</sup> The Government has proposed a number of green targets for development cooperation in 2024. At least 30 % of development cooperation must be allocated to climate aid, and at least 60 % of climate aid must focus on climate adaptation. At least 5 % of development cooperation must be allocated to efforts for the environment and biodiversity. Furthermore, at least 80 % of funding for the business instruments must be green. The classification of development cooperation as green is based on the use of Environment and Rio markers. These are a set of policy markers used to indicate a project or activity’s relevance towards five objectives: biodiversity; desertification; environment; climate change adaptation; and climate change mitigation.

The MFA is committed to promoting equal opportunities for all and diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, interested parties from all backgrounds regarding ethnicity, religion, gender identity, age, or disability status are encouraged to submit research applications.

The total allocation available for development research funding in 2024 application round is approximately DKK 200 million. The grants for the Phase 2 applications selected in the 2024 application round will be funded under the 2025 appropriation and final granting is thus conditional on the approval by the Danish Parliament of the 2025 Finance Bill.

The deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications is **7 February 2024 at 13:00hrs CET**. Applications must be submitted in English and electronically via the e-application system, [SurveyMonkey Apply \(SMA\)](#).

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

An online information meeting concerning this call is scheduled for 20 November 2023 at 14:00hrs CET. For more details concerning the information meeting, please refer to [our website](#) where other relevant information can be accessed, e.g. advice on how to make a good application (an updated version is expected to be available after the information meeting in the end of November) and guidance to the e-application system.

## **2. Research theme: Climate change action and reducing inequity**

Research plays a critical role in generating knowledge and informing societal understanding of how to drive transformational sustainable development. Contextually relevant and impactful research is essential for guiding decision-makers and communities in effectively addressing both existing and emerging sustainable development challenges. Under the title 'Climate change action and reducing inequity', this call for proposals invites research projects that explores the intersections between climate change action, inequity and equity. Research must identify problems of equity in suggested climate change solutions and highlight key dilemmas for climate action. Applicants are invited across all disciplines to submit proposals that could, but are not limited to, explore the following sub-themes:

**Climate action, decision-making and avoiding exclusion:** Climate change exacerbates existing social and environmental inequalities and exclusion. Climate action involves changes to the use of land and other natural resources, which can create conflicting claims and imply unequal distribution of environmental burdens and benefits. Research is invited to explore these dynamics of climate action and investigate ways in which climate actions can divert conflicts and uphold land and natural resource rights, including aspects related to cultural heritage, of indigenous and local communities. Proposals can investigate pathways to inclusive governance models and decision-making processes to ensure diverse representation and participation of all stakeholders, including marginalised groups, in shaping climate action policies and strategies.

**Transitions to a low-carbon economy and justice:** The transition to a low carbon economy is necessary and high on the policy agenda. Yet, it is not necessarily fair and equitable for workers and communities affected by the transition, at times leading to local conflicts, contestations, and conflicting claims. Proposals are invited to examine the social and economic implications of transitioning to a low-carbon economy, including potential conflicts, with a particular emphasis on questions of justice and injustice in creating opportunities for employment and economic development. Research can assist in identifying strategies for climate mitigation action, including technological solutions that foster inclusive, conflict-sensitive, and sustainable development.

**Climate change resilience and adaptation:** Climate change poses significant challenges to agriculture, food production and water resources, including shifts in weather patterns, increased frequency of extreme events and changes in precipitation, all of which disrupt agricultural production and water management practices. Adaptation is inevitable, even if resilience is strengthened, but will not necessarily be equitable, inclusive, or just. Proposals are invited to explore agricultural production and water management practices, indigenous knowledge systems and practices as well as technological innovations in adapting and building resilience to climate change. Research can explore both prospects for and constraints to climate change resilience and adaptation policies and actions.

**Research principles:**

In addition to the thematic focus of the present call, applicants are asked to carefully consider a number of guiding principles that underpin Danida's support to development research:

- Development research aims to produce high-quality scientific knowledge that addresses sustainable development challenges. It emphasises the practical application of research findings, with a focus on informing policy and practice for transformational change.
- Development research pays attention to contextual relevance and stakeholder engagement. It recognises the importance of addressing the specific needs and priorities of the countries where the research takes place. It pays close attention to the local context and involves relevant communities, to ensure that research is 'fit for purpose' and responsive to their concerns and insights.
- Development research acknowledges the multidimensional nature of sustainable development challenges. Interdisciplinary approaches are often required to bridge understandings of and tackle complex issues, considering interconnected factors and systems that influence sustainable development outcomes.
- Development research aligns with the principle of leaving no one behind and takes a human rights-based approach. It ensures that research practices are consistent with international human rights norms and principles. It is gender-responsive, inclusive towards vulnerable populations and engages with local knowledge. Potentially negative consequences and outcomes for populations affected by the research are carefully considered.

- Development research recognises the crucial role of researchers and universities in the Global South as providers of scientific knowledge and innovation, research-based education, and advice to society. It integrates local knowledge systems and involves researchers and institutions that are instrumental in generating and applying knowledge in the Global South.
- Development research requires equitability in research partnerships. Equitable partnerships prioritise mutuality, reciprocity, respect and mutual learning between research partners. It acknowledges and addresses power differences and inequalities in North-South relations, striving for fairness in research partnerships.
- Development research critically examines development efforts to learn from mistakes. Critical research is an essential component in the iterative process of improving development cooperation, structures and partnerships. It contributes to an ethos of learning to design more effective and impactful development engagements.

### **3. Eligible countries**

The geographic focus of the call for research proposals invites applications that are focusing on countries where Denmark has expanded development cooperation as well as selected countries where Denmark engages in targeted development cooperation through strategic sector cooperation. All applications are invited to address the overarching research theme however, please note that countries with targeted development cooperation, differ by having a country-specific thematic focus (further explained in section 3.2).

Research can be undertaken in more than one of the eligible countries within the same theme. 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. Furthermore, based on a single country, it is possible to integrate regional perspectives to the topic in focus. In such cases, a strong justification and anchorage of the project to the country of focus must be described.

#### **3.1 Countries with expanded development cooperation**

In countries with expanded partnerships, Denmark implements comprehensive development activities and engages with a number of relevant stakeholders and actors across society.

In 2024, the countries in which Denmark engages in expanded development cooperation, and which are eligible for research proposals, include: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Palestine, Uganda, Somalia (incl. Somaliland), and Tanzania. It is of utmost importance that research proposals elaborate on security considerations and engage in risk mitigation planning when justifying the choice to conduct research in countries where there are heightened security concerns. This is of particular concern for proposals regarding Burkina Faso and Palestine.

Research proposals covering countries with expanded development cooperation should be developed based on the overarching thematic focus outlined above.

### 3.2 Countries with targeted development cooperation

In countries with targeted partnerships, Denmark's involvement may be narrower and focus on specific issues of particular relevance to Danish interest and expertise. In these countries, research proposals are invited to address the topics that are linked to the relevant strategic sector cooperation programmes. The selection gives priority to countries in Africa and to countries of lower income status, which also fall within the overarching theme of the call. Please, note that applications focusing on countries that **only** feature as targeted partnership countries **must** fall within the country-specific thematic focus. Within the country-specific thematic focus, applicants are welcome to address the suggested sub-themes of the overarching research theme of the 2024 call. In Bangladesh, Kenya and Ethiopia, which have both types of partnership, it is possible to apply to both the broader research theme or the relevant targeted themes.

In 2024, applications focusing on targeted partnership countries may fall within the following sub-headings of the research theme:

- **Energy sector transition** in Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, and Vietnam.
- **Enhancing water resource management** in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa.
- **Sustainable cities and waste management** in Indonesia, Kenya, and South Africa and Vietnam.
- **Food and agriculture** in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Vietnam.

Links to information concerning the strategic sector cooperation programmes can be found [here](#).  
(inserted 24 November 2023)

## 4. 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. A possibility of a no-cost extension of up to 2 years apply to these grants.

## 5. Main applicant

Only universities or research-based institutions registered in Denmark and with a capacity to (co-) supervise Ph.D. students are eligible to submit an application. The application must be submitted on behalf of the responsible institution by the researcher who will be the project coordinator (project lead) if the application is successful. It is possible to share the project leadership with a scientific co-coordinator (secondary). The main project coordinator and the co-coordinator must both have an affiliation with the applying institution.

At the time of submitting the application, the project coordinator(s) must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification, documented clearly in the CV. Documented evidence that the applicant is a Professor, Assistant Professor, or Associate Professor is regarded as equivalent to a PhD. Applications from younger researchers in general, and women in particular, are encouraged.

Experience shows that the project coordinators play a key role in ensuring that a research collaboration project is successful. It is important to note that an effective engagement/involvement

of the project coordinator(s) will entail a substantial workload, particularly at the beginning of the project.

It is important that the project coordinator(s) 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 (or co-coordinator) on several applications, but maximum one project per project coordinator can be approved for funding.

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, in which case it must be clearly stated in the application.

## **6. 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 (see section 3 on eligible countries), and if applicable, partners in third countries and/or other 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 the e-application system SMA, refer to section 11).

The gender composition of the team must be carefully considered both concerning researchers from institutions in Denmark and from institutions in partner country/ies.

The application must include at a minimum one nationally registered research institution (primary partner), in the country/ies where the research will be undertaken, not including national branches of international research organisations, and possibly international partners, public authorities and private sector partners (secondary partners) as relevant.

It is encouraged to involve secondary partners, i.e. from the private sector<sup>2</sup> 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 (including salaries and travel) 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. 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 the country where the research

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<sup>2</sup>For inclusion of private companies in a research proposal, attention must be paid to the De minimis rules, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/de-minimis-rule-exemption-of-small-amounts-of-state-aid-from-notification.html>

will be undertaken, alternatively at a university in the region. Enrolment in Denmark can only be considered if enrolment in the country where the research will be undertaken or in the region is not possible, and if sufficient justification for this is provided. PhD students and postdocs in Denmark may be included in the project for their direct input to the project (not tuition fees and educational grants).

More broadly, research collaboration is another important means to strengthen research capacity. Capacity strengthening is thus not limited to the education of PhDs, but also includes joint fieldwork, joint development of methodologies, co-publishing with South partners as first authors, joint fieldwork, regular knowledge exchange, access to databases and libraries, etc. In order for research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should build on the principles of equity (see section 13, useful links), and partners must contribute actively to the preparation of both Phase 1 and subsequent Phase 2 applications (if prequalified).

When planning the project, attention should be paid to the conditions regarding employment and salaries for involved researchers. Salaries for project researchers must either be compensation/replacement salary paid to the institution for the time the staff allocates to the project, or compensation payment for over-time, either hourly or performance based. In the case of over-time payment, the accepted maximum overtime workload is 25% (3 months) per calendar year.

## **7. Description of the 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 12,000 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(s) concerned;
- Highlight how the proposed project relates to prior and on-going relevant research in the specific field, country or region;
- 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 terms of informing decision making by policy makers and other users of research outputs in relation to:

- Addressing specific Sustainable Development Goal(s);
- Informing development strategies and specific development challenges of the involved country or countries;
- Informing Danish development/Strategic Sector Cooperation priorities in the country.

## **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;
- Briefly describe the political, institutional and socio-economic context for the research and consideration of the expected impact of this on the project results, include ethical reflections (beyond legal provisions) and possible security considerations;
- Briefly outline a strategy for engagement to inform policy and practice.

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

- Outline of research methodology, e.g. multidimensional aspects of the research problem and interdisciplinarity;
- Overall research design and approach to research capacity strengthening;
- Brief reflections on how the project promotes equity in the research partnership and gender sensitivity;
- Reflections on possible limitations and risks in research design and/or team composition and how to accommodate these.

## **8. 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.

Members of the Consultative Research Committee come from many different disciplines. Applicants must be able to explain the research proposal to someone who is a researcher and have specialist knowledge about some but not all aspects of the theme of the call. A research proposal, therefore, must be easy to understand in terms of “why and how is it research”.

Overall, it must be clear that the proposal constitutes a genuine research project rather than for example registration of data, commissioned research, a product development scheme, a demonstration project, technology transfer, consultancy, or a development project. This means that the research question and scientific contributions of the project must be clearly described.

Prior to the FFU assessment in Phase 1, the Danish embassies<sup>3</sup> are invited to assess the relevance of the project idea vis-a-vis 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.

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<sup>3</sup> In countries with Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation, the sector counsellor will consult the relevant Danish authorities during the assessment. Please refer to section 13: Useful links: “Guide to the role of sector counsellors”.



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

- *The originality and innovative nature of the project, in terms of generating new knowledge;*
- *The focus of the project is well-defined with respect to existing relevant research;*
- *The design of the project in terms of methodological, theoretical and (if relevant) interdisciplinary approach(es);*
- *The research experience and qualifications of the project coordinator(s) and research team.*

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 guiding principles for the support to development research and theme of the call;*
- *The project responds to national development priorities and is relevant for Danish development cooperation/Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation;*
- *The project is well-defined with respect to ongoing research projects/programmes in the country/region;*
- *The project is well suited for the political, socio-economic and institutional context, including the security situation.*

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) and in relation to existing development efforts;*
- *The project is positioned for use, e.g. by collaboration with public and private stakeholders which could promote use and uptake of the research findings;*
- *The contribution of the project to strengthened research capacity at individual, partnership and institutional level;*
- *The project builds on the principles of equity in the research partnership and is gender sensitive.*

Partnerships contributing to inter-disciplinary and gender sensitive research with a large role for the research institutions in the Global South are encouraged. Considerations about gender sensitivity are encouraged in all aspects of the outlined project, including composition of the research team, data collection strategies, engagement with research participants/communities and analytical framework. In phase 1, applicants are required to provide information on the gender composition of the proposed research team.

### **Security considerations and risk assessment**

Heightened security considerations pose a challenge in a number of the listed eligible countries at both national and regional level. All research applications are required to consider the security risks affecting the feasibility of research, in particular during fieldwork. Therefore, in phase 1, applicants are requested to include a preliminary risk assessment and contingency plan for their proposed research. This also include reflections on data security. The purpose of this is to ensure that all applicants have considered the potential physical and data security risks as well as mitigating measures relevant for project implementation.

Assessments should consider risks related to the geographical and thematic focus of the research and also, include other concerns that may hinder or impede project implementation (see section 13, useful links). A number of countries are considered high-risk countries from a security point of view and research applications focusing on these countries must be particularly careful to prepare thorough risk assessments and include necessary safety measures. These countries include: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Palestine, and Somalia. Risks should be focused on the physical safety of involved researchers (also in a gender sensitive perspective) from all involved countries, especially during fieldwork.

Risks such as a new global pandemic, natural disasters or high turnover of personnel should not be included, unless there is a real and relevant risk of such things happening within the project period. For risks with medium or high likelihood and impact, mitigating measures and preliminary outlines of a contingency plan must be included.

It is the responsibility of the responsible institution and partner institutions to ensure that adequate safety measures are in place for all staff involved, both staff from Denmark and staff from partnering countries. The ‘Duty of Care’ for project staff lies with the responsible institution and partner institutions, not with the MFA or DFC.

In Phase 2, it will be possible for all applicants to include additional funds in the application to cover relevant security measures. A list of eligible security measure activities and further information will be included in the guidelines for Phase 2 applications. For research in high-risk countries, security measures including as a minimum Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) and First Aid training for researchers conducting fieldwork will be mandatory.

### **Process after Phase 1**

On the basis of the FFU assessment, the best projects according to the assessment criteria above 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 13, Useful links, Phase 2 Invitation and guidelines from 2023.

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 Denmark, cf. § 5, subsection 2 of the Consolidated Act on Innovation Fund Denmark <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2021/1660> of August 12, 2021.

The applications will also be assessed by a gender specialist for gender composition of research team and the gender sensitivity of the research.

Applicant hearings will be carried out as relevant, in accordance with §19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

In the assessment of a new application by a researcher who is or has been project coordinator for another project, compliance with the terms and conditions of previous MFA grants will be considered.

## 9. Application process

Phase 1 – 2024	February- March	<p>Deadline for Phase 1 applications:  <b>7 February 2024 13:00hrs CET</b></p> <p>DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections</p> <p>Embassy assessment of relevance</p> <p>Applicant hearing, if and when required (§19 of the Danish Public Administration Act)</p>
	April - May	<p>The FFU assessment of applications and prequalification</p> <p>Reply to applicants</p> <p>Invitation and instructions to a full Phase 2 application</p>
Phase 2 – 2024/25	August	<p>Deadline for Phase 2 applications:  <b>14 August 2024 13:00hrs CEST</b></p> <p>DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections</p>
	September - October	Peer reviewing, gender assessment and applicant hearing
	November	FFU assessment of Phase 2 applications
	December	<p>Innovation Fund Denmark’s approval of FFU’s scientific quality assessment</p> <p>MFA approval of grants</p> <p>Reply to applicants</p>
	January - March	<p>Agreement on budget, etc.</p> <p><b>Letters of Grant and endorsements</b></p>
	April	<b>Official project start date is 1 April 2025</b>

## 10. 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. In the calculation of this budget distribution international research institutions and institutions in third countries are not included, and PhD expenses for stays in Denmark should be included in the partner country/ies' share of the budget.

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 overhead will 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 travel and fieldwork, incl. security measures;
- Project and research materials and equipment;
- Publication, dissemination and communication;
- Administration fees (overhead);
- Study stays in Denmark of PhD students;
- External audit.

It is possible to allocate up to DKK 100,000 within the budget frame per relevant researcher to cover costs of air tickets and insurance for accompanying family for longer field stays of more than 3 months in Denmark or partnering country. This applies to both researchers based in institutions in Denmark and in the Global South but to maximum 2 researchers per project.

## 11. E-application system

Submission of a Phase 1 application must be done via the online application system, [Survey Monkey Apply \(SMA\)](#), and from the SMA account of the prospective main project coordinator. A collection of video tutorials can be found [here on YouTube](#) (the available videos are from the 2023 application round but the instructions are still applicable).

For new users, it is necessary to create an SMA account, and once this step is completed, the programme “Call for research applications 2024 – Climate change action and reducing inequity” 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 application 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(s) 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:** It is mandatory to provide endorsements from 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".

To account for any unforeseen issues on the applicant's side, it is advised not to wait until the last minute before deadline to submit the application.

## 12. Obligations

Applicants should familiarise 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 successfully 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, 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 authorisation 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, including the requirement to write in English, 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, with the capacity to (co-)supervise PhD students;
- The proposed project coordinator(s) applying on behalf of the responsible institution must at least hold a PhD or equivalent at the time of applying;
- The project coordinator and a possible co-coordinator must be affiliated to the responsible institution;
- The application must include correct CV of the project coordinator(s);
- The application must include at least one named researcher/project participant from each listed partner institution;
- The application must include at least one nationally registered research partner (primary partner) in an eligible country/in each chosen partner country where the research will be undertaken;
- 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 be submitted via the e-application system SMA;
- The application must be submitted within the set deadline.

### **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](#). Submitted applications in Phase 2 are shared with the Innovation Fund Denmark, with the purpose of approving the scientific quality assessment. Read about the Innovation Fund Denmark's handling of data here (only in Danish): [IFD Privacy policy](#).

### **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. If a project is funded elsewhere, it cannot be funded by this funding window.

### **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.

### **Anti-corruption, anti-child labour and prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment**

Applications must comply with the following:

**Anti-Corruption:** No offer, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which could be regarded as an illegal or corrupt practice, shall be made, promised, sought or accepted - neither directly nor indirectly - as an inducement or reward in relation to any funded activities, incl. tendering, award, or execution of contracts.

**Child labour:** Abidance to any applicable national laws as well as applicable international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organisation conventions.

**Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment:** Zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) as defined in UNSG Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 and the definition of sexual harassment in UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/148. Take appropriate measures to protect people, including beneficiaries and staff, from SEAH conducted by employees and associated personnel including any sub-grantee staff and take timely and appropriate action when reports of SEAH arise.

**Anti-terrorism and restrictive measures (sanctions):** If, during the course of implementation of a project, the Responsible Institution discovers any link whatsoever with any organisation or

individual associated with terrorism, it must inform the DFC and Danish MFA immediately and explain the reasons for such link, including whether it was made or provided knowingly, voluntarily, accidentally, unintentionally, incidentally or by force.

### **Announcement**

Information about prequalified and rejected applicants in Phase 1 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.

Information about granted projects in Phase 2 will be published at the DFC's website and in the Danida Research Portal. This includes name of project coordinator, project title, DFC file number, institutional affiliation, project period, granted amount, countries, information on participating institutions, and the popular science description for the project. Therefore, applicants should only include information in these parts of their application (and reporting) which does not reveal information that they wish to keep out of the public domain.

## **13. Useful links**

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Country policies](#)

[How to notes for implementation of the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation \(um.dk\)](#)

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

[Guide to making a good application](#)

[Inclusion and equitable partnerships](#)

[Security in research projects](#)

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

[Phase 2 Invitation and guidelines 2023 \(for reference\)](#)

[Danida science engagement](#)