Case stories illustrating various characteristics of Denmark's support to Nepal

A historic achievement: Abolishing bonded labour
In 1991, Danida started supporting the NGO 'BASE' and its resistance to the slavery-like system of bonded labour called *kamaia.* When Danida's support ended ten years later, bonded labour had been abolished by law, well over 30,000 bonded labourers had been freed, and BASE had become a strong organization with some 300,000 members.

More details on this story and how Danida's "long-term support allowed the partner the time needed to develop sustainability" **in Annex G.1: Abolishing bonded labour**

"Most Dalits now send all their children to school"
While untouchability and other forms for caste discrimination were legally abolished in Nepal in 1963, millions of 'dalits' continued to suffer from discrimination. This case story describes Denmark as a 'first-mover' on support to the Dalit movement. It details how Danida helped change the situation and the impact of this change, one of them being that most Dalits now send all their children to school.

Find more information in Annex G.2: Reducing caste discrimination and prejudice

Even in states affected by conflict, donors can promote local governance
Due to conflicts, local elections were suspended in Nepal for no less than 20 years, from 1997 to 2017. This, however, did not prevent Denmark from supporting local governance in this period. This case study describes how Danida through persistent, innovative support helped promote local governance and more effective and accountable local administrations during times of conflict.

Find more information in Annex G.3: Improving governance through performance-based grants

Promoting social inclusion through strategic partnerships
Inequality, discrimination, and exclusion are key drivers of poverty and weak governance in Nepal, and the
state's failure to address social exclusion remains a source of tension. The Nepalese NGO SAMAGRA has developed a 'social family' approach to empower the excluded people. This case story explains how it works (and it DOES work) and how Danida became a strong supporter of SAMAGRA through a strategic partnership, a setup which only a few donors joined because they stuck to their own requirements for reporting.

Find more information in Annex G.4: Promoting inclusion through 'social families'

Democracy needs voters – Danida helped register them
"Democracy needs voters, but they can be hard to register in remote areas and especially during a nationwide conflict," the evaluation laconically notes and goes on to describe how Danida – again as a first-mover – offered Nepal's Election Commission as early as in 1991 and onwards culminating in Danida's support to developing a permanent biometric voter database in 2009-10. Neel Kantha Uprety, former Chief Election Commissioner told the evaluation team that "Denmark never imposed anything on us. I really think that Denmark has contributed to plant democracy in Nepal."

This case, the evaluation notes: "shows that Danida – through an advisory unit – was able to act quickly with considerable impact. It underlines the need for a flexible set-up where not all funds are tied to long-term activities, but some are kept available to overcome difficulties as they arise."
Find more information in Annex G.5: Registering voters to improve democracy