



CKU Pooled Fund & FoRB Window

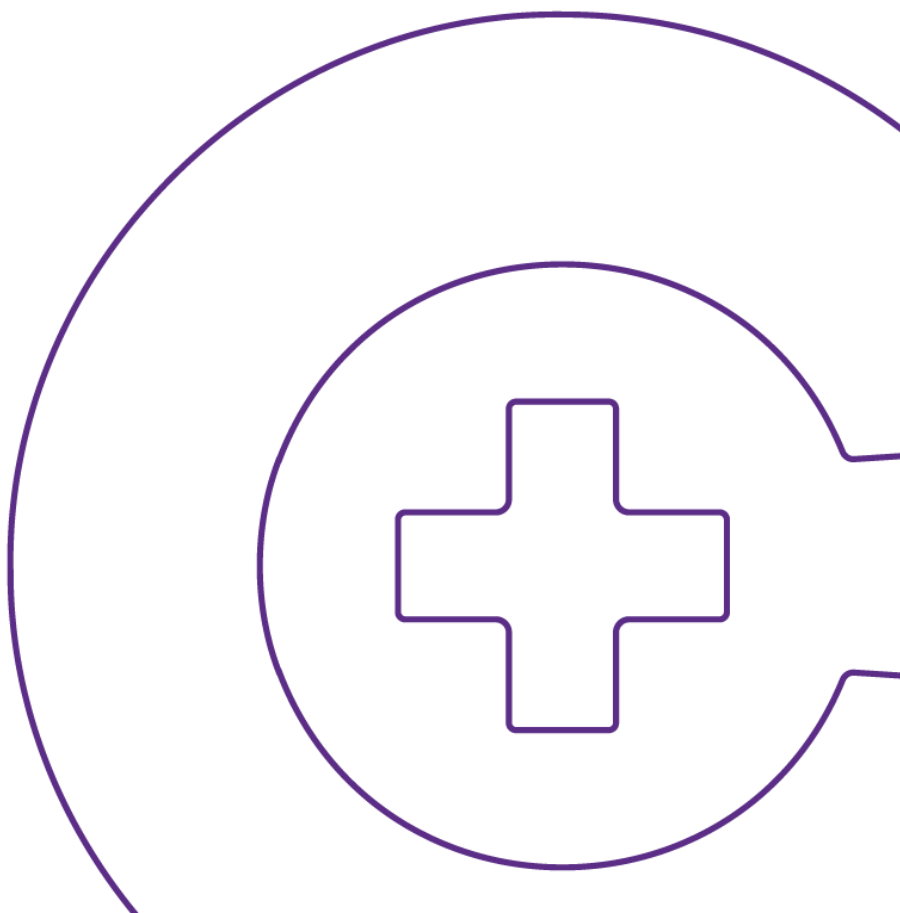
Annual Report 2021

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Introduction

In January 2021, the year was kickstarted with a major launch of a new organizational name, Center for Church-Based Development (CKU – Center for Kirkeligt Udviklingssamarbejde). Due to COVID-19, it was a virtual event, and the theme was violence against women accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than hundred representants from member organizations and various stakeholders participated in the event, which was marked by the Minister of Development Corporation as keynote speaker. The rebranding of the umbrella organization included a new core narrative and a new visual identity in the form of a new website and various promotional material including an animation video. This focus on strategic communication for further collaboration and funding resulted in a lot of attention notably in the media including a joint chronicle with the Minister on the issue of Freedom of Religion or Belief.

CKU is grateful for the collaboration notably with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the HCE as well as the FoRB Unit. The annual consultations have been very positive and

constructive both at the strategic level and at the administrative level, where much progress has been made on finalizing previous areas for follow-up. In 2021, CKU has launched comprehensive online training on PSEAH and Anti-corruption, which is made mandatory for all partners globally. Towards the end of the year, CKU extraordinarily received additional support of DKK 4 mill. for the ordinary pooled fund and DKK 1 mill. for the FoRB-Window. This was a much-valued support as CKU, through several years, has experienced a substantial unmet demand having to decline at least half of all project applications that are assessed as qualified for funding. In the long run, CKU wish to be a one-stop-shop for smaller church-based organizations channeling all their financing coming from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As for completed projects in 2021, CKU members have had a significant impact in their contexts related to gender equality, child protection, climate change and freedom of religion and belief. E.g., International Aid Services reports a 20 pct increase in number of reported female-genital mutilation cases in

Kenya and an increase to 70 pct of the prosecution rate. Viva reports that up to 77 pct of targeted children in orphanages have resumed contact with their biological families and 28 children have been reunited with their biological families. Mission East reports that families in Nepal are more resilient to climate change as 79 pct of the targeted households now have adopted climate resilient technologies. The Danish Bible Society reports that up to 90 pct of their respondents in the Middle East have a better understanding of FoRB and its intersectionality with women's and children's rights. 90 pct of the completed projects have engaged religious actors as change agents and ambassadors in their advocacy effort.

Thematic areas of focus have been that of climate change, which was the headline of the full day seminar of the Annual General Meeting in Vejle. As churches and church-based organizations, we have a special obligation to be good stewards of creation. CKU will through reviews and learning continue to investigate how we can contribute through our large global networks.

Localization and the anchoring of the CKU funded projects through local churches continues to play an important role. In 2021, CKU evaluated a global learning project that aims to mobilize churches in development and expand knowledge on the comparative advantages of working with churches in the CKU network. In this learning project, CKU works with 40 local churches in seven countries, being Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda and Tanzania, reaching a total local community of 150.000 members.

Freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) continues to play an important role as a cross cutting thematic focus and through dedicated FoRB projects funded through the FoRB-window of the CKU pooled fund. Country reports on freedom of religion or belief were produced as a tool to assist in the grasping of the FoRB situation in 11 Danish priority countries¹. At the PaRD General Annual Meeting, CKU together with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Network for Religion and Development managed to start a new initiative on freedom of religion or belief and the SDGs. In December 2021 CKU arranged an online side event to President Joe Biden's 'Summit for Democracy' with the title 'Faith actors upholding democratic values' exploring the role of religious actors in protecting and promoting civic space and democracy.

The CKU result framework established in 2017 forms the structure of most of this report. The framework collects data on: Accessibility of the CKU-pooled funds, public anchorage, cost efficiency, co-financing and institutional capacity of CKU's members, as well as the contribution of the pooled fund to strong partnerships in the Global South, advocacy, working with the SDGs, gender and FoRB. Indicators for FoRB both include funding from the CKU pooled fund and the FoRB-window.

Baseline data was collected in 2018 and the progression from that year to 2021 can be seen in appendix 3. Data is actively used in the comparative analysis of the report, but a full overview of data and targets can be seen in the appendix.

The result framework will be evaluated and adjusted during 2022/2023 as CKU develops a new five-year strategy.

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Palestine, Somalia and Uganda.

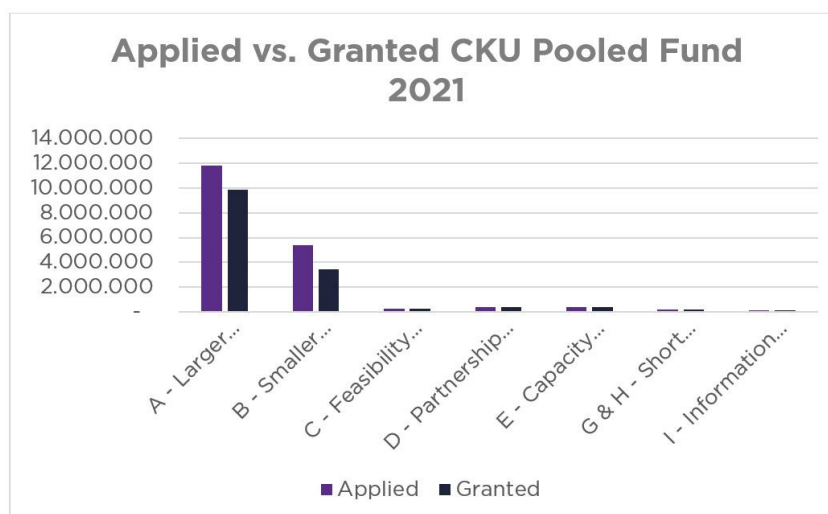


CKU Pooled Fund 2021

In this section, a brief overview of the grants given from the CKU Pooled Fund in 2021 is provided. It will also contain analysis of the distribution of grants between modalities, members, regions and DAC-countries as well as reflections on the public anchorage of the CKU Pooled Fund.

In 2021 CKU again experienced a great interest and received applications for a total of 18.643.684 DKK, divided between 45 applications, including 26 for projects and 19 for activities. This is less than 2020 in terms of the amount applied for (2020: 23.457.191 DKK), but

the same in terms of number of applications (2020: 45 applications). The difference is that while members applied for 28 projects in 2020, the members only applied for 26 projects in 2021. As can be seen in the section on the Window for Freedom of Religion or Belief, more member organizations have now taken on the agenda of promoting FoRB, which is probably the main explanation for the smaller amount applied for in the ordinary Pooled Fund in 2021. Finally, this variance from year to year is normal and the slight decline this year is not considered an expression of declining interest in applying for funding from CKU.



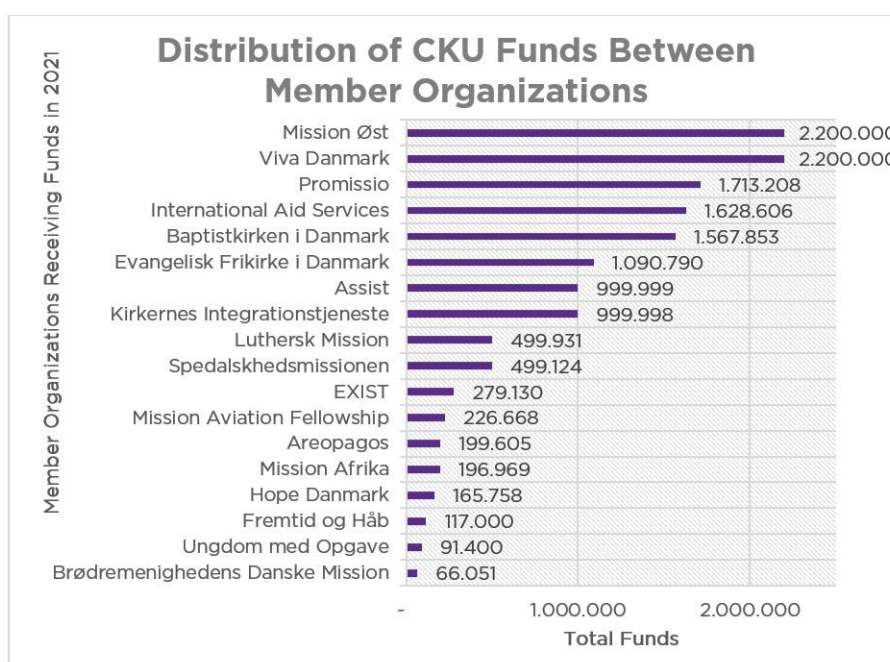
Out of the 18,6 million DKK applied for, CKU was able to grant 79 pct (In 2020 it was 46,4 pct). 21 pct did not qualify for funding and were rejected and all projects worthy of support were granted (In 2020 53,6 pct was rejected – of which 49,3 pct was rejected due to lack of funding). The main reason for the change compared to 2020 is, that CKU received an extraordinary grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 4 mill. DKK in December 2021. Without this extraordinary grant 42 pct of the amount applied for would have been rejected of which 21 pct would have been rejected due to lack of funding. Although the extraordinary grant came after the last deadline of the year and therefore could not be used strategically to encourage more members to apply for funding, CKU highly appreciates this rare opportunity to

grant all projects assessed to be qualified for funding.

Accessibility

CKU has indeed welcomed new members over the past few years, and the benefits of being part of the umbrella organization is not limited to getting access to funding. But in the longer term, the current size of the CKU Pooled Fund can make it challenging to meet the funding demand from active members, to continually provide services to non-active members and to expand the membership base further.

This may be illustrated with the graphic below showing the distribution of CKU Pooled Funds between member organizations.



As can be seen, the funds were distributed between 18 member organizations in 2021 which is the equivalent of 49% of the membership base. Eight out of the 18 recipients of grants (44%) were given to member organizations with an annual turnover of less than 3 mill. DKK. In 2018, the baseline was 37%. The slight increase

since then aligns with the efforts of the CKU secretariate to invite new members and “inactive” members to apply for funding and start building capacity in the area of church-based development.

Every year, CKU asks its member organizations to evaluate the CKU Pooled Fund. This year we received feedback from 19 organizations and the respondents were overall well satisfied with the accessibility, the guidance from the CKU secretariate and with feedback received from the assessment committee. Some member organizations request for the application formats to be further simplified, which the secretariate is aiming to address – including by developing an online application system, which would for instance cut down substantially on mandatory annexes.

Other Activities Supported by the CKU Pooled Fund

Besides the grants directly to member organizations, CKU has on behalf of its members facilitated three ongoing global learning projects² with a total expense of 2.779.053 DKK for the year 2021 which is on the same level as 2020 (2.700.408 DKK). The three learning projects are; 1. Social Accountability, 2. Church-based Diaconia and 3. Freedom of Religion or

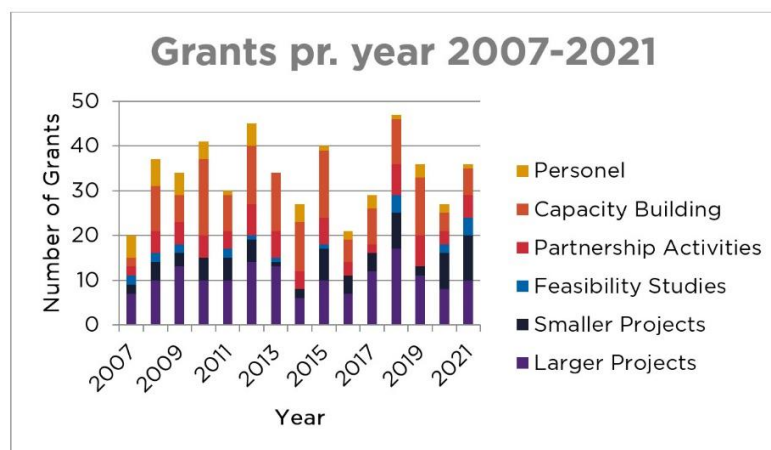
Belief. All three projects will be reported on elsewhere in this report.

Finally, as part of the CKU Pooled Fund, CKU administers the reimbursement scheme for tuition fees for children whose parents have been stationed in developing countries by private organizations and whose work is significantly involved in development or humanitarian issues. The reimbursement scheme regarding tuition fees in 2021 totals 859.709 DKK (in 2020 it was 1.405.915 DKK). The decline of the reimbursements can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic which in 2021 forced many seconded Danish nationals to return to Denmark for longer or shorter periods.

For an overview of 2021 grants please refer to Appendix 3 “Resultatramme 2021”.

Composition of grants for Member Organizations

The table below shows the number of grants to member organizations allocated since the beginning of the CKU Pooled Fund in 2007:



In 2021 a total of 39 grants (2020 was 29) were allocated, including 15 (2020 was eight) larger projects with a budget over 200.000 DKK, five

(2020 was eight) smaller projects with a budget less than 200.000 DKK, four (2020 was two) feasibility studies, five (2020 was three)

² Supporting Activities or ‘Understøttende Aktiviteter’ in Danish.

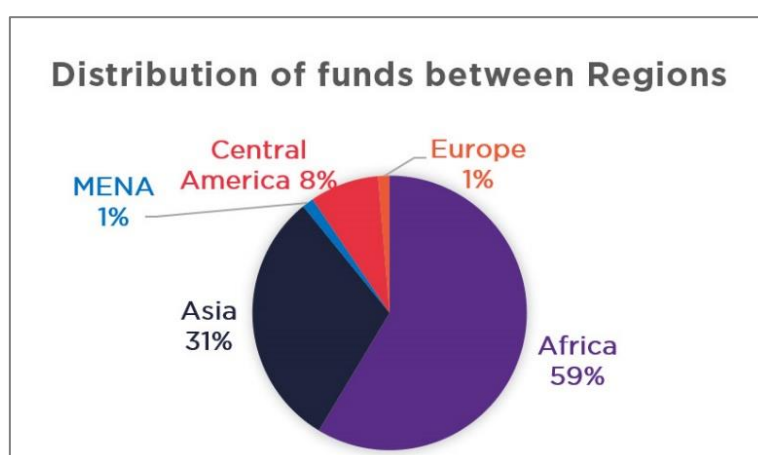
partnership activities, six (2020 was four) capacity building and network activities, one (2020 was two) short term consultant and three (2020 was two) information activities – a total of 14.742.090 DKK (2020 was 10.881.760 DKK).

As can be seen from the graphic above, the composition of grants varies from year to year. In 2021 CKU was able to grant the largest number of smaller and larger projects, since 2018 (when CKU also received an extraordinary grant of 6 mill. DKK in December). The number

of enabling activities such as capacity building, partnership activities and feasibility studies varies from year to year depending to a large degree on ability and interest from the members.

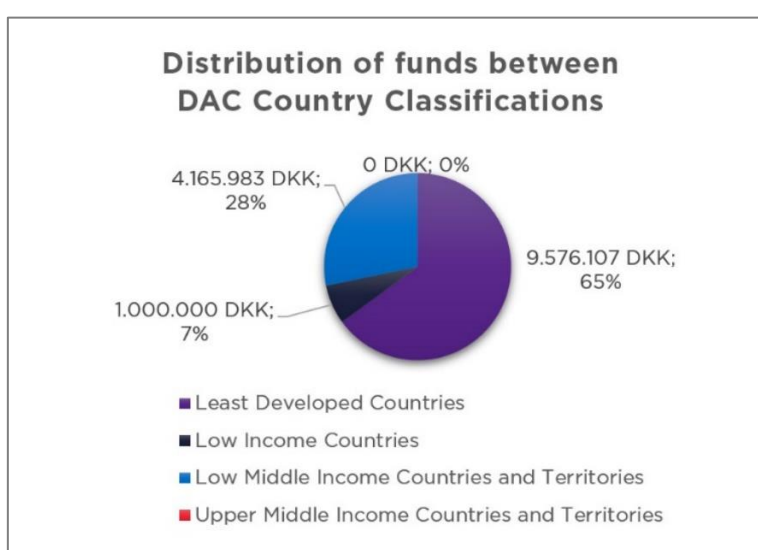
Geographic Distribution

The graphic below shows how the amount granted from the CKU Pooled Fund is distributed between the regions of the World:



Africa is the region receiving by far the largest amount of support from the CKU Pooled Fund, with Asia being second.

Below is a graphic showing the distribution of funds between the Development Aid Countries Classification:



Compared to 2020, the percentage of funding to Least Developed Countries has increased (from 49 pct in 2020 to 65 pct in 2021). Likewise funding for Low-Income Countries has gone up from 0 pct to 7 pct in 2021, and support for Low Middle-Income Countries has decreased from 49 pct in 2020 to 28 pct in 2021. In 2021 no support was given to Upper Middle-Income Countries, and CKU only grants funding for this category, if there is a strategic interest in a project, and if it can be documented that the grant benefits pockets of either particularly poor or particularly marginalized people.

The geographic distribution of funds from the CKU Pooled Fund thus continues to target the least developed countries, and as most of these countries are found in Africa and Asia these regions are also the main recipients of funds from the CKU Pooled Fund.

Communicating the results to the general public

CKU has developed a practice of granting up to 50.000 DKK for communication activities relating to either ongoing or newly concluded projects. In 2021 CKU granted three such activities:

Member Organization	Title	Budget
EXIST	Oplysning, vidensdeling og læring om indsatsen mod menneskehandel i Nigeria og i Danmark.	49.280
International Aid Services	Song Beyond Borders	49.987
Promissio	Beretninger fra et af verdens fattigste lande: En kommunikationsrejse til Liberia i februar 2022	41.229

The three activities make use of various forms of communication. Whereas Exist invited the director of the partner from Nigeria to participate in dialogue meeting with actors and stakeholders concerning human trafficking in Denmark, International Aid Services collaborated with a Danish musician on composing a song published on digital streaming services, and finally Promissio collaborated with two journalists from Denmark about producing teaching materials for Danish Free Schools.

In conclusion, in 2021 the grants from CKU have contributed to the fulfillment of the objective of

the CKU Pooled Fund which is to reduce poverty and promote human rights in order to improve the opportunities for people to develop the potential within themselves and in the wider community. This is exemplified by the distribution of funds to the regions and DAC-countries in most need. The grants given in 2021 demonstrate that the CKU Pooled Fund have supported many member organizations and their partners in implementing church-based development projects and informing the general public in Denmark about it.

Localization and Reach of the CKU Pooled Fund

Churches and faith-based institutions are localized in remote and poor areas, which combined with their contextual knowledge, sustainable presence, and resources, puts them in a favorable position to address local needs and challenges. Therefore, CKU works through local and national churches to ensure sustainable and effective development aid. This section will elaborate on the strengths of engaging with churches in development.

Faith-based actors in general and churches in particular have a strong public anchorage. They are present in remote, isolated, and poor areas where other organizations are not present and they continue to be present, when project funds are phased out. Churches have impact through networks in these isolated and remote areas. Through these networks churches can mobilize volunteers, transmit knowledge, and engage with the local community. The localization of churches and church-based institutions contributes to the sustainability of church-based development work as the churches are locally entrenched. The localization of the churches moreover makes them well familiar with the local challenges and needs which combined with their resources and possibilities, puts them in a good position to influence local attitudes and structures related to peacebuilding, conflict management, freedom of religion and belief, gender equality, child protection and climate change adaptation.

CKU has since 2019 implemented a global learning project that aims to mobilize churches in development and expand knowledge on the comparative advantages of working with churches in the CKU network. In the global learning project, CKU works with 40 local churches in seven countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, and Tanzania), reaching a total local community of 150.000 members. The global learning project

takes an asset-based approach to development, engaging local churches to discover its mandate as a facilitator of development in the local community. The churches mobilize communities to discover its assets (resources', talents, connections) as fundamental to embark on a self-driven, self-sponsored, self-identified, appreciative discovery process that slowly, smally and simply bring the community and church together in addressing its development. CKU and local partners give no other inputs than training and capacity building. The process reverses the typical need-based, "deficit approach" and is as such more appropriate to the theological understanding of the members of CKU and represented in participatory approaches. The draft mid-term review documents, that the churches involved understand their mandate to a higher degree, that their engagement in development strengthen internal as well as external relations and they are seen as a positive influence in the community that spark motivation for change and is understood as a relevant asset for the community. The mid-term review concludes that, mobilizing churches in development, contributes to communities that have a better understanding of their own situation and make use of local resources to improve their situation. There is a better cooperation and strong relationship in those communities and a general feeling of improved quality of life.

The global learning project has had an immediate positive impact for the involved participants as demonstrated above, but also had a positive impact on the overall portfolio of the CKU Pooled Fund. The 10 larger projects completed in 2021 have engaged 154 churches in their development work. The involvement combines capacity building of religious leaders, pastors, and volunteers as well as mobilization of ambassadors or networks for a cause in advocacy.

The involvement of churches has had a positive impact on advocacy results of the completed projects as demonstrated in the section on the outcomes of the CKU Pooled Fund (page 19), but it has also had a positive impact on the reach of the projects. The 10 completed projects have reached approximately 35.404 persons in their primary target group which results in a unit cost of 247 DKK. The unit cost is a little higher than last year (134 DKK per person). The reason for this is that more concluded projects in 2021 focused on advocacy and less on livelihood, wherefore a lower number of persons are reached per project in the primary target group. Overall CKU's projects have a high-cost efficiency measured against unit price per person. The localization of churches contributes positively to cost efficiency since projects are often implemented through previously established networks and structures. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs completed a review of the CKU Pooled Fund in 2017, which primary conclusion stated that the cost efficiency was satisfying on project basis. The review's cost efficiency was calculated by looking at the amount of expenditures for activities, investment and local employee hours that went directly to the target group compared to the overall project expenses. Among the completed projects in 2021, these core expenditures accounted for 79% (63% the lowest and 96% the highest), while the rest went to administration. This is lower than 2020, where the core expenditures accounted for 83%. A reason for this may be that self-administering organizations are dominantly represented in the completed projects, and they usually have higher administration costs in Denmark.

A comparative advantage in working with churches is also, that they have assets and resources which contribute positively to their sustainability. However, 2021 was a year marked by COVID-19 which had negative implications for the financial situation for some of CKU's members. Therefore, we see that the proportion of co-financing in the granted projects has decreased from 14% in 2020 to 8% in 2021 meanwhile the CKU grants constitute 7% of the total yearly turnover of the grant recipients compared to 12% in 2020. So, there may have been a tendency to be more careful with spending of own funds.

Despite this, a study by Dan Church Aid has shown that the localization and institutional capacity of local churches make them more resilient to shocks and crisis. The role of local faith actors as key responders in a humanitarian crisis was reinforced through the COVID-19 pandemic. Local faith actors are deeply rooted in their local community and well acquainted with the local needs, wherefore it has been seen globally, that they played a crucial role during the pandemic in terms of information sharing, distribution of relief aid and reduction of stigmatization and discriminatory practices. Moreover, established faith-based networks played a crucial role in fighting gender-based violence which increased during lock-down and isolation. The localization of churches made it possible for them to continuously respond for the local needs despite the restrictions imposed by the response to the pandemic³.

³ Dan Church Aid's learning report: *DCA and partners' experiences working in the Covid-19 response*.

The CKU Pooled Fund's contribution to a strong, engaged, and capable civil society in the North and Global South

CKU as an umbrella has a strong public anchorage representing hundreds of thousands of persons. Capacity building and engagement constitute an important part of the CKU Pooled Fund in both Denmark and in the Global South. 77% of completed projects in 2021 as well as 84% of granted projects in 2021 contribute to capacity building of partners in the Global South. In Denmark CKU foster engagement through training, knowledge exchange and networks.

Engagement and public anchorage in Denmark

CKU has 37 member organizations that are engaged in development partnerships in more than 40 of the World's poorest countries, working together with more than 120 partners with over 3 million members and volunteers. A study in 2019 showed that CKU's member organizations had more than 43.000 Danish members, 53.000 contributors, 19.000 volunteers and a church-based network of congregations with over 186.000 persons in Denmark. In 2021, the CKU organizations who received a grant had 21.441 members, 6.483 volunteers and a public support base of 89.279 persons compared to 14.602 members and 10.926 volunteers in 2020. The number of volunteers in 2021 is lower than 2020 whereas the number of members has increased. A reason for this could be that Covid-19 restrictions have limited possibilities for recruiting and engaging volunteers during the last years⁴.

The members and volunteers of the CKU umbrella are spread all over the country and

have a church-oriented affiliation. Their membership and engagement are often long-term, and they are very loyal to their organizations. The member organizations of CKU work independently with engagement and public anchorage with their public base through information sharing, project management and campaigns.

The completed projects in 2021 report, that they have contributed to public anchorage and engagement through awareness raising on different platforms such as SoMe, articles, magazines and newsletters. Moreover, church-based networks in Denmark have been engaged through lectures, events and debates in local churches. One of our members, Viva Denmark engages volunteers through exchange to Latin America, however this has been limited in 2021 due to Covid-19. IAS has engaged young volunteers (Ung Mosaik), who have visited Nakuru and shared the information with 35 churches in Denmark. Finally, some of the projects engage volunteers directly through project groups who actively follow and visit the projects.

In addition to this, CKU has been leading an information project titled 'Churches and church-based organizations in action'. The project aimed at unfolding some of the cross-cutting themes and added values, that church-based organizations bring to the table when engaging in development cooperation. Themes such as how to engage and cooperate with religious actors and how to integrate knowledge of

⁴ Targets for indicator 1.1 " # frivillige, medlemmer og kirkeligt bagland i de organisationer, som har modtaget bevillinger" have been adjusted, since the targets were based on a baseline survey for all CKU

members, whereas the indicator only regards grant recipients of the reporting year. The targets can be seen in annex 3 "Resultatramme 2021"..

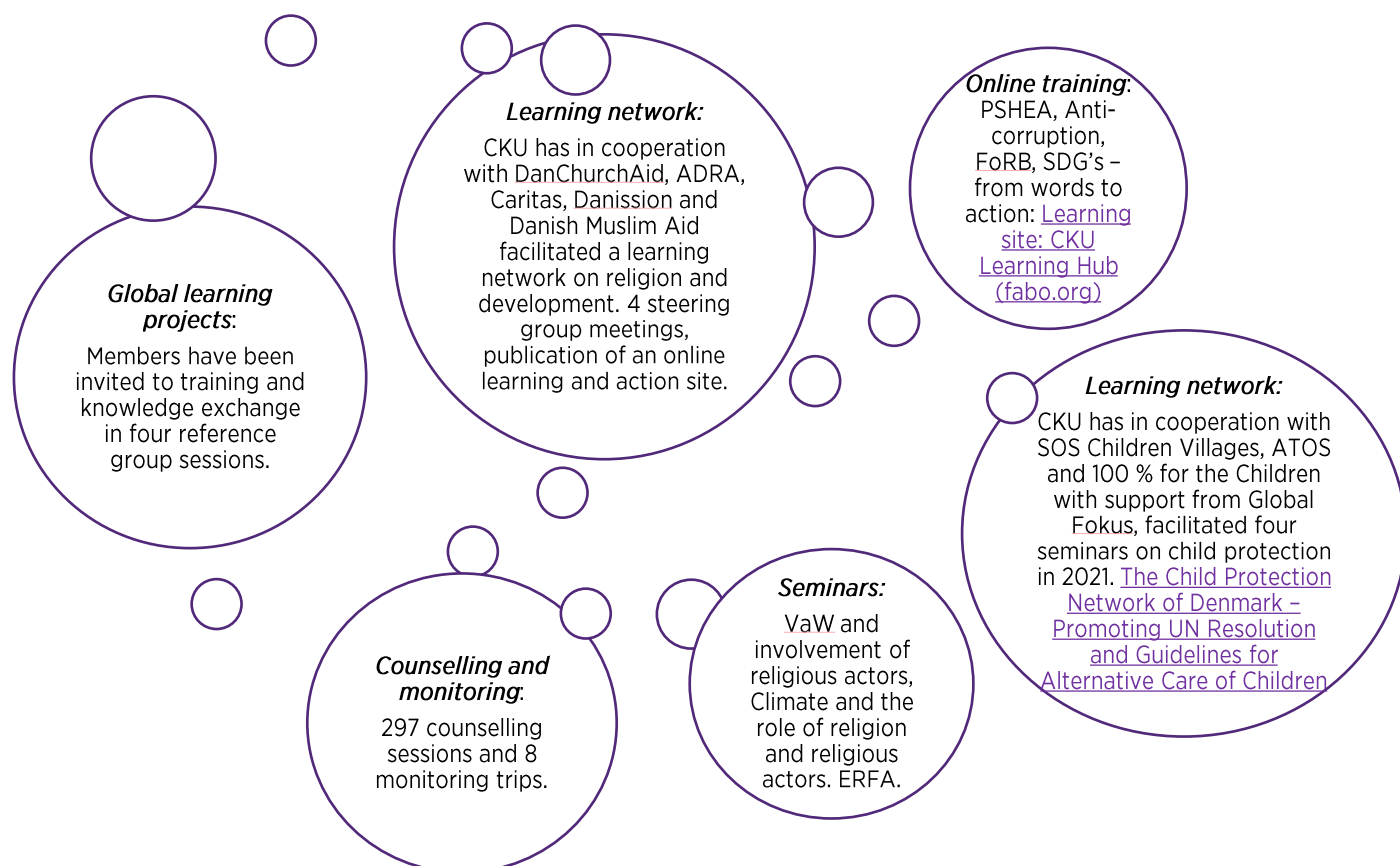
religion and value-based approaches into the development projects.

A freelance journalist conducted interviews with more than half of the member organizations and wrote articles about the organizations – by taking a point of departure in a specific project the organization was doing, which was funded by the CKU pooled fund and then adding reflections from the people involved from the organization itself as well as the relevant consultants in CKU. That way, the more generic learnings and take-aways from the project was pointed out and exemplified through the individual projects.

The articles were published in a number of different digital outlets: one article about 'conservation agriculture' or 'farming God's way' as the method is also referred to, was published on www.landbrugbrugsavisen.dk and others

have been published in local papers and the Christian news outlet 'Udfordringen'. All articles have been published on www.cku.dk during Summer/Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022. Among the key results for this information project is, that the focus on specific projects and organizations have made the people involved in those organizations more likely to share, comment and engage with the content when shared on social media platforms. Moreover, it appears it has helped some of the smaller organizations to link up their organizations' work to a broader shared narrative about faith-based actors in developmental work.

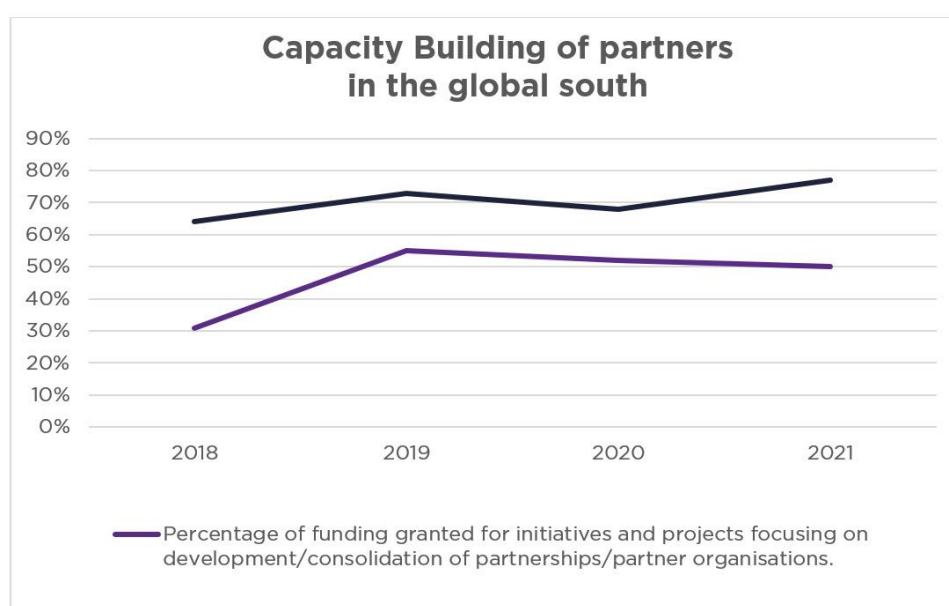
Besides this, CKU engages its members, their partners and the broader civil society through online trainings, global learning projects, seminars, counseling, monitoring and capacity building in the Global South, all of which will be described below.



Capacity building in the global south

Strengthening of partners in the global south is an important component of most projects in the CKU pool. 77 pct of completed projects and 84 pct of granted projects in 2021 plan to contribute to capacity building of local partners in terms of technical knowledge, legitimacy, institutional capacity, democratic structures, and sustainability. Central for the projects, is also capacity building of local groups such as self-help groups, churches, local committees,

and community-based federations. 80 pct of granted projects focus on strengthening organizational capacity of local groups and federations. 10 completed projects have contributed to organizational capacity building in 324 groups and 4 federations. As shown in the graph below, completed and granted project's contribution to capacity building of local partners and groups have since 2018 been essential for the CKU-pooled fund.



Besides the cross-cutting perspective on capacity building, three completed projects have worked strategically with capacity building of local partners in the global south.

Viva Denmark and their partner Red Viva Honduras have in cooperation aimed to strengthen a democratic structure in Red Viva Honduras that foster participation and ensure a coherent strategic focus on child protection. The project achieved this by supporting RVH in electing a new board that represented RVH's member organizations to a higher extend. The members now have coherent child protection policies, so that the network works in the same strategic direction and an overall strategic plan

for the network has been developed in a participatory way.

A project, in cooperation between IAS DK and their partner IAS Kenya, has contributed to organizational capacity building of IAS Kenya in terms of fundraising, networking and project management. The project contributed to strengthened internal procedures through development of a board manual, a staff handbook, and a fundraising- and resource mobilization strategy was developed and operationalized together with a MEAL framework. Overall, these internal procedures have contributed to improved workflows and organizational coherency in IAS Kenya.

Impact of the CKU Pooled Fund in the Global South

90 pct of the completed projects in the CKU-pooled fund engage with religious actors as change agents when addressing challenges and pursuing change. We see that the involvement of religious actors, has had a positive impact on the advocacy component of the completed projects. 40 pct of the completed projects report that

rights-holders have been highly capacitated to hold duty bearers responsible. This section will elaborate on the outcome of the completed projects in the CKU pooled fund and how religious actors and engagement with other COS networks have been crucial for bringing about change.

Scope of the CKU Pooled Fund 2021

The 10 completed larger and smaller projects within the CKU Pooled fund of 2021 have thematically focused on 1) child protection and gender equality, 2) climate and livelihood and 3) freedom of religion and belief. The majority, five larger projects have focused on child protection and gender equality, only one on climate and livelihood and three completed projects have worked with freedom of religion and belief and its intersectionality with gender and children's rights. Additionally, two smaller projects have worked with capacity building of the local partner.

The thematic composition is also reflected in the SDG overview of completed projects. Here 46 pct of the projects contributed positively to gender equality (SDG 5) where especially child protection of girls is included. 23 pct worked with good health and well-being for children (SDG 3). 46 pct worked with peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) and 8 pct on Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

The thematic focus is distributed according to the SDG's as shown below:



The graphic above shows that the distribution of granted projects according to SDG's in 2021 has a thematic focus on SDG 5 gender equality,

SDG 1 no poverty, SDG 16 peace justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 partnerships.

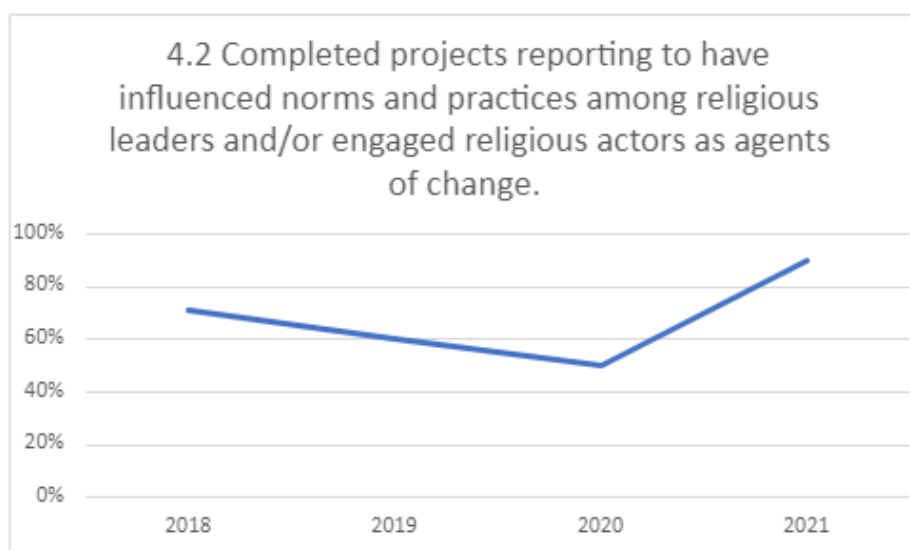
Raising the voice of religious actors for change

The majority of the world's population identify themselves as religious or state that they have a religious affiliation⁵. Therefore, their actions are based on religious values and religious actors and leaders hold a great power of change, as they enjoy trust and legitimacy which puts them in a position where they can influence norms, attitudes, perceptions and raise important issues. The projects of the CKU Pooled fund actively involve religious actors and leaders as change agents when pursuing an issue and advocating for a cause.

The Danish Development policy “Fælles om Verden”, emphasizes that the involvement of religious actors is essential in the establishment of effective, democratic and accountable states, where the Universal Human Rights constitute a foundation. Failing or abstaining from involving

religious actors may potentially impact project results, as it may be more challenging to promote social change and sustain results achieved when project funds are phased out.

As demonstrated in the graph below, 90 pct of the completed projects in the CKU Pooled Fund in 2021, report to have influenced norms and practices among religious leaders and/or engaged religious actors as agents of change. This number exceeds the set target of 82 pct. This is the highest level since 2018, and an increase from 50 pct 2020. The involvement of religious actors is strategically emphasized and underlined in CKU's events, capacity building and counselling. The increase shows a higher level of awareness in actively involving religious actors as change agents among CKU's members and their partners.



It is important to work in a two-folded way with religious actors, as they are sometimes themselves either influenced by or influence others with harmful cultural norms and

perceptions. Projects may therefore sensitize and create awareness among religious actors and/or mobilize them as change agents. In order to be change agents, it is important that

⁵ Faith for Earth Initiative | UNEP - UN Environment Programme Faith for Earth Initiative | UNEP - UN Environment Programme or

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2012/12/18/global-religious-landscape-exec/>

they align themselves with democratic and human rights principles. Therefore, capacity building of religious actors continuously constitutes a crucial element of several CKU projects. A global learning project on faith-based advocacy has worked with capacity building of religious actors in advocacy and social accountability and accumulated the below listed learning.

Global Learning Initiative for Social Accountability

Together with the pan-African Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), CKU has been coordinating a learning process on faith-based advocacy since 2018. The project involved 10 clusters of faith-based actors in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The project was evaluated in 2021, and the external evaluation⁶ found that the role of the church in contributing to social accountability within a community is evident. The church has a strong position in most societies and is a trusted and influential institution. In order to engage the church, it is a prerequisite to communicate messages in theological terms for the church to take ownership.

The learning project has mobilized 10 faith-based clusters to engage in advocacy and 40 pct of the clusters report that engaging with government authorities now is normal practice for them. The evaluation found that advocacy was most fruitful when the clusters had a positive relationship with government authorities and advocacy was based on constructive dialogue.

The advocacy efforts of the clusters have contributed to a growing number of responsive public institutions as a result of engaging the county government. Service delivery has since improved through better access to health,

education, and food security. There is evidence of improved civic competence. Indeed, public participation has been on the increase through members who closely monitor the community charters they presented during public participation forums to the service providers.

Furthermore, when INTRAC was asked to evaluate Denmark's support for Civil Society in the Global South in 2021, the cooperation between CKU (her members and their partners) and OAIC was included as one of the case studies, and the evaluators concluded the following:

“Faith communities can drive social accountability agendas when they have capacity to do so and use an approach that may grow relationship with government offices.

The ‘collaborative approach’ to advocacy (via social accountability), seeking to engage duty bearers in a common cause (rather than claiming services not provided by duty bearers), may grow constructive relations between faith communities and government institutions. This is attractive to faith communities that want social development but want to avoid conflict with their local or national government.

A key learning is that positive relationship with government officials is key for effective advocacy at all levels. Thus, this approach increases the potential for pushing advocacy agendas. National level advocacy in particular requires more refined advocacy skills than at lower levels.

As civil society space has been reduced in most East African countries in recent years, a more collaborative approach to advocacy might further expand the space of civil society organisations. East Africa is known for peaceful coexistence of various faith communities and the

⁶ [Engaging-Faith-Based-Actors-in-Advocacy-external-evaluation.pdf \(cku.dk\)](#)

strengthening of interfaith collaboration may further enhance this coexistence, and potentially contribute to expanding the space of civil society”.

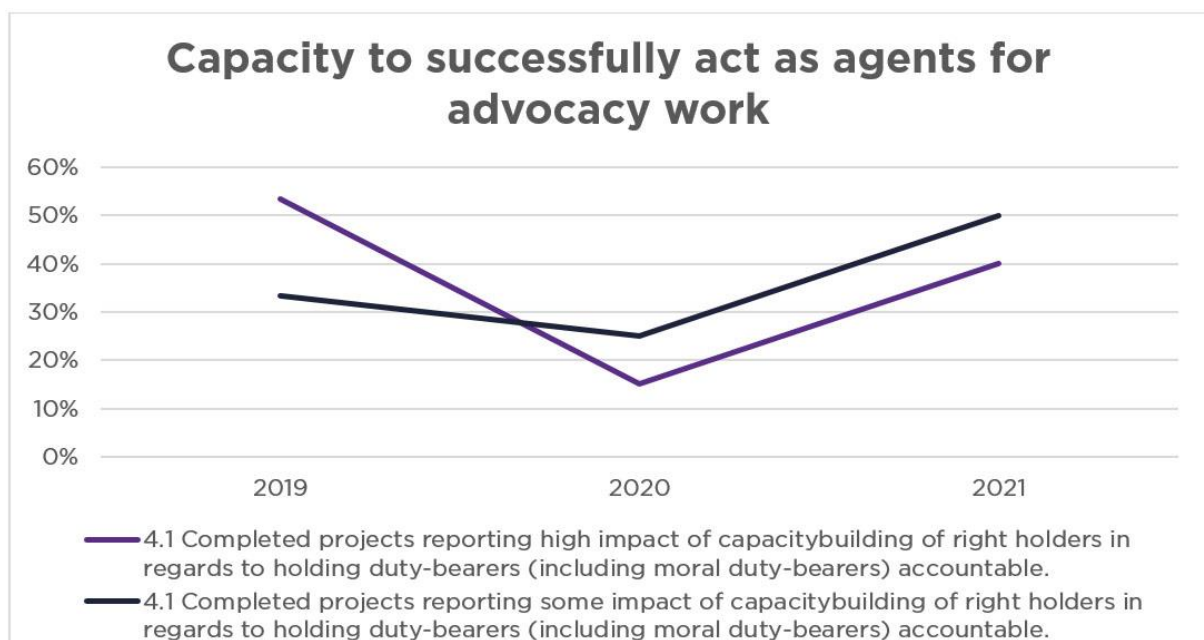
Conclusively, positive collaboration relations between churches and local government

officials have been fruitful in the global learning project. This may be more challenging in more oppressive states, where relation-building with government is more challenging and may compromise your integrity.

Capacity to advocate for change

Looking at the completed projects of 2021, 40 pct of the completed projects report to have reached a high impact of capacity building of rights-holders in regard to holding duty-bearers

accountable and 50 pct report some impact. This is an increase from 2020 of 25 pct. The impact level is a little lower than the set target for projects that report high impact.



70 pct of the completed projects, report that they have engaged actively in national and international networks with the purpose of joining voices with other similar civil society organizations in their advocacy effort.

This is an increase from 42 pct in 2020 and higher than the set target of 60 pct.

The following section will describe the key outcomes and change achieved by the 10 concluded projects.



Child protection

Increased women rights safeguard and freedom from FGM in Baringo County

Despite the prohibition of FGM in Kenyan legislation, that guarantees every woman and girl the right not to be compelled to undergo harmful practices, the prevalence of FGM continues to be 21 pct at national level and much higher in rural counties where it can be as high as 90 pct. Women living in rural areas are in much higher risk of undergoing FGM.

International Aid Services (IAS) has in cooperation with the Free Pentecostal Church (FPC) in Baringo county in Kenya, contributed to eradicating female genital mutilation in Kenya. The project has contributed positively to improving the situation for girls and women and significantly decreased number of FGM incidents in Baringo county. The project has trained and mobilized 70 religious actors as spokespersons against FGM. Prior to the project, religious actors tended to participate in cultural ceremonies where FGM was performed and promote the ritual. After being trained they use podiums to bring awareness of the rights of girls and women and the harmful nature of FGM. By including the religious actors religious actors have had the opportunity to be involved in promoting a new ritual, an alternative rite of

passage, where girls transition from being a girl to a woman without undergoing FGM.

Moreover, FPC has worked to improve the reporting mechanisms by setting up committees where cases can be reported and referred to the police. The project has contributed to setting up a gender desk at Ngaren police station that is specialized in violations against women and girls.

Through the combination of mobilizing religious actors as change agents and improving the reporting mechanisms the project has contributed to:

- *20 pct increase in number of reported FGM cases.*
- *Prosecution rate increased to 70 pct.*
- *7 pct reduction in prevalence of FGM.*
- *Allocation of resources from government to purchase land for a rescue center.*
- *60 pct of targeted traditional birth attendants have abandoned FGM.*
- *60 pct of community leaders have declared their stand against FGM.*

Preventing child separation in Latin America

2,2 million children live globally in orphanages. Studies have shown that around 80 pct of these children have one or both parents alive. Poverty, sickness, abuse, or death is often a key driver for placing children in orphanages. With time, it has become clear that it can be harmful for children to grow up in institutional care and potentially cause damage on children's cognitive, emotional and social development. UN therefore has developed guidelines for Alternative Care in 2009 which have been reaffirmed in a resolution by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. These instruments promote family-based care through 1) reunification of orphan children with their parents, 2) placement of children in kinship care, 3) placement of children in foster care and 4) prevention of child separation in vulnerable families.

Viva Denmark together with Viva Honduras promoted a paradigm shift in 5 orphanages in Honduras through mobilization of and training of 138 pastors. Majority of orphanages in Central America are run by churches and church-based organization. A prerequisite for a paradigm shift is therefore to involve religious actors as change agents. The 138 pastors contributed to changing attitudes towards deinstitutionalization of the directors of the orphanages. All targeted directors are now acknowledging and welcoming family-based care and through the project they have moved from recognizing family-based care to actively advocating for family-based care.

Moreover, Viva is a professional recognized NGO in Honduras. This has put Viva in position, where it has been able to access relevant authorities directly. In the project, RVH has capacity build the directorate on children, youth and families in Honduras through awareness raising and training on alternative care. The directorate has, as a result of the training,

resumed their reintegration work of institutionalized children with their biological families after many years without reintegration efforts. The directorate has moreover readopted certification of the orphanages, that set standards for quality care in the orphanages and among other things require an action plan for all children in the homes, where more permanent solutions are searched for. Finally, they have developed procedures and criteria for reintegration of children with their biological families as well as in foster care.

The outcome of the project is demonstrated below in listed key results:

- *There is an increase from 25-77 pct of the children in the targeted orphanages that have resumed contact with their biological families.*
- *5 orphanages have transformed from permanent residential care to promote family-based care.*
- *28 children have been reintegrated with their biological families.*
- *25 families are interested in foster care certification and 11 families have initiated the process with the directorate, 8 families have completed the training and 6 families have become certified.*

Together with partners in Nicaragua, Viva Denmark works to prevent that families dissolve, and children are separated from their families and placed in orphanages. More specifically the project aims to reduce psychological and domestic violence, which is a key driver for child separation. The project aims to reduce violence through establishment of 7 legal committees and mobilization of 13 churches. Domestic violence is often rooted in patriarchal perceptions and beliefs where

religious actors are key persons to change social attitudes and behaviors.

The project has through the 13 churches established 13 family committees, that have supported families in the targeted communities through workshops and counselling. Furthermore, the project has established a number of 'Men against violence'-networks that have contributed to raise awareness of patriarchal harmful gender norms. Finally, the project has established 7 legal committees that give legal advice for survivors of violence.

The mobilization of church leaders as change agents has contributed to the deconstruction of structural patriarchal practices within the church and added human rights perspectives on the church's view on family issues and gender norms.

The outcome of the project is demonstrated below in listed key results:

- *100 cases of violence have been reported through the community-structures.*
- *40 out of 100 cases were reported to the police of which 12 were effectively handled; 4 cases led to court and imprisonment, 4 are still being processed. The main reason for the majority of cases not going to court, was because the victims withdrew their case.*
- *3 laws were reviewed, and recommendations submitted to the commission of children and women.*
- *359 caregivers trained in parental skills.*

Safeguarding and improved access to rights for street children in Nepal, Kathmandu

International Aid Services and Good Way Nepal work with improving living conditions for street children located in slum areas in Kathmandu. Many children who live in slum areas are not enrolled in education due to extreme poverty. Instead, parents tend to rely on income from their children who work with garbage collection, as domestic workers, in restaurants or brick industries.

The project has aimed to improve the conditions of children and parents through establishment of a network of 20 churches that in alignment with other child-related organizations advocate for improved conditions for the children. Through 4 parent's and 8 children's clubs, the project has sensitized children and parents on parental care and rights of the children. 500 children have been enrolled in the program, 400 parents and children report to have improved their living conditions and around 4800 children and parents have been informed about their rights.

The outcome of the project is demonstrated below in listed key results:

- *25 pct increase in enrollment rate of targeted children.*
- *134 targeted children are no longer working in child labor.*
- *75 pct of the rehabilitated children, are reunited with their parents and 70 pct of the parents involved in the project, report a decrease in domestic violence.*
- *The network of churches has targeted 30 factories and advocated towards ending child labor. Consequently 20 out of 30 factories have changed their policies and no longer employ children as a work force. An external contributing factor is also, that the Nepalese government has imposed a strict law that prohibits child labor and sharpened their control of child labor.*

Enabling children with disability in remote mountain communities

The Karnali-region in Nepal is one of the most inaccessible and remote areas with the highest index for poverty. 50 pct of the population in Nepal live below the poverty line and 73 pct have the resources to meet their basic needs only three months a year. In the targeted area, people have strong traditional beliefs (dhami-jhakri). Disabled persons are perceived as cursed and shameful and therefore not affiliated with value. Most children with disability are not enrolled in education and find limited opportunities for employment.

Mission East together with HEAD have worked to improve the ability of persons with disability to exercise their rights through a combination of registration of persons with disabilities, awareness raising of rights, training in literacy and basic numeracy skills as well as advocacy efforts towards the rural municipality regarding inclusive policies in cooperation with other CSOs.

The outcome of the project is demonstrated below in listed key results:

- *Increase from 50-100 pct of persons with disability who are registered and have obtained disability card.*
- *95 pct of targeted persons with disability, expressed that they now participate in community activities and that they experience a higher level of inclusion.*
- *75 pct of community members have positive attitude towards persons with disability.*
- *90 pct of persons with disability demonstrated minimum awareness of rights.*
- *The rural municipality developed and endorsed 1 disability inclusive policy and endorsed a disability identity card distribution framework.*

Climate change

The CKU pooled fund only has a limited portfolio of projects that work with climate. Multiple projects work with improved livelihood, agriculture and food security. CKU will in 2022-

2023 aim to integrate a stronger focus on resilience and climate change in relevant projects through a planned review on climate and additional learning tools.

Advancing resilient local development in the Himalayas

One project that did evolve around climate was in the Himalayas in Nepal. The project area is in a mountainous region with difficult geographical terrains and limited market infrastructure. The area is very vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks and the vulnerability is reinforced by the isolated location. Moreover, persons living in the area suffer from extreme poverty,

illiteracy, and food insecurity. Climate related disasters therefore has severe implications for the population as they do not have the capacity to understand the changes and adapt accordingly.

Mission East and KIRDARC aim to strengthen the resilience of the local community through

prevention of disaster and climate change adaptation. Through CSO alliances, they advocate for disaster risk reduction plans and allocation of resources for their implementation. The project has mobilized religious leaders as change agents at local level. They have been involved in community-based disaster risk management committees in 9 wards and contributed to awareness raising and development of disaster plan preparation and implementation. In time of disaster, the religious leaders take a lead in rapid response.

The outcome of the project is demonstrated below in listed key results:

- *79 pct of the targeted persons have increased their knowledge and skills on climate resilient technologies.*
- *225 household have adopted climate resilient technologies such as snow ponds, recharge ponds, drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation.*
- *2 advocacy plans developed by the rural municipality and 12 pct of budget allocated for disaster risk reduction by the rural municipality.*

Freedom of religion or belief

27 pct of the granted projects in the CKU-pooled fund 2021 were allocated for projects that contribute to FoRB and 40 pct of the completed projects state that they have contributed to increased freedom of religion or

belief. Three projects, in partnership between the Danish Bible Society and SAT-7 have worked strategically with FoRB as described below.

Changing perceptions of freedom of religion or belief in the Middle East through social media and television

Advocating for the right to freedom of religion or belief in a MENA-context can be difficult since religious tensions tend to be high in the region. The Danish Bible Society together with their partner SAT-7 have been pioneering three projects in MENA that all finished in 2021 which have focused on changing perceptions on the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). The three projects have been centered around the production of tv-programs and the facilitation of dialogue with viewers through social media campaigns and private groups. The activities have targeted ie. 1) women in Arab speaking countries 2) women in Persian speaking countries, and 3)) Arab children from different social and religious backgrounds.

The project 'Puzzle' contributed towards raising awareness of children's rights including freedom of religion or belief through on-ground activities, television content as well as content uploaded on social media platforms. Through a pre- and post-survey that was conducted to monitor participants' engagement with datasets recording progression for 34 participants out of 50, the team concluded (1) that there has been a very notable reduction in participants' negative positions on FoRB, (2) that persistent negative positions may be reflected by groups who perceive themselves as restricted rather than entitled to restrict others, and (3) that there has been a growing awareness to the

extent of children's rights between program start and end.

The two projects which were advocating women's rights did so by creating an environment on air – and online – which made women engage with the dilemmas and discussions they were presented with. By watching the interactive episodes, women and girls were taught about their right to freedom of religion or belief, how their voices matter, and why they should use their voices to claim their rights against others, such as family members, religious figures, partners, and the like. In conjunction with the programmes, a high-quality one-month social media campaign and a private Facebook group were created to shed light on women's rights generally and the right to freedom of religion or belief specifically. The viewers were encouraged to interact by calling in during the programme or contacting SAT-7s audience relations team to voice their problems, share their stories and receive guidance.

The moral duty bearers of the project were identified as the local and national government authorities, religious leaders, police, and judiciary systems. In regard to the activities reaching a Persian audience, due to the restrictive nature of both the Iranian

government and the Taliban Afghan government, these moral duty bearers were deemed as difficult to approach. However, due to the wide range of people influenced through the tv-programme and its social media activities, it is recognized that moral duty bearers were influenced in some way or another.

In the end, a comprehensive evaluation demonstrated that many viewer respondents had obtained the knowledge, attitude, and skills needed to promote the right to freedom of religion or belief. Their answers revealed that:

- *92% of the female viewer participants and 87% out of male viewer participants said that the program increased their awareness and helped them understand the issues around FoRB.*
- *92% of the male viewer participants and 90% of female viewer participants said they are willing to take initiative to support women's rights after watching the program.*
- *The majority of the viewer respondents said that the program increased their awareness and knowledge of FoRB, right for women to live safely, and general civil rights.*

Global learning projects on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Besides the FoRB projects granted by the CKU pool, CKU has since 2019 facilitated a global learning project on FoRB together with Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) and SAFFoRB in Asia. 2021 was another year marked by travel restrictions connected to COVID-19, which meant that many planned activities were postponed both in Africa and in Asia.

In the African section in November-December however, it was possible to implement a regional hybrid Training of Trainers FoRB-

conference for 5 countries in English-speaking West Africa: Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia. Rather than all 85 participants travelling to Nigeria as originally planned, the five countries met in national hubs and making sure, that there were cameras, projectors, microphones, and internet access were available, the TOT-conference was hosted from Nairobi and Denmark. The participants were very satisfied with the compromised way of implementing the training, and the conference provided valuable input to not only the CKU-reference group for FoRB but to the

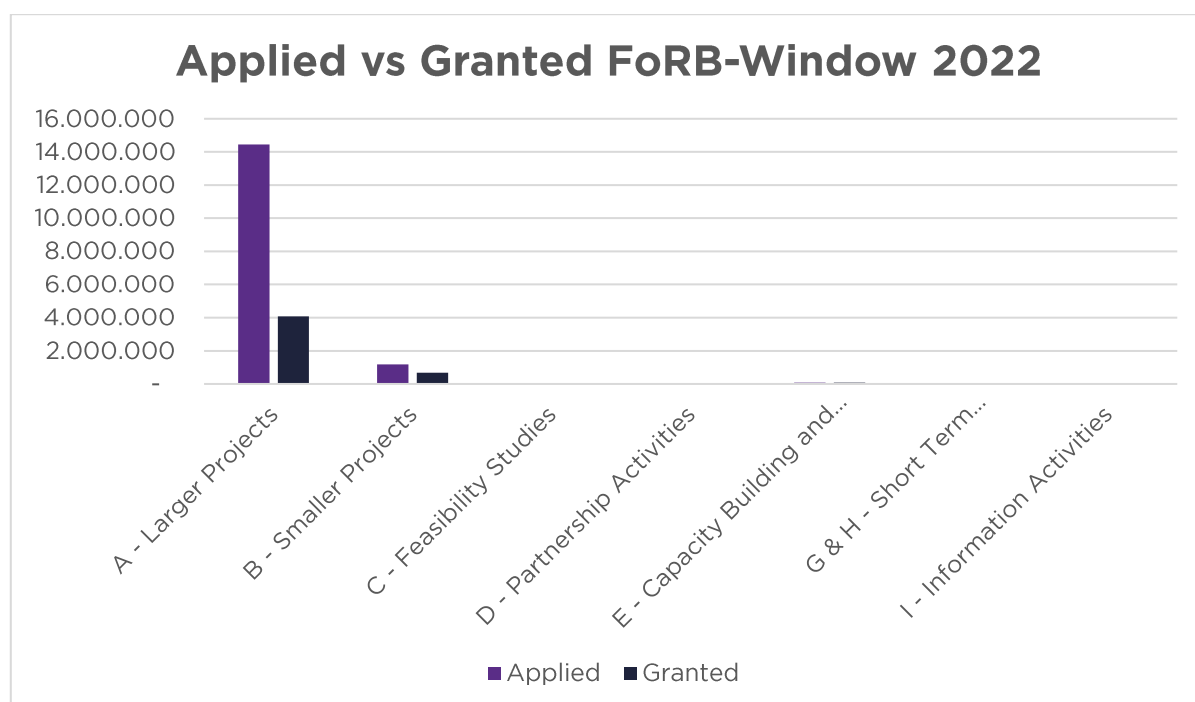
Danish contact Forum for Freedom of Religion or Belief when a seminar was held in January 2022 on addressing Jihadism in Sahel. The cooperation with PROCMURA has been extended until end of 2022 in order for CKU and PROCMURA to be able to implement the remaining activities and harvest learning on FoRB-promotion in African contexts. Already, reports are showing that participants have gained new knowledge, skills and attitudes in relation to FoRB, some have even committed

themselves to FoRB-promotion on their own context, and PROCMURA has incorporated FoRB in their new 5-year strategic plan.

South Asian Forum for Freedom of Religion or Belief (SAFFoRB) who implements the Asian part of the Global Learning Project has not received funding from CKU in 2021, but it is expected that more activities will be planned in 2022.



Window of Freedom and Religion and Belief



2021 was the second year of the open window for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and again it has received an overwhelming interest from the Danish Civil Society.

14.444.269 DKK. After consulting the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Board of CKU, it was decided to cancel the planned October application deadline and grant as much as possible at the first application round:

On April 15th, six larger project applications were received with a total budget of

Project Number	Title	Grant (DKK)
DMCDD-20-TA-01	Women, religions and human rights in Lebanon (WRL)	1.875.000
CKU-21-TA-04	Puzzle Phase 2 (Lebanon)	1.200.000
CKU-21-TA-02	Project Prevent: Mitigating religious tensions and attacks (Sri Lanka)	999.223

Three projects with a total budget of 4.074.923 DKK thus received funding: Women, religions and human rights in Lebanon granted by the DMFA in 2019, Puzzle Phase 2, which is second phase of the project promoting childrens rights including FoRB in Lebanon described in page

25. The last project seeks to establish an Early Warning and Early Response framework for FoRB violations in Sri Lanka. During the rest of the year three smaller applications with a budget less than 500.000 DKK were granted:

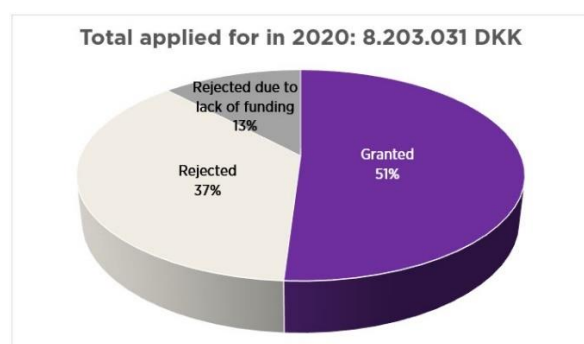
Project Number	Title	Grant (DKK)
CKU-21-TB-02	Promotion of religious tolerance, mutual respect, and peace in Isiolo County, Kenya	499.994
CKU-21-TB-03	Promoting Freedom of religion and beliefs through child-led community integration	186.915
CKU-21-TE-01	FORB training for Interfaith Workers in Myanmar	74.520

The first smaller project addresses the intersectionality between FoRB and peacebuilding and targets Christian and Muslim leaders in Isiolo, Kenya.

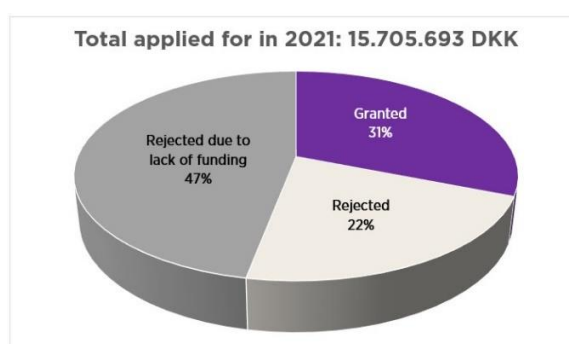
The second pilot project seeks to build the capacity of the partner in Sri Lanka to work on FoRB-related issues through their existing child network. The final project is a capacity building

project for interfaith workers from Civil Society in Myanmar.

As can be seen from the above grants, the tendency from 2020 is extended to the grants in 2021. FoRB is easily integrated with other rights and this year we see projects concerned with a) FoRB and Gender Equality, b) FoRB and Childrens Rights, c) FoRB and Peacebuilding.



The above diagrams indicate that the interest in promoting FoRB is much larger than what the FoRB-window can satisfy. Despite no cost for advertising for the relatively new funding opportunity, the interest has been and continues to be quite extraordinary. However, in 2021 we have also seen how some applicants have been discouraged from the lack of funds and decided to apply elsewhere.



The grants were given to five member organizations and one associated member. None of the initiatives granted so far under the open FoRB-Window has been finished and reported fully within 2021, so for this second year of the FoRB-window, CKU will only report on the results indicators for projects granted (for the year 2022, we expect to be able to report on the results of finished projects as well).

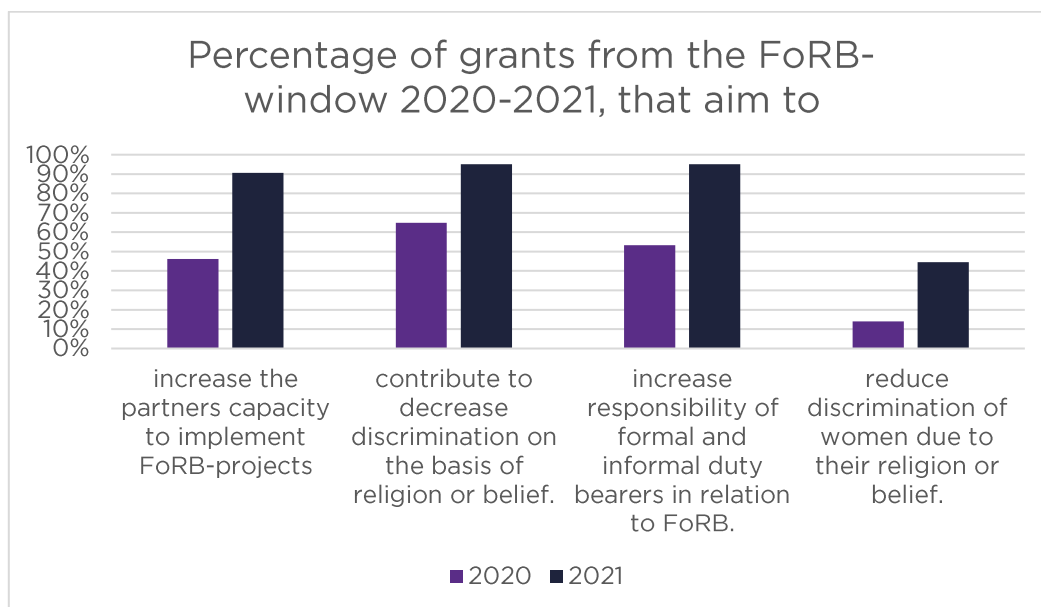
Project Support for FoRB-projects

The FoRB-window allowed CKU to grant 27 pct of the total granted amount from both the window and the ordinary Pooled fund to FoRB-projects. We had expected a larger percentage, but an extraordinary grant of 4 mio DKK for the

ordinary CKU-pooled fund in December 2021 allowed for extra funding of non-FORB projects, and since the October round of the window was cancelled, the percentage is below target. We expect the FoRB-window to continue as an

inspiration for CKU-members to also apply for funding for FoRB-projects within the ordinary Pooled Fund. More than 90 pct of the granted

projects aim to contribute to less discrimination due to belief or conviction, and to increase accountability through advocacy work for FoRB.



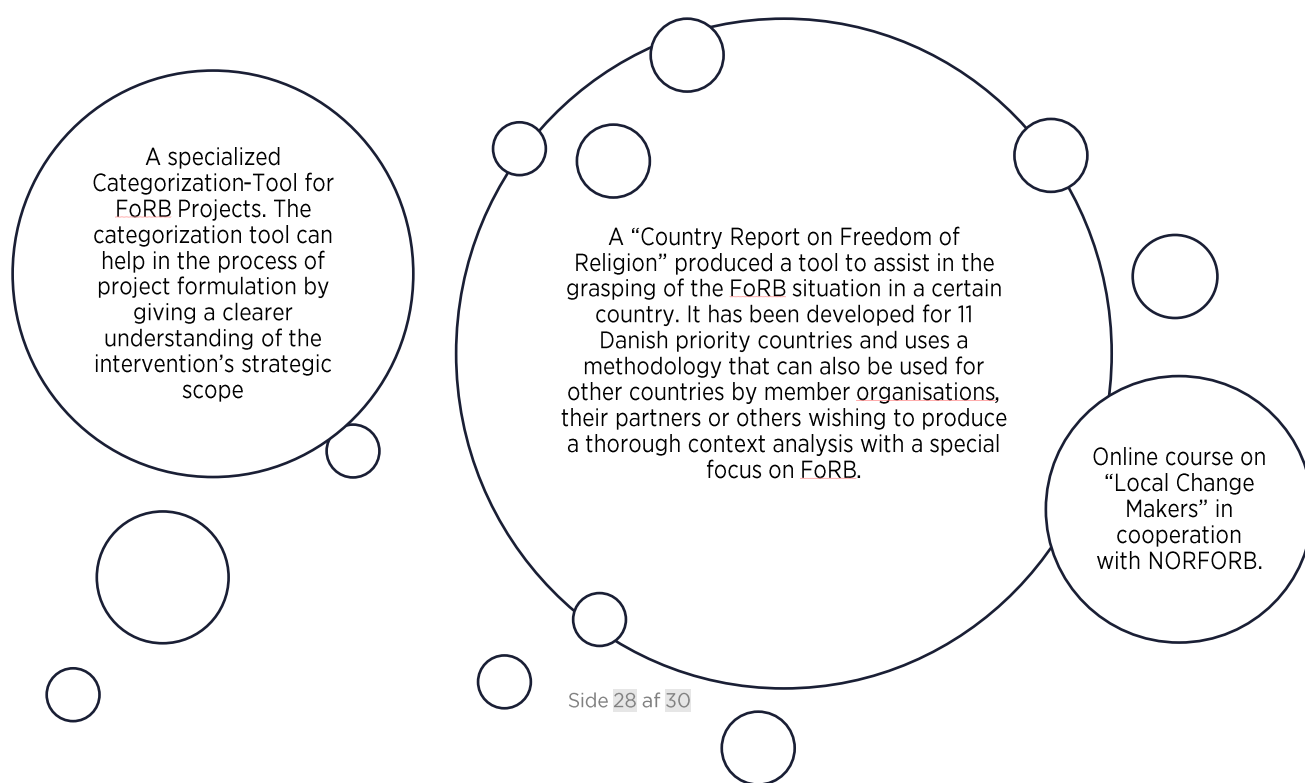
As can be seen from the above chart, grants have become more focused around the indicators in the results framework for the FoRB-window. Most significantly almost half of

the grants had specific focus on the intersection between FoRB and Gender in 2021. Please refer to more details in Annex 3 “CKU Resultatramme 2021”.

FoRB resources

To support member organizations, their Southern partners and others interested in working with freedom of religion and belief in

their development projects, CKU has in 2021 developed the following resources:



Networks and FoRB

PaRD

CKU is a member of PaRD, through the Danish Network for Religion and Development, which is coordinated by CKU. In 2021 in relation with the General Annual Meeting, CKU together with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Network for Religion and development,

worked for an increased focus on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in relation with the PaRD strategy, resulting in a new initiative on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the SDG's. The initiative is currently being defined.

The Summit for Democracy

In December 2021 CKU arranged an online side event to President Joe Bidens Summit for Democracy with the title 'Faith actors upholding democratic values' exploring the role of religious actors in protecting and promoting civic space and democracy. The event was

arranged based on the initiative of the US. State Department in close collaboration with Religions for Peace and CKU. This event drew on experiences and results of Claiming space for civil society 2018-2019 funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reference group

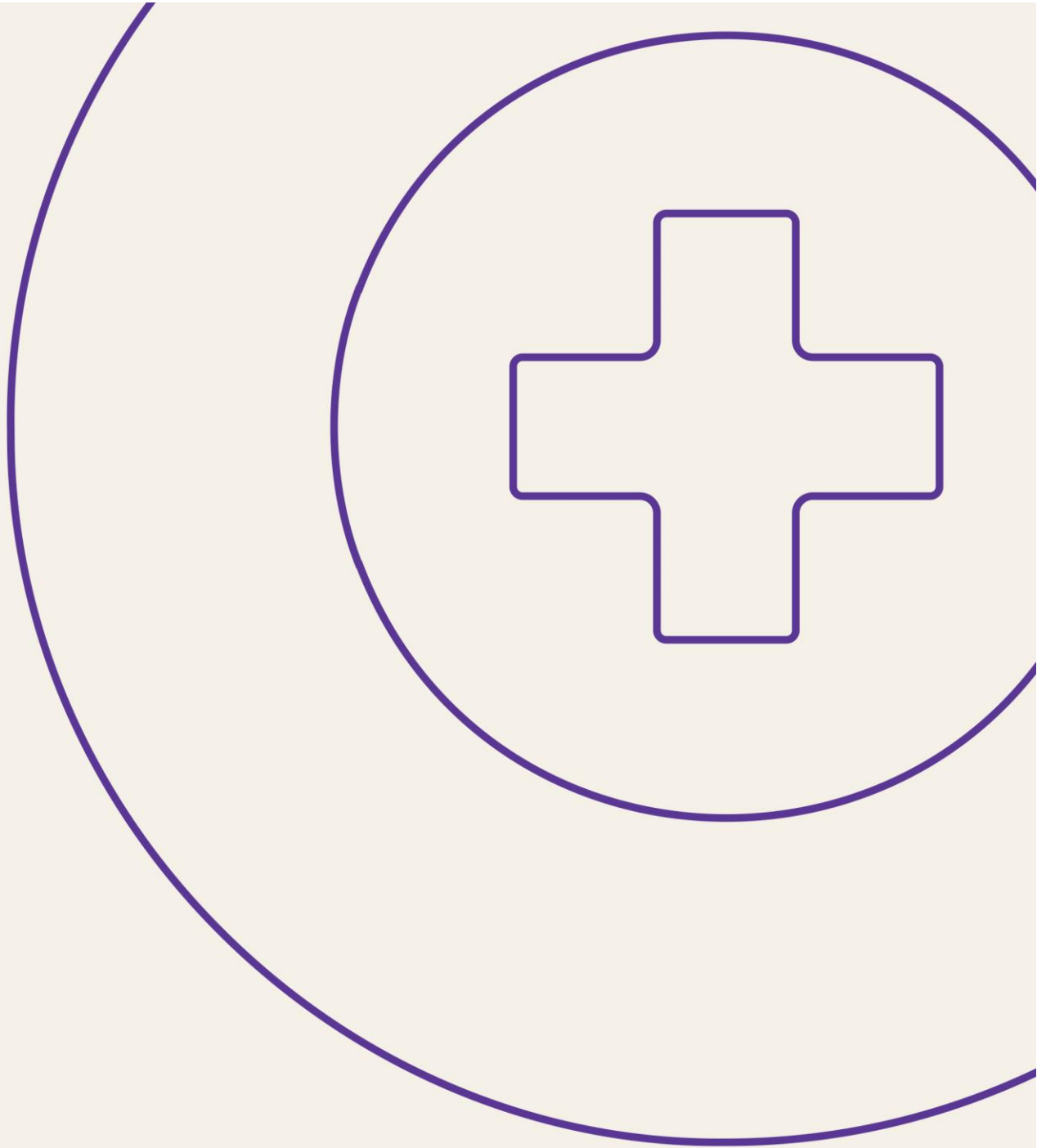
CKU has, as part of the work with freedom of religion or belief in development cooperation, hosted a reference group for all organizations receiving funding for projects working on freedom of religion or belief as part of their international development and human rights cooperation. The reference group meets twice a year to share best practices and facilitate learning and inspiration.

Throughout 2021 CKU has played an active role in relation to the MFAs contact group on freedom of religion or belief. With presentations and participation in panels on "Jihadism and implications for cooperation among faith-based actors in Western Africa" as well as Blasphemy laws and the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression.

CKU has continued the active contribution and participation in NORFORB, a network of like-

minded organizations, cooperating on capacity building and advocacy on international freedom of religion or belief. In 2021 the first phase of a project cooperation supported with DKK 24 mill. by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs. The work received international recognition, and evaluations and were followed up by a second phase on DKK 28 mill. that was started in 2021.

CKU meets annually with our Norwegian (Digni) and Swedish (SMC) sister organizations. Through this cooperation a Nordic Meeting for Ministers of Development Cooperation was arranged together with the respective networks on religion and development, where comparative advantages on understanding religion and working with religious actors were explored in relation to climate, democracy and civic space.



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