



Guidelines for the CKU Fund

January 2026



Center for Church-
Based Development

TOGETHER WE CREATE HOPE

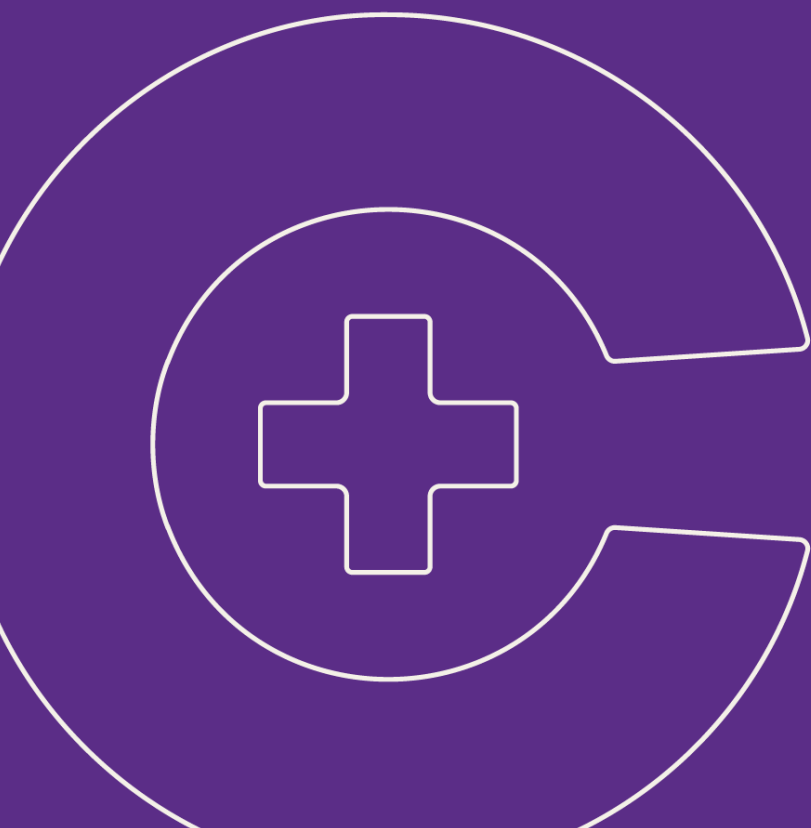
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Chapter 1

Overall Framework for the CKU Fund



Foreword

The Center for Church-Based Development (CKU) is an umbrella organization for Danish church-based organizations engaged in long-term development cooperation in the Global South. CKU manages the CKU fund, which is financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The foundation for the CKU Fund is Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation, "[A Changing World - Partnerships in Development](#)"¹ and the [guidelines for managing Pooled Funds and Networks](#).²

CKU acknowledges its responsibility - both nationally and globally - to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards 2030, including the fundamental principle of "Leaving No One Behind". Although global prospects for achieving the SDGs in full are challenged, the goals still provide a valuable framework for sustainable development efforts. The CKU Fund supports projects across all SDGs, with a particular emphasis on poverty alleviation and reaching the most marginalized groups. The aim is to ensure that the most vulnerable are included - and not left behind.

1.1 Purpose of the CKU Fund

The CKU Fund aims to combat poverty and promote human rights through church-based development cooperation, rooted in the unique diaconal role and resources of churches and church-based actors. The fund supports transformation by strengthening churches and church-based organizations in realizing their potential and contributing to the development of the societies they are part of.

Specifically, the objectives of the CKU Fund are:

1. To support faith-based development cooperation of member organizations and partners in the Global South.
2. To realize and unfold the potential of church-based development cooperation through projects, capacity development, and partnership dialogues.
3. To promote locally led development through church-based development, where decision-making power, ownership, and responsibility are increasingly transferred to partners and local communities in the global south.
4. To foster public and volunteer engagement in Denmark, encouraging member organizations and their constituencies to actively participate in church-based development cooperation and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

1.2 Church-Based Development Cooperation

Diakonia belongs to the very essence of being church and is an integral part of its purpose. Since the formation of the earliest Christian churches, Christians have preached the gospel with words and demonstrated their faith through care. Preaching and practicing the gospel thus constitute the church's fundamental witness. This connection between what the church is and what it does is called diakonia. The diaconal mandate, through which CKU's member organizations engage in development cooperation, refers to the church's obligation to connect its identity with its actions. Diakonia is not a tool for evangelization or conversion but aims to serve all people unconditionally, focusing on dignity, justice, and care. The CKU Fund does therefore not support proselytism, understood as any action intended to persuade individuals to adopt a particular faith or worldview. This includes not only direct pressure through coercion, manipulation, or undue influence, but also indirect methods that exploit dependency, vulnerability, or social benefits to influence choices regarding religion or belief.

CKU's diaconal identity fundamentally means that development cooperation is driven by a calling to show love through care and responsibility for fellow human beings and for Creation.



From a theological perspective, diakonia is a response to the brokenness that exists in creation, in human beings, in relationships and in the structures of societies. Churches and individual Christians seek to follow Christ's example by restoring broken relationships in ways that uphold human dignity, promote agency, and protect the rights of all people. CKU thus sees poverty not only as a matter of material deprivation but as the result of deeper brokenness that shapes people's lives and opportunities. This view entails a fundamental critique of the conditions and forces that keep people in vulnerability and inequality, including global economic interests, unjust legislation, and harmful social norms and patterns—factors that create and maintain poverty and human rights violations both locally and globally.

From CKU's perspective, diakonia is therefore, at its core, a holistic practice because it addresses the entire life situation of individuals and communities.

CKU's identity and foundation in church-based development cooperation are reflected in the CKU Fund's key concepts and development principles.

1.3 Key Concepts and Development Principles of the CKU Fund

1.3.1 Diaconal Resources and Methods

In development contexts in the Global South, churches and their resources play a unique role. These resources hold potential for mobilization, anchoring, and transformation.

CKU emphasizes that the distinctive methods and resources characterizing church-based development cooperation are leveraged in projects supported by the CKU Fund. CKU defines the resources that churches and church-based organizations can apply in diaconal work as diaconal resources. These are defined as the material and immaterial resources that arise from Christian communities of faith. Diaconal practice becomes real only when these resources are activated—when they are translated into concrete actions that create care, justice, and solidarity.

Material resources in church-based development cooperation include institutions such as churches, schools, and hospitals, as well as pastors, volunteers in congregations, and land holdings. Church leaders are particularly significant resources, as their legitimacy and authority enable them to mobilize congregations and communities, influence moral norms, and act as advocates toward authorities and decision-makers. For this reason, it is crucial to involve them actively and invest in their capacity so they can contribute constructively to civil society development.

Immaterial resources include social relationships, faith narratives, and the moral credibility that church communities often enjoy. Faith can serve as a moral compass and motivate service, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. It provides legitimacy in cooperation with other churches and religious institutions and in societies where religion plays a much greater role than in



a Danish context. Faith nurtures hope with psychological and spiritual depth, which stands strong in the face of adversity. Most churches also have well-established structures connecting local, regional, and national levels, and through ecumenical and interfaith alliances and networks, they are linked to continental and global levels. This creates opportunities for coordinated, holistic, and far-reaching efforts.

Diaconal resources are also applied through concrete and well-tested methods. See examples of these methods on [CKU's website](#)³. CKU encourages applicants to actively integrate these distinctive resources and methods in applications to the CKU Fund.

1.3.2 Civil Society and Locally Led Development

Civil society refers to the grassroots groups, communities, and organizations within society that operate outside both the public sector and the private sector. This includes, for example, religious communities and their local congregations, unions, youth movements, interest groups, cooperatives, faith-based organizations, and other forms of organized citizen engagement. Civil society plays a vital role in promoting participation, strengthening social cohesion, and holding both state and market actors accountable – making it essential for poverty alleviation, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In development cooperation, there is growing recognition that interventions are most sustainable when they are shaped and driven by those closest to the challenges. Locally led development efforts therefore rely on civil society actors who understand the context, can engage affected groups, and bridge local needs with project objectives. At the same time, locally led development requires equitable partnerships, where decision-making authority and resources are transferred to partners in the Global South.

From a diaconal perspective, the local church plays a central role in facilitating meaningful community involvement in project design and monitoring. Churches are often present where other civil society actors are absent and have access to vulnerable and marginalized groups that are otherwise difficult to reach. Deeply rooted in the local context, they enjoy high levels of trust and moral authority, placing them in a unique position to foster ownership and ensure relevance in development efforts.

CKU's approach is to support locally led development projects that align with partner strategies and are based on meaningful engagement of the target group. Projects will therefore be assessed to the extent to which they involve the target group in project preparation and the degree to which they support the priorities of the partner organization (see assessment criteria).

In addition, CKU will enable more process-oriented approaches by providing funding opportunities for project preparation activities aiming to strengthen community involvement, as well as more process-oriented approaches in smaller B-projects, with more flexibility allowing for learning and adaptation.

1.3.3 The relationship Between Rights-Based and Diaconal Development

The fundamental idea of human dignity underlying human rights has deep roots in both Christian thought and European Enlightenment philosophy. The notion that every person is created in the image of God (*imago Dei*) historically drove the development of norms and principles that were later secularized and formalized as human rights. While a diaconal approach to development is shaped by a theological tradition and a rights-based approach by an international legal tradition, they share a common foundation in respect for individual freedom and equal dignity.

Human rights include both political and civil rights—such as freedom of expression, religion, assembly, and association—and socio-economic and cultural rights, such as the right to education and health. CKU considers human rights based approach fundamental to development cooperation and supports projects that aim to change the structures and root causes that create inequality and poverty. The starting point is that all people are born free and equal and have the same right to development and equal opportunities.

Diaconal work is motivated by the belief that every person is created in God's image and therefore has inherent dignity and the right to protection, care, and participation in society. This view aligns with the foundation of human rights—universal dignity and equality. *Diakonia* and a rights-based approach are complementary in practice. Both insist that poverty and marginalization are not only about material deprivation but also about unjust structures, exclusion, and conflictual relationships.

CKU supports a rights-based approach built on four key principles:

- 1. Participation:** Rights-holders must be included and have a say in decisions and processes that affect their lives.
- 2. Accountability:** Promote responsible, inclusive, and transparent institutions and authorities.
- 3. Non-discrimination:** Address human rights violations and discriminatory treatment of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- 4. Empowerment:** Fostering the opportunity, capacity, and ability of marginalized and vulnerable groups to promote their own development (empowerment).

When churches engage in advocacy, mobilization, and capacity development in communities, love of neighbor is translated into social justice and structural change. Diakonia brings hope, dignity, and local mobilization to rights work, while the rights-based approach provides diakonia with a strategic foundation to challenge injustice and promote lasting social transformation. CKU therefore encourages partners to integrate the two approaches in development cooperation.

CKU has a particular focus on discrimination and inequalities experienced by people because of their religion or belief—or lack thereof. This aspect is crucial in many contexts where CKU's member organizations operate and should be addressed in project applications to the CKU Fund when relevant. For projects specifically aimed at protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief, applications can be submitted separately to the FoRB Window.

1.3.4 Partnerships and Popular Engagement

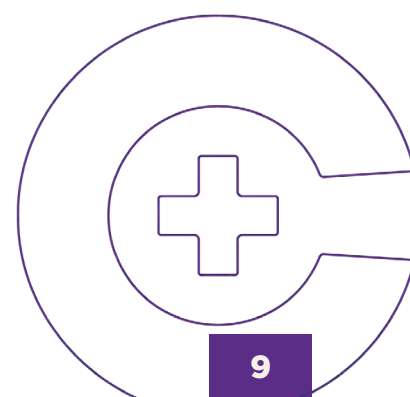
CKU's member organizations typically collaborate with local churches and faith-based organizations in the Global South. These partnerships are characterized by shared diaconal values and often have a long history. See more about how CKU views partnerships in [CKU's Partnership Policy](#).⁴

CKU emphasizes that development efforts should be anchored in the constituencies of member organizations, such as churches and congregations in Denmark. This can be achieved in various ways, including involving volunteers and through awareness-raising. The CKU Fund also offers the opportunity to include a young volunteer on monitoring

trips. CKU organizes meetings and facilitates knowledge networks on development issues, providing suitable forums for volunteer learning and participation.

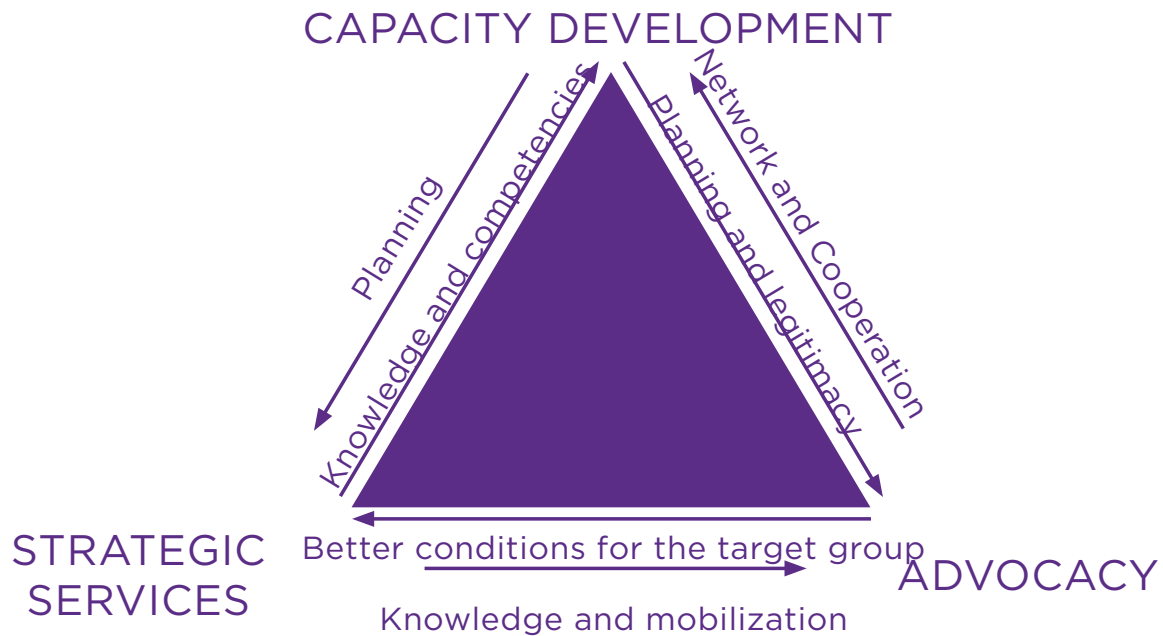
The CKU Fund supports awareness-raising activities in Denmark through a separate modality (see Chapter 4.3). It is important that valuable knowledge about poverty alleviation, human rights, the SDGs, and other global issues acquired by member organizations is communicated widely—not only within their own constituency. This serves two purposes; to ensure broad public support for Danish development cooperation and to create potential for future engagement, where even more Danes become actors in development cooperation.

Therefore, it is also a priority for CKU to support joint communication and awareness-raising in Denmark about church-based development cooperation on behalf of CKU's member organizations and Partner in the Global Souths.



1.3.5 The Development Triangle

In planning development projects, the CKU Fund emphasizes a balanced approach to strategic services, capacity development, and advocacy as part of a coherent intervention. The interconnection and mutual reinforcement between these three elements are illustrated in the Development Triangle model below. The emphasis of each element will naturally depend on the project's context, problem analysis, and purpose. Partners are encouraged to reflect on the balance between these elements and clearly explain how they interact in the planned intervention.



Strategic Service Delivery

Strategic service delivery refers to tangible inputs that act as leverage for achieving project goals. While strategic services may be necessary, they do not in themselves create lasting and sustainable development if implemented in isolation. However, by investing in inputs such as seed capital for Village Savings and Loan Groups (VSLA), entrepreneurship training, water harvesting systems, development of educational materials, starter kits for sustainable agriculture, etc. projects can gain access to target groups, legitimacy in local communities, and a foundation for capacity development of local partners.

Capacity development

Capacity development broadly covers organizational capacity within the partner organization, enhancing its competencies, structure, legitimacy, and impact in society to strengthen development cooperation among poor and marginalized groups. Capacity development can also target networks and platforms through which the partner, together with other actors, can promote human rights agendas and contribute to creating lasting results. Finally, capacity development can be directed toward the target group itself, where project participants are organized and empowered to influence the fulfillment of their rights and drive their own development.

Examples include

- Training staff or volunteer leaders and other resource persons in administration, documentation, relevant thematic areas, and rights-based methods.
- Strengthening the board work, income basae, and popular support of the partner.
- Courses for target groups in VSLA methodology, sustainable agricultural practices, cooperative procedures, etc.

CKU's policy for capacity development can be found [here](#).⁵

Advocacy

Advocacy is an organized process aimed at influencing formal and informal decision-makers—such as authorities and religious leaders—to change policies, practices, or behaviors in favor of poor and marginalized groups. Activities may include:

- Training courses for authorities
- Dialogue meetings with authorities
- Mobilizing local communities to raise a common agenda with decision-makers
- Establishing and/or mobilizing networks focused on advocacy

As mentioned before, churches and faith-based organizations often have significant credibility and extensive networks that can be leveraged in advocacy efforts.

Advocacy activities must be included in applications for development projects over DKK 500,000 (A- and F-projects) but are not mandatory for projects under DKK 500,000 (B-projects).

CKU's policy for advocacy can be found [here](#).⁶

1.3.6 Fragile Development Contexts

The Danish development strategy “A Changing World – Partnerships in Development” emphasizes continued support for the most fragile countries. In these contexts, there is a need to strengthen capacity and resilience to prevent and manage crises. The CKU Fund can therefore also support interventions in countries characterized by fragility.

Fragility can be understood through five dimensions:

- Political
- Social
- Economic
- Climate and environmental
- Security

When working in fragile contexts, it is important to describe this thoroughly in the context analysis and strategy sections of the application. This will be considered in the assessment, where greater flexibility will be provided regarding:

- **Inclusion of strategic service delivery:** Services can be an important tool to create space for civil society organizations to address sensitive issues such as protection of vulnerable groups and rights.
- **Flexibility in relation to advocacy requirements:** Projects in fragile contexts may be exempt from the mandatory advocacy components.

1.4 Strategic Priorities of the CKU Fund

As mentioned above, the CKU Fund supports diaconal development efforts of churches and church-based organizations through a broad, rights-based approach within all SDGs.

CKU's organizational strategy (adopted April 2023) furthermore identifies three strategic priorities for 2023–2027. These strategic priorities will guide the supportive capacity- and learning initiatives facilitated by CKU during this period. Applications for A- and B-projects that align with these priorities may receive an additional point under assessment criterion 2.1.

1.4.1 Caring for Creation

The climate crisis remains one of the greatest threats of our time, exacerbating poverty, food insecurity, and inequality, and threatening the livelihoods of millions worldwide.

According to the World Bank (2025), about 710 million people live in extreme poverty, defined as living on less than USD 2.15 per day. Around 60% of the world's poor live in countries highly vulnerable to climate change, where droughts, floods, and biodiversity loss undermine crop yields, water supply, and income opportunities.

The poorest populations are predominantly in rural areas, where 80% depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods (Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO, 2025). In those areas, climate change leads to crop failures, soil degradation, and unsustainable resource use. Yet, at the same time population growth and pressure on natural resources increase competition for water, land, and energy—fueling conflicts and migration.

Although recent UN reports show a slight decline in global hunger to 673 million people in 2024, FAO warns that the improvements are fragile. Climate shocks, wars, and economic crises can quickly reverse progress, and annually an estimated 26 million people are pushed into poverty due to climate-related disasters (World Bank, 2025). Therefore, climate adaptation, resilience, and social protection are crucial for poverty reduction. CKU will prioritize projects that work to preserve the work of Creation, for example, through:

Thus, CKU will prioritize interventions that protect Creation through:

- » Building resilience and local adaption capacity in vulnerable communities
- » Climate-smart agriculture and improved food security
- » Sustainable water management, including rainwater harvesting, irrigation systems, and access to clean water



- » Protection and restoration of natural resources (land, forests, water, fisheries), including green energy (e.g. fuel-efficient stoves)
- » Advocacy for resource allocation to adaption, regulation, and sustainable management of natural resources
- » Conflict mediation and dialogue in environmental-related/resource-based conflicts
- » Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

1.4.2 Faith-Based Peacebuilding

The number of armed conflicts worldwide has nearly doubled in the past five years. For many of CKU's partners, insecurity, tensions, injustice, and violent conflict are part of their daily reality. Religion and religious actors are often perceived as causes of conflict – sometimes rightly so. Therefore, religious actors have a special responsibility to work constructively with conflicts, ensuring that religion and religious actors become part of the solutions to conflicts. CKU will thus prioritize interventions that seek to support and develop churches and church-based actors' unique opportunity to promote peace in a holistic sense. This can for instance be through projects that:

- » Build capacity in conflict transformation, conflict analysis, and nonviolent activism
- » Promote reconciliation between conflicting groups
- » Facilitating intra- and interfaith dialogue
- » Establishing infrastructures for peace (e.g., peace committees and dialogue forums)
- » Engage in advocacy in alliance with humanitarian or development actors

1.4.3 Protection and Inclusion of Children and Youth

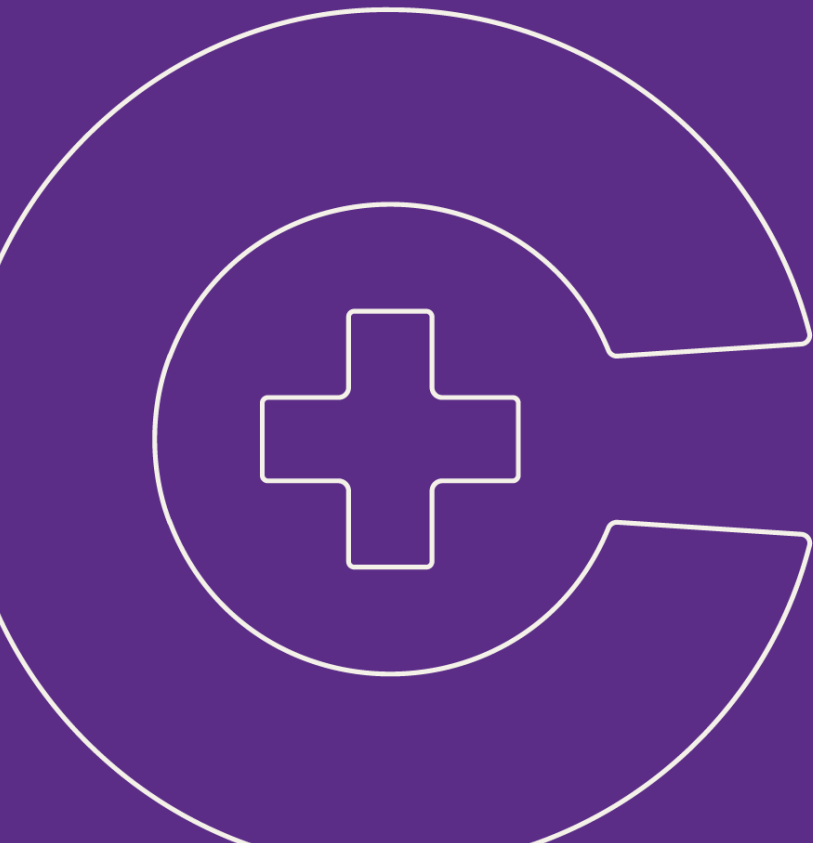
In a crisis-ridden world, the growing number of children and youth are particularly vulnerable. They risk not having their basic needs for care, protection, and education met. At the same time, they represent an enormous resource for the future: All 17 SDGs relate—directly or indirectly—to equipping children and youth with the frameworks, skills, and opportunities they need to build a better future for themselves, their families, and communities. Meaningful youth participation is crucial for democracy, human rights, and free civil societies. Historically, churches and church-based organizations have played a significant role in caring for children, youth, and families in crisis, and this remains an essential part of the diaconal work. In line with CKU's rights-based approach, the CKU Fund will therefore prioritize initiatives that work to improve conditions for children and youth, ensure their rights, and build resilience in times of crisis.

This could include interventions like:

- Establishing local networks of actors working on child protection for joint advocacy with authorities
- Support for developing capacities and establishing structures that promote family-based solutions for children and youth separated from their parents, as well as the gradual phase-out of placements in institutions
- Awareness raising and strengthening of children's rights in local communities (e.g., school access).
- Developing safeguarding procedures among church-based actors
- Strengthening families through VSLA savings and loans, parenting education, and follow-up support from community volunteers
- Promoting youth participation through youth councils

Chapter 2

Conditions for Applying to the CKU Fund



The CKU Fund supports development projects and activities carried out by CKU's member organizations in collaboration with their partners in the Global South. CKU's member organizations currently consist of 36 churches and church-based organizations of various sizes and with diverse theological identities. See more [here](#)⁷ about how to become a member of CKU.

2.1 Requirements for the Danish Member Organizations

Formal Requirements:

- » The applicant must be a member of CKU.
- » The applicant cannot have a strategic partnership agreement (SPA) directly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- » The organization must be private, be legally registered and have activities in Denmark.
- » The chairperson or the majority of board members must be Danish citizens or foreign nationals with permanent residence in Denmark, unless an exemption is granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- » The organization must have at least 100 paying contributors. Contributions must have been made in the current or latest fiscal year. There is no requirement for the size of the contribution.
- » Institutional accounts must be subject to auditing.
- » The organization must have approved statutes.

Additionally, the Danish organization will also be assessed on the following prerequisites during the application process:

Organizational Anchoring of International Development Cooperation

It is important that the development cooperation and specific projects and activities are anchored within the organization.

There must be support and endorsement from the organization for the intervention being applied for. The application may be prepared by volunteers, but the board or secretariate of the applying organization must assume full responsibility for the application and any subsequent grant.

Popular Support and Volunteering

The member organization must have strong and sustained popular support in Denmark. This includes conducting awareness activities that promote knowledge and support for development cooperation within the organization's constituency and the broader public. Volunteers can contribute to popular support for Danish development aid by serving as resource persons in fieldwork or organizational work in committees or project groups. CKU therefore recommends actively engaging volunteers in international cooperation.

Capacity and Human Resources

The member organization must possess the necessary professional capacity to implement the planned development project and assume full responsibility for applications and grants under the CKU Fund.

It is recommended that the organization thoroughly reads [CKU's Grant Management Guide](#)⁸ before submitting an application to ensure familiarity with the responsibilities and tasks involved. It is also possible to establish a collaboration with CKU's secretariate regarding support for project management. See more in section 6.2.

2.2 Requirements for Partners in the Global South

Formal Requirements:

- Interventions must take place in countries listed on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of developing countries, including both upper- and lower-middle-income countries. See DAC list [here](#)⁹.
- The partner in the Global South must be part of civil society in the respective country, and its leadership must be locally rooted.
- It is expected that the work of the partner in the Global South has a church-based affiliation.
- The partner in the Global South must not be listed on the UN or EU terrorist lists, which are regularly updated. It is the responsibility of the Danish member organization to ensure this.
- For interventions with a budget of more than 200.000 DKK it is a requirement to have audited institutional accounts.

Additionally, the partner in the Global South and the partnership will also be assessed during the application process regarding the following prerequisites:

Capacity and Human Resources

The partner in the Global South must have the professional capacity to implement and monitor the development project. It is primarily the partner's responsibility to carry out activities locally. For interventions with a budget of over 500.000 DKK it is also a requirement that a complaint and response system is in place.

Partnership

There must be an active and equal partnership between the member organization and the partner, with shared goals, activities, and exchange visits. For applications exceeding DKK 500,000, previous experience in implementing activities or projects supported by the CKU Fund or similar donors must be documented. For applications over DKK 500,000 under the Ukraine+ Nexus modality, this requirement applies only to the Danish organization's experience.

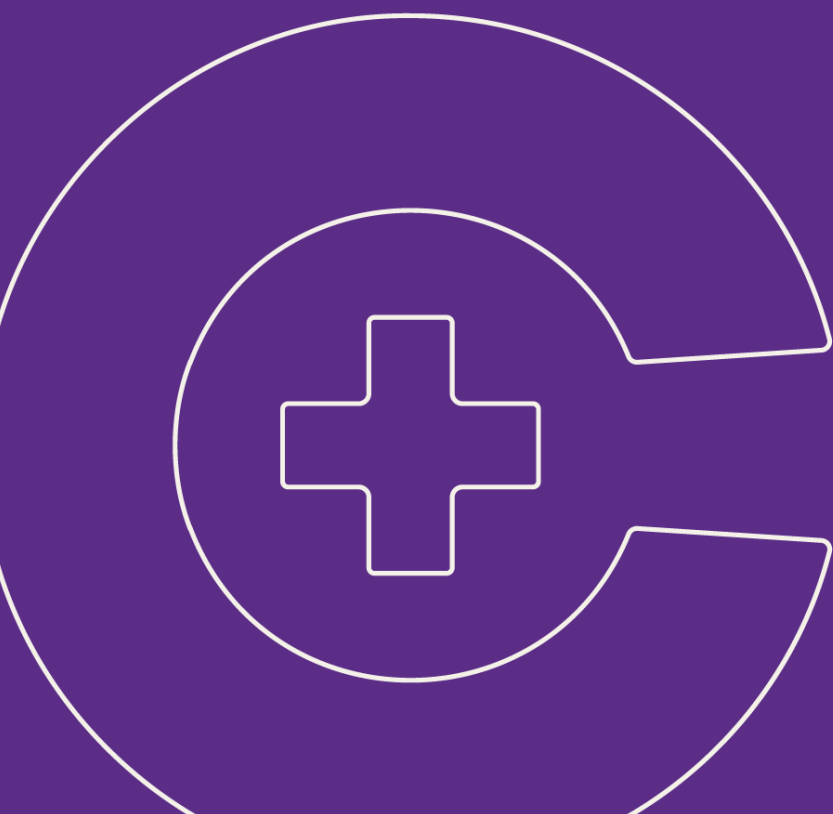
Joint Application Process

It is expected that the application is prepared collaboratively between the Danish member organization and the partner in the Global South and that it is submitted by the member organization.



Chapter 3

Overview of the Support Opportunities of the CKU Fund



3.1 What can be supported?

The CKU Fund provides support for the following types of modalities:

Development Projects

- » **A-project (between DKK 500.000 and DKK 2.000.000)**
- » **B-project (up to DKK 500.000)**
- » **F Co-financing project (between DKK 500.000 and DKK 1.000.000)**
- » **G Nexus interventions in Ukraine and neighbouring countries (between DKK 500.000 and DKK 1.000.000)**

Activities

- » **C Project Preparation Activity (DKK 20.000 - 50.000)**
- » **D Partnership Activity (DKK 20.000 - 50.000)**
- » **E Capacity Development and Learning (DKK 20.000 - 50.000 / up to DKK 150.000)**

Awareness Raising and Engagement in Denmark

- » **I Awareness Raising and Engagement Activity (DKK 20.000 - 50.000)**

Applications over DKK 200,000 have biannual deadlines, while those under DKK 200,000 are accepted year-round if funds remain. See application deadlines [here](#)¹⁰.

The CKU Fund modalities are further described in Chapter 4.

CKU also manages other funds and support opportunities, including the GLOBUS Fund, the Freedom of Religion or Belief Window, Reimbursement of School Fees, and supportive learning initiatives that member organizations and their partners can participate in. See Chapter 7 for more information.

3.2 How are Funds Allocated?

The overall budget for the CKU Fund is determined annually in the Danish Fiscal act.

CKU's board approves the grant budget each year, allocating funds across the different modalities and between the regular application rounds. Additionally, the board sets an annual grant ceiling for member organizations and defines how many applications may be submitted per modality per member organization. This information is communicated to member organizations at the end of the year, providing clarity for the coming year and allowing for proper planning.

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Principles

All applications are assessed based on five main criteria, which are elaborated with sub-criteria and weighed differently depending on the modality (see Chapter 4):

1. Partnership and Capacity
2. Relevance and Purpose
3. Target Group and Stakeholders
4. Intervention
5. Sustainability

For A-, B and G-projects above DKK 200,000, a scoring system is applied using the LEADS method, with scores from 1-5.

LEADS stands for:		Score	The score is given, when there is:
L	Little action/evidence	1	Weak indication that supports the criteria
E	Some Evidence	2	Some indication that supports the criteria
A	Action taken	3	Indication that supports the criteria
D	Developed	4	Solid indication that supports the criteria
S	Sustainable	5	Comprehensive indication of implementation and/or indication of an established approach/system in supporting the criteria

Each criterion is assessed based on how well the application meets it. The assessment considers the amount applied for, the experience and capacity of the applicant and partner, the project context, and the overall purpose of the application.

If there are more eligible projects than can be funded within the CKU Fund's budget, those with the highest scores will be granted.

Other modalities are exempt from the scoring system and are granted if deemed eligible and if funds are available within the grant budget.

Assessment Principles

» Holistic Assessment

Each application is assessed based on a set of sub-criteria, and decisions are made through an overall evaluation where weaker aspects may be balanced by stronger ones.

» Alignment with Requirements

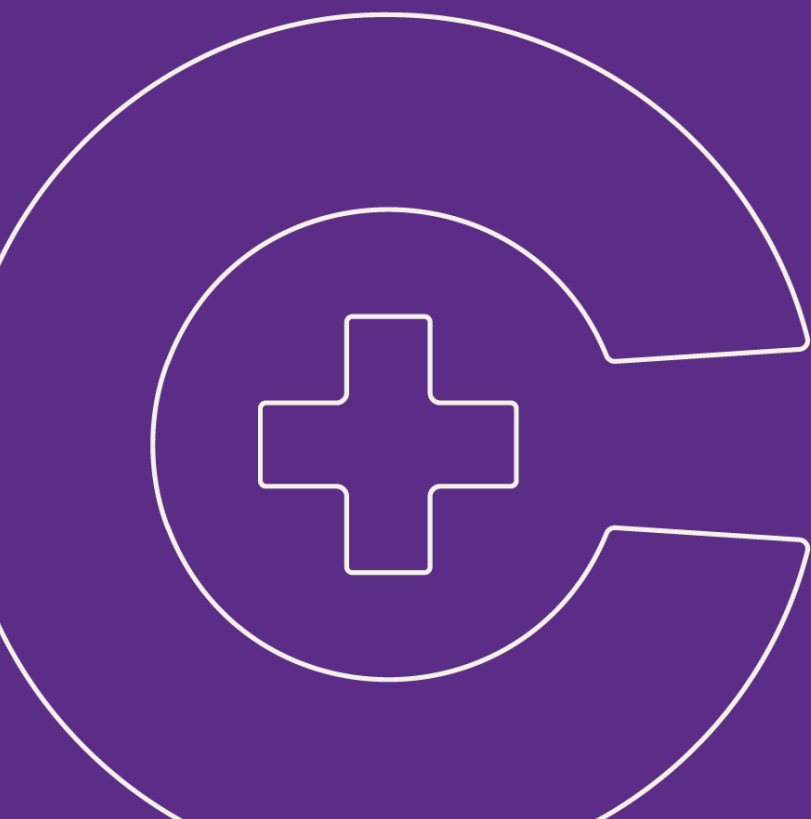
Each application is assessed individually, considering the goals, budget, and context of the intervention, as well as the capacity and size of the partners. The larger the requested amount, the higher the expectations. Similarly, more experienced organizations will face higher requirements than smaller or newer ones.

» Track Record

In assessing an organization's capacity under Criterion 1, consideration is also given to how the organization has previously managed grants through the CKU Fund and its compliance with policy requirements and follow-up from administrative and monitoring reviews in Denmark and the Global South.

Chapter 4

Modalities of the CKU Fund

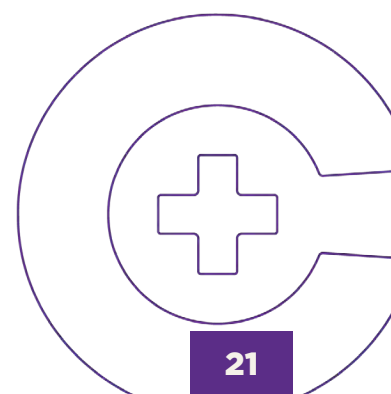


4.1 Projects

Development Interventions Divided into Phases

It is possible to apply for multiple phases to ensure a long-term development intervention. For phased interventions, the planned phases must be described and justified in the sustainability section of the application. Applications for subsequent phases must always be based on documented results and learning from the previous phase, clearly explaining the need for a new phase and what results are expected.

In fragile contexts, progress is not always linear, as external factors may affect the project's trajectory. Therefore, planning multiple phases in such contexts may be more unpredictable. If setbacks occur between phases in fragile contexts, it is important to describe both the results achieved and the external factors that may have negatively impacted the previous phase.



Modality A: Development project (DKK 500.000 - DKK 2.000.000)

A development project aims to improve the living conditions of poor and marginalized target groups. The project is implemented in collaboration between the Danish member organization and one or more partners in the Global South, and often includes other strategic actors such as human rights organizations, networks, local authorities, churches, or other local stakeholders to achieve sustainable and lasting results for a broader target group. CKU values when church-based partners clearly demonstrate how they seek to leverage their unique diaconal resources and networks in the projects.

A development project typically consists of three components that must be balanced – strategic service deliveries, capacity development and advocacy (cf. chapter 1).

It is possible to apply for up to DKK 2,000,000 in support for A-projects with a duration of up to 4 years. If the project is managed in collaboration with CKU, the maximum is DKK 1,000,000. For applications above DKK 1,500,000, the project period must be at least 3 years.

What can be applied for?

- » Projects within all SDGs, with a particular focus on mobilizing and strengthening the role of churches and church-based actors as drivers of social change and sustainable development.
- » In the period 2023–2027, CKU prioritizes three thematic areas: Caring for Creation, Faith-Based Peacebuilding, and Protection and Participation of Children and Youth (see Chapter 1). Working within these areas can be rewarded with an extra point under assessment criterion 2.1.
- » Costs for activities and local salaries related to the project.
- » Investments necessary for project implementation.
- » Administration and management costs of partners in relation to the intervention.
- » Auditing—both locally and in Denmark.
- » Monitoring costs.
- » Additional participation of a young volunteer on the monitoring trip, expected to contribute to long-term anchoring of the partnership and project within the organization.

What is not eligible for support?

- » Isolated equipment deliveries, vehicles, buildings, and land.
- » Operating costs for schools, clinics, or similar.
- » Establishment of parallel structures (e.g., starting schools or clinics where functioning facilities already exist).
- » Interventions intended wholly or partly proselytizing or dissemination of partisan political messages.
- » Projects that exclusively benefit church members.
- » Humanitarian aid.

Please refer to the [CKU Fund's Budget Guidelines](#)¹¹ and seek further guidance from the CKU Secretariate if needed.

Who can apply?

All CKU member organizations in collaboration with their Partners in the Global South who meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund (see Chapter 2). Additionally, experience in implementing activities or projects supported by CKU or similar donors must be documented.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses the application based on the five criteria above and the following sub-criteria. Each sub-criterion is weighted:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria	Weight
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The member organization has relevant experience and capacity to manage the project, and the project is likely to have organizational support.	6%
	1.2 The partner in the Global South has relevant experience and capacity to implement the project, which supports the partner's ongoing work.	6%
	1.3 The project is relevant to the history of collaboration between the partners.	6%
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The project's purpose and approach align with the CKU Fund's overall goals, key concepts, development principles, and possibly with strategic priorities.	6%
	2.2 The project demonstrates understanding of the context, including the role of religion and religious actors, and (if applicable) builds on previous results and learning.	2%
	2.3 The application includes a clear and well-supported problem analysis.	6%
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The composition, size, and selection of the target group and other stakeholders (e.g., age, gender, religion, social affiliation) are relevant.	6%
	3.2 The target group and relevant local actors, including churches, have been involved in project preparation and have influenced the project design.	6%
	3.3 The partner demonstrates legitimacy with the target group, including the most vulnerable.	6%

4. Intervention	4.1 There is logical coherence in the results framework; outcomes, outputs, and indicators are clearly formulated and measurable and contribute to the overall purpose of the project.	8%
	4.2 The strategy is relevant and coherent, rooted in local actors including churches, and involves strategic partners and networks.	10%
	4.3 The inclusion and the use of diaconal resources and methods is clearly described and relevant.	8%
	4.4 The risk assessment considers factors that may hinder the achievement of project targets, and it includes relevant mitigation strategies.	2%
	4.5 Roles, responsibilities and professional contributions of partners and strategic partners are clearly described and relevant.	2%
	4.6 There is an appropriate plan for monitoring, learning, and results collection.	2%
	4.7 The budget is clear and transparent and matches planned activities, possibly including own contribution.	6%
	4.8 Cost level and distribution for administration, travel, and salaries is reasonable.	6%
5. Sustainability	5.1 The project contributes to sustainable improvements in the target group's living conditions and rights through solid anchoring in local structures and networks, including church structures.	6%

Modality B: Development Project - up to DKK 500.000

There are two application options under this modality:

- 1. Small B-projects** up to DKK 500,000: Aimed at improving living conditions for poor and marginalized groups. These projects do not need to include all three elements of the development triangle. Advocacy is not a requirement, although it may naturally be integrated as part of capacity development within the partner organization.
- 2. Innovative B-projects** between DKK 200,000–500,000: The purpose is to implement an innovative or new initiative where the partners jointly test new methods that can strengthen and upgrade existing development cooperation. Higher requirements are placed on documentation and experience, while lower requirements apply to aspects such as the size of the target group.

CKU values when church-based partners clearly demonstrate how they seek to leverage their unique diaconal resources and networks in the projects. Applications for DKK 200,000–500,000 have biannual deadlines. Smaller B-projects under DKK 200,000 are accepted year-round if funds remain.

What is eligible for support?

- » Projects within all SDGs, with a particular focus on mobilizing and strengthening the role of churches and church-based actors as drivers of social change and sustainable development.
- » In the period 2023–2027, CKU prioritizes three thematic areas: Caring for Creation, Faith-Based Peacebuilding, and Protection and Participation of Children and Youth (see Chapter 1). Working within these areas can be rewarded with an extra point under assessment criterion 2.1.
- » The CKU Fund also supports more process-oriented B-projects. An example is the Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) method, which local churches have successfully applied in their development cooperation.
- » Costs for activities and local salaries related to the project.
- » Investments necessary for project implementation.
- » Administration and management costs of partners in relation to the intervention.
- » Auditing—both locally and in Denmark.
- » Monitoring costs.
- » Additional participation of a young volunteer on the monitoring trip, expected to contribute to long-term anchoring of the partnership and project within the organization.

What is not eligible for support?

- » Isolated equipment deliveries, vehicles, buildings, and land.
- » Operating costs for schools, clinics, or similar.
- » Establishment of parallel structures (e.g., starting schools or clinics where functioning facilities already exist).
- » Interventions intended wholly or partly for proselytizing or dissemination of partisan political messages.
- » Projects that exclusively benefit church members.
- » Humanitarian Aid.

Who can apply?

Small-projects up to DKK 500,000 cannot be applied for by member organizations that already have the capacity to manage development projects under the CKU Fund. However, innovative B-projects between DKK 200,000 and DKK 500,000 may be applied for by all CKU member organizations.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses the application based on the five main criteria above and the following sub-criteria. Each sub-criterion is weighted:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria	Weight
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The member organization has relevant experience and capacity to manage the project, and the project is likely to have organizational support.	6%
	1.2 The partner in the Global South has relevant experience and capacity to implement the project, which supports the partner's ongoing work.	6%
	1.3 The project is relevant to the history of collaboration between the partners.	6%
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The project's purpose and approach align with the CKU Fund's overall goals, key concepts, development principles, and possibly with strategic priorities.	6%
	2.2 The project demonstrates understanding of the context, including the role of religion and religious actors, and (if applicable) builds on previous results and learning.	4%
	2.3 The application includes a clear and well-supported problem analysis.	6%
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The composition, size, and selection of the target group and other stakeholders (e.g., age, gender, religion, social affiliation) are relevant.	6%
	3.2 The target group and relevant local actors, including churches, have been involved in project preparation and have influenced the project design.	6%
4. Intervention	4.1 There is logical coherence between the purpose of the project, the expected results and the specific activities.	9%
	4.2 The strategy is relevant and coherent, rooted in local actors including churches, and involves strategic partners and networks.	10%
	4.3 The inclusion and the use of diaconal resources and methods is clearly described and relevant.	9%
	4.4 Roles, responsibilities and professional contributions of partners and strategic partners are clearly described and relevant.	4%
	4.5 There is an appropriate plan for monitoring, learning, and results collection.	4%
	4.6 The budget is clear and transparent and matches planned activities, possibly including own contribution.	6%
	4.7 Cost level and distribution for administration, travel, and salaries is reasonable.	6%
5. Sustainability	5.1 The project contributes to sustainable improvements in the target group's living conditions and rights through solid anchoring in local structures and networks, including church structures.	6%

Modality F: Co-financing Project (DKK 500.000 - DKK 1.000.000)

A co-financing project aims to contribute funding to larger applications submitted to institutional donors other than the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where co-financing is required (e.g., EU). The purpose is to support partners in expanding their funding base.

Co-financing may constitute a maximum of 25% of the total program or project budget.

It is possible to apply for between DKK 500,000 and DKK 1,000,000 in support for a co-financing project.

What is eligible for support?

- » Co-financing is only available for projects whose objectives align with the overall purpose of the CKU Fund
- » The portion of the budget covered by CKU must comply with the Guidelines for the CKU Fund and the CKU Budget Guidelines. For example, CKU's contribution cannot cover major separate investments such as vehicles, buildings, etc.

Who can apply?

- All CKU member organizations in collaboration with their Partners in the Global South who meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund (see Chapter 2).
- Applicants must document experience in implementing activities or projects supported by the CKU Fund or similar donors.
- Each member organization may submit a maximum of one application per year under this modality.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses the application based on fewer criteria, assuming that the main donor is responsible for the overall evaluation of the development project. CKU co-financing is contingent upon approval of the project by the main donor.

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The member organization has relevant experience and capacity to manage the project, and the project is likely to have organizational support.
	1.2 The partner in the Global South has relevant experience and capacity to implement the project, which supports the partner's ongoing work.
	1.3 The project is relevant to the history of collaboration between the partners.
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The project's purpose and approach align with the CKU Fund's overall goals, key concepts, development principles, and possibly with strategic priorities.
3. Application to the Main Donor	3.1 The application is assessed to have realistic chances of approval by the main donor, in terms of quality and alignment with the donor's funding framework.
	3.2 The main donor's application procedures and guidelines are compatible with CKU's co-financing modality.
4. Budget	4.1 The portion of the project funded by CKU complies with CKU's Budget Guidelines.

Modality G: Nexus Interventions in Ukraine+ (DKK 500.000 - 1.000.000)

A Nexus Intervention in Ukraine+ aims to strengthen local civil society to protect the rights of all citizens and overcome ethnic and religious divisions in order to rebuild and develop Ukraine and neighboring countries. The Danish [Strategic Framework for European Neighborhood Countries 2022-2026](#)¹² provides together with the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation, “A changing World – Partnerships in Development” the framework for this modality.

Projects must be implemented in collaboration between a Danish member organization and a partner in at least one of the following six countries: Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. CKU values when church-based partners clearly demonstrate how they seek to leverage their unique diaconal resources and networks in the projects. Projects may also include other strategic actors such as humanitarian organizations, human rights organizations, or local authorities.

Unlike development projects, which typically balance strategic service delivery, capacity development, and advocacy (see Chapter 1), Nexus interventions may emphasize strategic service delivery and are not required to include advocacy components.

It is possible to apply for between DKK 500,000 and DKK 1,000,000 in support. The maximum project duration is 18 months.

What is eligible for support?

- » Reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts
- » Building civil society capacity and strengthening citizen participation in reconstruction
- » Food security, if part of a broader strategy to mobilize and strengthen civil society structures
- » Peacebuilding involving religious actors in reconciliation processes
- » Refugee support in neighboring countries
- » Green reconstruction and increased energy independence
- » Trauma healing and psychosocial support programs
- » Rehabilitation for war veterans
- » Family support for re-establishing daily life (housing, employment, education)
- » Child protection in conflict contexts
- » Capacity development for de-institutionalized child rehabilitation
- » Costs for activities and local salaries
- » Necessary investments for project implementation
- » Partner administration and management
- » Auditing (local and in Denmark)
- » Monitoring expenses

What is not eligible for support?

- » Isolated equipment delivery (cars, buildings, land, etc.).
- » Establishment of parallel structures.
- » Interventions intended wholly or partly for proselytizing or dissemination of partisan political messages.
- » Projects that exclusively benefit church members.

Please refer to the CKU Fund's Budget Guidelines and seek further guidance from the CKU Secretariate if needed.

Who can apply?

All CKU member organizations in collaboration with their Partners in the Global South who meet the requirements (see Chapter 2). Each member organization may submit one application per round under this modality.

Please note: Funds for the Ukraine+ modality do not count toward the CKU Fund's annual grant ceiling.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses the application based on the four main criteria above and the following sub-criteria. Each sub-criterion is weighted:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria	Weight
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The member organization has relevant experience and capacity to manage the project, and the project is likely to have organizational support.	7%
	1.2 The partner in the Global South has relevant experience and capacity to implement the project, which supports the partner's ongoing work.	7%
	1.3 The project is relevant to the history of collaboration between the partners.	7%
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The project's purpose and approach align with the CKU Fund's overall goals, key concepts, development principles, and possibly with strategic priorities.	7%
	2.2 The project demonstrates understanding of the context, including the role of religion and religious actors, and (if applicable) builds on previous results and learning.	4%
	2.3 The application includes a clear and well-supported problem analysis.	7%
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The composition, size, and selection of the target group and other stakeholders (e.g., age, gender, religion, social affiliation) are relevant.	7%
	3.2 The partner demonstrates legitimacy with the target group, including the most vulnerable.	7%

4. Intervention	4.1 There is logical coherence between the purpose of the project, the expected results and the specific activities.	7%
	4.2 The strategy is relevant and coherent, rooted in local actors including churches, and involves strategic partners and networks.	9%
	4.3 The inclusion and the use of diaconal resources and methods is clearly described and relevant.	9%
	4.4 The risk assessment considers potential negative impacts (do-no-harm) and includes relevant mitigation strategies.	7%
	4.5 Roles, responsibilities and professional contributions of partners and strategic partners are clearly described and relevant.	4%
	4.6 There is an appropriate plan for monitoring, learning, and results collection including coordination with other actors.	4%
	4.7 The budget is clear and transparent and matches planned activities, possibly including own contribution.	7%

4.2 Activities

Modality C: Project Preparation Activity (DKK 20.000 - 50.000)

The purpose of a project preparation activity is to ensure local involvement or clarify specific elements in the development of a project application in collaboration between the member organization and the Partner in the Global South. The application must include a short description and a budget estimate for the project idea that the activity relates to.

What is eligible for support?

- Involving local actors and communities in identifying the potential for mobilizing diaconal resources for local community development.
- Clarifying key aspects of project preparation, such as data collection to strengthen problem analysis, mapping and analysis of key actors (including the local church), and identifying collaboration opportunities with relevant stakeholders.
- Exploring strategic options, including methods to be tested or the need for expert input in new thematic areas, as part of preparing a potential project application.

What is not eligible for support?

- Identification of new partners.
- The actual writing process of a CKU Fund application.
- Feasibility studies for applications aimed at other donors or funds.
- Feasibility studies for next-phase projects, as it is assumed that evaluation and learning from the previous phase will inform the next.

Who can apply?

All CKU member organizations that meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund, in collaboration with one or more Partners in the Global South.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses applications based on the above four main criteria and the sub-criteria below:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The member organization has relevant experience and capacity to manage the project, and the project is likely to have organizational support.
	1.2 The partner in the Global South has relevant experience and capacity to implement the project, which supports the partner's ongoing work.
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The purpose of the Project Preparation Activity and the planned project aligns with the CKU Fund's overall goals, key concepts, and development principles.
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 Participants in the Project Preparation Activity have relevant qualifications for the task and the planned project.
4. Intervention	4.1 The Project Preparation Activity (its methods and activities) is likely to contribute to completing a project application.
	4.2 The budget for the Project Preparation Activity is well justified.

Modality D: Partnership Activity (DKK 20.000 - 50.000)

The purpose of a Partnership Activity is to strengthen partnerships, mutual understanding, and a shared vision to enhance strategic church-based development cooperation for the benefit of poor and marginalized people.

It is expected that the activity is prepared in close collaboration between partners to ensure joint ownership of the process.

What is eligible for support?

- » The CKU Fund can provide support for developing, formalizing, or renewing partnership agreements between Danish member organizations and their partners concerning long-term church-based development cooperation. This can, for example, take place through partnership workshops or conferences—often held in the partner country—with participation from relevant board members, leaders, and development professionals from both organizations.
- » CKU recommends that partnership dialogues also include a discussion on how diakonia can have a clearer and more integrated role in the partnership. This includes considering how diaconal resources in local churches and church-based organizations can be mobilized and actively applied in the development cooperation.
- » CKU recommends involving youth from both Denmark and locally in Partnership Activities to ensure anchoring and future continuation of the organizations' work.
- » It is also possible to organize a Partnership Activity for multiple partners to foster collaboration and cross-learning.

What is not eligible for support?

- » The activity cannot be used for regular partnership visits, which member organizations routinely conduct.

Who can apply?

All CKU member organizations that meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund, in collaboration with one or more Partners in the Global South.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses applications based on the above five main criteria and the sub-criteria below:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The Partnership Activity is relevant in relation to the partners' collaboration history.
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The Partnership Activity aligns with the CKU Fund's overall goals and guidelines.
	2.2 The Partnership Activity appears to be relevant and addresses identified partnership challenges and opportunities identified as part of the preparation.
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The composition, number, and selection of participants (e.g., their roles in the organizations) are relevant to the activity.
4. Intervention	4.1 There is logical coherence between the Partnership Activity's purpose, expected results, and specific activities.
	4.2 The roles and contributions of the partners are clearly described and appear relevant
	4.3 The budget of the Partnership Activity is well justified and matches the expected results.

Modality E: Capacity Development and Learning (DKK 20.000 - 150.000)

The purpose of the Capacity Development and Learning Activity is to strengthen the Southern partner's capacity to carry out development cooperation, including building development-related, diaconal, organizational, and administrative capacity, as well as professional competence within the sectors in which the partners operate.

The activity may also aim to collect and document learning from completed CKU-funded A- or B-projects in collaboration between the Danish member organization and two or more partners in the Global South working within the same theme.

It is assumed that the activity is prepared in close cooperation with the involved partners to ensure local ownership.

Applicants can request between DKK 20,000 and 150,000 to support the capacity development and learning of the partner in the Global South. Where three or fewer primary participants are involved, the maximum amount is DKK 50,000.

What is eligible for support?

- » Courses held in partner countries, regionally in the Global South, and if justified in Denmark.
- » Participation of partners in relevant national, regional, and international networks, conferences, seminars, and workshops, as well as in exchange activities with other churches and organizations or study visits. If particularly relevant to the partners' ongoing or upcoming project collaboration, the Danish member organization may participate in the activity if justified.
- » Capacity and organizational development processes for the partner in the Global South, focusing on areas such as:
 - Development of monitoring, evaluation, or financial systems
 - Implementation of strategic processes, leadership development, and organizational restructuring
 - Building institutional sustainability, including strategies for a diversified funding base
 - Integration of a rights-based approach within the organization
 - Building diaconal capacity to actively and purposefully apply relevant methods and resources from the diaconal tradition in project work
 - Learning processes with a clear focus on future development projects
- » Coverage of consultant costs if the above processes require facilitation by a consultant. This presupposes a clearly expressed need from the partner for consultancy assistance within the organization. The purpose and process must be designed in close collaboration between the partners to ensure local ownership and a fruitful partnership. If a Danish or other foreign consultant is involved, there must always be a strong justification that the required competencies cannot be found locally. Furthermore, the deployment period must not exceed six months and may be divided into several short interventions within a two-year period.

What is not eligible for support?

- » Support is not provided for activities that constitute a natural part of a project, such as monitoring visits or evaluation activities, which should be financed under the respective project.

Who can apply?

All CKU member organizations that meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund, in collaboration with one or more Partners in the Global South.

How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses applications based on the above five main criteria and the sub-criteria below:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The Capacity Development and Learning Activity is relevant in relation to the partners' collaboration history.
	1.2 The partners have relevant experience and capacity to carry out the activity.
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The activity's purpose aligns with the CKU Fund's overall goals and guidelines.
	2.2 The activity appears relevant and addresses the issues and capacity needs identified by the partners.
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The composition, number, and selection of participants (e.g., their roles in the organizations) are relevant to the activity.
4. Intervention	4.1 There is logical coherence between the activity's purpose, expected results, and specific activities.
	4.2 The roles and contributions of the partners are clearly described and appear relevant.
	4.3 The budget of the activity is well justified and matches the expected results.
5. Sustainability	5.1 The results of the activity are likely to be anchored and followed up by the partners.

Modality I: Awareness Raising and Engagement Activity - Strengthening Engagement and Popular Support

The purpose of an Awareness Raising and Engagement Activity is to create understanding and support in Denmark for development cooperation through education and awareness-raising.

The activity must target a broader audience than the member organization's own constituency. It should aim to reach people who are not already familiar with development cooperation in the relevant context.

It is possible to apply for activities with a budget between DKK 20,000–50,000 and if more member organizations collaborate, DKK 50,000 pr. participating member organization may be applied for.

What is eligible for support?

- » Production of videos, articles, photos, etc., that help tell stories about the living conditions of marginalized and poor target groups.
- » Transportation costs related to the information activity.
- » Fees for journalists, photographers, speakers, translators, etc.
- » Rental of venues and rental/purchase of equipment for use in information activities.
- » Advertising expenses.

What is not eligible for support?

- » Funding cannot be granted for operational communication tasks, such as ongoing newsletter production or website maintenance.

Who Can Apply?

All CKU member organizations that meet the requirements for applying to the CKU Fund may apply for support for Awareness Raising and Engagement Activities.

Awareness Raising and Engagement Activities must be linked to an ongoing or recently completed project (within the last 12 months) supported by the CKU Fund.

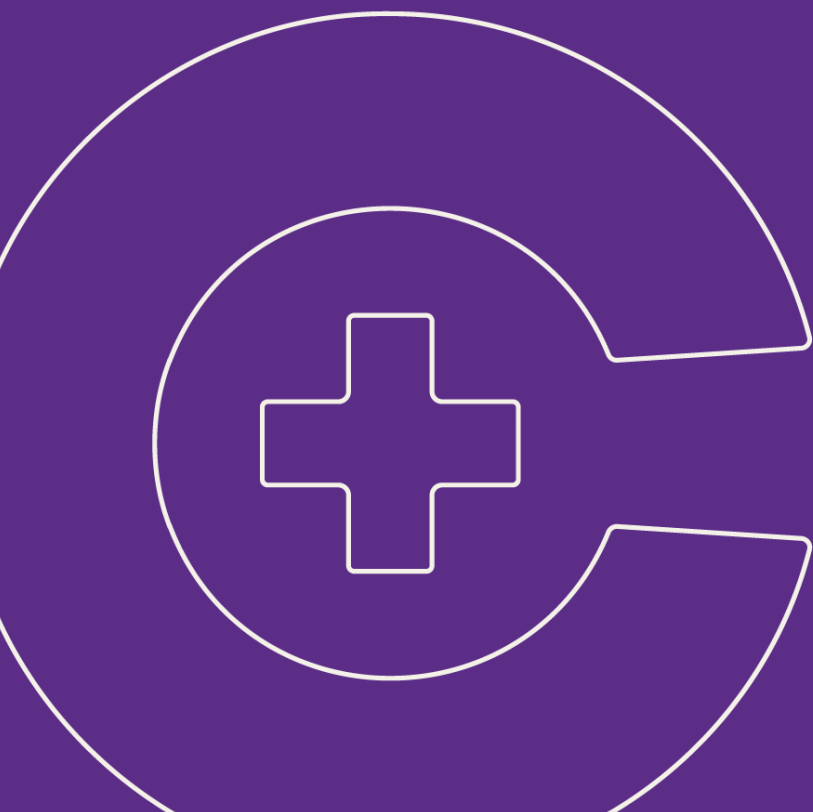
How is the application assessed?

The CKU Grant Committee assesses applications based on the above five main criteria and the sub-criteria below:

Main Criterion	Sub Criteria
1. Partnership and Capacity	1.1 The proposed activity is relevant to the partnership.
2. Relevance and Purpose	2.1 The activity is based on a joint project funded by the CKU Fund.
	2.2 The activity is relevant in relation to the member organization's broader engagement work in Denmark.
3. Target Group and Stakeholders	3.1 The target group is clearly defined and extends beyond the member organization's own constituency
4. Intervention	4.1 The application clearly describes how the activity aims to deepen the target group's engagement in development cooperation in the given context.
	4.2 The budget of the partnership activity is well justified and matches the expected results.

Chapter 5

Application and Approval Process



5.1 How to Apply to the CKU Fund

All applications must be submitted via [CKU's application portal](#)¹³. A member organization can create an application and invite co-applicants and Partners in the Global South to collaborate on the preparation. The Danish member organization that initiates the application is always responsible for submitting it.

- Applications below DKK 200,000 are accepted on an ongoing basis. CKU processes these applications as quickly as possible, typically within four weeks. Approval is generally granted for all eligible applications, provided sufficient funds remain in the allocated budget for this category.
- Applications above DKK 200,000 must be submitted before the bi-annual deadlines - in mid-April or mid-October. Processing time is typically eight weeks. Development projects are scored and prioritized based on the highest score within the available grant budget. F-projects are exempt from the competition and are prioritized if approved.

CKU's advisors are available for advice and guidance throughout the application process. If you wish to receive support, please contact CKU well in advance of the deadline.

5.2 Screening of Applications

Once CKU has received the applications, an administrative screening of the application material is carried out to check whether the formal requirements have been met in accordance with Chapter 2 - Conditions for applying to the CKU Fund - and whether the submitted material is complete.

If there are administrative deficiencies, the applying member organization will be contacted a few days after the application deadline and given the opportunity to submit missing documents or address other minor deficiencies within a two-day deadline.

The screening may also result in an administrative rejection if the basic conditions for applying to the CKU Fund are not met, or if the application material is assessed too incomplete.

Applications above DKK 200.000 are additionally sent to CISU, DUF and DH for screening.



5.3 Assessment and Decision

If the application meets the formal requirements, it is assessed based on the CKU Fund's guidelines and assessment criteria.

- Applications for activities and B-projects with a budget below 200.000 DKK are assessed by a CKU advisor and an external assessment consultant respectively, who prepares a written recommendation for CKU's external Grant Committee. The decision is made by one committee member, sometimes in consultation with the chairperson.
- Applications for projects with a budget above 200.000 DKK are assessed by external assessment consultants, who also prepare a written recommendation for the Grant Committee. These applications are decided on at a joint Grant Committee meeting and are scored due to competition for funding.

If the consultant needs additional information during the assessment, the applicant will be contacted directly and typically given five days to respond. This may concern issues like:

- Missing budget specifications or notes
- Uncertainty about other financial contributions
- Lack of clarity regarding specific target group

Possible decisions by the Grant Committee:

- » The application is approved and granted.
- » The application is approved with conditions and granted
- » The application is approved but not granted due to lack of funds.
- » The application is not approved.

All responses may include advice.

The Grant Committee informs the CKU Secretariate of the decision, which is then communicated to the applying member organization. If two or more applications above DKK 200,000 achieve the same score and the grant budget cannot cover all of them, then either none or all of these applications will be granted (in the April round) or pre-approved with the condition of the Fiscal Act being adopted for the following year (in the October round). The decision follows a discretionary principle designed to maximize the number of approved applications without exhausting the budget for future rounds. Applicants whose projects have been approved with conditions must fulfill these conditions within 14 days, as the project cannot start until the conditions are met.

Documentation regarding the conditions must be submitted via the application portal for approval by the external assessment consultants.

The Grant Committee consists of six external members, appointed by CKU's board based on recommendations from the secretariate. All members are recruited through public postings. Collectively, the committee must have broad experience within the themes covered by the CKU Fund, and it is emphasized that the committee has a fundamental understanding of—and preferably experience with—church-based development cooperation. In addition, at least two members must have solid insight into the field of freedom of religion or belief, as the committee also makes decisions on applications submitted to the Freedom of Religion or Belief Window.

5.4 Re-application After Rejection

It is possible to re-apply to the CKU Fund after a rejection. CKU encourages applicants to improve the application based on the recommendations in the assessment note and based on advice and guidance from the CKU Secretariate. Please contact the CKU Secretariate well in advance of the next application deadline to allow time to discuss with the partner organization and adjust the application accordingly.

When submitting a re-application, a cover letter must be included explaining what changes have been made. If there are specific reasons for rejection stated in the assessment note, the cover letter should explain how these have been addressed.

The application text must be submitted in both a track-changes version and a clean, readable version.

5.5 Feedback and Complaints

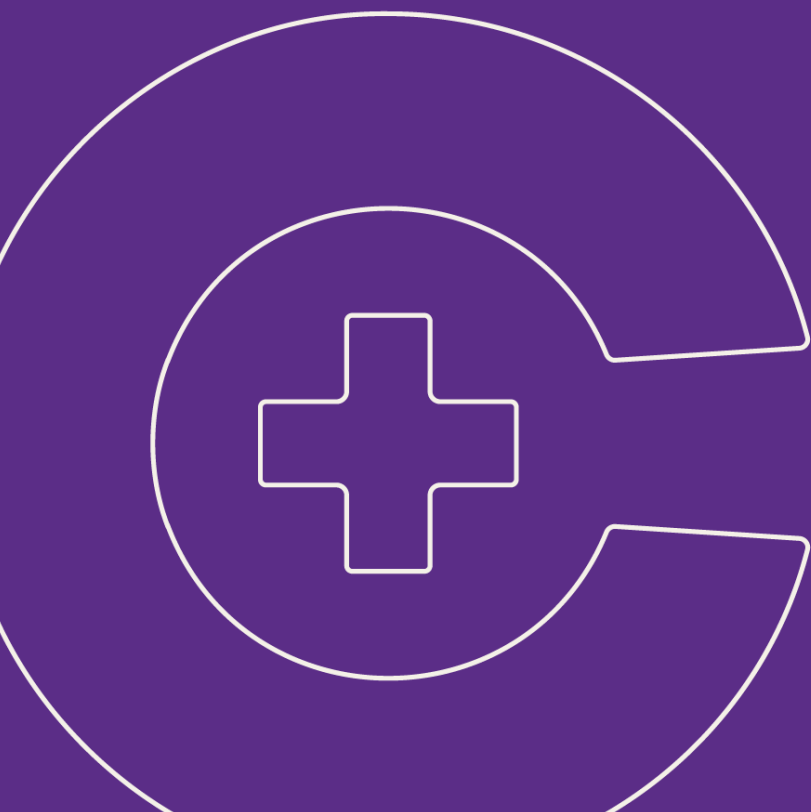
It is not possible to appeal a specific decision regarding an application. However, complaints may be submitted regarding the application assessment process.

For more information, [see CKU's feedback and complaints procedures¹⁴](#).



Chapter 6

After Approval of Grant



When a project is granted, the applying organization will receive a contract for signature along with several useful documents. CKU follows the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Audit Instructions for grants: (Above DKK 500,000: Modalities A, F, and G and below 500,000: Modalities B, C, D, E, and I). For more information on audit and management requirements, please refer to CKU's [Grant Management Guide](#)¹⁵.

6.1 Requirements for Project Management

The CKU member organization is responsible for ensuring that the grant is managed according to the guidelines and in accordance with the plans and information submitted in the application, which formed the basis for the grant decision.

Responsibilities of the Danish organization:

- » Ensure that funds are used to achieve the goals and carry out the activities described in the application.
- » Prevent corruption and misuse of funds.
- » Be liable for project funds that cannot be satisfactorily accounted for.
- » Ensure that financial procedures—both internally and with the partner—are sound, that there is adequate internal control, and that bookkeeping and accounting comply with good accounting practices. This means that both the project and the member organization must undergo auditing.

- » Fill project positions through open job postings and transparent selection procedures. Exceptions apply only to positions filled as part of rotation.
- » Have or [develop](#)¹⁶ a [safeguarding policy](#)¹⁷ that prevents and responds to sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse of power. The member organization is also responsible for ensuring that the partner in the Global South has a complaints and response system that protects project participants.
- » Report significant problems and irregularities in projects to CKU immediately.
- » Submit status reports, completion reports, Terms of Reference for evaluations, evaluation reports, and project accounts to CKU in accordance with agreed-upon deadlines.

6.2 Support for Project Management

A member organization may choose to collaborate closer with CKU in managing development projects granted through the CKU Fund or the Freedom of Religion or Belief Window, if the organization assesses that it does not have sufficient capacity to manage the project independently.

All member organizations must inform CKU—before submitting applications—whether they wish to manage projects independently or in close collaboration with CKU.



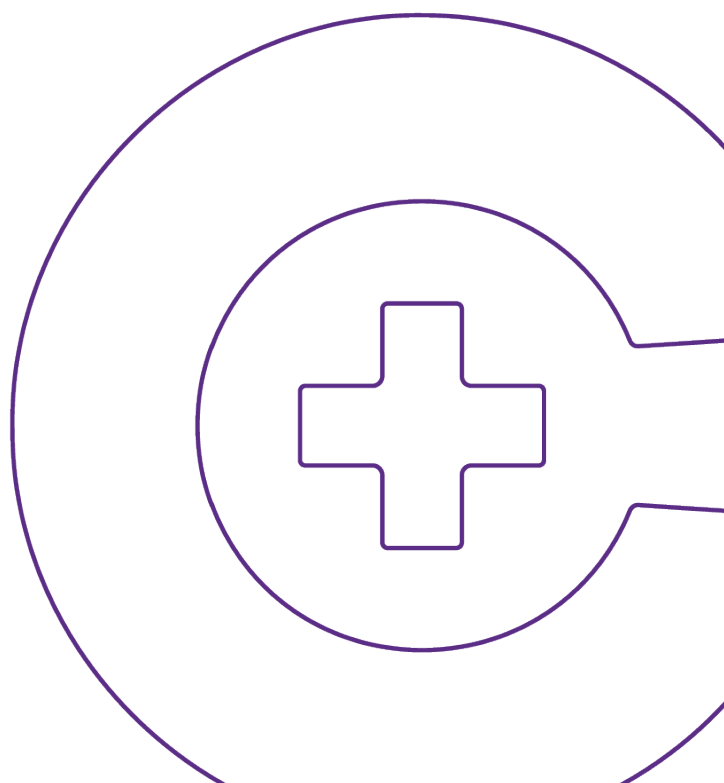


The CKU Secretariate can be contacted for more information about the terms of such cooperation.

When applications are assessed, such agreements are taken into account. The grant system will include the CKU Secretariate in the overall assessment of assessment criteria 1.1 concerning professional and organizational capacity and 4.6 concerning monitoring and results documentation.

CKU Support for Partnership Dialogue and Capacity Development

The CKU Secretariate also offers to facilitate partnership activities and capacity development activities for partners, based on the wishes and needs of member organizations and their partners in the Global South—provided the CKU secretariate has the possibility to do so at the desired time.



Chapter 7

Support for Partnership Dialogue and Capacity Development



7.1 The GLOBUS Fund

The GLOBUS Fund supports collaboration between Danish civil society organizations, Danish educational institutions, and partners in the Global South to engage Danish students in development cooperation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Support can be applied for educational exchange and the delivery of secondhand equipment both organized around a purpose that promotes sustainable development in the Global South and engagement in Denmark.

Learn more at: www.globuspuljen.dk¹⁸

7.2 Reimbursement of School Fees

It is possible to apply for partial reimbursement of school fees for children of seconded persons in development and humanitarian work through private organizations.

Learn more [here](#)¹⁹.

7.3 The Freedom of Religion or Belief Window (FoRB)

The purpose of the Freedom of Religion or Belief Window is to support projects that enhance respect for, protection and promotion of, freedom of religion or belief. The fund has two annual deadlines, aligned with the regular CKU Fund. Applications are open to all Danish organizations that fulfill the conditions for applying under the FoRB Window.

Learn more [here](#)²⁰.

7.4 Learning Initiatives Facilitated by CKU

As the host organization for the CKU Fund, CKU may use up to 20 percent of the total fund budget for own activities that support the fund's purpose and interventions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Guidelines for Pooled Funds and Networks further state that these supportive activities must be carried out in partnership with organizations in the Global South and primarily benefit target groups in the Global South.



CKU implements such supportive activities. Decisions on both the content and size of these activities are made by CKU's board based on recommendations from the CKU Secretariate.

Supportive activities at CKU must, in addition to following the Ministry's guidelines, also align with CKU's strategy and priorities, contribute to learning for CKU's member organizations and partners in the Global South within specific themes or methods, and/or strengthen strategic alliances for CKU to the benefit of the CKU community.

Member organizations are invited to suggest relevant supportive projects and to participate in them where possible and where they are relevant to the organizations' own strategies and collaboration with partners in the Global South.

7.5 Consultancy

CKU offers its expertise for other tasks, such as preparing applications for other donors or evaluation assignments for projects funded by other donors. These services are billed according to applicable hourly rates. Contact information for CKU Secretariate staff can be found [here](#)²¹.



Endnotes

- 1 <https://um.dk/-/media/websites/umdk/danish-site/danida/strategi-og-prioriteter/mfa-denmarks-strategy-for-development-cooperation.ashx>
- 2 <https://um.dk/danida/samarbejsspartnere/civ-org/adm-ret/puljeordn>
- 3 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Diaconal-Methods-and-Tools.pdf>
- 4 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Partnership-Policy-FINAL.pdf>
- 5 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Capacity-Building-Policy-FINAL.pdf>
- 6 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Advocacy-Policy-FINAL.pdf>
- 7 <https://cku.dk/om-os/partnere/>
- 8 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Grant-Management-Guidelines.pdf>
- 9 <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html>
- 10 <https://cku.dk/en/about-cku/calendar/>
- 11 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Budget-Guidelines-for-Applications-for-CKU-Fund-and-ForB-Window-1.pdf>
- 12 <https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Publikation-Strategisk-Ramme-Naboskabslandene-2022-2026-8.pdf>
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- 16 https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Guide_Protection-Policy_MANUAL_120924.pdf
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- 20 https://cku.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Engelsk_TORF_puljen_retningslinjer_2025_JANUAR.pdf
- 21 <https://cku.dk/en/contact/>

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