MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (Danida)

Youth Leading the World 2030: A Review of Danida’s Youth-Related Engagements
ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMG</td>
<td>Aid Management Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community-Based Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CISU</td>
<td>Civil Society in Development</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVE</td>
<td>Countering Violent Extremism</td>
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<td>DAPP</td>
<td>Danish-Arab Partnership Programme</td>
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<td>DGF</td>
<td>Democratic Governance Facility (Uganda)</td>
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<td>DUF</td>
<td>Danish National Youth Council</td>
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<td>HLPF</td>
<td>High Level Political Forum</td>
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<td>IATT</td>
<td>International Aid Transparency Initiative</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender</td>
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<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle-East and North Africa</td>
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<td>MFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>HRBA</td>
<td>Human Rights-Based Approach</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
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<td>SSP</td>
<td>Security and Stabilisation Policy Department</td>
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<td>ToR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical and Vocational Education and Training</td>
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<td>UPF</td>
<td>MFA Department on Policy and Financing</td>
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<td>UPR</td>
<td>Minister’s Advisory Council</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>VNR</td>
<td>Voluntary National Reviews</td>
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<td>VSLA</td>
<td>Village Savings and Loans Association</td>
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<td>YEF</td>
<td>Youth Entrepreneurship Facility</td>
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1. INTRODUCTION

“The world is home to the largest generation of young people ever, an estimated 1.8 billion young people, of which more than three in four are living in developing countries. Young people represent a huge resource and valuable democratic agents of change as entrepreneurs and as active citizens.”

The World 2030

In January 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Denmark launched a new strategy for Denmark’s development cooperation and humanitarian action: ‘The World 2030’. Youth is a key focus area of the strategy, particularly in relation to:

- Inclusive and sustainable growth, including creating jobs and income opportunities for young people, especially girls and young women.
- Peace, security and protection, including preventing sexual violence for girls and young women and ensuring they have a role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
- Bridging the gap between humanitarian action and development, ensuring that young people are protected and supported to return to a safe and dignified life - even when it is not possible to return home.
- Tackling the roots of migration, including the lack of prospects and opportunities for young people, especially education and decent jobs, in their home countries.
- Human rights, democracy and gender equality, recognising youth organisations as important partners that enable youth to lead positive changes on their communities1. Denmark will also maintain its position as a strong global advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasised through an ‘informal goal no. 18 for young people – in full respect for the international framework defined by the existing Sustainable Development Goals’2.

‘The young people must be given the opportunity to enhance their participation and influence in society as involved, committed and equal actors with the ability and opportunity to take development into their own hands. [...] It is a matter of development of and with young people, not merely for young people’

The World 2030

Youth have, for some time, been a growing target group of Denmark’s development cooperation, and also featured in the Government’s previous strategy ‘The Right to a Better Life’ (2012)3. Targeting and engaging youth is, therefore, not new to Danida4 and many of its multilateral partners, nor to Danish development and humanitarian organisations. Nevertheless, the new strategy marks a significant step change in how Danida will engage youth in the future: placing greater focus than ever before on unleashing the potential of youth as agents of change.

Restless Development (with external consultants Marianne Victor Hansen and Victoria Forsgate) was contracted by Danida in December 2016 to undertake a review to inform how the MFA optimises and operationalises the new strategy’s pertinent focus on youth within Danish development cooperation. The agreed Terms of Reference can be found in Annex 2. A central component of the methodology offered by Restless Development is the involvement of young people as active contributors – and not only the subject of – the review, from the very first stages and on all key questions. This has included convening an international youth panel twice during the course of the review, as well as inviting youth panelists to review and comment on reports, documents and recommendations. Further information on the methodology, including youth participation in the review, can be found in Annex 3.
HELLO FROM THE YOUTH PANEL

It is not possible to review youth involvement without including the opinion of youth! With that ambition, the Danida Youth Panel was formed. The panel consists of 11 young people from all around the globe. With international participants, we cover the world from South Africa to the Philippines, Australia, Nigeria, Uganda and the UK, ending up in Denmark, where the Danish youth have been represented with participants from the Danish National Youth Council (DUF), DanChurchAid Youth, ActionAid Denmark, DSF (National Union of Students) and Operations Dagsværk.

The mix of participants has been the panel’s greatest strength. Everyone has brought a strong background in youth involvement in different contexts and had solid ideas of what works – and what doesn’t work – strengthening the discussions on how best youth should be involved. We discussed the importance of role models, youth involvement, good and bad examples of youth engagement in former Danida projects, and examples of Danida projects in which youth engagement could be improved. With background in ‘The World 2030’, we gave our hope for how it could be implemented to strengthen youth. Our strongest recommendation will also be our final word: Youth should be active participants and owners of the development processes that involve themselves. Good youth development should not be created for youth, but WITH youth. Based on that statement, and as a key part of the methodology for this review, we recommend that a structure like the Youth Panel is adopted again in future reviews.

See what the panel did. Watch this Facebook Live recording from their meeting in Copenhagen – https://www.facebook.com/restlessdev/videos/1406442992741249/

Youth Leading The World 2030: A Review of Danida’s Youth-Related Engagements
Final Report, March 2017
Danida has an extensive portfolio of youth engagements across many of its priority thematic areas, as summarised in Annex 1, including focused engagements where youth are the main target group and engagements where youth are a subsection of a programme’s broader focus. The review has found an encouraging number of so-called ‘promising practices’ where youth have been engaged as beneficiaries, partners and/or leaders. Whilst the number of Danida-supported engagements that are clearly youth-led are in the minority, there is great potential to considerably increase youth-initiated and youth-directed engagements in the future through Danida’s development cooperation and humanitarian action. Indeed, in the months before the official launch of the new strategy, Danida has already begun to orientate towards an increased focus on youth within its programmes, governance and country strategies.

This report presents the main findings and recommendations of the review (Section 3), which are based on an analysis of Danida’s current portfolio on youth (Section 2) and data gathered through the review process from interviews, field visits, desk research and consultations with youth. A HRBA to youth (Section 1) underpins both the review methodology (Annex 3) and the analytical framework (Three-Lens Approach to Youth Participation outlined below) used by the project team. A shorter reader-friendly version of this report will follow.

The report establishes an overview of current experiences with youth engagements, which are intended to inform and inspire discussion and action within the MFA and amongst its development partners on how to operationalise the new strategic focus on youth at all levels, whilst supporting Danida to take the next leap. It should also be used as a call to action for Denmark’s partners, including young people and their organisations, working to realise the potential for young people to play a leading role in achieving the SDGs.

1.1. DEFINITIONS OF ‘YOUTH’

The definition of youth is important for analysing the needs and rights of youth and how they can best be fulfilled. For the purposes of the review, youth has, as a point of departure, been broadly defined as a person aged 15-24 years old (as defined by the UN)\(^6\), although Danida has previously issued guidelines ‘defining a child as an individual aged up to 18 years while considering persons aged 10-24 to be youth or young people’\(^7\). However, defining a programme’s scope by age-group alone risks excluding those people (especially those aged 10-14 years or 25-30 years) whose current situation and lived experiences are still highly characteristic of youth. Therefore, it is most important that youth is understood as a period of transition from childhood (dependence) to adulthood (independence), ‘accommodating perceptions and definitions to the specific context and situation’\(^8\). It is a particular period in life where lifestyle choices and opportunities can have a long-term and lasting impact on a person’s future. Defining the terms of a ‘successful transition’ to adulthood should be done by the young person themselves but it commonly involves five key transitions:\(^8\):

- growing up healthy;
- forming families;
- exercising citizenship;
- starting a productive working life; and
- learning for work and life.

These transitions do not occur in a fixed sequence or at a specific age – it happens differently for different young people. As illustrated in the mapping (Section 2), Danida-supported youth engagements are contributing to each of these transitions.

In summary, the review does not specify which age-category Danida should prioritise in its future focus on youth. However, we do suggest that Danida provides guidance to partners and staff (including embassies) on its definition of youth, and that this is flexible to context and broader than age alone. The Danish approach to youth should be oriented towards how to support successful transitions for and involving young peoples.

1.2. A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (HRBA) TO YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

Applying a youth lens to development entails more than considering human needs in the current demographic context, where half the world is currently under 30 years of age\(^9\). It requires taking a HRBA that empowers young people as agents of change in their own lives and in the world around them.

A HRBA to youth, as adopted by the European Youth Forum\(^11\), includes many of the elements included in Danida’s own definition of a HRBA – including the principles of participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency\(^12\). It is an approach that:

- Empowers young people to claim, exercise and defend their rights and fulfil their responsibilities through their active participation in society;
Young people have rights, agency and assets (skills, capacities, other resources). Collectively, young people can also be an asset to development\(^1\). However, they face specific barriers to exercising their rights, which stifles their potential to address their own concerns, as well as contribute to wider development outcomes in society.

- **Encourages mutually accountable partnerships between youth and duty bearers responsible for validating the rights of young people;**

  Young people are often the objects of development – a target group without the opportunity to hold duty bearers responsible or accountable. Young people, especially young women, are less likely to be consulted on or involved in the decisions that affect their lives than older age groups.

- **Actively works against the discrimination of young people on age or any other grounds, and towards ensuring the full inclusion of youth within society.**

  Young people can be understood as the ‘excluded majority’ who are frequently at a social and/or economic disadvantage. Individual young people experience varying degrees of inclusion and exclusion according to factors such as age, gender, ability, sexual identity and orientation, migration status, origin and lifestyle. Youth exclusion also has intergenerational dimensions: older generations are often responsible for creating and maintaining the conditions and structures that prevent young people from becoming socially, economically and politically empowered.

In summary, applying a so-called ‘youth lens’ is an important and effective means of protecting and claiming the human rights of young people, strengthening development policy and programmes, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

**Figure 1: The Three-Lens Approach to Youth Participation**


Figure adapted from: World Bank Development Report 2007

The project team has utilised the Three-Lens Approach to Youth Participation (Figure 1): a rights-based framework for reflection on and analysis of youth engagement in development. This advocates that development cooperation should work for the benefit of youth (as target beneficiaries), with youth as partners (collaborators), and be shaped by youth as leaders (initiators)\(^1\). It corresponds well with Danida’s commitment to engaging youth as agents of change and as a target group\(^1\).
2.0 DANIDA’S CURRENT PORTFOLIO ON YOUTH

Danida has an extensive portfolio of youth engagements across many of its priority thematic areas, as summarised in Annex 1, including youth-focused engagements where youth are the main target group and the partner identifies and tracks results for youth in their results framework. In some cases, young people also play an active role in the delivery of the programme. For example, the Youth Empowerment Support (YES) programme run by Save the Children in Uganda has been supporting youth to become socially, politically and economically empowered and hold duty-bearers responsible for the fulfilment of their rights. The programme specifically targets ‘vulnerable youth’ who join youth-led community groups; receiving basic literacy skills, vocational training and information about their rights. YES also actively engages these youth groups in monitoring and influencing local budgets.

In other engagements, youth are a segment of a programme’s broader target group. For example, one of the three outcomes in the Value Chain Greening and Financing Programme delivered by Micro-Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT) in Kenya is the creation of jobs, ‘especially for women and youth’ – such as service-providers of transportation, grading and processing to small and medium enterprises. The project is also incubating 18 youth-led enterprises. There is great potential – and also willingness amongst the staff interviewed – to integrate youth as beneficiaries and partners into other aspects of the programme although there are not yet clear plans in place to do so.

In some engagements, there is very low visibility of youth in the documentation – even from partners who are known to focus on youth. For example, youth are rarely explicitly mentioned in current Danish cooperation strategies and associated results frameworks agreed with multilaterals such as the EU, UNDP, UNICEF and The World Bank Group, despite the fact that an increasing number of multilateral partners have (or are developing) their own strategies for youth. This also implies that any youth-specific results, outcomes and/or outputs achieved by these partners are not being formally monitored or reviewed by Danida. However, there are notable exceptions. For example, women, adolescents and youth are the main beneficiaries of UNFPA’s work and the current cooperation strategy identifies specific outcomes, outputs and indicators on youth under ‘advancing the implementation of the ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development] agenda on SRHR’ and ‘advancing the normative framework on SRHR’. There has also been an increased focus on youth empowerment in the mid-term review for UNDP under ‘sustainable human development’ and ‘democratic governance’.

In summary, there is great variety in the visibility of youth as a target group in the documentation of Danida-supported engagements. Further research undertaken by the project team (e.g. field visits, interviews, reviews of organisational strategies) also indicates there is more youth development and youth participation happening in practice through Denmark’s development cooperation and humanitarian action, than the documents suggest.

The review has analysed Danida-supported youth engagements with two questions in mind:

Firstly, in the new strategy, Denmark has committed to giving young people ‘the opportunity to enhance their participation and influence in society as involved, committed and equal actors with the ability and opportunity to take development into their own hands’. This represents a strong shift in approach – particularly in comparison to previous strategies – towards engaging youth as partners and leaders, in addition to youth being the beneficiaries. Therefore, in the review of current engagements we have asked: To what extent are Danida and its partners supporting youth as beneficiaries, partners and/or leaders?

Secondly, in the new strategy ‘The World 2030’, Denmark has identified its policy and programmatic priorities in relation to youth (summarised in Section 1), to be delivered through various policy, programme and partnerships initiatives. Therefore, in the review of current engagements we have asked: What kinds of outcomes are Danida already achieving for and with youth?

Question 1: To what extent are Danida and its partners supporting youth as beneficiaries, partners and/or leaders?

As outlined above, young people have been the intended beneficiaries of over 96 Danida-supported engagements. However, the documentation provided for most engagements has very limited information on the role(s) that youth had in the engagement, beyond being a target beneficiary. Therefore, most of the data on levels of youth participation in Danida-support engagements has been gathered through field visits, site observations (in Uganda and Kenya), and interviews (including a meeting at the Danish Embassy in Jakarta). Using these methods, a number of engagements that also involve youth as partners or leaders have been identified. Furthermore, following discussions with Danish, international and country partners, the review finds there is great potential and willingness to integrate a greater focus on youth as partners and leaders in the
future.

Engaging with **youth as partners** can be defined as ‘collaborative interventions, where young people are fully **consulted and informed**’.

Based on the review of Denmark’s current country strategies, Mali, Palestine and Somalia stand out for their commitments to supporting youth as partners and agents of change, which are not found in the context analyses or strategic focus areas of other country papers. For example:

- In the *Danmark-Somalia Partnership Policy (2015-2017)* under state-building, Danida has committed to ‘support political dialogue that should include appropriate representation from women, youth and marginalised groups’ and the situation analysis makes a number of references to youth, including the role of young people as ‘new social actors [playing] a pivotal role in enhancing social accountability’.
- In the *Denmark-Mali Country Policy Paper (2016-2021)* under democratic and inclusive governance, Danida has committed to ‘promote inclusive political processes and legitimate governance as well as greater social cohesion, with particular attention to ensuring the participation of the poor and most vulnerable, including women and youth, in democratic processes’.

In Mali, these strategic level commitments are being translated into the Country Programme Document for 2017-2022, where youth are identified as agents of change in concrete engagements under the three thematic programmes on peaceful coexistence, decentralisation and private sector development.

The review has found **concrete Danida-supported engagements** delivered by NGO and multilateral partners where youth are being actively engaged by the implementing organisation as key stakeholders in the delivery (and sometimes design) of engagements and where there is some ‘mutual-cooperation and responsibility’. For example, young people play a leading role in delivering ActionAid’s national and global campaigns, and UNFPA has been using its innovation facility (see box p. 31) to collaborate with young people on devising mobile phone apps to promote sexual and reproductive health. The organisations taking a lead in working with youth in this way are also still learning - building gradually on years of experience of working with youth and consolidating or adapting programmes and ways of working as they go. Ulandsssekretariatet, ActionAid Denmark, Danish Red Cross and Danish Refugee Council have strategies and guidelines in place for engaging youth as partners, meanwhile Save the Children, DanChurchAid and Oxfam Ibis are amongst a growing number of Danish NGOs with strategies in development.

Engaging with **youth as leaders** can be defined as ‘enabling youth-initiated and directed interventions’ and is more likely to take place when development partners see the intrinsic value of participation as a process. Field visits and interviews identified some strong examples from Danida-supported partners that are a foundation for Denmark to build on (many are highlighted as Promising Practices in the report):

- For more than a decade, Danida has supported youth-led programming in developing countries via the Danish National Youth Council (DUF).
- Amplify Change and Act! provide funding and capacity-building to youth-led organisations (YLOs) and movements in priority countries to design and deliver their own initiatives.
- Organisations such as ActionAid and the Red Cross are creating space within their programmes for young people to make decisions and initiate their own action.
- International Labour Organisation ILO (Youth Entrepreneurship Facility) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have been supporting young people to set up and strengthen their own businesses.

Although it has been more difficult to identify engagements that are clearly youth-led in the review, in comparison to youth as beneficiaries or partners, there is great potential to considerably increase focus on youth-initiated and youth-directed engagements, groups and organisations in the future. There is also an opportunity to strengthen how partners document their youth engagements, to better inform/replicate good practice and provide an evidence base for advocacy on youth participation in development that can be used by Danida and its partners.

**Question 2: What kinds of outcomes are Danida already achieving for and with youth?**

Danida has funded engagements on a range of outcomes for youth and with youth through its development cooperation, many of which are also highly relevant to the new strategy (“The World 2030”). They have been organised and analysed by the project team under the following themes:

- Inclusive, sustainable growth and employment (29 engagements)
- Democratic governance (27 engagements)
- Peace, stability and security (11 engagements)
Humanitarian emergencies and crises (4 engagements)
Sexual and reproductive health and rights (15 engagements)

A summary of this analysis is presented below. In addition, the mapping has identified youth engagements on onward migration (1 engagement); arts and culture (7 engagements); and basic education (2 engagements). Whilst these have not been analysed in detail, they are outlined in the mapping (Annex 1) and have been considered by the project team in the context of the wider review and recommendations.

Inclusive, sustainable growth and employment
The 29 youth engagements (Annex 1) identified in the review under this theme have been designed to achieve outcomes under the following areas:

- Developing skills and employability – through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and life skills.
- Promoting entrepreneurship – through access to finance, training, advisory services, business incubation and mentorship.
- Job creation – through the development of SMEs, including support for clean-tech and innovative business models.
- Strengthening value chains and business competitiveness – through market analysis, information and improving efficiency.
- Gender equality – through identifying women as a priority target group across most engagements.

The majority of these youth engagements are delivered by (or include) private sector actors, including agribusiness initiatives by public-private partnerships (in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya) and UN agencies, including ILO, IFAD, FAO, UNDP and UNICEF, mainly focusing on jobs, skills and entrepreneurship (in Egypt, Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). Jobs for youth is also a prominent theme in the Danish-Arab Partnership Programme, largely due to high youth unemployment in the MENA region. Furthermore, all country strategies accessed for Category 1 and 2 highlight youth interventions on this theme, including improving access to productive resources, labour rights, job creation, business development and skills for youth (women are also frequently prioritised). There are also youth engagements being delivered through Danish NGOs with Framework Agreements (including Save the Children, Ghana Venskabsgupperne and Caritas) across priority and non-priority countries, which work directly with youth groups at community level on TVET, skills training, apprenticeships, financial literacy and supporting youth groups to organise (e.g. into Village Savings and Loans Associations).

The engagements delivered through private sector trusts offer highly technical and specialised services catering to the market as a whole and youth-focused activities tend to represent a relatively small proportion of the overall project focus. In contrast, most of the engagements delivered by UN agencies – such as the Youth Employment Fund (Somalia) and Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (East Africa) – and NGOs have been established to focus on youth as the primary objective.

Democratic Governance
The 30 youth engagements (Annex 1) identified in the review under this theme have been designed to achieve outcomes under the following areas:

- Political participation and inclusion – strengthening youth voices during elections, and supporting youth to stand for election and engage with candidates. Increasing awareness of voting and elections to promote peaceful participation. Promoting youth-to-youth exchange, mutual understanding and cross-cultural dialogue.
- Human rights – through human rights education in schools, awareness-raising and supporting youth to claim their rights.
- Civic participation – support for youth in networks and groups to advocate, have their voices heard, mobilise and self-organise, through training and capacity-building, including leadership training.
- Gender equality – women and youth are often identified as two of the priority target groups across all engagements identified.

The majority of engagements on this theme are delivered through 14 different Danish NGOs (mainly via NGO Framework Agreements and the DAPP) across many of Danida’s priority countries, particularly those in Category 2. It is also worth noting that NGO engagements focusing primarily on other themes – such as inclusive, sustainable growth and employment and SRHR – often include a component on youth as active citizens, including supporting young people to hold decision-makers accountable and influence public policy. The Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy also provide support to strengthening youth participation and influence in the political parties such as through exchange with Danish political parties’ youth wings, and training and dialogue with senior leadership on respecting youth and their need for their own spaces.

The review identified just one partnership with a UN agency or multilateral organisation (UNDP) on this theme and youth. The remainder of engagements are delivered through bilateral support to multi-donor civil society funding mechanisms in the
priority countries and small-to-medium-sized local NGOs, including 5 youth-led/focused organisations (Uganda, Nepal, Kenya) and a grant-making facility in Tanzania supporting 14 CSOs focusing on youth. Meanwhile, most Danish country strategies for priority countries made available in the review have a focus on democratic governance and bottom-up accountability but only 3 (Somalia, Palestine and Mali) specifically mention youth as a priority group or stakeholder under this theme. The Danish mission in Uganda is also providing support to youth-led and youth-focused initiatives through the Democratic Governance Facility.

Many of these engagements are using approaches regarded as attractive and accessible to youth, such as journalism, media, poetry, music and art, to enable young people to express themselves on issues they care about and to reach other youth. A number of engagements are also finding innovative ways for young people to increase their influence and advocate on behalf of others (e.g. children), such as monitoring government performance, budgets and legislation, and strengthening bottom-up accountability.

Promising practice: Danish institute for parties and democracy (DIPD); strengthening youth involvement in the political parties through inspiration and exchange between political parties’ youth wings.

DIPD supports democracy through support to political parties in developing countries with funding from Danida, partly through the Danish political parties and partly through direct support to multi-party democracy initiatives. DIPD has identified the strengthening of youth involvement and participation within the political parties in developing countries as one of a limited number of areas where Danish support can add specific value. In cooperation between DUF and DIPD, a guideline on ‘how to build a youth wing’ has been developed by young Danish youth wing members, used as training and inspiration material. Exchange activities between the young members from Denmark and Egypt, Swaziland, Zambia, Tanzania, Palestine, Myanmar, Bhutan, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya and Bolivia has been implemented. DIPD have both directly implemented and funded a number of projects, through Danish political parties, their youth wings and youth members in developing countries to increase focus on and strengthen youth as political actors. A recent evaluation found that ‘project activities gave the young participants new skills and self-esteem, particularly among young women in traditionalist societies.’

Danish contribution: DKK 75 million for 2014-2017

Peace, Stability and Security
The 10 youth engagements (Annex 1) identified in the review under this theme have been designed to achieve outcomes under the following areas:

- **CVE and preventing radicalisation** – including building the capacity of youth to detect and prevent radicalisation and developing early warning mechanisms to detect and manage conflict. Some programmes integrate a livelihoods component, as lack of economic opportunities has been identified as a factor in radicalisation.
- **Peacebuilding and dialogue** – bringing together local groups (especially religious groups), political parties and communities to promote dialogue; and supporting youth to protect human rights and participate in local peacebuilding processes.
- **Gender equality** – through identifying women as a priority target group across most engagements.

These engagements are predominantly delivered through large-scale regional or national funding facilities including the African Peace Programme (West Africa), Democratic Governance Facility (Uganda), and Peace, Security and Stabilisation Programme (Kenya). A number of local NGOs and faith-based organisations, including youth-focused organisations and networks, have delivered peacebuilding and CVE interventions in Uganda, Kenya and Nepal using youth-specific peer-to-peer methodologies informed by a HRBA. Most Danish country strategies for priority countries made available in the review include a focus on conflict-related issues, including social unrest and radicalisation, and half (Somalia, Palestine, Mali and Niger) specifically mention youth as a priority group or stakeholder.

Promising practse: Youth parliament (yp) in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya with support from DanChurchAid

With support from DanChurchAid and the World Lutheran Federation, a Youth Peace Parliament was established in Kakuma in 2014 with 85 MPs (including 33 female MPs) representing 127 blocks of the refugee camp. From 2017 elections will be held, where the young population age 18-30 years in each block (geographical area) will elect their leaders to represent them in the Youth Parliament. The aim of the Youth Parliament is contributing to peaceful coexistence and
conflict resolution, and over time the parliament has begun to cover broader issues. Through this approach, displaced youth are being engaged and supported to solve local problems and suggest activities and interventions addressing the needs of the young people, who are often at risk of radicalisation because of the frustrated life situation as displaced. From 2017, it will formally become a YP, in recognition of its increasingly broader focus than ‘only’ peace issues and will be extended to include youth from a new neighbour settlement at Kalobeyei.

In 2016 three YP sessions took place discussing the role of youth in conflict resolution, causes of conflict in the community and youth participation in decision-making. The MPs were also involved in various initiatives in the camp such as a peace caravan and International Day of Peace where the key theme was tolerance and resilience. Furthermore, 7 MPs (including 2 female MPs) visited the Kenya National Assembly to learn at first-hand how the National Assembly and Kenyan MPs work. In 2017, there will also be more advocacy activities to strengthen the voice of the YP, where representatives will participate in monthly leaders’ coordination meetings to represent the position of the youth. Moreover, MPs will work closely with other youth on youth-related issues. The youth parliament set the frame for young refugees to contribute towards reducing conflicts in a camp where limited opportunities and perspectives for the future often create tensions and conflicts – and learn about living and practising democracy, although they are not at present citizens in any country.

Humanitarian Emergencies and Crises

Whilst the review of youth engagements on this theme has been limited in comparison to others, the mapping has identified 3 youth engagements in the following areas, but we anticipate the actual number is much greater:

- **Direct assistance for refugees and displaced people.**
- **Protecting children and human rights** – including preventing sexual violence.
- **Disaster preparedness and first response** – supporting youth as agents of the response and to input into government plans.

Danida provides funding for humanitarian action through multilaterals (notably UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA) and Danish NGOs with Humanitarian Partnership Frameworks, although these documents were not accessed during the review. The Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council and DanChurchAid emphasised their youth strategies and a number of engagements with youth focus in interviews with the project team. There is also an NGO partner (ActionAid) that has integrated youth-led emergency response into its development programmes in Nepal and Myanmar.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

The 15 youth engagements (Annex 2) identified in the review under this theme have been designed to achieve outcomes under the following areas:

- **Comprehensive sexuality education**, life skills and awareness raising.
- **Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health**, including menstrual hygiene.
- **Preventing sexual violence** against children and women.
- **Policy, legal and health system strengthening** – through making services more youth-friendly and strengthening government’s financial commitment to and accountability for service delivery.
- **HIV and AIDS** treatment, prevention, care and support.
- **Gender equality** – through prioritising young women and the protection of their rights across most engagements.

SRHR and the protection of the human rights of women are well-established priorities for Denmark at the country level. For example, preventing sexual and gender-based violence is a priority issue in virtually all of the Danish country strategy papers accessed in the review (including Burkina Faso, Niger, Palestine, Somalia, Bangladesh and Tanzania). Danida delivers youth engagements on this theme through multilaterals working globally (UN agencies, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and AmplifyChange) – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South/South-East Asia – for whom issues relating to SRHR are a core area of their strategic goals. Danida also directly supports an international NGO (IPPF) and a number of Danish NGOs who primarily work through local partners (e.g. Uganda, Tanzania, Pakistan and Nepal), including youth-led and youth-focused organisations and movements. Most programmes delivered by NGOs on this theme include a component on youth-led advocacy and/or social accountability on SRHR.

In summary, Denmark have extensive experiences with youth in current and recent engagements on a number of thematic areas, which can inform future practice. The recommendations presented in this report (Section 3) are rooted in an analysis of strengths and limitations of the experiences, approaches and ways of working of Danida and its partners.
3: RECOMMENDATIONS: HOW TO OPERATIONALISE AND OPTIMISE STRATEGIC FOCUS ON YOUTH

The review has identified 19 recommendations for Danida on further operationalising its new strategic focus on youth – both as a standalone focus and also mainstreamed across its development cooperation. Most recommendations are relevant to all of Danida’s thematic priorities. They are grouped as follows:

- Recommendation Grouping 1: Unleashing young people’s agency (Recommendations 1-3)
- Recommendation Grouping 2: Ensuring quality (Recommendations 4-6)
- Recommendation Grouping 3: Delivering on Danida’s thematic priorities (Recommendations 7-10)
- Recommendation Grouping 4: Aligning funding and partnerships (Recommendations 11-15)
- Recommendation Grouping 5: Rolling out the strategy internally (Recommendations 16-19)

Most of the recommendations have been directly informed by the mapping of Danida’s current portfolio of youth engagements and the experience of Danida’s development partners, as well as inputs from young people and interviewees (see methodology in Annex 3). In addition, the project team has drawn on research, innovations and practice from the wider development sector to provide some additional inspiration on how to operationalise and optimise Danida’s strategic focus on youth.

RECOMMENDATION GROUPING 1: UNLEASHING YOUNG PEOPLE’S AGENCY

‘Organisations ought to lead from behind, not see young people as blank slates [without] ability and capacity to lead. They need to see youth as partners and leaders capable of finding solutions with regards to issues that affect them’

Online conversation participant

These findings and recommendations are developed to enable Danida to harness young people’s assets and agency to strengthen development cooperation and humanitarian action, as it operationalises its new strategy ‘The World 2030’. Danida should develop collaborative programmes and ways of working, where young people and YLOs advise on the design of programmes or policies, are supported to take an active role in delivering, co-managing and evaluating activities and policies, and given the capacity and resources to lead their own initiatives in both development and humanitarian settings.

1. CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO BE PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Findings: Young people’s active involvement in development cooperation

Youth are often direct or indirect targets or beneficiaries of Danida’s development cooperation, more so than being active partners or leaders. Partner organisations frequently ‘direct’ youth programmes, when they could be ‘supporting’ young people to take on more responsibility and leadership in planning, implementation and review. When youth are more involved in programme implementation, their involvement usually begins after the design has been finalised and the funding parameters have been agreed. This risks young people feeling ‘they participate us’.

As part of the online poll carried out for this review (Annex 5), the most popular response to ‘How could governments and organisations ensure that young people are engaged in decisions that affect their lives?’ was to ‘include young people in every stage of a youth-focused programme from design to evaluation’. This was closely followed by ‘invite young people to participate in decision making’ and ‘provide training and skills-building to young people and their organisations’.

In the new strategy, Denmark has committed to giving young people ‘the opportunity to enhance their participation and influence in society as involved, committed and equal actors with the ability and opportunity to take development into their own hands’ which marks a strong shift towards engaging youth as partners and leaders. Furthermore, in some cases the consulting team has visited projects where the level of youth participation in design or delivery has been higher than the project documentation suggests.

Ulandssekretariatet, ActionAid Denmark, Danish Red Cross and Danish Refugee Council have strategies and guidelines in place for participatory approaches with youth, meanwhile Save the Children, DanChurchAid and Oxfam Ibis are amongst a growing number of Danish NGOs making use of participatory approaches within some elements of their programmes by
engaging young people as key stakeholders in delivery and sometimes in design. Some multilaterals, including UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF, are also developing their approach to working with youth as active agents of change and are making the case for youth participation and leadership through their global advocacy.

Recommendation 1: How to do it:

**Create opportunities for youth to be partners in development cooperation.**

**Involve youth from the earliest stages of design and planning before choices are made.** This goes beyond consultation and allows youth to determine for themselves how they will participate. In doing so, programmes can better address the issues specific to youth, and tackle specific barriers youth face\(^\text{15}\). As a donor, Denmark can incentivise partners by making the participation of young people, especially from the target group, a requirement in the development of bids and proposals submitted to Danida.

**Access existing guidance and expertise on how to engage youth through its existing development partners.** For example, Danish and local NGOs and UN agencies have programme materials, guidance, frameworks and policies on youth engagement and participation that could be used and/or adapted for use by Danida.

**Prioritise youth-to-youth programme methodologies where youth take on responsibility for delivering or co-managing programmes or influencing decision-making, in equal partnership with other stakeholders.** This includes supporting young people to take on responsibilities as first-responders in humanitarian action, and developing partnerships with YLOs and youth groups that give them responsibility for delivering specific activities of the programme. Methodologies such as peer education, radio and mentoring are known to be especially effective for attitude and behaviour change and can create ‘safe spaces’ for youth to discuss, share and learn. Danida partners could also run exchange programmes to connect youth working on shared issues across their region, such as young peacebuilders in East Africa or the Sahel.

‘CSOs have and should continue to support young people in reaching out and connecting to strategic networks and alliances (local, national, regional and international levels). Also key is the engagement with key stakeholders in the communities who lend their voice to getting different levels of government on board. Having civil society lobbying provides the momentum and advocacy to ensure governments (local, national) continue to engage and address the needs of young people in their respective countries’

Online conversation participant

2. SUPPORT FORMAL AND INFORMAL YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS, NETWORKS AND MOVEMENTS TO LEAD, INITIATE, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT THEIR OWN INITIATIVES

Findings: Youth are leading and initiating action – in traditional and new ways of organising

Youth-led organisations, movements and networks are uniquely placed to design and implement initiatives that enable young people to claim their rights, address issues from a youth perspective and offer solutions that respond to the diverse needs of their peers. Their dynamic and flexible nature makes them a unique and strategic development partner for Danida, as demonstrated by youth engagements in fragile contexts, and during emergencies or political processes such as elections that Denmark has been supporting. Backing young people’s own organisations and movements is central to ensuring that the most ‘difficult’ and stigmatised issues that deny young people and their wider communities their rights (e.g. on abortion and sexual orientation) are tomorrow’s priorities. Young people experience discrimination in ways that are different to older people. It’s vital that youth-led and youth-focused organisations and grant-makers include the voices and priorities of excluded young people in programming and grant-making.

New types of social movements driven by young people have become an increasingly recognised and important factor in policy and democratic change (e.g. Arab Spring, #FeesMustFall, Spain’s 15-M Movement, Yo Soy 132, and #GambiaHasDecided\(^\text{16}\)), and challenging political structures. They have also been able to mobilise and find resonance with large sections of the youth population, often through extremely effective use of social media. However, they often operate outside of the networks of development agencies and more traditional development organisations, including some types of NGOs. As a result, they are often outside of the funding parameters of donor agencies and/or small-grants mechanisms.

Empowering young people to be political, social and economic actors in relation to all aspects of society is key to ensuring a HRBA to youth and a democratic future. The review has identified engagements where NGO support has enabled young
people to better access funding and budgets earmarked by local or national governments for youth and hold them accountable for spending on public services. Young people involved in the review have emphasised that young people’s participation should not be limited to programming and decisions concerning their own life. Respondents in the online youth conversation (Annex 5) identified barriers that prevent young people responding how they would like, including: a lack of accessible platforms to air their views; a lack of long-term support from NGOs and governments; and a need for spaces/support for young people to ‘craft and draft solutions to their narrative’. Respondents also said that the role of NGOs should include supporting youth to connect with networks and alliances and create space for youth, and that NGOs have empowered young people with advocacy and evidence-based research that has leveraged more support from the government.

Supporting young people to be leaders and initiators and supporting their needs for their own spaces can sometimes challenge a more traditional approach that seeks pre-defined tangible results. Therefore, Danida’s commitment to favouring ‘innovative and courageous partnerships that are willing to take risks’ (The World 2030) and ‘to experiment with our own approaches’ will be invaluable for effectively supporting young people to lead and initiate change through programmes and advocacy. Backing informal youth movements is one such approach and is where experiences of Danida and its partners are limited, but the review did find one example of this in ActionAid’s approach and Global Platforms (see promising practice below).

**Recommendation 2:**

**How to do it:**

Develop young people’s capacities for influencing, claiming their rights and leading change including coaching, mentoring and training for YLOs and young leaders to build their own network – both with youth and other stakeholders, especially those with influence (e.g. in government) – create partnerships, and alerting them to entry points (especially budgeting and planning processes at district/local level).

Support youth – including the most excluded – to come together and self-organise through strengthening of relatively autonomous spaces for young people. CBOs and NGOs can be well placed to create spaces that are intended to be safe for marginalised youth such as adolescent girls or young women affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to freely communicate and express ideas.

Support the strengthening of young people's influence on political decisions and their active participation in democratic spaces. Including:

- **Supporting spaces where young people are not led, directed or co-opted by other adults.** This is especially important for young people who are already working and self-organising to influence elections, local power structures, fight corruption, discrimination and harassment.
- **Supporting emerging and relatively loose movements** of young people to gain access to spaces of power. Connections can be made directly or through local CSOs, international and Danish NGOs to establish dialogue on which kind of contact or support could be relevant (including linkages, information, advice on becoming formally registered, and resources in kind).
- **Advocating for young people’s involvement in political spaces where decisions are taken**, rather than in parallel spaces that distance youth from ‘real politics’. Denmark can also help build capacity of young parliamentarians and policy makers to engage youth in decision-making, provided through national funding facilities on democratic governance.
- **Support young people to ‘follow the money’ that their government is receiving and spending** in relation to both youth-focused and non-youth-focused development programmes.

Youth-led advocacy in Danida’s priority countries should be Southern-led and civil society is well placed to provide local platforms that support youth to organise, build knowledge, co-create and take collective action, such as safe spaces for activists, incubators for entrepreneurs and innovation hubs.

Allow flexibility in setting objectives for projects that are completely or mostly youth-led. In some cases, it is difficult to define very specific results in advance, so broader objective setting should be considered.
Provide flexibility within Danish NGO strategic partnership agreements (formerly NGO framework agreements) to better support self-organisation by youth-led groups (including informal youth organisations and social movements). Many Danish NGOs have a direct connection to the ‘target’ group, even if they don’t ‘represent’ young people. This requires donor backing for additional flexibility (e.g. allowing some projects to be open ended and without predetermined objectives) and fund manager appreciation of the intrinsic value in young people’s self-organisation, valuing processes rather than just tangible results. This will better enable NGOs to support a good idea that young people have enthusiasm for and/or support youth-led groups who can promote an NGO’s goal, even if not yet fully clear on how they will achieve it.

Provide earmarked funding or criteria for core-funding to youth-led innovations of multilateral organisations (e.g. UNFPA Hackathon) so that they can test and pilot new approaches for youth engagement and participation in development.

Provide youth with access to information, resources and assets. For example, NGOs or private sector actors are often well placed to provide market assessments to entrepreneurs, negotiate with financial institutions to access youth-friendly loans or provide office space with stable Wi-Fi to YLOs.

Existing youth groups and youth centres should be involved in delivering programmes rather than establishing a new youth group focused solely on achieving the programme’s stated goal. Groups initiated by youth are often already supporting each other to earn an income, access health services and open up dialogue with local leaders. They can also improve sustainability, encourage other local youth groups to replicate the same action and mitigate against duplication in the same community.

‘Youth organisations play an important part in creating sustainable development for the individual and society. In voluntary associations, young people commit to a cause that enables them to build competencies and lead positive changes in their community – in Denmark and in the world.’

The World 2030

Promising Practice: Supporting spaces for youth to learn, organise and take action ActionAid global platforms

Global Platforms are hubs for youth, connecting youth activists and social movements at national and global level by conducting trainings and other youth-related activities. They build capacity and connect youth to fight poverty and injustice. Youth from Global Platforms become involved in ActionAid’s campaigns. The Global Platform has played a crucial role in providing skills to young people on how to organise and campaign, which are being directly applied (for example, during emergencies in Nepal and Myanmar in 2015). Often the young people that are at the forefront of campaigns, demonstrations and political protests have been trained at the Global Platforms. The Global Platforms offer relevant youth-led training to young people from civil society organisations and social movements, and provide space and social laboratories, where young people can convene, innovate, test new ways of organising (e.g. in social movements) and pursue youth political agendas. The innovative action-learning approach is appreciated by the participants – the average rating of the trainings across the Platforms was 4.3 out of 5. In 2015, ActionAid Denmark trained 5,954 young people at its Global Platforms in Kenya, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Denmark (+ El Salvador, Palestine, Jordan, Ghana and Zambia), reached and mobilised 116,332 young people as part of the youth hub activities. A further 37,386 people were reached through step-down training.
Promising Practice: Youth-to-youth exchange and partnerships between YLOs in Denmark and the Global South

Danida funds both the DUF Project pools and the DUF MENA pool. The projects are administered and implemented by approximately 30 Danish youth organisations and their partner organisations in the Global South and entail a broad variety of issues and approaches – all in line with the Policy for Danish Support to Civil Society (2011), emphasising capacity development, advocacy and strategic services, in this case youth activities. All of the projects include strengthening young leaders through trainings and exchanges between the partner organisations. A recent review commended DUF for its ‘remarkable mobilisation of volunteers working with the [Global] South/MENA partners and a concomitant multiplication of results. Several hundreds of volunteers are involved in some of the projects. Mobilisation of volunteers is the single most important feature of the projects that contributes to effectiveness in achievement of results [...] with a relatively limited use of financial resources’.

The review of DUF also confirms the relevance and effectiveness of the different exchange modalities that DUF and the member youth organisations are implementing and concludes that ‘the youth leader exchanges are extremely valuable’, and furthermore ‘when it comes to informing and learning there is clearly an advantage of youth communicating to other youth’. It is underlined that the more projects are linked to experiences with national work in Denmark, the more relevance for Southern partners.

Danish contribution (2015): DKK 7.1 million for projects and DKK 13.1 million to the MENA pool
3. PRIORITISE YOUTH-TO-YOUTH EXCHANGES BETWEEN DENMARK AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. PARTICULARLY BETWEEN YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

Findings: Linkages between youth

YLOs have a long history in Denmark including student movements, trade unions and political parties’ independent youth wings. There has recently been an increase in the exchange of volunteers between Danish organisations and their partner organisations. The DAPP evaluation highlighted that dialogue initiatives between youth in the MENA region and Denmark have been particularly effective in terms of increasing the sense of volunteerism among youth in Denmark through learning about the experiences of youth in the MENA region. Likewise the evaluation of the DIPD and DUF programmes assesses the effect of exchange very positively. Trainings based on young people’s own experiences and projects that provide role-models are assessed to be effective and good value for money. Meanwhile, the Danida review of DUF recommends allowing more flexibility within the youth leader programme in order to amplify and increase the number of exchange activities and the number of youth leaders trained through exchanges with Danish youth leaders.

Recommendation 3: Prioritise youth-to-youth exchanges between Denmark and developing countries, particularly exchange between youth-led organisations and movements.

How to do it:

- **Incentivise Danish civil society to include youth-to-youth exchange when bidding for Strategic Partnership Agreements and CISU modalities.** Include exchange with and between YLOs in the objectives, possible activities, guidelines and/or selection criteria for youth-focused programmes or youth components in broader programmes. Danish NGOs should be encouraged to include YLOs as an official partner.

- **Consolidate and promote Denmark’s expertise in youth exchange** by doing a stocktake of existing methodologies and commissioning organisations with expertise in youth exchange to design a generic training and preparation guide that can be used and adapted by others.

- **Ensure/scale-up funding for South-South exchanges, twinning, volunteering, and inspirators** between youth organisations, movements and youth wings of political parties.

- **In the transition and growth economy countries** where Denmark is implementing sector cooperation between authorities, consider whether exchanges on activities for involving youth could be included in the cooperation, and in the guidelines.

Promising Practice: Danish-Arab Partnership Programme (DAPP)

Launched in 2003, the DAPP has been Denmark’s collaboration project with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) focusing on reform and democratisation. The programme strengthens dialogue, partnerships and mutual understanding between Denmark and the MENA region. From 2013-2016, the thematic areas of focus have been: human rights and good governance (38%), job creation (15%), women’s empowerment and gender equality (15%) and knowledge based societies (29%). Almost two-thirds of DAPP commitments were delivered via CSOs, including the youth-led organisation DUF. The evaluation found that DAPP had effectively contributed to strengthening young people’s participation – especially rural and economically excluded youth – in social and political life. Furthermore, that it provided youth with the requisite set of leadership and entrepreneurial skills for economic and civic life, as well as creating 5,000 jobs. The evaluation recommended increased involvement of embassies and DAPP technical advisors, as well as better capturing the critical area of youth participation, which is key to progress and stability in the region and a key area of focus for several DAPP partners. It recommended youth become a standalone thematic area due to the region’s demographics and due to the importance of youth to reform.

For example, from 2009-2015, DUF implemented the **Ambassadors for Dialogue programme in Egypt, Jordan and Denmark.** In close cooperation with the WE Center in Jordan and the Egyptian Youth Federation (EYF), the project’s objective was to foster a dialogical culture among Egyptian, Jordanian and Danish youth, and to enhance mutual understanding between youth across ethnic, religious, ideological, national and other divides. Since 2009, a total of 195 ‘ambassadors for dialogue’ have been trained (100 in Egypt & Jordan, 95 international) and they have implemented dialogue workshops for approximately 13,000 youth in Egypt, Jordan and Denmark. An external evaluation in Jordan
found evidence of significant skills development for the many national/international ambassadors, of whom a large proportion are still active and applying their skills. Attitude change amongst youth involved was also identified through attitude change surveying techniques.

**Danish Contribution:** Entire DAPP programme; DKK 255 million for 2015-2016

### RECOMMENDATION GROUPING 2: ENSURING QUALITY

This section identifies ways to support staff and partners to apply models and concepts of youth participation and development into the design and delivery of youth-led and youth-focused programmes, when the strategy ‘The World 2030’ is operationalised. It outlines how Denmark can make a contribution to the knowledge base on what works in youth participation and empowerment – making the most of the data and information that Danida has access to – and using that knowledge to contribute to evidence-based advocacy, and reporting on the SDGs. Acknowledging that time and resources are scarce at all levels, Danida could prioritise a few targeted tools and learning methods to ensure the youth focus is rolled out, with an attention to quality. Most important is to understand, analyse and consider how – and be able to apply – young people’s specific needs and situation in all stages of programming and strengthen their involvement in programming as beneficiaries, partners and leaders/initiators.

4. APPLY A YOUTH LENS IN THE DESIGN OF PROGRAMMES, TO BETTER ENSURE A HOLISTIC, RIGHTS-BASED AND GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACH.

**Findings: Youth-specific approaches are still new to many partners**

Based on documentation and field visits, a number of the programmes categorised as ‘youth-focused’ have not been designed or delivered to specifically address the needs and/or rights of young people, or to unleash their potential as partners or leaders in development. These programmes have also not specified which youth they are seeking to benefit or involve – a more segmented approach can more effectively target specific groups of youth, especially those who are most ‘hard to reach’. In some instances, programme staff from implementing organisations see youth as another growing part of the intervention’s target group – without any clear strategy or action plan to effectively target, reach or involve youth. In addition, from the documentation some of the engagements could do more to demonstrate specific expertise or HRBA to youth. Furthermore, a critical discussion about the different levels of youth participation possible – from beneficiaries, to partners and/or leaders – could identify opportunities to improve level of participation and bring programmes more in line with a HRBA.

The majority of interviewed persons from both MFA and Danish NGOs are aware of the youth focus in the new strategy and are committed to implement it. However, during field visits, some representatives of partner organisations delivering employment and growth programmes questioned the need for integrating youth as a specific target group or partner. Others could be said to be perpetuating rather than challenging negative attitudes about young people’s ‘mindsets’ and motivations. This raises doubts over the readiness of some partners to effectively work with and involve youth in their programmes – particularly when youth are viewed as a risk rather than an asset in development. It is therefore key that staff and partners are supported and provided with tools and guidelines to integrate, involve and promote youth leadership.

In most discussions with partners who are experienced in implementing youth-focused and youth-led programmes, taking an integrated approach was highlighted as being very important. None of the five transitions of youth (Section 1.1) happen in a vacuum and they are frequently gender-defined. Danida-funded youth development programmes reviewed often focus on one or two transitions (e.g. ‘starting a productive working life’ and ‘learning for work and life’ or ‘growing up healthy’ and ‘forming families’) when they could focus more on how these transitions intersect. Reproductive health services or decision-making spaces that are accessible for married young women and/or men may be very different from services available to unmarried young men and/or women. Similarly, a life skills curriculum or jobs programme designed for 15-19-year-olds will likely require adaptation before being delivered to 25-30-year-olds.

Programmes that are gender-sensitive and integrate livelihoods with civic participation and SRHR help young people, especially girls and young women, develop the skills, self-esteem, and motivation necessary to adopt and sustain healthy sexual and reproductive behaviour, while also providing them with the opportunity to develop educational, vocational, leadership and other life skills that will serve them well in adulthood. Evidence also demonstrates that positive SRHR outcomes are closely linked with educational and economic opportunities for young people.
Recommendation 4: Apply a youth lens in the design of development programmes and partnerships, to better ensure a holistic, rights-based and gender-sensitive approach.

How to do it:

The Three-Lens Approach to youth participation should be applied by Danida and its partners as a rights-based tool for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as being a framework for advocating with or on behalf of youth.

During design of the programme’s theory of change or logic model, consider how each of the five transitions can enable or hinder achievement of the programme goals. As far as possible, this analysis – as well as situation analyses and needs assessments – should be done with young people from the ‘target group’, especially girls and young women. Furthermore, the perspectives of family, community and religious leaders should be included in needs assessments and monitoring and evaluation, particularly when their perspectives can hinder or enable positive youth development and participation.

Prioritise actions that achieve results for the most excluded and therefore the most vulnerable youth, including young people living in poverty and fragile states or regions, as well as young women, adolescent girls, youth with disabilities and youth who identify as LGBT. Development programmes and strategies must recognise youth beneficiaries as rights-holders and facilitate their ability to claim their rights.

Programme inputs should relate to each of the five transitions and not just those most readily linked to the project’s primary focus. This can be facilitated by involving organisations from different sectors (e.g. education, business, health) as programme partners in design and implementation. For example:

- A youth entrepreneurship programme should consider programme inputs and preconditions beyond start-up capital and vocational training, such as access to SRHR information and services, citizenship education, and childcare for young mothers.
- A livelihoods and employability training curricula should provide evidence-based information on: family planning (especially for adolescent girls); HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; and life skills (e.g. decision-making, communication, negotiation and condom use).
- An SRHR or employment programme should also support young people to increase their influence and involvement in decision-making, especially within their own communities. For example, by connecting them to local leaders and government offices, or providing information on relevant policies, political processes and power structures.
- Training and support on active citizenship should be a component of all programmes involving youth and is an important means of integrating a HRBA.

Launch a multi-donor ‘challenge fund’ to encourage civil society partners to take a holistic and integrated approach to youth-led implementation of SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16 (e.g. combining TVET, participation in governance and peacebuilding, and SRHR for young women). Given the priority Danida is attaching to fragile states – and the youth in these countries/regions are often left furthest behind – we suggest a regional focus on the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and/or East Africa.

Self-assessment tools can be used by implementing organisations so they can assess the extent to which the five transition areas have been integrated, alongside human rights and gender.

Support the creation of knowledge- and experience-sharing spaces in priority countries where YLOs, NGOs and other partners can come together to coordinate and plan joint actions. These spaces could also provide opportunities to build the capacity of staff from the embassy and non-youth-focused organisations to better engage and involve youth in their work (e.g. with trainings delivered by youth-led and youth-focused organisations).

New partners should demonstrate experience and expertise in working with or for youth, and/or involve a youth-led or youth-focused organisation as a substantive partner in the design, delivery and review of the programme.

In addition to the strategy, Danida could further develop its position (e.g. via a briefing
Promising Practice: Youth Empowerment Support (YES) Uganda; Save the Children Denmark (2014-2015; Danida framework agreement)

The aim of Youth Empowerment Support (YES) programme is to ensure vulnerable youth are socially, politically and economically empowered, protected against violence and exploitation, have access to HIV and AIDS medication and together with local communities are holding the duty-bearers responsible for the fulfilment of their rights. The project aims at increasing the participation of vulnerable youth to become active social, political and economic citizens.

The YES programme also supports youth to form entrepreneurial groups, after their skills training, to strengthen young people’s joint efforts for economic empowerment at the community level. 30 youth groups formed under the YES project in Kasese District have been integrated into the reproductive health project being implemented by Save the Children as peer educators. The youth that received the trainings are being recognised as useful citizens in their communities and have gained the trust of their community leaders and members. Some of the groups were able to receive support from community leaders to address issues related to HIV and AIDS prevalence, especially among young people. This was advocated for by a youth platform, acting on behalf of the youth in the community, which increased access to information and shared it with peers in the community.

One of the youth groups that was trained in vocational skills with support from Save the Children was able to win a tender for the construction of a youth centre. Youth are now better placed to bid for even bigger contracts in the future. This has encouraged other youth groups to register in preparation for similar opportunities in the future.

Through the 3 youth networks and 10 platforms that were formed, youth were able to collectively raise awareness among the community, hold duty bearers accountable and acquire information from their respective sub counties on youth-related government support. The involvement of youth groups, platforms and networks, in budget analysis, tracking and planning has led to an increase in budget allocation to the youth/children programs.

Danida contribution: DKK 2.37 million

“We will work for results that can be both documented and communicated and which persist for a long time after our intervention has ended... Through the further development of effective results reporting and use of international standards and systems”

The World 2030

5. STRENGTHEN MONITORING AND TRACKING OF PROGRAMMES FOCUSING ON OR INVOLVING YOUTH

Findings: Tracking results and spending on youth

Based on the documentation reviewed for NGOs, country programmes and multilaterals, 99 engagements are identified where partners are delivering engagements that include specific results for youth beneficiaries. However, Danida does not have a centralised or consistent means of tracking its spending, engagements, or associated results on youth, as it does for gender equality. Having more and better data on youth engagements could help inform decisions in Danida on financing and programme priorities, and assess development effectiveness.

Despite the many shared challenges and opportunities that characterise youth, young people are not a homogenous group. Youth are different from each other with regard to age, culture, location, marriage, education and employment. Based on available documentation and field visits, information on beneficiaries or the target group is often not disaggregated by age or any category other than ‘gender’. This makes it extremely difficult to verify the outcomes or results for youth and identify ‘which youth’ are being prioritised or are the intended target group.

Data disaggregation is a priority in the SDGs; the Agenda itself sets out that ‘quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind.”

This is matched by other high-level efforts to galvanise and coordinate work on data needed for effective development cooperation. Whilst achieving full disaggregation across all social groups as outlined in the SDGs will be a complex and
long term undertaking, there are already initiatives in place on disaggregating data (e.g. on basis of sex, age disability status, geography). Some of Danida’s partners (DFID and UN agencies) are working together to get the tools, methods and standards in place.

The review finds few concrete examples where youth have taken on roles in monitoring and evaluating Danida-funded programmes, beyond informal conversations with programme staff. Participatory research, monitoring and evaluation is still a relatively new area for many development organisations but is increasingly regarded as an effective means. ‘Involving, training and supporting young people who are the target of a programme to take a lead in monitoring and evaluation can produce more accurate data [often youth respond better to youth] and uncover new issues.’ Furthermore, ‘employing young people and supporting them in roles as volunteers or interns can be cost effective. Young people’s contributions often outweigh the financial implications.’ However, there have been a small but growing number of youth-led participatory and action-research initiatives in recent years supported by DFID, CIDA, UNICEF (via Danida innovation facility) and the Mastercard Foundation.

Recommendation 5: Strengthen monitoring and tracking of programmes focusing on or involving youth

**How to do it:**

Programme reporting standards provided to all partners (incl. multilaterals) and embassies should include the disaggregation of data on results by age (10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34), as well as gender. This is especially important for engagements that identify youth as a target group or a partner. Danida should also consider disaggregating data by other categories such as: disability, race, ethnicity, origin, marital status, in school/out of school, employed/unemployed, religion, economic or other status.

Work in partnership with DFID and other international players to change the international development system on disaggregated data and learn with them about building a culture within Danida on disaggregated data. Disaggregated data (by age) should be uploaded to IATI and used in SDG reporting.

Develop a system for tagging and tracking all of Danida's youth engagements. This would also help Danida to better align its partnerships and investments on youth, as well as assessing or strengthening aid effectiveness. This could also include specific reporting questions for embassies on youth to better understand what is being done and which partners they are working with.

Include specific indicators on youth development in Danida's forthcoming global monitoring framework, including priority targets/indicators from the SDGs and the Youth Development Index.

Engage young people in participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of youth programmes, including developing final reports and recommendations. This involves giving young people the skills to conduct a range of M&E activities and setting aside budget for involving young people from the target group in providing, analysing and interpreting evaluation data (supported by other adults). Young beneficiaries should also be adequately informed and have meaningful opportunities to provide feedback.

6. ENSURE LEARNING ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO WIDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

Findings: Evidence and learning

The project team has not accessed many evaluations on Danida-supported youth-focused engagements – or youth components within broader programmes – in this review process, which could suggest that few have been carried out by Danida partners.

More generally, evidence and learning on the wider development outcomes resulting from strengthening youth voice, advocacy and participation is still relatively scarce in the development sector as a whole. Whilst there is a body of evidence on the impact of participation on the individual young person, good practice and successful interventions by YLOs are rarely documented or shared. This can make it more difficult to take youth-led projects to scale, make the case for investment, do evidence-based advocacy and demonstrate impact. There’s also a lost opportunity to replicate what does
work well, and to harness young people’s potential for development and humanitarian cooperation.

A recent review by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) of over 300 studies and evaluations of development programming on youth indicated that the overall quality of studies that were identified is relatively poor. Many provide insufficient information about methodology, and outcomes are often alluded to rather than clearly defined and measured.

Recommendation 6: Ensure learning on youth participation and empowerment and its contribution to wider development outcomes

How to do it:

Commission research and evaluations to help fill the evidence gaps (as identified by ODI) on the impact of youth-led and youth-partnered development. This includes: autonomous youth activism, young leaders mobilising and engaging other young people for social change, young people’s influence on wider policies, youth participation at international conferences and CVE.

Commission one multi-country evaluation over the course of the strategy to strengthen the evidence on outcomes and results of youth participation and youth-led development. This knowledge could also be used to make evidence-based contributions to policy and advocacy on youth and development.

RECOMMENDATION GROUPING 3: DELIVERING ON DANIDA’S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

There is potential for integrating a strong youth focus in all of Danida’s priority areas (e.g. peace, security and protection, migration and human rights, democracy and gender equality, and inclusive and sustainable growth), to complement – rather than compete with – these priorities. Danida could make the most of staff already working on these themes – especially those with experience and expertise on youth – and build their capacity to further engage and integrate the youth focus, rather than requiring many youth specialists.

‘The World 2030’ emphasises that Denmark will increasingly target thematic and regional initiatives (through UN) where Denmark has special interests, strengths and is able to create added value. Danida could arguably best harness its experience on gender equality, HRBA and civil society strengthening by placing emphasis on a progressive youth agenda that focuses on voice, participation and empowerment in all dimensions of development – beyond typical youth issues such as SRHR. This is particularly salient in fragile countries and regions where youth are more readily seen as a risk or as vulnerable, and can be overlooked as peacebuilders and leaders in the recovery of economies and societies.

7. ENSURE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND YOUTH-SPECIFIC APPROACHES WHEN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

Findings: Inclusive, sustainable growth and employment programmes

Despite their number, young people are often understood as the ‘excluded majority’. They face particular barriers to finding employment or starting and sustaining a business, including laws, regulations and cultural barriers that prevent them from accessing finance, owning land and opening bank accounts. These challenges are even greater for young women, youth with disabilities and youth from places affected by instability and insecurity.

An evaluation from June 2016 of the Africa commission initiatives to follow up on 10 policy recommendations formulated by the Commission to unleash the potential of Africa’s youth underline the necessity of ensuring political and institutional ownership and sustainability when implementing regional programmes. A number of current engagements and programmes for youth employment, i.e. ILO, have their origin in the initiatives of the Commission. The evaluation emphasises the importance of having clear strategies and plans for follow-up on policy recommendations, which is valid for the current increased prioritisation of the youth focus.

Agri-business is still highly relevant, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and is a focus of many of Danida-supported engagements. There are also innovative initiatives to make agriculture more attractive (role models, participatory methodologies), accessible (land rights, technology, financial products) and gainful (online platforms, links to market, value chains) to youth. Some Danida-funded programmes on this theme have only recently identified youth as a direct target group and are yet to identify or develop any specific approaches to reaching or supporting them. As a result, these programmes are at risk of being blind to the specific characteristics, needs, opportunities and priorities of youth and bring little change to ‘business as usual’. There is a tendency to focus on current roles and division of labour between
generations, which can maintain young people in secondary/marginalised positions, rather than challenge the division of work and introduce new, higher-paid work areas for young people.

Youth employment and entrepreneurship is a popular area amongst donors, governments and development agencies\(^9\) and is usually the first, sometimes only, focus in their strategies that specifically identifies youth. Given Danida’s long experience in **voice, participation and empowerment**, Denmark could add value to in the donor space by placing emphasis on these dimensions in all of its sustainable, inclusive growth and employment strategies.

**Recommendation 7:**

Ensure youth involvement and youth-specific approaches when developing and implementing inclusive, sustainable growth and employment programmes.

**How to do it:**

- **Involve youth in the design of the livelihoods and inclusive growth programmes.** Include skills, support and interventions that young people - especially the poorest or most excluded – see as priorities, especially where this may differ to other generations. In doing so, programmes should better target the particular barriers and opportunities for young people (e.g. weak value chains, legal documentation, land issues, access to finance and other issues related to youth empowerment such as SRHR). This also includes involving **youth-led private sector enterprises** in the financing criteria for the different business modalities including Business Finance and Danida Market Development Partnership.

- **Develop, adapt and apply tools to enable** young people to analyse their own specific situation, needs and opportunities in relation to sustainable livelihoods and employment, including their intersection with the other transitions of youth, and how these should be addressed in programmes.

- **Assess and ensure the readiness of existing partners to be able to work with youth.** This particularly applies to private sector players, agri-businesses and/or private trusts who are new to youth participation and development, and goes beyond revising project titles, creating an additional results indicator on youth or a one-off initiative (e.g. an entrepreneurship competition). Ensure steps are taken to develop internal competencies and ways of working to involve young people as active agents across the programme. Denmark could help by facilitating connections and exchange of good practice at country-level between youth organisations with relevant expertise.

- **Civil society partners who are newer to market-based approaches to youth empowerment** should undertake value chain and market analysis, before integrating livelihoods into broader youth programmes. This can be done with support from other local actors specialising in this area.

- **Improve and formalise technical vocational training for and with youth - including short-term module-based and market driven training.** Link entrepreneurship and other technical training to youth-led advocacy for more relevant and practical – and less theoretical – technical vocational training (including peer-to-peer learning approaches). Convene YLOs, private sector and labour market partners in the design and setup of the technical vocational education and training (TVET) to ensure alignment between training for youth and the market’s demand for specific skills.

**Promising Practice**

**Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF), ILO**

The YEF was an initiative of the Danish-led Africa Commission that was implemented by the Youth Employment Network (YEN) and the ILO in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda between 2010 and 2015. It supported youth directly by providing access to business development services, including finance and expertise. An estimated 40,000 new businesses were developed by youth\(^60\).

A competitive Youth-to-Youth Fund also provided grants to groups of young people for identifying, testing and promoting innovative entrepreneurship solutions to youth employment challenges\(^61\). Three separate annual calls for proposals (focusing on young women, youth with disabilities and green business) encouraged the submission of 2,400 applications from youth-led organisations. 76 were selected, providing grants totalling over $960,000, along with tailored technical
support, peer review meetings, networking with potential funders and on-site monitoring visits. 19% of these solutions were replicated. In East Africa, the initiatives benefited over 6,200 individuals and created 2,650 jobs.

The YEF also succeeded to influence and improve the curriculum on entrepreneurship in Uganda, applying a more practical approach. This approach was also piloted in high training institutions in Tanzania and in Kenya, which have since embedded entrepreneurship in their programmes. It is estimated that 149,000 students were reached.

**Danish Contribution:** DKK 144 million for 2014-2015.

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### 8. SUPPORT LINKAGES BETWEEN YOUTH AND GENDER MOVEMENTS, AND PROMOTE THE NEXUS OF THE TWO IN THE SDGs

**Findings: Youth and gender**

Girls and young women are amongst the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach and excluded groups in development and face multiple and interlocking forms of discrimination. Young women are often most at risk of being left behind but their rights, needs, characteristics and situation are rarely specifically recognised in the SDG targets or indicators beyond reference to 'women', young people/youth and adolescent girls. For example, SDG indicators make reference to women aged 15-49 years and do not segment much further.

Combining youth and gender lenses would be an innovative and intrinsically HRBA to making progress on the SDGs. Denmark’s long-standing prioritisation of gender equality means that there has (directly and indirectly) been a strong focus on young women, especially their SRHR, in its policies and programmes. Gender equality is a top priority of development banks, donor agencies, the EU and the UN. It is also a standalone goal in the SDGs and mainstreamed across other goals/targets.

Youth movements/organisations and women’s movements/organisations are often perceived as working on two different agendas, although they share many of the same goals, particularly on rights to SRHR, education, economic empowerment and political participation. There have been a number of statements from youth movements on gender equality and the nexus of youth and gender is an increasing focus of agencies such as UNFPA, UNDP and UN Women – particularly through strategic advocacy and UN system coordination, but also through programmes.

Engaging youth-focused and youth-led organisations as partners, especially young women-led organisations, is important for challenging gender stereotypes and norms, empowering young women and ensuring their participation in development. However, experienced youth sector players identify that heads and spokespersons of YLOs are more commonly young men than women. Therefore, there is also opportunity to ensure greater gender equality within the youth sector itself. There are a growing number of young feminist and LGBT organisations/networks internationally who support young women-led organisations and young women activists, including transgender women and lesbians. There are also women’s rights organisations in Denmark and some Danish NGOs to some degree focusing on young women (e.g. Plan, ADRA, KVINFO, Oxfam, ActionAid, Danish Association for Family Planning).

**Recommendation 8:** How to do it:

Support linkages between youth and gender movements, and promote the nexus of the two in the SDGs.

- **Build partnerships and provide support to young women-led organisations** working globally and at the country level (including those focusing on transgender women and LGBT rights). Help strengthen their voice, capacity and influence through funding, training and building their network with other like-minded donors.

- **Ensure that programmes on gender equality and/or youth give priority to outcomes for young women** (and adolescent girls) and that they disaggregate data/results by both age and gender. Furthermore, that they consider the positive and negative roles of adolescent boys and young men in protecting and claiming the rights of young women. Organisations led by young women and youth arms of women’s organisations should also be prioritised as grant recipients by fund managers. NGOs focused on gender and the rights of women should be encouraged to adopt youth-specific approaches in their programming.
● Revise the screening note on Human Rights-Based Approaches and Gender in the Aid Management Guidelines to include a youth lens.

● Encourage intergenerational partnerships within the gender movement in the delivery of Danish funded programmes. For example:
  ○ Intergenerational 2-way mentoring between young and older women – especially for activists, political leaders and social entrepreneurs.
  ○ Initiatives to increase women’s organisations’ engagement of young people and increase young women’s participation in decision-making/governance of organisations.

● Support the work of UN agencies working to promote the nexus of youth and gender through Cooperation Strategies, joint advocacy, programming and the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

● Take specific efforts to engage and support young women as leaders and agents of change for the SDGs. The ‘Partners For Change’ report highlights the specific barriers to the participation of young women in development programming.

9. HARNESS THE ROLE OF YOUTH AS PARTNERS AND LEADERS IN BRIDGING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Findings: Youth, humanitarian action and development cooperation

The new Danish strategy emphasises enhancing coherence between humanitarian action and development cooperation. Interviewees with MFA staff and Danish humanitarian agencies agree that youth is key in this nexus.

**Young people should be beneficiaries, partners and leaders of both humanitarian action and development cooperation.** However, their role and contribution as first-responders or peacebuilders in humanitarian action and/or as partners in long-term development is often overlooked by governments and could be better harnessed in existing approaches and initiatives.

The mapping (Section 2.0) shows that Danida-funded youth engagements are already well aligned to actions in the **Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action**, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit and endorsed by a number of Danida’s bilateral and multilateral partners: particularly supporting ‘young people as partners in programmes that strengthen young people’s capacities and capabilities to be effective humanitarian actors in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and empower and support local youth-led initiatives and organisations in humanitarian response, such as those targeting affected youth, including young refugees and internally displaced persons living in informal urban settlements and slums’. There is also at least one NGO partner that has successfully integrated youth-led emergency response into some of its mainstream development programmes.

Danida’s youth engagements also correspond to the **UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)**, which urges member states and relevant actors to include youth in peacebuilding, decision-making and a number of other areas highly relevant to both development and humanitarian outcomes.

**Recommendation 9:**

Harness the role of youth as partners and leaders in bridging development and humanitarian action.

**How to do it:**

Through partnerships and programmes of Danida and Danish humanitarian organisations, support young volunteers, youth groups, youth-led and youth-focused organisations in actions that contribute to both humanitarian and development outcomes including:

- First response – delivering aid in hard-to-reach communities through existing youth CBOs, networks and groups.
- Prevention and peacebuilding – including CVE, political participation and dialogue, early warning systems and conflict resolution.
- Resilience – including programmes that provide life skills and TVET, promote SRHR and offer psychosocial support.
- Monitoring and accountability – providing youth with skills to track and report on how resources are being used in development and humanitarian settings.
Through evaluations, mappings and research, strengthen documentation on the contribution of youth in this nexus and promote young people’s role amongst other development partners. This can also be used as a basis for sensitisation and training for youth-focused and YLOs (especially those with a large volunteer base) to encourage more to integrate similar approaches to their work and identify the role they can play.

Support the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, by integrating implementation and review of the 5 actions (e.g. through Humanitarian Framework Agreements) and encouraging other development partners to follow suit.

Support implementation and follow up of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) through Danida’s partners, including evidence-based advocacy at the UN level on progress.

Support young people to partner and take the lead in high-level decision making at the UN in Geneva (similar to Recommendation 10), where there have been successful efforts to include and make space for youth at the UN Headquarters in New York, (eg. the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and Major Group participation in sustainable development), Denmark can lead the way in replicating these initiatives in humanitarian and human rights-focused processes in Geneva.

Promising Practice:

Act Change Transform (Act!) – a locally registered NGO – manages a competitive granting and capacity-building facility supporting CSOs and other actors working to counter violent extremism, and prevent political and natural resource conflicts in Kenya. 4 of the 28 current grantees are YLOs, and all recipients/projects must include a youth focus during programme design, implementation and their results frameworks. Act! disaggregates all results by age, gender and other categories. Act! also provides capacity development support in 2 forms: (1) technical assistance in programming areas such as violent extremism, community mobilisation, climate change, M&E, human rights-based approaches) and (2) institutional development on financial management, human resources, communications and external relations, strategic planning, fundraising/resource mobilisation, governance and management. Act!’s approach to capacity development includes formal trainings and medium-to-long-term accompaniment, including coaching/mentoring, secondment (an Act! member of staff or consultant is placed within the partner organisation) and embedding (a partner/awardee member of staff is placed within a department at Act! so they can learn from Act! practices).

Danish Core Contribution: DKK 30 million (estimated 40% of total budget for youth).

10. EMBED YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL REVIEW PROCESSES FOR THE SDGs

Findings: The Sustainable Development Goals

Denmark has almost finalised its action plan for national and international follow-up and review of the SDGs. This will establish the overarching framework for the government’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda and will also define how often the government will report to the national parliament and the HLPF. Moreover, Denmark will submit annual statistical reports to the UN. Denmark has committed to work for an ambitious follow-up and review for the SDGs at EU level, and is involved in the ongoing negotiations on the EU’s overarching follow-up on the 2030 Agenda, (Commission communication ‘Next steps for a sustainable European Future’) and on the EU’s new development strategy (‘European Consensus on Development’). The EU is already integrating youth in reporting – through various spaces, departments and partnerships.

An investment in encouraging high standards of SDG reporting now, (in year two of fifteen), will help shape the trajectory of SDG reporting (and therefore SDG success) as we get closer to 2030. In the 2030 Agenda, all governments have signed up to supporting ‘accountability to our citizens’ and promised a follow-up and review framework that is ‘open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders’68. This means building social accountability mechanisms at all levels where young people – as an often excluded majority – could be playing a decisive and formal role in the monitoring and accountability system for the SDGs69. Young people are well
Recommendation 10: Embed young people in the formal and informal review processes for the SDGs.

How to do it:

- **Inclusive and participatory Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) – in Denmark and priority countries.** In 2017, Denmark should lead by example by meaningfully engaging Danish youth in its VNR and other official reporting mechanisms. This includes providing official space for DUF, as the national representative body for youth, to feed into the VNR process as soon as possible. In doing so, it can become a strong champion for encouraging other member states to do the same. Embassies could also directly support youth ministries to convene the youth sector and ensure government is communicating information on SDG implementation and review. Denmark’s Permanent Mission to the UN could co-host a side event at the HLPF highlighting good practice in how Denmark and like-minded member states have engaged young people in VNRs.

- **Strengthen the space for youth at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and during EU Follow-up and Review.** Denmark’s Permanent Mission to the UN should call for a youth participation audit of the HLPF to assess the readiness of the HLPF for youth engagement and participation, providing a benchmark for tracking improvements over time. YLOs (via the Major Group on Children and Youth) should help carry out the audit and be commissioned to provide capacity-building (e.g. toolkits, training, coaching) to effectively integrate youth in the work of the HLPF Secretariat, enabling them to respond effectively to youth inputs during reviews. Denmark should also call for space for YLOs to provide formal written and verbal inputs on implementation of the SDGs as part of the EU’s follow-up on the 2030 Agenda.

- **Continue and broaden the UN youth delegate programme** as a means of including young people in high-level SDG and other UN processes; broadening it beyond the first week of UN General Assembly. Where youth are not able to participate directly, Danida can be a voice for feeding back what youth say during high-level discussions on progress.

- **Support youth to speak out on international platforms** when governments are misrepresenting the realities on the ground (especially when civil society space is limited nationally). Invite youth to be witness to bilateral agreements so they can follow up on these at national level. Denmark could also push for specific provisions for participation of young people and YLOs – prioritising those from the Global South, regardless of ECOSOC status – to present and engage in interactive dialogue, including review of individual states’ progress.

- **Support young people in priority countries to create their own spaces, mechanisms and evidence to hold governments accountable for the SDGs:**
  - Provide seed-funding to help incubate youth-led, data-driven accountability. In doing so, Denmark could empower a generation of SDG infomediaries who generate and disseminate data for accountability to government bodies, citizens and other stakeholders. This requires the development of data literacy skills amongst youth – e.g. supported by NGOs and the private sector – to monitor and track service delivery and government commitments.
  - Support ‘SDG Accountability Hubs’ – a space where young people, CBOs, data and technology specialists and government experts can exchange knowledge and learning on social accountability for the SDGs. These Hubs could also create pathways from citizen-led to state-led review mechanisms.
  - Support youth ‘ground-level panels’ delivered by local partners – spaces for young people, particularly marginalised youth, to offer their perspectives and experiences on progress against SDG targets/indicators at the local level and what change still needs to happen. These panels can provide a reality check to discussions taking place at the HLPF.

Promising Practice:

*Supporting Youth-led Implementation and Accountability for the SDGs (Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN and Restless Development)*
The partnership was established just before the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, a time when it was crucial to be working to place young people as leaders of development. The partners worked together to generate momentum and tangible outcomes for the role of youth in the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs, to ensure that the first year of the SDGs was set up for success. The 3 main project activities (2015/16):

1) A high-level event in New York entitled #Generation 2030: The Torchbearers of the SDGs during the summit which launched the SDGs.

2) A global campaign to secure commitments towards the role of youth in the SDGs. The Youth Power campaign resulted in 105 partners committing to support young people’s role and accountability in the SDGs including: 15 commitments from national governments/national decision-makers; 2 UN agency commitments; and new youth policies/strategies from 2 bilaterals (UK and Denmark).

3) Promoting practical solutions for how young people can be involved in implementing and monitoring the SDGs by disseminating the ‘Case for Space’ research: a youth-led research project on the enabling environment for youth development.

Overall, the partnership and project activities ensured that the SDGs were launched with significant attention on the role of youth, and that the first year of setting up implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs continued to put youth at the forefront.

RECOMMENDATION GROUPING 4: ALIGNING FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

‘Governments and NGOs need to change their structures and mechanisms in order to be more flexible and reactive to the new movements and groups organised young people are creating.’

Online conversation participant

As part of the so-called ‘youth wave’ alongside Finland, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Mexico, Canada and Sweden, Denmark is encouraged to play a leading role internationally as a strong and positive voice on youth as rights holders with assets, rather than as a risk to development, ‘a problem to be contained’ or ‘a threat to peace and security’75. This builds on what Denmark has already been doing, including putting focus on youth and the SDGs during the one-year term of Mr Mogens Lykketoft as President of the 70th General Assembly (September 2015-16).

The present challenge is to channel and direct existing resources, without necessarily providing more funding. Denmark and its partners – from NGOs to multilaterals and other donor agencies – should make joint strategies for coordination and
incentivise other organisations to adopt a HRBA to youth. More can also be done to support YLOs as partners of Danida’s development cooperation and humanitarian action – especially through making changes to existing partnerships, programmes and facilities.

11. MAINSTREAM YOUTH ACROSS DENMARK’S MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH UN AGENCIES

Findings: Multilateral engagements

Denmark is providing substantial core-support to multilateral organisations ($1,040.1m in 2015) and has well-established cooperation with these organisations across virtually all of its priority areas for youth (see Introduction). In recent years, Denmark has also been a top 10 donor to several UN agencies and development banks that give priority to youth in their programmes and strategies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UNFPA and the World Bank. There are also UN agencies that undertaking work highly relevant to youth but are still considering how best to integrate youth into their strategies (UN Women and UNHCR). A number of these multilaterals are important global actors in shaping youth policy and advocating for youth (especially in multilateral fora). Many are implementing engagements that focus on youth as beneficiaries and/or as partners, which are not yet specified in the cooperation strategies such as UNICEF (UNICEF) and pushing for the adoption of the landmark Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (UNDP) and the regional programme on preventing and responding to violent extremism in Africa (UNDP, 2016-2019).

In ‘The World 2030’, Denmark has said it will continue core support for UN agencies, but increasingly target thematic and regional initiatives where it has special interests, strengths and is able to create added value (soft and hard earmarking of the funds). In 2017, Denmark will be on the Executive Board for UNDP/UNFPA/OPS and UNICEF. This year, Denmark is also negotiating new partnership and cooperation agreements with UN agencies. Some UN agencies are also adopting new strategic plans. Mid-term reports made available highlighted Danish support to innovation in UNICEF, which has contributed ‘significantly to produce tangible and innovative development products which are currently being tested for scalability’. Reviews have cited the ‘unconditional way in which funding has been provided’ as an important factor in this success. There have also been calls to include innovation as a cross-cutting priority in future agreements.

Recommendation 11: How to do it:

Mainstream youth across Denmark’s multilateral development cooperation, particularly through partnerships with UN agencies.

Mainstream youth development, engagement and participation in new and existing Cooperation Strategies with multilaterals.

- Ensure earmarked funding for UN agencies is used to contribute to youth development, participation and empowerment in priority countries.
- Include relevant indicators from multilaterals’ own youth strategies to support their implementation, follow-up and review.
- Use mid-term reviews to integrate a stronger focus on youth in the cooperation priorities.

Step up Denmark’s engagement in relevant youth initiatives of multilateral partners – as a donor and/or political champion – such as:

- Enhancing cooperation with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (especially the co-chairs).
- Supporting the emerging initiative (by UN Special Envoy on Youth, UNFPA and UNDP) on tracking SDGs on youth at the global level.
- Providing financial support to the Major Group for Children and Youth – the formal UN General Assembly-mandated and self-organised space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the UN.
- Creating space for youth participation in UN processes.

As an Executive Board member of UN agencies, ensure that any new strategic plans include youth development, engagement and participation as a priority. For example, Denmark is President of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in 2017, during the same year that these agencies will be developing its new strategic plan for 2018-2021.

Ensure that the EU’s new strategy (European Consensus for Development) is put into action. Denmark should ensure that next steps for operationalising the EU’s focus on youth are
clear. Champion investments in youth-led development during the EU mid-term review of external financial instruments and ensure results for youth are measured, whilst also pushing for focus on women and youth empowerment in the new European Fund for Sustainable Development, which will have a big focus on the SDGs and root causes of migration. Push for the EU to do a flagship review and report on what it is doing for and with youth.

Promising practice:
UNFPA Global Innovation Facility

Through its cooperation agreement with UNFPA (2014-2018), Denmark has been contributing to innovation in UNFPA with an annual contribution of DKK 12 million yearly in 2014-2015. The purpose has been to fund key pioneering and innovative activities or approaches in headquarters and/or in the field. In 2016, this Global Innovation Facility supported a 3-day Youth Hackathon – an event where developers intensively collaborate on technology projects. 80 young people from over 20 countries met in Kampala, Uganda and competed in teams to devise the best, most innovative mobile phone app to promote sexual and reproductive health (e.g. reporting sexual harassment, providing first-time mothers with health information). Students and youth advocates were paired with technology experts and UN staff. TriGivia – the winning app – is a game that dispels myths and provides accurate information about SRHR, whilst users earn free mobile airtime. All the teams have been invited to further refine their prototypes, which can be submitted to the UNFPA Innovation Fund and evaluated with support from MIT for potential funding, testing and piloting.

Danish Contribution: overall core contribution DKK 114 million (2016), DKK 200 million (2017)

12. CHAMPION YOUTH PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES WITH GOVERNMENTS IN PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Findings: National policy dialogues

Denmark is widely regarded for its commitment to issues pertinent to youth empowerment including human rights, sustainable development, and bottom-up, inclusive and democratic work. Denmark is also one of only a few governments willing to advocate for gender equality and youth and adolescent SRHR.

Bilateral policy dialogue (on the sidelines of UN meetings and through embassies) can be a tool for Danida to help build an ‘enabling environment’ for youth development and empowerment. Issues specifically highlighted by youth as priorities for bilateral dialogue during this review and previous research include: SRHR, civic freedoms and youth policy implementation/review. The entry point for dialogue with government may be the Ministry of Youth (where it exists), although these are typically headed by a junior minister with very limited budgets. Therefore, in some cases, policy dialogue on youth may be with representatives from other ministries including gender, education, labour, health, planning and finance.

National youth policies can also be an entry point for supporting youth development and empowerment. In eight out of the twelve Category 1 and 2 countries being prioritised by Denmark there is a youth policy in place (see Annex 7). However, many youth policies have little budget and are limited in their implementation and, therefore, impact.

Recommendation 12: How to do it:

Champion youth priorities in national policy dialogues with governments, in priority countries.

Be an ally for youth in the protection of their rights, in coordination with national/local and Danish civil society, especially YLOs. Denmark could prioritise bilateral policy dialogue on issues which are particularly risky for youth advocates and pose a serious threat to young people’s empowerment and participation. In particular, the following areas speak directly from Denmark’s own values and culture, and the protections/rights enjoyed by youth in Denmark:

- Sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is still a sensitive issue in many of Denmark’s priority countries, but it is central to youth development and empowerment. SRHR also has an important role to play in ensuring inclusive growth and youth participation in development more broadly (including democratic change).
- **Political freedoms**, including the freedom of assembly, freedom of association and freedom of speech are a top priority of youth, especially activists who are calling for greater protection not only during elections but also at other times (e.g. during peaceful protests). This could also include dialogue on laws that restrict civil societies' abilities to register, access resources, and, in more extreme cases, the closure, de-registration and expulsion of CSOs, including YLOs.

**Champion national youth policy development, implementation and review.** Help strengthen youth policy implementation in priority countries by maintaining dialogue with government on ensuring appropriate budget and an action/monitoring planning. Denmark could also advocate for active participation of independent YLOs in policy reviews.

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### Promising Practice: AmplifyChange

This multi-donor global fund aims to empower young people, men and women to realise their sexual and reproductive rights. AmplifyChange provides support to small-to-medium-sized civil society and community-based groups – including YLOs and networks – that advocate for and promote better policy and action on neglected SRHR issues. In order to support stronger, more inclusive and resilient movements, AmplifyChange provides **Network Grants** to Southern-based organisations capable of convening and supporting other CSOs. AmplifyChange also provides direct support to over 250 CSOs through its **Opportunity and Strengthening Grants**. These grants aim to fuel the growth of a new generation of organisations and advocacy leaders, including youth-led and gender-rights groups. AmplifyChange also encourages applications from consortia and coalitions, and allow grantees to submit short videos in lieu of completing parts of the written application.

**Danish Core Contribution:** DKK 65 million commitment (2016)

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### 13. EARMARK FUNDING THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

*In order to maintain a broad popular engagement in civil society activities, organisations managing pooled funds must simplify procedures and requirements for applicant organisations, ensuring that they are proportionate with the nature and scope of the initiatives and the association’s capacity.*

The World 2030

**Findings: Funding for youth-led organisations**

In a survey by Youth Policy Labs, 50% of child and youth organisations surveyed believe they can last only one year or less at current funding and operating levels. Reasons given for funding challenges include the ‘belief that funders prefer larger CSOs over grassroots or smaller organisations’ and ‘the respondent’s organisation or movement lack the staff or skills or raise funds.’

Due to their very nature, YLOs face a number of barriers in accessing funding. They are typically community-based and most of their human resources are used to deliver their projects, rather than support fundraising and administration. Even larger and long-established youth organisations (e.g. National Youth Councils) report significant challenges in accessing government funding. Calls for tender are often lengthy and bureaucratic – therefore not very accessible to YLOs, which tend to have limited capacity for developing bids, and their commitment to youth participation can actually count against them. Therefore, funding is typically provided to organisations working on behalf of youth, rather than organisations that are led by youth, or where youth play a decisive role in setting strategic priorities.

YLOs also report difficulties when competing with ‘big players’ for Danida funding, when youth leadership and youth empowerment is not included explicitly in the eligibility criteria and guidelines. For example, youth-led processes for developing bids and funding proposals tend to require more time than other approaches, but are rarely formally recognised as being important by fund managers in the assessment of bids, which focus more on quantifiable results such as number of jobs created.
There are innovative financing mechanisms managed by Danida’s partners, such as AmplifyChange or Act!, that have adapted their application processes and support to grantees to better enable YLOs to successfully receive and manage funding. Furthermore, small grants can be a springboard for action for YLOs. Their projects (and methodologies) tend to be low-cost in comparison to other development partners, require less resources to manage (less paperwork and administration) and it enables them to develop capacity and build relationships with donors (e.g. apply for increasing amounts over time).

**Recommendation 13:**

Earmark funding that can be accessed by youth-led organisations and movements.

**How to do it:**

Provide funding via new or existing facilities and agreements to better enable young people to design and deliver their own projects and initiatives, including:

- **Embassy small grants mechanisms.** This is also relevant for transition/growth economies (Category 3) that are not running development cooperation programmes but are continuing to hold some funds for selected partners (e.g. Indonesia highly recommends small grants mechanisms).
- **Danish NGO strategic partnership agreements;** especially those held by youth-focused organisations. From next year, guidelines could encourage applicants to set aside a budget allocation for small grants to YLOs and other innovative youth-led engagements.
- **The Civil Society in Development (CISU) small- and medium-sized fund for Danish NGOs.** Some funding could be reserved for innovative youth engagements led by youth.
- **Global multi-donor funding mechanisms** which are already supporting YLOs, such as AmplifyChange (Danida is a founding partner) and/or UN Habitat’s Urban Youth Fund (the longest standing global fund for YLOs but not supported by Danida).
- **National programmes and facilities,** as provided by the Democratic Governance Facility (Uganda) or the Peace, Security and Stabilisation programme (Kenya).
- **Multilateral cooperation strategies,** especially those held by UN agencies working directly with youth. Agreements should earmark funding for YLOs and youth participation, as has been done previously for innovation.
- **A new fund managed by an independent intermediary** that is governed by a board entirely led by young people, recruited through youth networks. Whilst the finances would be managed by the intermediary, the youth board would make all decisions on grants awarded to youth-led and youth-focused initiatives.
- **A new innovation fund to support implementation of national youth policies and youth-specific SDG targets,** which could catalyse both action on youth SDG targets and national youth policies. This could be a competitive scheme for consortiums of YLOs, government ministries and other stakeholders to accelerate implementation of national youth policies and youth-specific targets of the SDGs. A regional focus would enable the fund to support learning around what works in youth policy implementation and to feed into regional reporting mechanisms.

Representatives of YLOs should be involved in the design of funding windows and facilities.

Provide funding facilities for youth as agents of democratic and social change to react and respond quickly to opportunities or changes in the local environment (e.g. advocates during elections or following rights violations, first responders during humanitarian crises and other emergencies). This is particularly important to be able to support youth movements and more informal youth groups.

Ensure fund managers include a ‘barriers assessment’ in the design of their facilities – especially eligibility criteria – to ensure that YLOs are not inadvertently excluded or put at undue disadvantage due to the very nature of their organisation. Ensure it can be counted positively to be a YLO or enterprise when bidding for youth programmes or youth-related programmes. Guidelines also need to ensure flexibility and accessibility, with emphasis on swift processing of applications. Grant managers should offer technical support for developing grantee applications between concept and proposal stages.

When investing in less established or informal organisations, mitigate risk with continuous monitoring and by disbursing funds in instalments. Create opportunities for smaller grantees to graduate to larger, longer-term support after a successful funding round. Learn from good
14. TAKE A SUPPORTIVE APPROACH TO GRANT-MAKING THAT ALSO DEVELOPS THE CAPACITY OF YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS, MOVEMENTS AND NETWORKS

Findings: Non-financial support for youth-led organisations

Access to networks and organisational strengthening can be just as important to YLOs as financial support. In both the online youth conversation and detailed survey for youth organisations that were done specifically for this review, capacity development came nearly top on the list of support that youth organisations want, second only to funding.

The review identified at least two Danida-supported grant facilities (AmplifyChange, Act!) who are also supporting organisational strengthening of youth-led grantees: for example, organisational governance, financial management, resource generation, human resource (and volunteer) management and strategy. Interviewees with experience in this area report that providing this support effectively takes staff time – from both the fund manager and the organisation – and a youth-specific approach. The desk-review of funding and capacity-building facilities also indicates that CSOs and partners with experience of youth engagement are well placed to provide this capacity-building, often more so than government agency staff.

Recommendation 14: How to do it:

Take a supportive approach to grant-making that also develops the capacity of youth-led organisations, movements and networks.

Support grant facilities that include demand-led organisational strengthening and capacity-building to develop core functions of YLOs and support small/medium YLOs to mature. This includes mentoring, structured training and/or one-to-one support provided by staff experienced in engaging youth.

Encourage fund managers to develop a supportive relationship with youth-led grantees, including helping YLOs to build technical quality and not just reach quantitative targets. This includes a safe space to reflect on what could have gone better in the delivery of the project, and be constructively self-critical. Provide opportunities for grantees to provide anonymous feedback.

Support the development of innovative approaches to capacity-building, including online modules, videos and the development of new Southern-based suppliers of capacity-building.

15. STRENGTHEN COORDINATION ON YOUTH WITH OTHER DONORS AND GOVERNMENT PLAYERS IN PRIORITY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Findings: Donor coordination at national level

Youth is an emerging focus among most of the like-minded development partners. However, there seems to be limited coordination specifically around youth. Many of the large donor agencies that are prioritising youth are also investing heavily in youth employability, entrepreneurship and job creation. It will take time and resources to ensure close coordination. However, it will also help to build embassies’ networks with key stakeholders on youth at national level – including government. In some cases, Denmark might be able to play a role as a national convener of governmental institutions and ministries with responsibility for youth, together with donor agencies.

Recommendation 15: How to do it:

Strengthen coordination on youth with other donors and government players in priority countries, especially youth unemployment.

Embassies should map and convene the other ‘youth-focused and like-minded’ development agencies in country such as DFID, EU, ILO, Norad, SIDA, USAID, UN agencies and the World Bank to improve coordination and scope the potential for collaboration on youth.

On youth employment, embassy staff should hold coordination meetings with key players such as Ministry of Labour (or equivalent), ILO and UN agencies, World Bank, USAID, DFID and Mastercard to identify overlap and encourage complementarity of different initiatives. Youth representatives from cooperatives, trade unions or other youth representative bodies should also be invited to attend.
RECOMMENDATION GROUPING 5: ROLLING OUT THE STRATEGY INTERNALLY

This review has been one of Danida’s first steps to operationalising and optimising the implementation of the new strategy – both internally (amongst staff and missions) and externally (e.g. through partners). Indeed, the internal dimensions of operationalising the strategy amongst staff across the world can be just as instrumental as the other elements (sections 3.1-3.4 above) in order to translate good intentions into something tangible.

A new strategy is an opportune time to make changes internally that reflect Denmark’s belief in and commitment to youth. Recommendations have taken into account the advice from senior MFA staff that ‘The World 2030’ is unlikely to be unfolded into sub-strategies or thematic guidelines.

Successfully bringing all MFA staff on board with the new youth focus has the potential to make all the other aspects of operationalising the strategy (through programmes, funding, partnerships and political spaces) more meaningful. Through interviews with MFA staff around the world, the review finds there is already buy-in amongst Danida staff to an increased focus on youth, which is not to be underestimated in ensuring that the new strategy maintains traction internally and enables it to be implemented from a position of strength.

16. DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE YOUTH FOCUS WITHIN MFA

Findings: Internal capacity on youth

At present, a staff member in the Department on Policy and Financing (UPF) holds the overall responsibility for youth (amongst other tasks and responsibilities). Furthermore, staff working on civil society, humanitarian and multilateral cooperation, quality assurance, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, and the country and regional staff are involved in work on youth. There are also two recently appointed Youth Advisers based in New York and Geneva.

Danida published guidelines in 2004 on Children and Young People in Development Cooperation, but the review finds no consistent approach to engaging or prioritising youth across priority countries and implementation of the guidelines has not been monitored since 2011. The Aid Management Guidelines (AMG) have very recently gone through a thorough revision, but it is deemed necessary to make at least minor changes to meaningfully include the youth focus in programming.

The time and capacity which will be required in order to implement the new strategic focus on youth will have to be balanced with pressure on resources and capacity in Danida. Interviewees from Danida, NGOs and other development agencies have also made suggestions on how to put a new strategic focus on youth into practice based on their experience and ideas. Learnings from other agencies who are integrating youth into their work suggest a combined approach; establishing staff with specific responsibility for youth and creating a broader internal network of youth focal points and/or champions.

Recommendation 16: Develop and establish capacity to implement the youth focus within MFA.

How to do it:

Establish a Youth Task Team with a responsible project manager to reach out across Danida and embed the new strategic focus on youth in the first 12 months. The Task Team can work across departments to maintain an overview of youth engagements, offer support to offices and youth champions at country level, find evidence and build momentum across Danida.

- By placing a Task Team staff member in the office of a youth-led/focused organisation, Danida can connect to the daily expertise and ideas that move through global youth organisations daily.
- The Task Team should include at least one paid temporary position for a young person (under 30 years old) seconded from a Danish youth-led organisation to help provide a bridge to the youth sector, as well as giving their experience and expertise in youth-led development. YLOs should help recruit and select the final candidate.
- The Task Team can stimulate learning and action, and convene working groups with staff and partners relating to specific outcomes (such as use of technology in outreach) and/or strategic areas such as youth and gender, employment, education and training, SRHR, governance, peacebuilding and youth in emergency, migration and humanitarian situations.
The Task Team could support the Technical Quality Support (TQS) department to advise country offices on how to integrate youth in the development of country plans and strategies.

Use innovative tools/methods to enthuse and support MFA staff. For example:

- Develop a video, app and/or short inspiration paper on youth – including how to apply a youth lens and the ladder of participation.
- Ask YLOs to run youth engagement training for staff.
- Through a pilot two-way mentorship and connection scheme, Danida could connect 50 of its staff with 50 young leaders from around the world.

Include a youth focus in priority areas of the Aid Management Guidelines (AMG) to enhance its integration into country programmes and sector/thematic programmes. For example: context analysis for country policy and programmes, the theory of change (including young people’s potential role as driver of change) and the screening notes for gender, green growth and HRBA.

Make use of existing resources from partners and the sector. For example, Youth Participation in Development: A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers, which has guidance (including quality standards and case studies) on how to work with youth at a practical operational level in respect of policy and programming areas relevant to Danida’s priorities.

Promising Practice:
Danida Guidelines for Children and Young People in Danish Development Cooperation (2004)

With the purpose of operationalising a crosscutting focus on children and youth deriving from the Partnership 2000 development strategy, a set of guidelines was developed by MFA and was considered an annex to the Aid Management Guidelines (AMG). The guidelines mapped out how children and youth were relevant in relation to the MDGs and gave examples of intervention mechanisms for bilateral, multilateral and civil society cooperation. The guidelines indicated how children and youth should be approached in the country programmes, including sector analysis, identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The overall progress to implement the guidelines and ensure children and youth as a crosscutting focus was followed up at annual meetings between Danida and a network of Danish civil society organisations working with children and youth. When the overall development strategy Partnership 2000 was replaced in 2011, a number of sub-strategies and thematic guidelines – including the one on children and youth – were not continued. According to the network on children and youth, the guidelines fulfilled their purpose to support and push operationalisation of the focus on children and youth in the country programming, however their integration into the AMG – rather than being a separate appendix – would have strengthened the focus.

17. PRIORITISE SUPPORT, INCENTIVES AND INSPIRATION TO EMBASSIES

Findings: Embassies and country programmes

Interviews and field visits have shown ownership amongst embassy staff to the importance and the relevance of working with youth as beneficiaries and agents of development. For example, in Uganda, the new country programme currently in formulation will include and consider youth. In Kenya, programme agreements with partners are being updated to integrate youth. However, more could be done to include young people in the process and the develop the embassies’ capacity and expertise on youth-specific needs and involving youth in their work. MFA staff in Copenhagen and during field visits express a need for guidance and inspiration on how to take a youth lens to programmes and policies and to implement the youth focus across their work.

Recommendation 17: How to do it:

Prioritise support, incentives and
Establish a pool of resources for country programmes providing inspiration and practical support on how to integrate youth participation and empowerment, and strengthen embassies.
Inspiration to embassies. Linkages with local youth. These should be informed by a mini online survey completed by embassies to further determine the kind of support they need. For example:

- Make a short **inspirational video** for the 12 embassies in priority countries with concrete advice on how to apply a youth lens on both future and existing programmes.
- Develop an **online ‘toolkit’ for embassies** – with support from Danish youth-led and youth-focused organisations – to step up their engagement of young people, including engagement in transition/growth economies (Category 3) where development programmes are being phased out. The toolkit could include examples already being run by Danish embassies, such as: *Ambassador for a Day* (see promising practice below), small-grants mechanisms, arts festivals, country strategy papers with a strong focus on youth.
- **Pilot Youth Advisory Panels in 2-3 priority countries** with representatives of different formal and non-formal youth groups, movements and organisations from the Danida-relevant sectors. The youth panel should have a clear Terms of Reference that includes advising the embassy on context for youth in the country, advising on programmes and progress and giving input to dialogue and negotiation with the national government and other authorities. It is important to ensure broad representation in terms of formal/non-formal, age, geography, gender, ethnicity etc.
- **Embassies could hold regular TED-style ‘brown bag lunch’** sessions at their offices with local young leaders and activists speaking on topics that matter to them, video-linked more broadly to Danida offices around the world.

**Identify embassy ‘trailblazers’** among those who are already or about to focus on youth (ideally one from each category of priority countries) who can help champion youth internally and demonstrate how to implement the focus on youth. Trailblazers should be provided with platforms to share their experiences with colleagues.

**Danish interns at embassies** could be well-placed to work in partnership with local youth to develop structures and approaches for increasing youth participation in the work and programmes of the embassy. Danida could also consider broadening its catchment group of interns to include youth from priority countries, youth who have not attended university and/or students of other types of subjects.

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### Promising Practice:

*Engaging youth in diplomacy*

"*Ambassador for a Day*" – Danish Embassy, Jakarta

The long-term strategic goal of the programme is to build a broad-based network of college students with a positive relationship to Denmark, who will one day occupy key decision-making positions in the central government and in the private sector. In an emerging country like Indonesia, with 260 million inhabitants and huge commercial opportunities, this can provide great benefits for Denmark with relatively small investment. The embassy in Jakarta is thought to be the first and only embassy globally with a program of this nature.

**How does it work?** Indonesian university students enter an essay competition and the winner is selected to ‘shadow’ the Ambassador’s activities for the day, covering as many of the Embassy responsibilities as possible. The winner is also appointed to be a Danish ‘Youth Ambassador in Indonesia’, where they are invited to embassy events and take part in a 10-day study tour to Denmark. The 10-30 best essay-writers are invited to informal conversations at the Embassy on topics such as ‘What’s on the mind of the Indonesian youth?’, combined with dinner and subsequent display of a Danish film. The programme is run with a local think tank, the Habibie Centre, to ensure access to existing networks, help build...
visibility and undertake the initial screening of applicants. The programme has the potential to be replicated in other Danish embassies (e.g. culminating in a youth summit in Copenhagen on the SDGs).

What are the results? The Embassy's experience over the past two years has shown that the programme has the following advantages for Denmark including (1) increasing visibility of the work of the Embassy in local media and social media, (2) opening doors for the Ambassador to meet high-ranking ministers and the former President, (3) building a network among students in Indonesia to stay better informed on current issues in Indonesia and to attract new talent / potential employees, (4) being a platform for promoting Danish core values (such as transparency), as well as Danish commercial interests.


18. STRENGTHEN DANIDA'S OUTREACH TO A DIVERSE RANGE OF DANISH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH

'We will increase awareness of Denmark's development cooperation [...]. We will also reach out to children and young people to a greater extent than we have done so far. We will communicate our contribution to development results in the countries and regions where we have a presence and are active.'

The World 2030

Findings: Youth outreach

Given YLOs currently represent a small proportion of Danida's development partners, staff will likely require time and support to develop connections, relationships and networks with youth sector players. Danish youth-led and youth-focused organisations are well placed to support in this regard. A number of Danish development NGOs (Red Cross, Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council, and DanChurchAid) have separate and independent youth wings, while others involve young people as activists and volunteers in their activities in Denmark and in developing countries.

Technology is well known for increasing outreach to youth at scale; particularly smartphone apps, social media and online platforms (e.g. U-Report, MyWorld, HarassMap, Ushahidi and I Paid a Bribe). These are often complemented by initiatives delivered by young volunteers, particularly to achieve scale and reach the most marginalised (e.g. MyWorld – a global online and offline survey to inform the SDGs). Young volunteers are the backbone of many CSOs and NGOs – in Denmark and in priority countries – as well as social and political movements. Young volunteers have also been effective peer educators in youth-to-youth awareness-raising and behavioural change programmes86.

Representativity and diversity are both important considerations when increasing outreach to youth, particularly when Danida provides a platform for youth voices. Ensuring both can be difficult in practice – it is not realistic to expect a young person to ‘represent’ or ‘speak on behalf of’ all youth. Some youth structures and organisations (e.g. Danish National Youth Council) take a formal and democratic approach to ensuring representativity in their work (e.g. electing representatives). In many cases, these are youth who – in terms of language, education, confidence and travel experience – are more readily able to access and participate in the spaces of power. However, there are different approaches taken by youth-focused organisations that specifically target youth in their own networks or organisations with specific knowledge or experiences, through semi-competitive processes.

The youth online conversation respondents highlighted accessibility issues in relation to opportunities offered to youth, such as unpaid internships in capitals and cities – including those with UN and NGOs – that are mainly accessible to the more privileged and urban-based young people. The EU ombudsman has also recently made a ruling against unpaid internships87.

The Government of Denmark is funding a number of activities to engage Danish youth in the SDGs, especially regarding awareness- and highlighting citizens' contributions to implementing and achieving the Global Goals88.

Recommendation 18: How to do it:

Strengthen Danida’s outreach to a diverse range of Danish and international youth.

Reach out via youth organisations, movements and networks. Youth are best placed to reach and communicate to other youth. Development partners and fund managers should build and maintain relationships with youth networks and YLOs, including organisations/networks...
led by young women, particularly those delivering campaigns or programmes and who are supporting movement building. Youth networks are an effective means of identifying spokespersons, advocates and representatives, and pushing out calls for funding to reach beyond the ‘usual suspects’.

Take a tailored approach to identifying young people to participate in decision-making and/or represent a youth perspective. There are times when it may be more appropriate to give space to a democratically elected representative of a youth council and/or there can be legitimate reasons to select an individual young person based on their specific knowledge or experiences (e.g. to share their personal story or provide input on a specific issue). Regardless of who is given the opportunity to speak, it is important for Danida and its partners to be open and transparent about opportunities and selection processes, work through trusted youth networks and support young people selected to be a ‘voice’ to be accountable to their peers (e.g. sharing information about their experiences or co-creating statements).

Learn from young experts on how to communicate to inspire change in communications and physical spaces. ‘Stress test’ a sample of Danida’s external documents to ensure they are youth-friendly. Form a group of young creatives – photographers, designers, bloggers, reporters – to create public-facing communications. Convert receptions into youth-friendly spaces with artwork, culture and music all chosen by young people. Continue to support ‘youth hackathons’ and the convening of Danida’s internal Innovation Groups.

Support youth volunteering programmes, including exchanges, peer education and offer paid internships for young people. These should complement effective offline communication in order to reach the most excluded.

Ensure long-term plan (until 2030) for engaging Danish youth in the SDGs and global citizenship beyond the current activities. For example:

- With the Ministry of Education, ensure that education for global sustainable development, the SDGs and the Danish SDG action plan is mandatory learning at all levels in primary schools and all types of secondary schools and involve youth to design the material.
- Formalise Operation Days in the curriculum and link it to a global education week (inspiration from Norway). Scale up to all secondary schools and the last grades of primary schools so that all public schools dedicate a day to volunteer for a development project they have chosen.

Support the engagement of youth diaspora in Denmark from countries such as Pakistan, Palestine and/or Somalia through the programmes of Danish NGOs and YLOs.

19. CREATE STRUCTURES, IN WHICH YOUTH CAN PARTICIPATE AND INFLUENCE THE MFA AND ITS POLICIES

Findings: Internal structures for youth voice and participation

The review has not analysed in depth the present structures of Danida, but there are existing spaces which include and invite youth to participate and influence. For example, although the total number of seats in the Minister’s Advisory Council on development cooperation (UPR), which also advises on strategy and multilateral cooperation, have been reduced, the youth representative from DUF is recently reappointed.

The new strategy provides an unprecedented opportunity to ‘youthify’ Danida by putting youth at the very centre of how Danida looks, feels, operates and delivers across the world. Based on experiences and expertise of YLOs involved in the review, the review has found a number of ways to make sure that young people are in the room and that youth participation is meaningful at all levels within Danida.

This recommendation is based on the consideration that young people should be meaningfully involved and that parallel youth-only structures should only be created if they will provide power to influence. Placing representatives from YLOs and youth wings of NGOs on key governance and decision-making boards can and should be combined with developing new structures within Danida for youth participation. Not only will this provide support for youth to influence and shape decision-making within Danida, but it will also bring staff and Ministers closer to young...
people and help shift mindsets from perceiving youth as a target group to including and involving youth, and practicing youth participation at all levels. Both individual staff and young people will learn and grow, whilst connecting Danida as an organisation to the pulse of young people worldwide.

**Recommendation 19:** Create structures in which youth can participate and influence MFA and its policies.

**How to do it:**

Appoint – or invite youth in Danida’s networks to elect – an emerging young leader within the MFA as a **Youth Ambassador**. Working closely with the Minister over the course of the strategy, the Youth Ambassador should ensure close coordination with the UPR and engage a **broad professional network on youth** including Danish academic researchers, civil society, private sector, YLOs and the youth wings of development NGOs.

Develop structures for meaningful participation of representatives from YLOs and youth wings of NGOs and labour market organisations:

- Host an **Annual Youth Summit (or event at the Folkemøde)** designed by and for young people with Danish and international youth to discuss the operationalisation of the youth focus, SDGs and the overall development strategy.
- Establish an **accountable Youth Advisory Board** – chaired by Danida’s Youth Ambassador (if this post is created) – who meet 8 times each year, in advance of the UPR. Danida should enter into dialogue with youth organisations and movements to identify a variety of youth representing very different segments, backgrounds and interests and find youth who can engage longer term. Their terms of reference should ensure board members have influence via power to monitor and give recommendations.
- Establish an **Online Programme Committee** with Danish youth and youth from priority countries who screen new programmes (and make recommendations) before they are presented to Danida’s Programme Committee. Members should have direct experience of development programmes and youth engagement across Danida’s priority sectors (peacebuilding, governance, livelihoods, SRHR, gender equality). To be meaningful, the Programme Committee Terms of Reference should specify that they must both request and review inputs from the Online Programme Committee.

### 4. CLOSING REMARKS

**The challenge will be to make Denmark’s political ambitions on youth correspond with practice.**

With half the world under 30 years old, the SDGs and ‘The World 2030’ will only be achieved by working with and for youth. Working with youth is not new to Danida. Denmark is already supporting a number of youth engagements that link directly to the strategic priorities outlined in ‘The World 2030’, as highlighted in ‘Promising Practice’ throughout this report. The operationalisation of ‘The World 2030’ – with youth partnering and leading – can continue to build on Denmark’s solid base of experience and expertise; drawing on input from other international development partners working with youth, and in partnership with youth and YLOs. The SDGs collectively hold the potential to **address the needs of youth**, as well as **harness the assets and skills of youth** in implementation and monitoring.

‘The World 2030’ has a clear focus on youth living in poverty, in fragile situations, in war, crisis and conflict, as well as youth at risk of radicalisation or compelled to migrate. Acknowledging the differences between youth, the **review recommends to focus on achieving outcomes for and involving young people who are most at risk of being left behind**. Youth-led and youth-focused organisations of other groups of youth can be strategic partners in reaching and supporting the most marginalised youth.

Danida’s new strategy can make a **significant contribution to increasing young people’s active civic and political participation, as beneficiaries, partners and leaders** tackling the world’s most pressing issues, for the benefit of present and future generations, and the planet. There is no one-size-fits-all model for how to ensure a broad representation of youth when supporting young people to have their voices heard and to influence. The review recommends that Danida consciously strives for a mix of individuals and groups of young people engaged in the issue, ensuring a broader range of voices, perspectives and experience. This includes: ensuring support, time and planning to empower the most marginalised youth to
speak for themselves; as well as connecting with young people already leading and implementing programmes, businesses, campaigns and other initiatives, including representatives from youth movements. Defining **youth as the period of transition from dependence in childhood to independence in adulthood** provides a conceptual framework for how Denmark can design and evaluate its support for youth development. This should include successful youth transitions in all aspects, including growing up healthy, forming families, exercising citizenship, starting a productive working life and learning for work and life. These transitions should be related to the country context and can inform the identification of youth-specific needs and approaches, with the active involvement of youth in the process of doing so.

The overarching finding from this review process is that Denmark can and should make the most of its experience, expertise and influence by **leading a progressive youth agenda that focuses on voice, participation and empowerment – spanning all of its priority thematic areas of development**. The 19 recommendations outlined in this report – covering gender equality, employment, democratic governance and human rights, humanitarian action and youth leadership – put forward a range of ideas, approaches and proposed engagements that can put this vision into practice.

**Danida hold the potential to contribute to unleashing young people's agency** and thereby strengthen development cooperation and humanitarian action, as it operationalises its new strategy, 'The World 2030'. Danida should develop collaborative programmes and ways of working, where young people and YLOs advise on the design of programmes or policies, are supported to take an active role in delivering, co-managing and evaluating activities and policies, and given the capacity and resources to lead their own initiatives in both development and humanitarian settings.

To **ensure quality** Danida must find and prioritise ways to support staff and partners to apply models and concepts of youth participation and development into the design and delivery of youth-led and youth-focused programme. Denmark can make a contribution to the knowledge base on what works in youth participation and empowerment – making the most of the data and information that Danida has access to – and use that knowledge to contribute to evidence-based advocacy, and reporting on the SDGs. Acknowledging that time and resources are scarce at all levels, Danida will have to prioritise a few targeted tools and learning methods to ensure the youth focus will be rolled out with quality.

**Delivering on Danida's thematic priorities**
The review identifies four areas in particular where integrating youth can enhance delivery on Danida's existing thematic priorities: gender equality, the nexus of humanitarian action and development, inclusive, sustainable growth and the SDGs. Danida could arguably best harness its experience on these issues by placing emphasis on a progressive youth agenda that focuses on voice, participation and empowerment in all dimensions.

**Aligning funding and partnerships**
At the global level there is an increased focus on ‘youth’ amongst donors, governments and development agencies. Although some priorities are similar across stakeholders, there are differences in approaches and strategies. Denmark can add value to the global youth agenda by practising and advocating for a strong empowerment and human rights-based approach (HRBA) to youth, which integrates other priorities and issues, such as SRHR, gender equality, peacebuilding, political participation, and capacity and skills development.

**Rolling out the strategy internally** is key to translate good intentions into something tangible and accessible for the staff and partners close to implementation. The challenge is how and where to ensure commitment and capacity on the ‘how to operationalise youth focus’, when clear signals indicate that ‘The World 2030’ is unlikely to be unfolded into sub-strategies or thematic guidelines. Successfully bringing all MFA staff on board with the new youth focus and how to implement it, is key to operationalise through programmes, funding, partnerships and political spaces. Through interviews with MFA staff around the world, the review finds there is already buy-in amongst Danida staff to an increased focus on youth, which is not to be underestimated in ensuring that the new strategy maintains traction internally and enables it to be implemented from a position of strength. The three-lens youth participation approach is a simple and usable tool which can easily be disseminated.

This review establishes an overview of current experiences with youth engagements, which are intended to inform and inspire Danida and development partners to take the next leap to operationalise the new strategic focus on youth at all levels. The report can hopefully be used as a call to action for Denmark's partners, including young people and their organisations, working to realise the potential for young people to play a leading role in achieving the ambitious goals set out by ‘The World 2030’ and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Acknowledgements
This report was written by Victoria Forsgate and Marianne Victor Hansen. We are extremely grateful to everyone who gave their time to take part in the research, mapping and analysis for this project. We would especially like to thank members of the Youth Panel and Youth Focus Groups convened for this project, the field visit host organisations and groups in Uganda and Kenya, all the interviewees from the MFA, NGOs and multilaterals, and Danish NGOs who completed the questionnaire. We would also like to thank Sarah Haynes and Maeve O’Reilly at Restless Development who supported the drafting of this report, and the review more broadly. Many thanks to all the individuals and organisations who shared documents, information and suggestions for recommendations: we hope you see your contributions reflected in the report.

This material has been funded by Danida; however, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the Government of Denmark’s official policies.

Annexes
1. Mapping of Danida-funded engagements
2. ToR agreed with Danida (from contract)
3. Methodology: How was the review done?
4. List of informants
5. Condensed summary of findings from online youth conversation
6. NGO Questionnaires
7. Overview of National Youth Policies in Denmark and Category 1 and 2 Priority Countries
8. Bibliography
Annex 1

Mapping of current/recent Danida-supported youth engagements identified in the review

Implementing organisation: Name of the organisation responsible for managing the grant. In many cases this organisation is also directly implementing the programme.

Budget: Contribution of Denmark to project (where information is provided). In some cases, the engagement is part of a larger programme and only information of the overall programme has been accessible. In many cases, Denmark is the sole contributor.

Strategic relevance: Brief summary of how the project either focuses on or involves youth.

Target countries: The main countries where the engagement is being delivered, including any Danida priority countries (Category 1, 2 or 3).

Mapping themes:

- Inclusive, sustainable growth and employment
- Democratic governance and civic/political participation
- Peace, stability and security
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Humanitarian emergencies and crises
- Onward migration
- Arts and culture
- Basic education for youth

Relevant youth-focused engagements were in 2016 identified by MFA staff and embassies on request of UPF. In dialogue with the consultants, student interns for Danida have provided programme documents and latest reporting, however not all accessible, on the relevant engagements. For some engagements, the information has been further supplemented or verified by consultants based on field visits, interviews, documents reviewed (provided by MFA and its partners) and online research (unfortunately the search function of OpenAid has, during the time of the review, suffered from technical problems and thus not provided extra information). The mapping includes only the Danish NGOs responding to the questionnaire distributed through the networks Globalt Fokus and CISU, and might miss some engagements of the smaller and medium-sized programmes. We expect that the majority of current or planned youth-related engagements are included, but due to the very broad nature of the review we also anticipate that some engagements, i.e. engagements not identified by embassies during the UPF-requested systematisation, smaller NGO youth-focused projects or youth-focused components within larger engagements, are missing. The differing levels of information available on the engagements has prevented the project team from providing a more detailed or rigorous categorisation of all engagements.

Whilst it is feasible to identify many engagements that have explicit focus on youth, many engagements delivered (e.g. those through multilaterals and Danish NGO framework agreements) are not clearly segmented for youth in the documentation provided. Assessing the effectiveness of engagements in achieving results has been outside the scope of this review and few evaluations have been accessed.

Notes to table: only accessible budget- are included. Several listed engagements are part of frame-agreements or programmes and information on the specific amount has not been accessible. The categories of the countries refer to the categorization of Denmark’s priority countries in The World 2030: Denmark’s strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action (2017), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The countries listed without category are not future priority countries for Denmark.
## Inclusive, sustainable growth and employment (29 engagements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation</th>
<th>Budget100/ Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilaterals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO (+ Youth Employment Network)</td>
<td>DKK 89 million</td>
<td>Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) (Danish Africa Commission) offers assistance to young existing and would-be entrepreneurs, complementing training with advisory services, mentorship and access to finance for both rural and urban entrepreneurs.</td>
<td>Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP, UN-Habitat, FAO, ILO</td>
<td>DKK 32.7 million UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund</td>
<td>Youth Employment Somalia (YES) creates jobs for youth via productive sector value chains for growth potential, and short term job creations. The project covers all over Somalia and is implemented as a UN joint programme.</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>DKK 55 million</td>
<td>Skills for Youth (Danish Africa Commission). The Skills programme equips young women and men in the informal economy with skills that will improve their employability in more productive and decent work by a combination of training in business skills or livelihood skills and literacy training.</td>
<td>Zimbabwe, Benin, Burkina Faso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Guarantee Fund (AGF run by AfDB)</td>
<td>DKK 100 million (2014-2017)</td>
<td>Based on the Danish Africa Commission's recommendations, Denmark was behind the creation of AGF, which began its operations in the second half of 2011 with a guaranteed capital of USD 50 million approved by the three founding shareholders (Denmark, Spain and the African Development Bank). The AGF is now a permanent regional conduit for channeling guarantees and technical assistance to financial institutions in Africa with the objective of generating enhanced growth in the SME sector, thereby creating increased employment opportunities in the economy, particularly for the youth. The AGF is thus implementing the African Development Bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy (JfYA).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>DKK 9.5 million annual (2016-2017 Cooperation Strategy)</td>
<td>‘Jobs and skills for youth’ was one of the 8 Areas of Critical Importance (ACIs) in the 2014-15 Programme and Budget for ILO. Particular attention given to supportive macroeconomic policies as well as to promoting an environment conducive to sustainable enterprises, to bridging training and the world of work, especially through quality apprenticeships based on robust social dialogue, and to youth entrepreneurship.</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>DKK 30.2 million (South Sudan Country Programme)</td>
<td>Reintegration of children and adolescents released from armed forces and armed groups through education and economic empowerment. The programme provides youth and women with access to education and livelihood skills.</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Promote increased resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises in Eastern Equatoria through adult non/formal farmer school education (Agro-pastoral Farmer Field schools). Includes a focus on agricultural activities for women and youth.</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>DAPP</td>
<td>‘Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People in Qalyoubia and Menoufia’ –</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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100. Budget amounts in DKK are converted to USD using current exchange rates.
increasing decent employment opportunities for young men and women, especially vulnerable groups. A status report (December 2014) predicted that 5,000 unemployed young men and women would benefit from the project; and 1,000 new businesses would be created. The project reports very high outputs and participant involvement.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
**DKK 60 million**  
Support for young entrepreneurs in rural areas. Danish-funded grants through IFAD for young entrepreneurs to obtain loans in combination with capacity development and entrepreneurship mentoring.  
Moldova, Georgia

World Bank  
-  
Whilst the review has not identified concrete youth engagements delivered by the World Bank with Danida support, it should be acknowledged that the Bank has a significant focus on youth employment and has a Cooperation Strategy with Danida.  
Global

### Private Sector & Public-Private Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro-Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT)</td>
<td><strong>DKK 3.8 million</strong></td>
<td>Youth component under the outcome ‘Jobs created especially for women and youth’ in target enterprises as a result of the programme (baseline 15,000 jobs, target 25,000).</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>(Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Climate Innovation Centre</td>
<td>USD 4.5 million (2012-2016)</td>
<td>KCIC supports the growth and development of innovative clean technology (clean-tech) business models and technologies for commercial markets, with the objective of supporting green growth. This is achieved through business advisory services and access to early-stage financing to technologists, entrepreneurs and new ventures (including youth).</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>(Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEVA Fund</td>
<td><strong>DKK 1.36 million</strong></td>
<td>HEVA Forum is a learning and business support experience which combines access to the industry’s most established experts, peer- and exchange-learning opportunities with unique education models to educate, equip, and support creative professionals to efficiently produce high quality, earth friendly products that satisfy their consumers, and to grow their creative ventures. The target group is men and women - between the age of 24 - 35, leading early stage creative businesses that have been trading for at least a year.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>(Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro-Investe</td>
<td><strong>DKK 202 million (4.34 % for youth)</strong></td>
<td>Support for youth entrepreneurship in agri-business to re-institutionalise training programs in 6 higher and medium-level education institutions that help prepare young technicians to create new businesses and generate more decent jobs in the agri-business sector. Includes financing youth business proposals.</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT)</td>
<td><strong>DKK 130 million (Danish contribution)</strong></td>
<td>Developing agricultural value chains. Some interventions will benefit youth but no specific target has been set.</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>(Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT)</td>
<td><strong>DKK 60 million</strong></td>
<td>FSDT works to develop tools for advocacy towards a more inclusive business environment. Youth are a target group.</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>(Category 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ulandsekretariat - Danish NGO Framework</td>
<td>Part of the engagements include and involve youth based on strategy on youth. Support to youth wings, commissions and networks as well as</td>
<td>Kenya, Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization / Project Description</td>
<td>Agreement Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Union Agreement</td>
<td>Agreement</td>
<td>the formulation and implementation of the trade unions' youth policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children (Red Barnet)</td>
<td>NGO Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Basic Education and Youth Empowerment. Focus on fragile context and engagement with private sector/inclusive growth. ‘Adolescent Skills for Successful Transitions’ (ASST) including use of ICT e-learning platform. Relevant market-based skills and opportunities for adolescents and youth to obtain decent work (e.g. vocational training, apprenticeships, financial literacy, building networks, mentors).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children NGO Framework agreement</td>
<td>Youth Empowerment Support (YES) programme aims at ensuring that vulnerable youth in the three districts Kasese, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo, are socially, politically and economically empowered, protected against violence and exploitation, have access to HIV and AIDS medication and together with local communities are holding the duty-bearers responsible for the fulfilment of their rights. The project aims at increasing the participation of vulnerable youth to become active social, political and economic citizens.</td>
<td>Uganda (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana Venskab NGO Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Training youth entrepreneurs, developing business plans, organised in VSLA, economic empowerment boot camps, developing entrepreneurship model with universities.</td>
<td>Ghana (Category 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas NGO Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Reference to inclusion of young farmers in farmers' association.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Social Work Association (YSA) + aBi (Agri-business Initiative)</td>
<td>EUR 81,276</td>
<td>Mobilised youth into 150 groups and trained them in good agronomic practices (GAP), VSLAs, Post-Harvest Handling (PHH), farming as a family business, financial management and business development, climate change, soil and water conservation and gender. Established 150 sunflower demo plots. Established 2 bulking centres. 3,487 youth farmers started own businesses. 3,222 youth farmers applying GAPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pramuka (Indonesian Scout Movement)</td>
<td>DKK 65 million</td>
<td>Preparation and production of Learning Module on Energy Saving to develop the Pramuka knowledge and skills in energy conservation as well as to promote the efficient use of energy, especially among Pramuka younger generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNNATI Programme</td>
<td>DKK 20 million</td>
<td>Promotion of sustainable, inclusive growth with youth as explicit part of target group, however progress reports do not mention youth or monitor results specifically for young peoples, data is not age-aggregated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Program</td>
<td>DKK 8 million</td>
<td>Economic recovery for small and medium-sized enterprisces (SMEs) in the Gaza strip – especially agri-business and ICT. Estimated 20% of budget focused on support to final year students and recent graduates – incl. training in business planning, ICT and an incubator for start-ups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Business College, Mitrovica</td>
<td>DKK 27.2 million</td>
<td>Support to the multi-ethnic politically neutral college in Northern Kosovo. Approx. 275 students. Graduates acquire skills with a strong EU orientation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terra Nuova</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Livestock Investment and Vocational Education (LIVE) project enhances livestock development among the poor households in Somalia, especially targeting youth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greening Agricultural Transformation in Ethiopia (GATE) | Providing agricultural extension services to farmers. The programme tried to set a 10% youth target during the inception period. However, it was found difficult to report on this and the youth target was taken out during the review of the programme. | Ethiopia (Category 2)

Baytna Syria | EUR 200,000 | Support to youth through a grants program. 20% of the basket fund is dedicated to youth and education. This consists of projects that deal with subjects such as vocational training, youth engagement, sports and political awareness and engagement. | Syria (Category 1)

### Democratic Governance (30 engagements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation</th>
<th>Budget/ Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilaterals</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>DKK 220 million for 2017 - Cooperation Strategy (2014-2018)</td>
<td>In the Cooperation Strategy, Danish priorities are conflict prevention and early recovery, democratic governance and human rights, sustainable human development, internal efficiency and effectiveness through reforms, fight corruption and managing risks. Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue and youth is not mentioned at all. However, since the agreement was signed, UNDP has developed the UNDP Youth Strategy (2014-2017) and include reference to youth under democratic governance in their mid-term report. Denmark is supporting their youth focus through the youth advisor placed in New York.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Danish NGOs** | | | |
| ADRA | NGO Framework | Supporting youth networks to organise, advocate and mobilise on early marriage (Malawi). Peer group dialogue on improved service delivery (South Sudan). Building capacity of community based groups to access public funds from National Youth Livelihood programme (Uganda). | Uganda (Category 2), Malawi and South Sudan |

| ActionAid Denmark (AADK) | NGO Framework Agreement and DAPP | Global Platforms and Activists: deepening democracy and creating spaces for political participation. Youth are the highest priority change agents for AADK. Supporting innovative youth organisations and movements with training, youth-led campaigns and advocacy. Empowering young people to claim rights and engage in dialogue with Danish youth (MENA). Also campaigning in Denmark with local and international youth activists. | Kenya, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda, Tanzania (Category 2) Palestine (Category 1) Nepal, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique MENA |

<p>| Ghana Venskab | NGO Framework Agreement | Increasing women and youth influence on social, economic and political development processes. 60% of youth CBOs actively monitor district performance (incl. community youth actions plans), demand accountability and contribute to community development. Supporting | Ghana (Category 3) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxfam Ibis</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Youth (especially indigenous people and women) are one of 4 main target groups in Oxfam’s democratic governance strategy. Building a learning community on youth and active citizenship.</td>
<td>Burkina Faso (Category 1) Ghana (Category 3) Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bolivia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Sudan, Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Red Cross</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Framework Agreement</td>
<td>‘Youth and volunteers as change agents’ is a global goal of Red Cross, with a view to enhancing youth participation in decision-making in governance and volunteerism, e.g. established youth committees supported by Red Cross staff (Kenya). Supporting youth to assess local needs and organise own initiatives (Belarus). Implemented several programmes focusing on youth as agents of change and resilience (Myanmar, Ukraine, MENA, Palestine). Also schools programmes in Denmark promoting ‘young humanitarians’.</td>
<td>Palestine (Category 1) Kenya and Myanmar (Category 2) Malawi, Belarus, Ukraine, MENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children (Red Barnet)</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Child-centred social accountability – holding government to account for protecting child rights. For example, 3000 youths (18-23 years old) engaged in Bangladesh as agents of change for children. Supporting youth clubs with youth-led facilitation and leadership (Cambodia). Engaging children in local/national budgeting (Ethiopia, S. Sudan) and human rights commission (Somaliland), e.g. using data. Putting graduates in community leadership roles (Sierra Leone).</td>
<td>Bangladesh and Ethiopia (Category 2) Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Sudan and Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex og Samfund</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Framework</td>
<td>Advocating for youth-friendly services and increasing youth influence on national policies. Also increasing awareness amongst Danish public on youth issues.</td>
<td>Uganda and Kenya (Category 2) Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan International Denmark</td>
<td>Programme (CISU-financed)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth governance projects, urban governance and active citizenship projects. The aims are: strengthened capacity of urban civil society to support youth governance and active citizenship, urban community development and engage in dialogue. Furthermore, to strengthen cooperation with local authorities for urban development and increased regional and global attention to and prioritisation of youth participation and influence in urban development.</td>
<td>Kenya, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedvarende Energi</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Framework Agreement</td>
<td>‘Youth takes the baton on energy’: participation of women and youth (especially young volunteers) in demand for sustainable energy via Youth Energy (Youth Department). Targeting youth groups, running youth-led consultations, holding government accountable and participation in Youth Climate Change Summit.</td>
<td>Mali and Burkina Faso (Category 1) Kenya (Category 2) Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Project Pool</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danish Youth Council (DUF)</td>
<td>Project pool</td>
<td>The projects are administered and implemented by 20-30 Danish youth organisations twinning with like-minded or sister-organisations in developing countries. It entails a broad variety of issues and approaches under the overall strategic objectives for capacity development, advocacy and strategic youth activities. Almost all of the projects include strengthening youth leaders through training and exchange between Danes and youth leaders in the partner organisations.</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish National Youth Council (DUF)</td>
<td>DAPP</td>
<td>‘Ambassadors for Dialogue’. In close cooperation with local partners, fostered a dialogical culture among Egyptian, Jordanian and Danish youth to enhance mutual understanding between youth across ethnic, religious, ideological and other divides. Increase participation of youth in social and political life.</td>
<td>Denmark, Egypt (Category 3), Jordan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KVINFO (Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Diversity)</td>
<td>DAPP</td>
<td>Women and Youth in Democratic Transition in Egypt. Supported women and youth to run in local council elections in 3 governorates.</td>
<td>Egypt (Category 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LandboUngdom (Danish Young Farmers) + Maison Familiale Rurale d’Ouled Said (MFR), and ENACTUS</td>
<td>Funding from DUF Mini Pool (DAPP)</td>
<td>‘Youth and Volunteers as agents of change in the Middle East – Education for rural youth’. The project focuses on empowering rural and economically excluded youth and building their capacity to participate as a skilled, gender-sensitive and democratic workforce in rural areas.</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Media Support (IMS)</td>
<td>DAPP</td>
<td>‘Media Cooperation Programme in the Middle East and North Africa’ – youth are mainstreamed in this DAPP programme with a clear focus on building the capacity of youth in different areas i.e. journalism, videotaping, writing proposals and media production.</td>
<td>Egypt (Category 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danmission</td>
<td>DAPP</td>
<td>Leaders for Interreligious Understanding (LIU) – a cross-cultural approach to dialogue and training offered to young professionals in the fields of politics, media, religion, education and civil society from Arab (Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria) and Danish societies. LIU expanded their networking capacity and advocacy work by integrating youth into the programme after the 2011 uprising.</td>
<td>Egypt (Category 3), Lebanon, Syria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restless Development</td>
<td>UN Mission</td>
<td>Youth-led event on their role in the SDGs at the UN 70th General Assembly. Campaign with focus on securing commitments on the role of young people in implementation of SDGs. Side event at ECOSOC Youth Forum in 2016.</td>
<td>Global (New York)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bilateral**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Burkina Faso</td>
<td>DKK 10 million (23% for children/youth)</td>
<td>Support to the introduction of human rights education in primary schools through manuals and training courses for teachers.</td>
<td>Burkina Faso (Category 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme</td>
<td>Approx. DKK 714,000</td>
<td>Law scholarship and internship scheme for greater professional inclusion of women and vulnerable groups nationwide – targets young law graduates.</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD)

Total of DKK 25 million per year, unknown percentage to youth

DIPD implement projects with multi-party institutions in developing countries and provide funding for Danish political parties to support political parties in developing countries. DIPD have identified the strengthening of youth involvement and participation within the political parties in the developing countries as one of a limited number of areas where Danish support can add specific value. The activities range from training, guidelines on ‘how to build a youth wing’, exchange, study tours, dialogue with and between senior party leadership on the advantages of giving youth their own spaces and influence.

- Egypt
- Swaziland
- Zambia
- Tanzania
- Palestine
- Myanmar
- Bhutan
- Zimbabwe
- Malawi
- Kenya
- Bolivia

## Local NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Country (Category)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG)</td>
<td>DGF</td>
<td>Increase student participation in Uganda’s electoral processes at all levels. Voter education and mobilisation and establishing a student platform for direct engagements with various political candidates.</td>
<td>Uganda (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda Youth Network (UYONET)</td>
<td>DGF</td>
<td>Generate positive policy change on youth employment, education, health, accountability and good governance through evidence-based advocacy. Promote peaceful and issue-based participation of youth in ongoing democratic processes ahead of the 2016 elections. Empower youth leaders in politics, civil society and other sectors to advocate effectively on issues of youth concern. Develop a National Coordination Mechanism for Youth CSOs to strengthen overall coordination and communication of youth CSOs and other youth associations.</td>
<td>Uganda (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Youth Affairs (UPFYA)</td>
<td>DGF</td>
<td>Monitor the implementation of existing government legislation designed to improve the lives of young women and men; lead the process to enactment of new legislation designed to improve the lives of young women and men currently being formulated; advocate, including leading the design of the necessary systems, for youth-focused mainstreaming as standard within all relevant government legislation; and maintain engagement with young female and male youth, monitor parliamentary activity, monitor the wider context anticipating developments to play a leading role in setting a future legislative agenda that responds to and meets the needs of young people.</td>
<td>Uganda (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Initiative (YI)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Youth-led NGO empowering young people in political leadership positions. Institutionalising youth participation in local governance and decision-making. Enhancing institutional capacity to provide a common platform for learning, reflection and sharing amongst Nepali youth.</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenyan Poets Lounge</td>
<td>DKK 266,723</td>
<td>Fatuma’s Voice – a weekly event where young people use art, poetry and music to talk about the issues happening in the society, their hopes for the future, their life experiences, as well as networking with the aim of expanding their social circles.</td>
<td>Kenya (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)</td>
<td>DKK 30 million (approx. DKK 2.4 million for youth) Governance and Rights Programme</td>
<td>A grant-making facility to local CSOs in Tanzania, including support for 14 organisations to formulate youth platforms at district and sub-district levels to increase youth voice and engagement in public policy development and implementation. It will also do research on youth employment in East Africa.</td>
<td>Tanzania (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Institute</td>
<td>DKK 3.7</td>
<td>Creation and running of the Youth Parliament Pakistan. Increasing trust</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Organisation</td>
<td>Budget/ Funding Facility</td>
<td>Strategic Relevance</td>
<td>Target Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multilaterals</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Peace Programme (African Union) - APP III</td>
<td>USD 1.02 million (for wider ADAPP programme)</td>
<td>Supporting the Economic Community of West-African States’ (ECOWAS) component - strengthening of early warning and early response to conflicts, preventative diplomacy, as well as improving democratic governance and control over security. Increasing women and youth participation and representation in elections, democracy and governance via trainings. Increased number of young West African women and youth leaders with expertise in conflict prevention, peace, security and development.</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Peace Programme (African Union) - APP III</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) supports peacebuilding organisations and practitioners to engage actively in the prevention and transformation of violent conflicts in West Africa. Promotion of the culture of nonviolence and social responsibility amongst young people in West Africa via training of peace clubs in peer mediation techniques and strategies; monitoring and support to Peace Education club; and internal monitoring of school mediation clubs’ activities led by teachers. In 2016, youth-focused activities are not part of the activities supported by Denmark.</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Cities Network</td>
<td>DKK 5.5 million (SSP)</td>
<td>Danish-MENA Cities Exchange (pilot). CVE at sub-national level through establishing ‘local prevention networks’ in selected cities which are envisaged to include youth-focused organisations and youth representatives.</td>
<td>Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET)</td>
<td>DKK 10 million (Peace and Stabilisation Fund)</td>
<td>CVE and early rehabilitation. Two of three programme components focus on youth: (1) train Disengagement Teams that will engage individuals who have exhibited extremist behaviour, supporting them to rehabilitate and reintegrate, (2) establish pilot structures for cooperation on CVE at county level to assess and address cases of radicalisation.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabarole Research Centre (KRC) (DGF)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Conflict Prevention through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training and early warning system in Rwenzori region to ensure ethnic conflicts are detected early and mediated. Equip communities (including women and youth) with skills to prevent conflict and develop mechanisms for peacebuilding with more respect for human rights.</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) Peace, Security Stabilisation (PSS) Programme</td>
<td>DKK 1.1 million</td>
<td>Preventing radicalisation and CVE. Increasing youth participation in peacebuilding. They will foster human rights-based approach to CVE through engagements with the security agencies especially in dealing with the youth who are at risk and vulnerable to police brutality and violation of human rights.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search for Common Ground</td>
<td>USD 1.2 million</td>
<td>Peacebuilding training for youth to enable them to constructively engage in the peace process.</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance for Peace</td>
<td>DKK 1.75 million</td>
<td>Youth-founded organisation developing capacity of young human rights defenders, increasing access to transitional justice for marginalised youth, building consensus amongst youth of different political parties, training on conflict management and non-violence, and establishing Youth Peace Dialogue centres.</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance (KMYA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Building Youth Resilience in CVE. A youth-led, youth-targeted project on building youth resilience in CVE in Mombasa and Kwale through KMYA’s network. Linking the youths to economic opportunities, devolved funds and youth-allocated procurement opportunities; enhance access to vital identification documents, improve youth participation and engagement with the county government, poetry, sports and media/new media engagements targeting vulnerable youths.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing peaceful co-existence of communities. Project includes mosque management committees to detect early signs of youth radicalisation and recruitment. Counter-messaging and counter-narratives for at-risk youths through the correct interpretation of texts and scriptures.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DanChurchAid</td>
<td>Humanitarian frame-agreement</td>
<td>The Youth Peace Parliaments (Kakuma) is just one example of a number of activities with youth focus included in the DCA humanitarian work. Youth Peace Parliament was established in Kakuma with 85 MPs (including 33 female MPs) with the aim of contributing to peaceful co-existence and conflict resolution, and over time the parliament has begun to cover broader issues.</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) (15 engagements)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Budget/ Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilaterals</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA (+ Government Ministries)</td>
<td>DKK 15 million</td>
<td>Strengthening access to equal rights of young people and women to maternal health and family planning. 40% of activities focused on children/youth.</td>
<td>Niger (Category 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Cooperation Strategy</td>
<td>UNICEF’s mandate focuses on the conditions of children in seven different areas. Due to the large overlap between children and young people, UNICEF’s efforts are also relevant to young people. Young people are also included in several places in UNICEF’s strategic plan for 2014-2017, including HIV/AIDS, youth education and training in humanitarian situations.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>Cooperation Strategy</td>
<td>UNFPA's mandate focuses among others on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including young women. Two out of four outcomes in the UNFPA strategic plan for 2014-2017 relate specifically to young women. Among the organisation's areas of relevance to young people include sex education, access to contraception, combating gender-based violence and access to sexual and reproductive health services.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>DKK 19 million (Core)</td>
<td>Youth features prominently in the UNAIDS strategy and youth organisations participate in the governance.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>DKK 19 million</td>
<td>Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH). Several programmes have a specific focus on youth, including youth SRHR and preventing violence.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmplifyChange</td>
<td>DKK 65 million (commitment)</td>
<td>Provides grants to increase access to youth-friendly reproductive health services and information (including comprehensive sexuality education), decreasing stigmatisation, menstrual hygiene management and involving youth advocates in SRHR advocacy.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</td>
<td>DKK 50 million (Core)</td>
<td>Women, girls and adolescents as well as age-disparities highlighted in GFATM strategy 2017-2022 + additional papers on strategic investments for adolescents + women and girls. 55-60 % of GF spending benefit women and girls + strategic investments in adolescents.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGOs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPF</td>
<td>DKK 40 million (Core)</td>
<td>SRHR, including advocacy and service delivery to young people.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex og Samfund</td>
<td>NGO Framework Agreement</td>
<td>Working for SRHR and to strengthen the ability of individuals to make free and informed choices about sexuality, sexual health, contraception and abortion. Youth is a focus area of work in most of the engagements and partnerships, such as the one with Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU).</td>
<td>Uganda (Category 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viva</td>
<td>Programme with CISU-funding</td>
<td>Youth-driven advocacy aimed at improving conditions for marginalised children and youth at risk of violence and sexual abuse.</td>
<td>Philippines, Honduras, Nicaragua</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ActionAid Denmark

**NGO Framework**

Supporting women to campaign for gender-responsive services, including health services (e.g. abolish fees, budget allocation for youth services). Also preventing violence against women and ending child marriage.

**Target Countries**

Tanzania (Category 2) and Nepal

### Save the Children

**NGO Framework**

Primarily focused on children, especially ending sexual violence against children.

**Target Countries**

Bangladesh Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan

### Straight Talk Foundation

**DKK 5 million (DGF)**

Sex education for youth in and out of schools, production of youth-friendly information and education material guiding discussions on sexual and reproductive health among youth.

**Target Countries**

Uganda (Category 2)

### Femina HIP (Health Information Project)

**DKK 30 million (Governance & Rights Programme)**

A multimedia, civil society initiative working with youth, communities and strategic partners across Tanzania to promote healthy lifestyles, SRHR, gender equality, economic empowerment and civic education. Works through community outreach, edutainment and a multimedia platform.

**Target Countries**

Tanzania (Category 2)

### Oxfam-Novib

**DKK 15.1 million**

Improving awareness and life skills of 150,000 youth, especially women, with increased active participation in decision-making processes for the realisation and adherence of SRHR.

**Target Countries**

Pakistan (Category 3)

### Humanitarian Emergencies and Crises (4 engagements) 102

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Budget/ Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilaterals</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>DKK 160 million</td>
<td>Supporting refugees and internally displaced persons, and it is estimated that up to half of these are under 18 years. Since UNHCR does not offer standalone youth programming, young people’s needs are addressed as part of the wider population of concern and across segmented sectors of UNHCR operational units.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>DKK 40 million +</td>
<td>UNICEF's humanitarian crisis response includes a focus on young people, including access to education and preventing early marriages and sexual violence. The specific weighting of young people varies across programmes and countries.</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Danish NGOs with Humanitarian Framework Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ActionAid Denmark</td>
<td>NGO Framework</td>
<td>Myanmar (Category 2) and Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establishing youth-led village-level disaster preparedness committees and integrating youth perspectives into government disaster plans (Myanmar). Mobilisation of youth in bottom up disaster response (Nepal).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Partnership</td>
<td>Various child-protection and child rights initiatives including re-establishing and maintaining family contacts, physical rehabilitation</td>
<td>Afghanistan, Niger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Red Cross (ICRC) | Agreement | for persons with disabilities, access to education, vaccinations and unlawful recruitment of children by armed forces. and Palestine (Category 1) South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen

## Migration (1 engagement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Budget/Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</td>
<td>DKK 4 million (Danish embassy funding Ethiopia) and Humanitarian Frame agreement with Danida including specific projects</td>
<td>Programmes and projects addressing refugees with focus on youth. In Ethiopia; addressing the onward migration of Eritrean refugees, especially youth. Giving young Eritrean refugees the space and opportunity, both physically and emotionally, to make informed choices about further migration and their future. Improving in-camp infrastructure (i.e. schools and youth centres), building a support system for the youth (i.e. to help make better life choices) and increasing knowledge about onward movement of Eritrean refugees to better meet their needs. CAR; Promote resilient capacities of youth and adult affected by the conflict to address root causes of displacement and prevent the emergence of new cycle of violence in CAR. Georgia; Creating better opportunities for youth in Gali district, focusing on access to livelihood, social and legal protection, and youth empowerment.</td>
<td>Ethiopia (Category 2) CAR (no category) Georgia (Category 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Basic Education for Youth (2 engagements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Budget/Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education, Afghanistan</td>
<td>DKK 330 million (Danish contribution via Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund)</td>
<td>Education Quality Improvement Programme (EQUIP) is with the development objective to increase equitable access to quality basic education for children 6-18 years old especially for girls through school grants, teacher training and strengthened institutional capacity with support from communities and private providers.</td>
<td>Afghanistan (Category 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Partnership for Education (GPE)</td>
<td>DKK 200 million</td>
<td>Global strategy includes lower secondary education (but main focus is primary education).</td>
<td>65 countries globally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission East</td>
<td></td>
<td>Living together – learning together – targeting children and young peoples between 6 and 18 with disabilities. 15,755 children will receive quality inclusive education through staff-training, school infrastructure improvement, ressource rooms, organising parents, community participation, networking, awareness activities and</td>
<td>Armenia (Category 3)</td>
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</table>
Arts and Culture (7 engagements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Organisation(s)</th>
<th>Budget/ Funding Facility</th>
<th>Strategic Relevance</th>
<th>Target Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bilateral and Danish NGOs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Culture and Development (CKU)</td>
<td>DKK 3 million</td>
<td>Revival of music instrument Sauroze, teacher student training. Reviving the cultural heritage for promoting peace and social harmony.</td>
<td>Pakistan (Category 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spor Media</td>
<td>Cultural development activities for and with youth in exchange with peers in Denmark</td>
<td>Bolivia and Kenya (Category 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Local Civil Society** |                     |                     |                  |
| Sarakasi Trust | DKK 746,288 | SawaSawa Festival: an annual festival where young local/regional/international artists (i.e. acrobats, dancers, musicians) meet, create and perform. The platform facilitates networking between artists, individuals, groups and cultural organisations. | Kenya (Category 2) |
| South Asia Communications | DKK 7.4 million (via Denmark-Nepal Culture and Development Programme (CKU)) | Produce television shows, public outreach programmes, and training programmes for the youth. | Nepal |
| Karkhana | A collective (education company and makerspace) of young programmers, engineers, scientists and artists contributes to a future generation of innovative entrepreneurs amongst school-aged youth. | |
| Siddhartha Arts Foundation | Aims to train art managers, curators and art critics to build a thriving art capital and support the growth of Nepali contemporary art practices. Involves young people in activities. | |
| ArtLab | An art collective that inspires young people to find local heroes. Seeks to promote collaboration between artists and designers, and also to empower and involve communities through cultural activities and events. | |
| Word Warriors | Youth-led Kathmandu-based spoken word (poetry) group mobilising women to lead regional youth collectives across Nepal. | |

Annex 2

Terms of Reference agreed with Danida

Review of youth-related Danida engagements - with a special focus on how to include and focus on youth

1. **Background**

   In June 2016, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark launched a new draft strategy for Denmark’s development cooperation and humanitarian assistance: The World 2030. Youth is a key focus area of this new strategy, stating that the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is dependent on
the inclusion, engagement and focus on young people who currently make up around 1.8 billion people worldwide - the biggest generation of young people in history. The draft strategy focuses on young people within the strategy’s prioritized thematic areas; including migration, stability and fragility, sustainable inclusive growth, partnerships, gender equality and human rights and democracy. Moreover, the strategy focuses on how to better - and in a meaningful way - include young people; not just as beneficiaries but as partners and leaders. Rather than create development for young people, Denmark wishes to promote youth engagement, in order to create sustainable development by and with young people towards 2030.

Denmark’s new strategy on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is expected to be politically agreed upon in late 2016.

2. Objective
The review will inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) on how to optimize and operationalize the implementation of the new strategy’s pertinent focus on youth within Danish development cooperation, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally.

3. Scope of work
The review will be divided into 3 parts. All 3 parts will target MFA supported engagements which have a) a focus on or b) include or engage youth as part of their objective: This includes:

i) Engagements that include or focus on persons between the age of 15 and 24 years
ii) Engagements that specifically place young people or youth as the focus of the engagement or will be included/engaged in the engagement
iii) Engagements that focus on the period of transition from the dependence of childhood to the independence of adulthood.

The concepts of youth and young people will be regarded as parallel concepts and the terms will be used interchangeable. The terms will be understood to entail and encompass all young individuals.

The focus of the review is on engagements that are currently being supported or which are planned to be supported in the near future. The review will not focus on the MFAs support to the Danish Youth Council (DUF) which is currently undergoing an individual review.

The review team shall consult young people in an engaging dialogue regarding both the design and recommendations of the review as well as on how the final seminar shall be organized. In consultation with the Department for Development Policy and Financing (UPF) at the MFA, the review team will design this consultation process. The review team will be responsible for the implementation of the consultation process.

PART 1: MAPPING
Part 1 of the review will map MFA supported engagements focusing on or including or engaging youth. The engagements can be supported either directly by the MFA or be supported through one of the partners of the MFA with civil society organisations and multilateral organisations as key partners in this respect. The mapping will focus on engagements that are currently being supported or which are planned to be supported in the near future. The mapping shall include a short description and the rationale for why the concrete engagements were supported in the first place, as well as a brief summary of the actual or expected results at output and - if feasible - also at outcome level.

With regard to the Danish core funding to multilateral organizations, the mapping will look into a few selected examples which include both UN organisations and the World Bank as an example of a multilateral development bank. The final selection will be made by the review team in consultation with UPF. In addition, the team will review examples of Danish funded trust funds and earmarked contributions to multilateral organisations. The aim is to understand how the selected multilaterals work with youth both as
agents of change and a target group in order to improve the MFA’s ability to integrate youth in work with multilateral organisations both at the strategic and operational level.

On the basis of the mapping exercise, part 1 of the review will furthermore make a more detailed assessment of as well as mission visits to a sample of 3 of the identified engagements in order to strengthen the documented lessons learned. One engagement from each of the 3 country categories outlined in the new draft strategy; 1) Poor, fragile countries and regions, 2) Poor, stable countries, 3) Transition and growth economies. The review team will - on the basis of the mapping - suggest and agree with UPF which 3 cases should be examined further. However, the cases from respectively country category 1 and 2 needs to be engagements within one of Denmark’s priority countries.

Part 1 of the review will be concluded by a categorization of youth related engagements currently being supported by the MFA. The mapping will distinguish between a) engagements that focus on youth as recipients and b) engagements that engage and include young people as partners of the engagement. Several engagements may include both dimensions.

It is key for the future Danish engagement on youth that it builds on the experience and knowledge that already exist on how to engage, include and focus on youth in Denmark’s development cooperation. The mapping in the first part of the review will contribute to obtain such a better understanding of how and to what extent, the MFA and partners already support youth.

PART 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

Part 2 of the review will issue recommendations on how youth can be incorporated across Denmark’s development cooperation as well as included as key partners and leaders of development. This section of the review will focus on both the MFA (including representations) and relevant partners of the MFA.

Part 2 will need to include recommendations concerning – but not limited to – the following aspects of the implementation of the strategy’s pertinent focus on youth:

Programming and policy
- How to include young people as well as a youth perspective in the MFA and partners’ programming of development cooperation.
- How best to include, consult and engage young people in the different stages of the MFAs development cooperation, including on policy and programmatic advice as well as monitoring.
- How and if to apply the human rights-based approach to development cooperation as a tool to include, consult, and engage young people as well as how to focus the Danish development cooperation on young people.

Outreach
- How the MFA and implementing partners can improve their outreach to young people, including via technology.
- How to secure that the young people being consulted, engaged and included have a mandate to represent a broad range of young people.

Advocacy
- How can Denmark strengthen its advocacy on youth globally, including with and through relevant multilateral organizations and like-minded countries.

PART 3: SEMINAR

Part 3 of the review is to organize a public seminar (expected to last 3 hours) after the review has been finalised. At the seminar the findings of the review will be presented and discussed publicly. The public seminar will be organized in cooperation with UPF. The task of the consultancy team is to present the findings, including the recommendations, at the seminar, organize the seminar in a youth including way utilizing state-of-the art participatory methods as well as help to secure the participation of a broad range of youth representatives at the seminar.
4. Methodology
Part 1 of the review will be based on a desk review of programme documentation provided by the Danish MFA and relevant representations, relevant literature as described under scope of work and documentation and diagnostics gathered by the team from selected agencies including the following:

- Programme documents and other relevant documentation from the PDB data base and other available sources.
- Programme documents from relevant partners that implement on behalf of or receive funding from the MFA.
- Information/documentation/diagnostics from selected international development agencies and relevant think tanks. The selection should be conducted in consultation with UPF.
- In consultation with UPF, the team may reach out to relevant staff in the MFA, representations and relevant partners of the MFA.

As outlined above, the desk review will be supplemented by in-depth assessment and analysis of including field visits to a sample of 3 engagements – 1 in each of the country categories.

Part 2 of the review will be based on the findings of part 1. Furthermore, the team will interview relevant staff in the MFA, representations, relevant international development agencies, relevant national and international civil society organisations and youth organizations. Finally, it will be expected (according to the competency requirements of the team) that the team will have in depth and updated knowledge of global trends and developments with regard to the youth agenda.

Part 3 of the review is to organize a public seminar where the findings of the review will be discussed.

Before conducting the review, the review team will set up a meeting with UPF to further discuss and agree on specific aspects of the methodology outlined by the consultant. Likewise a meeting to discuss the inception report as well as technical meetings on pertinent issues are envisaged throughout the consultancy, including discussion and definition of outputs.

Annex 3
Methodology: How was the Review Done?

The review ran from December 2016 to March 2017. The project team used a range of qualitative methods to gather and analyse data, which have informed the final set of recommendations, including:

- **Reviewing documentation** from Danida and its various development partners including: cooperation strategies, midterm reviews, NGO Framework Agreements and associated reports, national programme and individual project documents and reports, country policy papers, regional initiative strategies, external evaluation reports and partner organisational strategies and annual reports. A table was prepared by UPF, who in late 2016 had asked all embassies and MFA staff to list youth-related engagements. This matrix was partly updated in dialogue with the project team, however it might not cover all, but most of the recent, current and planned engagements on youth. (Unfortunately, the search function of OpenAid has during the time of the review suffered from technical problems and thus not been able to provide extra information).

- **Field visits to Uganda and Kenya**, which were an integral part of the methodology. The final decision on selected countries among the priority countries (of Denmark) was made according to relevance, diversity of engagement, language and availability of embassies/partners to receive the consultants. Whilst both countries are categorised by Danida as ‘poor and stable’, consultants also visited projects in regions affected by conflict and displacement. Over 14 days, consultants reviewed 20 engagements of various Danida partners – consisting of 11 site observations, mostly outside of Kampala and Nairobi (Annex 3), and meetings with beneficiaries and organisational representatives. Furthermore, an interview with the staff person responsible for development of new country policy and programming from the Danish Embassy in Mali and interview with staff at the Danish embassy in Indonesia contributed to the analysis of countries categorised as 1 and 3 according to the new development policy.

- **Key informant interviews** with selected stakeholders, including MFA staff (including 2 Youth Advisers), representatives of partner organisations (multilaterals, NGOs, bilaterals), youth experts and representatives of youth-led organisations, Danish development partners, government staff and others in the youth and development sector. 29 interviews took place in person and remotely (Annex 4). Additional considerations for selection of interviewees
included: a balance of gender; type of organisation and sectoral focus (including jobs and inclusive, peace and security, governance, gender equality and SRHR).

- **A questionnaire for Danish development organisations** on their work with youth and their recommendations for Danida that was pushed out to known youth-focused NGOs and via the networks Globalt Fokus and CISU. 13 responses were received from a variety of organisations and used to inform this report.

- **Case studies that highlight 'promising practice'** have been used as a tool for both research, evidence and learning in the review. Developed using information from interviews, field visits and available documents, the case studies provide an opportunity for a closer look at the experience and approach of Danida and its partners. Where evaluation data is available, the case studies also give an overview of results. Efforts have been taken to identify case studies and practice from engagements funded directly or indirectly by Danida from across the 3 categories of priority countries and spanning the different types of partnerships (NGO, multilateral, bilateral).

In addition, specific steps were taken to involve young people directly throughout the review process:

**International Youth Panel:** Six Danish young people and five young people involved with the MFA, NGO partners or international youth networks were selected through an open and competitive process. Each panellist has brought experience and expertise in how young people want to be engaged in development such as issue-focused awareness raising, campaigning, volunteering/exchange, (youth-to-youth) programmes in poor and/or fragile countries and engaging local/national decision-makers. Panellists met once in Copenhagen (February 2017) and again online (March 2017), as well as reviewing reports and documents, including the draft recommendations and planning the final seminar to share review findings (March 2017). The panel was facilitated using Restless Development’s core Capacity-Building Principles:

- **Lived experience:** Valuing the lived experience of young people ensures our work is grounded in young people’s daily realities and by supporting them to reflect on their lived experience we ensure the generation of suitable solutions.

- **Peer-to-peer:** We generate learning using a peer-to-peer model based on mutual respect, understanding and trust. Facilitation will be geared towards building a common language within the group and facilitating inclusive discussions and decision-making.

- **Non-formal, participatory and practical:** Adopting a non-formal approach ensures young people are active in their own learning and development and are able to translate theory into practice.

- **Convene and translate:** We don’t dictate the structure or conclusion of the Youth Panel. We bring together young people, the organisations they run and the institutions that serve them and facilitate dialogue and collaboration. Together we set the agenda and form our recommendations in a shared language.

**Youth Focus Groups:** The project team hosted two Youth Focus Groups – in Kampala and Nairobi – each involving 10 young professionals – including youth workers, researchers, advocates, project managers – from youth-led and youth-focused organisations. The average age of participants was 27 years old. These interactive group discussions and break-out sessions provided a deeper understanding on of the perspectives of youth working in development at the country level on the following areas:

- **Youth initiating action and change:** What kind of support (from govt, NGOs, donors) has been effective at empowering young people to lead and initiate change in their communities? What do you want to see more/less of? What kind of organisations/groups/networks are attractive to you and why?

- **Youth influencing decisions:** To what extent, are youth already involved in the decisions and designing of development programmes and policies in Uganda/Kenya? What can young people do to increase their own influence on decision making?

- **Outreach and diversity:** How can governments and development organisations optimise outreach to young people in Uganda/Kenya, especially the most marginalised or hard-to-reach?
Youth Leading The World 2030:
A Review of Danida’s Youth-Related Engagements
Final Report, March 2017

Youth Focus group in Uganda
Youth Leading The World 2030:
A Review of Danida’s Youth-Related Engagements
Final Report, March 2017

Youth Focus group in Nairobi
Meeting youth in the field: During field visits, the project prioritised meetings with representatives of youth-led organisations and youth ‘beneficiaries’ of MFA-supported projects. This ranged from meeting with groups of young people in their communities, to meeting young staff of locally registered youth organisations at their offices.
Online conversation: Restless Development – supported by the Youth Panel – ran an online ‘Youth Conversation’ on Facebook over 10 days (10-19th February 2017) to engage young people in Denmark and around the world. 124 young people participated from 16 countries (and 2,000 registered their interest to attend). The highest levels of participation were from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Denmark, Ghana, Nepal and South Africa. The Youth Conversation focused on two questions set by the Youth Panel. The first, ‘How could governments and organisations ensure that young people are engaged in decisions that affect their lives?’ was answered via a Facebook poll. The second, ‘How do young people in your communities respond to the issues they face? Do governments or NGOs support them to respond?’ was answered in the comments section. In addition, a more detailed survey was sent out to individuals in Restless Development’s network, which received responses from 19 people in 5 countries.

Online responses:
Annex 4
List of informants (interviewees)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1. Mikael Ekman, Senior Advisor / Development Policy & Financing, MFA
2. Casper Klyng, Ambassador, Indonesia
3. Elsebeth Sondergaard Krone, Deputy, Indonesia
4. Lena Hothes, HMC in charge of Danish development NGO’s
5. Lene Aggernæs, HMC in charge of Danish Humanitarian NGO’s
6. Lis Rosenholm, Growth and employment
7. Tine Anbæk, Danida Business
8. Nicolai Steen Nielsen, Education expert
9. Benedicte Rebecca Birgitte Storm, Youth advisor SRHR in Geneva
10. Pernille Borgbo, youth advisor at the FN-mission in NY

Multilaterals
12. Noella Richard, UNDP
13. Richard Musinguzi, UNDP
14. Mary Kawar, Regional Director, ILO

Danish and other NGOs
15. Restless Development, Gemma Jones, Interim COO,
16. DUF - Danish National Youth Council; Gunvor Bjerglund Thomsen, Marie Engberg Helmstedt
17. Operation Days’ Work; Ander Reimers Larsen, Tobias Schjødt Kjær, Sebrina Stensgaard
18. Ulandsekretariatet, Danish Trade Union (confederation); Jørgen Assens
19. ActionAid Denmark; Tim Whyte, Kirsten Hjørring Sørensen, Liv Detleff,
20. Oxfam Ibis; Lars Koch, Anne-Mette Danielsen
21. Save the Children; Laust Gregersen, Bo Tovby Jørgensen,
22. Red Cross; Kristin Skov-Spilling, Signe Yde Andersen,
23. Danish Refugee Council; Tine Jacobsen, Anders Bastholm Hansen, Klaus Ljørring Pedersen, Siv Behrendt, Rikke Friis
24. DanChurchAid; Katja Levin
25. Globalt Fokus, incoming director Peter Christiansen
26. Network of Danish NGOs working on Children and Youth; Jeanette Kørner (Børnefonden) Helle Schierbeck
(PlanDanmark), Birgit Landbak and Bo Tovby Jørgensen (Save the Children Denmark), Anne-Mette Danielsen (Oxfam Ibis)

Other
27. Moira McKerracher, DFID
28. Mr Mondo Kyateka, Youth Commissioner, Uganda
29. Leonard Okello, UHURU

Annex 5:
Condensed summary of findings from online youth conversation

Danida Online Youth Conversation: Facebook Poll

From the 10th-19th February, we hosted an online youth conversation to gather the voices of young people through the questions you designed at the first Youth Panel. Our online youth conversation took the form of a Facebook group managed by Restless Development. We used this group to host a discussion asking two questions:

1. How could governments and organisations ensure that young people are engaged in decisions that affect their lives?
2. How do young people in your communities respond to the issues they face? Do governments or NGOs support them to respond?

KEY STATS
The conversation was running for 10 days, 124 young people participated from 16 countries:
The highest levels of participation were from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Denmark, Ghana, Nepal and South Africa. Please see full findings detailed here.

**Danida Youth Conversation - SurveyMonkey, Detailed**

To complement the wider Facebook online conversation we conducted a more detailed consultation that we put out to targeted members of the Restless Development network. The survey was administered via SurveyMonkey.

Unfortunately, due to the layout of the survey being over two pages, not everyone completed the full survey. Once the survey was translated onto one page we gathered more responses but still some people skipped a few of questions in their responses. This means that the overall we received limited responses. What’s summarised in this document here is the quantitative responses and the fullest qualitative responses we received (though we have linked to all individual responses at the end of this summary sheet).

19 people from five countries responded to the detailed survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of survey respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Leading The World 2030: A Review of Danida’s Youth-Related Engagements

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Annex 6
NGO questionnaires

Youth is a key focus area of the new (still draft) strategy for Denmark’s development cooperation and humanitarian assistance: The World 2030 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) has initiated a review to inform on existing experiences and recommend on how to optimise and operationalise implementation of the new strategy’s focus on youth (aged 15-24) within Danish development cooperation (multilateral, bilateral, regional and through Danish NGOs).

Restless Development (including consultants Marianne Victor Hansen and Victoria Forsgate) has been contracted by Danida to carry out this review of Danida funded experiences with youth focus. Part 1 includes a mapping of engagements supported by MFA and its partners, with civil society organisations as a key partner in this respect. The focus of the review is on engagements that focus on or engage youth, which are currently being supported or which are planned to be supported in the near future.

From Danida we have received a number of documents and reports on the work of the Danish NGOs. From that material we have identified your organisation and a number of other Danish NGOs, from whom we will ask for more detailed information on your specific youth strategy, approach and projects/programmes. For some, we will ask/invite you for an interview focussing on part 2 of the review - recommendations for Danida’s future work on youth focus. Finally, we have send an invitation to nominate participants to a youth panel following this review to Globalt Fokus and CISU and ask you kindly to coordinate with the networks if you want to contribute to the nomination.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide the information below. If you have any questions please contact mariannevictorhansen@gmail.com or victoria@restlessdevelopment.org.

We would be grateful if you could please return this form by Tuesday 24th January at latest.

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Section 1: Organisation Info

Name of your NGO:
Name and position/department of person completing form:
Contact email:

Section 2: Work on youth (aged 15-24) that is fully-funded or co-funded by Danida.

Please provide information on the most important work that you are currently (or very recently) doing on or with youth including: advocacy, policy, campaigning, consultations, programme delivery and development awareness.

We welcome if you have specific youth strategies, considerations on youth approaches, results and learning. If you have many projects and programmes please choose the (2-4) most important ones and please complete the following information:

(i) Name of Project/Engagement:

(ii) Location of project (country/region):

(iii) When did the project start and end (state if still ongoing):

(iv) How were youth engaged (e.g. as targets/beneficiaries, as partners/leaders, or as both):

(v) Please briefly summarise actual or expected results at output and - if feasible - also at outcome level:

(v) Please share most relevant documents relating to this project/engagement that would be useful to review (e.g. project reports, evaluations). Please also share any materials from your organisation (e.g. toolkits, guides) that demonstrate strategy, principles or practice for engaging youth in development.

Section 3: Other work on youth (aged 15-24) by your NGO not currently funded by Danida

Are you currently - or soon to be - implementing any work focused on or engaging youth that is not funded by Danida? How else are young people involved in your organisation (e.g. governance, staff, volunteers).

Please provide further information here:
Section 4: Partner and interviewee recommendations for field visits

In February 2016, the consultants will be visiting 3 priority countries to carry out a more detailed review of Danida’s youth engagements.

Please provide contact information on any partners you recommend we talk to (e.g. from government, civil society, youth organisation). Please also give a short summary of why they would be a good interviewee/partner to visit.

Annex 7
Overview of National Youth Policies in Category 1 and 2 Priority Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Denmark does not have a discrete national youth policy but takes an ‘integrated youth policy approach’[112].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Afghanistan approved its first ever national youth policy in August 2014. A youth strategy is being developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>The national youth policy of Burkina Faso was adopted in 2008. A French summary is available online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>No national youth policy. Mali has had a national youth employment programme since 2003, which has been extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>No national youth policy. The youth policy and strategy of Palestine will be revised. A youth study and a policy study exist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Somalia has no current national youth policy. A 2012 youth development report exists. The UN has developed a Youth Strategy for Somalia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>The national youth policy of Bangladesh dates back to 2003, and is currently under revision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>The national youth policy of Ethiopia was adopted in 2004. An online summary is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>The national youth policy of Kenya was adopted in 2006, followed by a strategic plan. Both will be renewed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>No national youth policy yet, but there are ongoing efforts to develop one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Uganda launched a new youth policy in 2016. A 2011 youth mapping (Vol 1, Vol 2) is also available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Egypt has no national youth policy yet. A 2010 youth policy briefing is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Ghana adopted its latest national youth policy in 2010, focused on youth empowerment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Pakistan has a youth policy from 2008, but responsibility has shifted to the regions since its adoption.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Table compiled using data available from Youth Policy Labs (2017)
http://www.youthpolicy.org/nationalyouthpolicies/#nav-B

Appendix 8: Bibliography

Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy DIPD (2016), Evaluation of DIPD political party assistance to build democracy. Jorn Holm-Hansen and Marit Haug

Danida (2017), The World 2030: Denmark’s strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action (2017), Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Danida (2012), Right to a Better Life the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)


Danida (2015), Evaluation of the Danish Arab Partnership Programme (Synthesis Report)

Danida (2016), Evaluation of the results of the Africa Commission: Realising the Potential of Africa’s Youth

Danida (2017), Review of Danish Youth Council DUF.

Danida (2017), Review of Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy.


DFID-CSO Youth Working Group/Maguire S. (2007), Youth Mapping Study: DFID’s Approach to Young People


Restless Development (2016), Follow-Up and Review: How to scale up ambition on youth-led accountability for the SDGs.
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Youth Business International (YBI) (2016). Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural and Remote Areas: A study of the challenges and possible solutions

Youth Business International (YBI) (2011). Youth entrepreneurship Closing the gap: How non-financial support is increasing access to capital for young entrepreneurs, with five cross-sector lessons.


Youth strategies:

African Development Bank Group. Strategy for Jobs for Youth in Africa (2016-2025); European Consensus for Development (2017) - youth will be one of 5 cross-cutting priorities;

UN/ ILO The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (launched in 2015); ILO Youth Employment Programme (2005 - present);

UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-WAP) and UN World Programme of Action For Youth (WPAY);

UNAIDS On the Fast-Track to End AIDS (2016-2021) includes both a cross-cutting and standalone focus on youth;


UN Women Youth and Gender Equality Strategy (2016);

UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth: Towards realizing the full potential of adolescents and youth (2013).

Other documents;

Commonwealth plan of action for youth empowerment 2007-2015


ILO, Fact Sheet: The Youth Entrepreneurship Facility’s Youth-to-Youth Fund in East Africa (2015)

Restless Development, Follow-Up and Review: How to scale up ambition on youth-led accountability for the SDGs (2016).


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1 The World 2030: Denmark’s strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action (2017), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, p13.
2 Ibid., p7.
3 ‘Right to a Better Life’ included a particular emphasis on creating jobs for young people, especially in Africa, and also highlighted the importance of supporting youth to organise themselves and to participate in society and democracy, as well as accessing sexuality education and contraception.
4 Danida is the term used for Denmark’s development cooperation. Development cooperation falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Denmark.
5 Youth Panel members: John Dor Akech Achiiek, Australian national (born in Sudan), age 27; Thobekile Luanda Mpungose, South Africa, age 25; Keya Khandahar, UK, age 22; Joseph Sevedo Akoro, from Nigeria but recently naturalised French, age 27; Shamah Bulangis, Philippines, age 22; Thor Steen Larsen, Denmark, age 23; Anders Palstroem, Denmark, age 24; Sara Elisabeth Lund Thorsen, Denmark, age 20; Anja Katrine, Denmark, age 24; Kasper Sand, Denmark, age 27; and Clara Halvorsen, Denmark, age 25.
6 It should be noted that some countries and partner organisations define the youth age-category as 15-35. This is particularly true in African countries where the definition is largely taken from the African Youth Charter (www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/african_youth_charter_2006.pdf).
7 MFA guidelines on ‘Children and Young People in Danish Development Cooperation’ were created in 2004 and provided ‘suggested approaches’ to child/youth-focused programme planning, capacity development, programme management & monitoring, and institutional & policy development. Accessed here: http://www.netpublikationer.dk/um/4485/pdf/Children_and_Young_People.pdf
8 Ibid.
10 At the beginning of 2012, the world population surpassed 7 billion with people under the age of 30 accounting for more than half of this number (50.5%). According to the survey, 89.7% of people under 30 lived in emerging and developing economies, particularly in the Middle East and Africa. Source: The World’s Youngest Populations, Euromonitor International, 2012.
12 In the previous strategy, ‘Right to a Better Life’ Denmark outlined the HRBA that it would take in development.
15 Other popular frameworks for conceptualising youth participation include Roger Hart’s ‘Ladder of Participation’ (www.freecchild.org/ladder.htm) and Jules Pretty’s Typology of Participation (http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/7754IiED.pdf). These frameworks can also be valuable tools for reflecting on incentives for participation and for challenging the status quo on what is considered participatory.
16 This programme was funded by Danida from 1 January 2014-31 December 2015. It was observed by the project team during the field visit to Fort Portal, Uganda (February 2017) and reviewed by the Danida Youth Panel. Some of the YES activities are still ongoing as part of Save the Children’s broader work.
17 This programme is being funded by Danida between 2016 and 2020 and was observed by the project team during the field visit to Mombasa, Kenya (February 2017).
18 Cooperation strategies with African Development Bank, EU, ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank were reviewed. Multilateral Humanitarian Partnership Frameworks were not accessed by consultants.
19 These are as follows: African Development Bank Group Strategy for Jobs for Youth in Africa (2016-2025); European Consensus for Development (2017) – youth will be one of 5 cross-cutting priorities; UN/ILO The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (launched in 2015); ILO Youth Employment Programme (2005 - present); UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SW’AP) and UN W/Programme of Action For Youth (WPAY); UNAIDS On the Fast-Track to End AIDS (2016-2021) includes both a cross-cutting and standalone focus on youth; UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future; UN Women Youth and Gender Equality Strategy (2016); UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth: Towards realizing the full potential of adolescents and youth (2013).
20 For example: ‘Number of countries where UNFPA advocates for allowing adolescents and youth to have legal access to quality sexual and reproductive health counselling and HIV services,’ and ‘Number of countries that have guidelines, protocols and standards for health care workers for the delivery of quality sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth’. Strategy for Denmarks’s Engagement with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 2014-2018 (May 2014).
21 ‘UNDP was an important stakeholder in communicating the post-2015 development process [...] including My World Survey [...]. This, along with many aspects of UNDP’s work on empowerment of youth and marginalised groups will contribute to hold decision-makers...
accountable for delivering against the SDGs’. And ‘32 countries improved legal and regulatory frameworks for engagement of women’s groups and 28 countries for youth groups’. Mid-term review of The Strategy for Denmark’s engagement with UNDP 2014-2018 (June 2016).

21 It should be noted that as very few evaluations were accessed it has not been possible to verify which results for youth were achieved.


26 The findings are based on an analysis of engagements identified during the mapping. The full list can be found in Annex 1.

27 The grouping of outcomes has been done by the project team to summarise the objectives of the variety of youth engagements identified in the mapping.

28 Many programmes under this theme identify women as a priority but not all have specified a focus on young women.

29 The 9 country strategy papers for the 12 countries specified as Category 1 and 2 that have been accessed by the project team in the review are for Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Palestine, Somalia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (Draft in Danish).

30 The grouping of outcomes has been done by the project team based to summarise the objectives of the variety of youth engagements identified in the mapping.

31 Youth participation in governance and decision making is a significant focus of UNDP but the review could not find a concrete engagement with earmarked funding from Danida. However, the mid-term review of The Strategy for Denmark’s engagement with UNDP 2014-2018 (June 2016) includes ‘32 countries improved legal and regulatory frameworks for engagement of women’s groups and 28 countries for youth groups’.

32 The grouping of outcomes has been done by the project team based to summarise the objectives of the variety of engagements identified in the mapping.

33 It has not been possible to access sufficient documentation on humanitarian engagements to do a more detailed overview. Therefore, the review has only considered a very small proportion of youth engagements on this theme.

34 The grouping of outcomes has been done by the project team based to summarise the objectives of the variety of youth engagements identified in the mapping. The review did not specifically review adolescent SRHR programmes but acknowledges their importance.

35 The experience of staff from NGOs and multilaterals interviewed in the review is that a standalone focus is often required to generate needed attention on youth, protect their rights and create spaces where youth feel welcome, safe and empowered to engage. However, a strategy that treats youth as only a standalone issue, risks depoliticising and compartmentalising the role of youth in development, diminishing their potential power and effect on all aspects of development. Therefore, it is also important to ensure that a rights-based youth lens is used to mainstream a youth focus across all aspects of development cooperation.

36 For example, during field visits youth partners and beneficiaries emphasised getting ID cards, opening bank accounts and receiving title deeds for land as barriers that prevent them from developing more productive livelihoods, especially in agriculture.

37 Through ActionAid’s Global Platforms (youth training centres) ActionAid Denmark supported training of members of Activista Gambia with campaign, leadership and organising trainings. Over time the Activista network has emerged as a leading youth network in Gambia and developed a number of strong youth leaders. When the election came, Activista played an important role in the #gambiahasdecided movement pushing for free and fair elections and mobilising youth nationwide on the basis of years of practical organizing experience. The movement was successful and the country’s dictator since 1994, Yahya Jammeh was voted out during the December election, due in large part to strong youth engagement. When Jammeh initially refused to step down regional powers along with these social movements kept up the pressure and in the end The Gambia had its first peaceful transition of power since the country’s independence.

38 The World 20:30: Denmark’s strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action (2017), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, p36.

39 Danida and its partners could also play an important role in providing transparent information to youth on who the donors are – including Denmark’s own funding provided to government to facilitate youth-led accountability. Furthermore, it could include where to find information on local/national government budgets – especially those being earmarked for youth – and connecting youth to the right person in government to follow up on spending. For example, in many places budgets are allocated by government but local youth organisations or groups are not aware.


42 The role of an ‘Inspirator’ is an approach developed by ActionAid Denmark where experienced development practitioners, who have significant practical work experience in one or several subject areas, are placed (for 3-9 months) with a partner organisation in order to provide capacity development support for one specific programme activity and/or output. The placement focuses on a few, short-term, specific, concrete and interlinked activities. This approach has been used by ActionAid to support partners to strengthen their youth engagement. https://www.ms.dk/en/inspirators

43 For example, projects aiming at increasing access to education and developing life skills and self-esteem have had a positive effect on young people’s decisions and outlook. They can motivate youth to postpone sexual activity or practice safer sexual behaviour by helping young people understand the long-term impact of their decisions and the importance of planning their futures.


46 For example: How does starting a family or exclusion from household decision-making create barriers to participating and benefiting from livelihoods interventions? How does low literacy or having little or no income limit a person’s ability to access SRHR services and information, or participate in citizenship programmes?
48 Research conducted by Restless Development suggests that youth governance is the most important and impactful of the five levels of youth participation in development. ‘Nurturing Youth Leadership in the Global South: A Mapping of Strategies, Approaches, Challenges and Opportunities’ (2013) Accessed here: http://restlessdevelopment.org/file/resdev-youth-leadership-mapping-pdf

49 For example, see the Self-Assessment Tool developed by International Youth Foundation. Accessed here: http://www.yfnet.org/sites/default/files/P4L_Framework_RHFP.pdf


51 For example the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the work of the Independent Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.

52 For example, the DFID Date Disaggregation Action Plan: Better Date for Better Lives (2017) sets out the steps that DFID will take to promote, provide and make use of its own development and humanitarian programme data. The plan identifies ‘trailblazer countries’: DFID country programmes that are well placed to lead on this agenda and who will act as a source of learning and inspiration for the wider organisation.


54 For example: The Case for Space (a global research and advocacy initiative that seeks to understand and strengthen the enabling environment for child and youth development), Budi Youth Action Research, South Sudan (implemented by Search for Common Ground and UNICEF) and U-Report (which is supported by Danida through UNICEF’s Innovation Facility).

55 In the information note to the application for the new CSO strategic partnerships: Strategic Partnerships will require full transparency and accountability on results to the MFA and the Danish public as well as to local partners and beneficiaries, including through a gradual phasing in by CSO partners of the use of the IATI platform.’


57 Youth Business International (YBI) and its partners have done a number of research papers on this area including: Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural and Remote Areas: A study of the challenges and possible solutions (2016) and Youth entrepreneurship Closing the gap: How non-financial support is increasing access to capital for young entrepreneurs, with five cross-sector lessons (2011).

58 For example, with Oxfam in Uganda during the field visit identified the project ‘Cool Farming’, although it is not funded by Danida.

59 For example, DFID, USAID, World Bank and the ILO are running a number of programmes on jobs and youth employment.


62 For example: A Call to Action: Beijing+20; Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014; Malala Day: Youth Resolution 2013; African Youth Declaration 201; Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration 2012; ILO Youth Employment Forum 2012; and CrowdOut AIDS 2012.

63 For example: FRIDA – supporting young women-led initiatives with funding and capacity-building globally (http://youngfeministfund.org/); RESURJ (http://www.resurj.org/) – a global alliance of feminists under 40 years of age working for Sexual and Reproductive Justice through advocacy and movement building; The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) – Young Feminist Activism is one of their five priority areas (AWID) https://www.awid.org/priority-areas/-young-feminist-activism


69 Restless Development, Follow-Up and Review: How to scale up ambition on youth-led accountability for the SDGs (2016).


71 Restless Development, Follow-Up and Review: How to scale up ambition on youth-led accountability for the SDGs (2016).

72 As far as possible, these platforms should connect to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

73 As convened during the post-2015 consultations by Participate (co-convened by the Institute of Development Studies and Beyond 2015). Further information on the ground level panels can be found here: http://participate2015.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Participate_GLP_A4Flyer_FINAL_web.pdf


75 UN Women has a draft youth and gender strategy. UNHCR ran the The Global Refugee Youth Consultations (2016) and also commissioned a global review on its Engagement with Displaced Youth (2013).

76 UNICEF’s SMS based innovation that amplifies the voices and views of young people in developing countries.


81 Website of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (http://childrensvoice.org/)

82 Additional recommendations participation in UN processes by Danida youth advisers include: Strengthen and provide input to programmes that builds capacity advocacy training of (Danish) youth organisation to participate in UN-mechanisms; Strengthen outreach/advocacy and knowledge on relevant UN-processes amongst Danish youth, including public hearings with young organisations to
receive inputs; Support structured mechanisms for youth participation where relevant (e.g. Commission on Status of Women, Human Rights Commission, International Convention on Rights of the Child, and Universal Periodic Review); Build partnership with YLOs working in the UN-systems, where relevant and in accordance with priorities; and allocate funds to support youth (e.g. co-sponsors of youth side-events, receptions etc.) as part of profiling and ensuring participation of young advocates. 

83 For example, The Case for Space (a global research and advocacy initiative that seeks to understand and strengthen the enabling environment for child and youth development) and the monitoring of shrinking civic space by CIVICUS.

84 This includes the human rights of LGBT youth, especially in countries where the criminalisation of homosexuality is on the increase.

85 In 2014, 115 UN Member States represented at the highest-level government authorities responsible for youth attended the first Global Forum on Youth Policies, resulting in the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies. 


87 The project team are informed that Danida already plans to simplify procedures and requirements for applications for smaller grants for all the pooled funding mechanisms to encourage more organisations to apply, including smaller Danish YLOs.

88 Since 2009, the Fund has supported 270 youth-led organisations, operating in 172 cities and 63 countries, who are working on sustainable development (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda. More than 68,000 youth have been trained and engaged in youth fund programmes. Funding modalities include regional and national fund windows and the average grant size is approximately 13,000 USD for a one year project. Annually, more than 8,000 youth-led organisations apply (online) and 30 to 100 groups are selected depending on funding available. Leaders from the organisations receive individual & organisational capacity-building through training, mentoring and e-learning.

89 For example, the AIDS Alliance Rapid Response Fund provides grants of up to $20,000 in 29 countries where MSM and LGBT communities are at high risk of experiencing human rights violations. (1) The Emergency Response Grants support quick action in response to immediate threats. A decision about funding is given within two working days. (2) The Challenge Response Grants are also for urgent situations, but interventions may take place over a maximum of six months (e.g. engaging local government and other stakeholders to respond to sudden legal, political, policy or social developments). Applications are assessed every two weeks and a decision made within 5 working days. N.B. This is not funded by Danida.

90 It should be noted that it has been out with the scope of this review to do a thorough audit of current skills, capacities and roles in Danida vis-a-vis youth.

91 A set of MFA guidelines on ‘Children and Young People in Danish Development Cooperation’ was created in 2004 and provided ‘suggested approaches’ to child/youth-focused programme planning, capacity development, programme management & monitoring, and institutional & policy development. Accessed here: http://www.netpublikationer.dk/um/4485/pdf/Children_and_Youth_People.pdf

92 The project team has been informed that TQ5 is currently in the process of identifying focal point(s) to provide demand driven support to embassies on the application of the programme management guidelines.

93 The guide has Quality Standards spanning organisational development, policy & planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as case studies on youth as partners and leaders on 3 thematic areas: governance, voice and accountability; post-conflict transitions and livelihoods; and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Published in 2010 by the DFID-CSO Youth Working Group – it was developed through an innovative process led by young people. DFID-CSO Youth Working Group, Youth Participation in Development: A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers (2010).


95 For example, see What happens when young people lead development? A summary of an external evaluation of Restless Development’s Uganda Youth Empowerment Case Programme (2012) here: http://restlessdevelopment.org/file/review-youth-summary-oct12.pdf

96 In February 2017, the EU ombudsman ruled against unpaid internships recommending that the European External Action Service (EEAS) begin paying its interns: ‘In the Ombudsman’s view, unpaid traineeships may lead to a discriminatory situation since people from less privileged backgrounds are likely to lack the financial means to undertake a traineeship. They will thus miss out on this valuable opportunity to enhance their qualifications and skills. Moreover, the practice of having unpaid trainees may be counterproductive in identifying the best suited candidate.’ http://www.businessinsider.co.id/eu-rules-against-foreign-service-unpaid-internships-2017-2/#OojOofAykxQ#q9k9

97 For example, The Minister for Development Cooperation SDG High Schools tour to engage in dialogue with students; A platform with teaching material for teachers and pupils (funded by Danida) and the Danish version of The World’s Largest Lesson (Verdens Timen) (supported by Ministry for Education); World’s Best News (verdensbestedstnyhedcder) – with funding from Danida, this online news site provides positive news from all over the world; Green Generation: A project on integrating sustainable development education and SDGs in municipalities work within education; Copenhagen University Summer School on SDGs; and Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts has a focus on the SDGs in a new three year programme. The SDG-learning site www.verdensmålene.dk (funded by Danida) developed by ActionAid with UNDP Nordic and Global High Schools (Globale Gymnasier).

98 As with any other type of partnership, Danida should be mindful of political affiliations and power structures within/between youth organisations, especially at the country level.

99 As highlighted in Recommendation 18, ensuring representativity and diversity is important but can be challenging in practice.

100 Based on the information available and cover different time-period, funding modalities and in some cases the overall budget, of which the listed engagement is only part of.

101 Managed by Act! (Kenyan NGO) – The PSS programme is focused on CVE and preventing political and natural resource conflicts in Kenya. Improving the capacity and effectiveness of CSOs, government and security oversight bodies to counter violent extremism and prevent political and natural resource conflicts in Kenya where women and youth will play a critical role in establishment of the peace structures, targeted as peace champions and contribution to policy-making.
Review of humanitarian engagements has been very limited - the project team did not have access to Humanitarian Framework Agreements but were informed that Danish Red Cross, DanChurchAid, Caritas, Mission East and Medicin Sans Frontier that include some youth focus.

CKU is a self-governing institution under the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CKU implements the Danish strategy for culture and development, ‘The Right to Art and Culture’ (2013). In close cooperation with Danish embassies and representations, CKU manages culture and development programmes in the Middle East, Asia, West Africa, and East Africa.

Full information on the proposed methodology, theoretical framework, work plan and foreseen challenges relating can be found in the Inception Report (January 2017) for the review that was prepared by Restless Development for Danida.

Due to security and/or language considerations (i.e. required French fluency) it was not feasible for the project team to visit any of the priority countries in Category 1. However, the team has given due attention to these engagements in other ways (e.g. in interviews, desk based reviews and case studies).

These include Kasese (Uganda), Mombasa, Kilifi and Kakuma (Kenya).

‘Site observations’ are visits made by the consultants to the location of the project to gain a fuller picture of activities and speak directly to the project target group. This information can help shed light on what is actually happening, rather than relying on what has been documented. However, care has been taken not to generalise too greatly or jump to conclusions given the relatively small sample and the limited time spent during each site visit.

Completed questionnaires received from: ActionAid DK, AKBU, BORNEfonden, Danish Red Cross (Rode Kors), Danish Refugee Council, DUFF, Ghana Venskab, Mission East, Operation Dagsværk, Oxfam Ibis, Plan Denmark, Spor Media, and Viva Danmark.

Youth Panel members: John Dor Akech Achiek, Australian national (born in Sudan), age 27; Thobekile Luanda Mpungose, South Africa, age 25; Keya Khandahar, UK, age 22; Joseph Sewedo Akoro, from Nigeria but recently naturalised French, age 27; Shamah Bulangis, Philippines, age 22; Thor Steen Larsen, Denmark, age 23; Anders Palstroem, Denmark, age 24; Sara Elisabeth Lund Thorsen, Denmark, age 20; Anja Katrine, Denmark, age 24; Kasper Sand, Denmark, age 27; and Clara Halvorsen, Denmark, age 25.

The Facebook page that hosted the online conversation can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/events/186689103608763/.

‘The Danish Government has not instituted a specific youth policy with a certain defined purpose. Every sector has its own field of responsibility regarding measures and policy for young people. However, the individual sectors dealing with young people all support initiatives that create a foundation for forming young people who are capable of leading independent lives and of putting these lives into a broader perspective and, at the same time, helping these young people become active, democratic citizens who can participate constructively in the development of society, while also giving them real influence and responsibility in matters that concern them’ (http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Denmark_2008_Youth_Policy_Article.pdf)