

# DERF PROGRESS REPORT 2024



**Red Barnet**



**CISU**

CIVIL SOCIETY IN  
DEVELOPMENT

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# Introduction

This document reports on progress of the DERF during the year 2024. It consists of four chapters:

The Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF) provides humanitarian funding to Danish Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) not receiving other humanitarian funds from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), enabling the CSOs to provide emergency relief around the world through partnerships with local CSOs. Originally established in 2017 by the Danish MFA, the DERF is thus a rapid and flexible funding mechanism.

The aim of the DERF is to contribute to saving lives and alleviate suffering of people affected by humanitarian crises. The

pool of funds has been designed to be in line with current humanitarian trends, the Danish strategy for development and humanitarian aid, as well as international humanitarian principles and standards, such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and the commitments expressed under the Grand Bargain.

The fund is managed in a consortium of CISU – Civil Society in Development (lead) and Save the Children Denmark (SCD). The Steering Committee of the DERF consists of the two consortium partners and has written the statement in the beginning of this report.

- Chapter one: General data on grants provided
- Chapter two: Performance against the result framework
- Chapter three: Highlighted topics
- Chapter four: Statement of accounts

At the end of the report a short outlook paves the way forward and highlights some perspectives of importance for the DERF in 2024 and beyond.

Further details about the annual accounts of the DERF are made available as annexes to the report.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Anticipatory Action	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
AB	Advisory Bord	MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
AC	Assessment Consultant	MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BIMS	Business Integrity Management System	MT	Management Team
CBA	Cash-Based Assistance	NFI	Non-food Items
CBO	Community Based Organisation	oPt	Occupied Palestinian Territory
CCAM	Climate Change Adaptation Modality	PSHEA	Protection against Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard	RMSP	Risk management strategy and plan
CoC	Code of Conduct	RR	Rapid Response
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	SCD	Save the Children Denmark
DERF	Danish Emergency Relief Fund	WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
FSL	Food Security & Livelihoods	QA	Quality Assurance
GC	Grant Committee	QI	Quality Improvements
HQAI	Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative	QMS	Quality Management Systems
IDP	Internally Displaced People		



# Statement by the DERF Steering Committee

In 2024 the world continued to be characterised by escalation of conflicts and a high severity of catastrophes and evolving natural hazards. Many humanitarian situations that started 2023 or before worsened during 2024. Conflicts continue to cause death and suffering, be it the large crises with high media attention, like the Gaza conflict, or the rather overlooked crises, such as the conflict in northern Mozambique or intercommunally in Somalia.

Besides the manmade conflicts, climate related crises also continued to affect a large number of people. In 2024 heavy rains and floods affected large parts of Eastern Africa, while at the same time extensive drought hit Southern Africa. The weather continues to cause extreme hydrometeorological disaster events affecting people in vulnerable positions with little coping mechanisms to survive.

In 2024, the DERF managed to assist 123.406 people in need of humanitarian support. Of these 59% were women. Through civil society led assistance, the DERF has shown its relevance in all types of humanitarian contexts and with a clear focus on assistance to rapid on-set crises.

The DERF demonstrates that local civil society actors are best placed to provide rapid, timely, and relevant humanitarian assistance to the people in need. They have

knowledge about the local context, the specific vulnerabilities in the context, and the needs of the affected people. Local civil society actors are the ones ensuring the impact of DERF grants. With this in mind, the partnerships between Danish CSOs and local CSOs around the world form the backbone of the success of the DERF.

The existing partnerships between civil society actors are also the reason why the DERF can act timely and is a relevant modality when a crisis hits. Often, partners are already engaged when a crisis occurs, and this way a relatively small grant from the DERF can make a huge difference locally. 98% of the DERF grants given in 2024 implement through local partner organisations.

The DERF showed in 2024 that it has reached a routine, which can be easily activated or scaled up, if the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) needs to channel additional funds to a specific crisis. The global humanitarian system is in these days experiencing cuts in humanitarian funding. In this context the DERF is an efficient mechanism to channel funds to people in need and through active civil society actors. This report is documented proof that the DERF is best placed to contribute to saving lives and reduce the escalation of suffering in any context affected by crisis.

The DERF is an important fund and functions in complementarity to Save the Children's and CISU's other funds. CISU's Civil Society Fund for instance, is providing important leverage when civil society actors work in the humanitarian - development nexus. There is however a challenge that the DERF and the CSP are based on two different contracts with the MFA. While the MFA combined the HUM and CIV lots for strategic partners, the silos have been maintained for CISU and the DERF consortium. The DERF steering committee therefore recommends, when preparing for continuation of the DERF beyond 2028, to investigate in solutions that combine the different funding contracts under one framework.

**Morten Sparvath Frederiksen**

Save the Children Denmark

**Jeef Bech**

Civil Society in Development







Chapter 1

# General data on grants provided

In 2024, DERF grants supported a total of 41 different interventions under a total of 11 calls for applications.

Table 1 provides an overview of the calls opened in 2024 and the number of interventions supported through grants under each call. The table also shows the amount of the DERF funds allocated under each call. It should be noted that the call pertaining to the ‘Humanitarian Crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories’ (oPt) did not close for applications until early January 2024 resulting in three out of four successful grants being awarded in 2024.

All calls, except the one for Myanmar, were opened based on alerts received from DERF users. In 2024, the DERF received 14 alerts – and activated nine of them. Together with the call opened based on international appeal (Myanmar) and the one activated late 2023 (oPt), the total number of calls is 11.

A total of six calls were opened in response to weather-related disaster events (Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, South-/Southeast Asia & Bolivia), with five calls related to conflict (occupied Palestinian territories, Myanmar, Mozambique, Somalia & Lebanon).

For the weather-related crises, the evolving nature of cross-boundary hydrometeorological hazards (droughts and floods) meant a much wider, regional focus as the crises matured which constituted the basis for multi-country and hazard-specific calls.

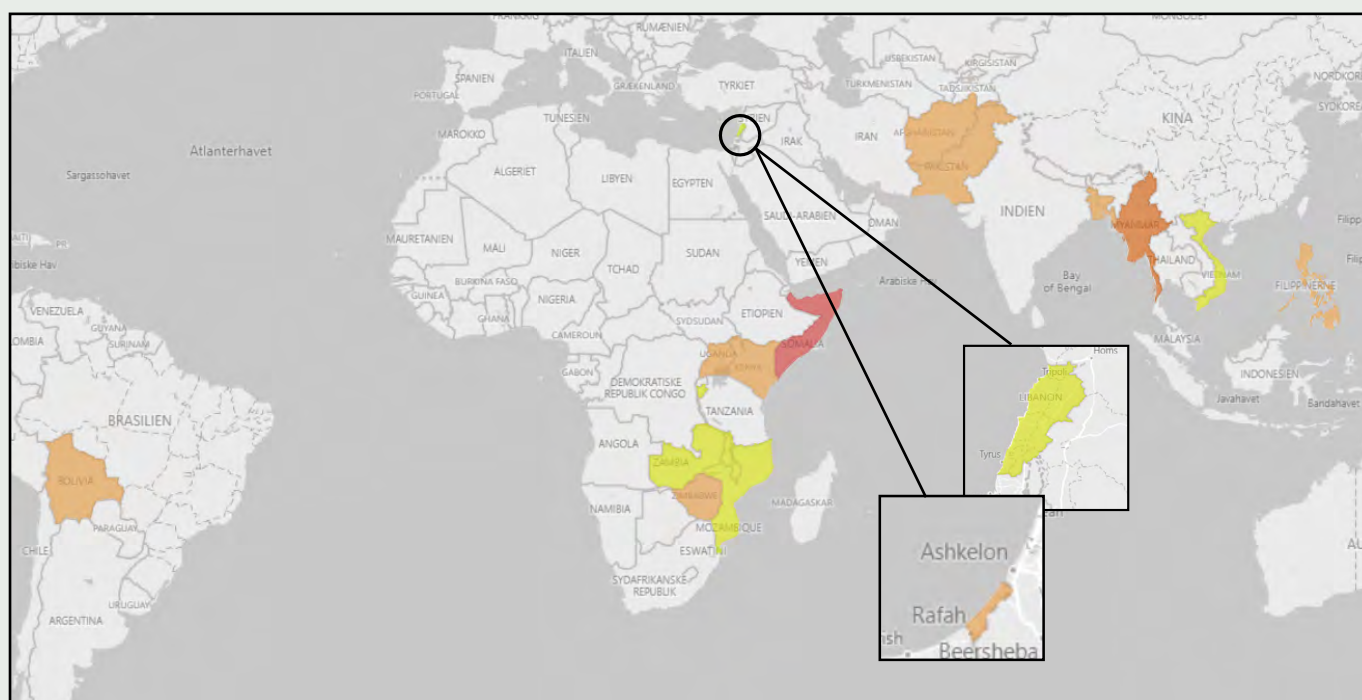
Not surprisingly, and as shown in table 1, the four calls for applications having been awarded the largest share of the total 2024 DERF funds by and large coincide with having the most grants comprising a collective 28 of 41 grants (61% of funds).

TABLE 1: NAME & TYPE OF CALLS, AMOUNT SPENT PER CALL, NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS AND COUNTRIES PER CALL

Calls	# of grants	Amount granted DKK	% of total	Countries supported
23-019-SP Humanitarian Crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories	3	3.455.049*	12%	Palestine / oPt
24-002-SP Myanmar Conflict	3	896.787	3%	Myanmar
24-003-SP Spike in attacks by non-state armed groups in Cabo Delgado	1	1.915.997	7%	Mozambique
24-004-SO Severe Drought in Zimbabwe, Zambia & Malawi	5	3.918.220	14%	Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi
24-005-RO Flooding in East Africa Region	10	5.863.318	20%	Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Burundi
24-006-RO Flooding in Afghanistan	2	500.000	2%	Afghanistan
24-007-SO Drought Crisis in the Philippines	1	700.000	2%	Philippines
24-012-RO Conflict in Somalia	5	2.496.951	9%	Somalia
24-013-RO Floods in South and Southeast Asia	8	5.348.414	19%	Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines
24-014-SP Wildfire Emergency in Bolivia	2	1.909.999	7%	Bolivia
24-015-RO Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon	1	1.766.118	6%	Lebanon
Total	41	28.770.853	100%	

\*) One additional grant was awarded under this call in late 2023.

ILLUSTRATION 2: WORLD MAP WITH 2024 GRANTS, PER REGION/COUNTRY



# of grants pr country: ● between 0-1 ● between 2-4 ● between 5-7 ● between 8-10

The third largest call included the 3 grants awarded under the Humanitarian Crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories' call, constituting 12% of DERF grants for 2024. On one side this originates from the fact that the maximum grant ceiling under the call for applications was increased proportional to how seasoned potential DERF users were in the field of delivering humanitarian aid, and on the other complexity of any response under this call, not least in terms of risk/security management and the perceived increase in aid and services delivery costs.

It is noteworthy also that 23 grants relate to 3 regional or multiple-country calls with East and Southern Africa as well as South and Southeast Asia accounting for a collective DKK 15.129.952 awarded by DERF in 2024 or 53% of overall 2024 DERF grants.

The world map shows the region and countries where the DERF awarded grants. While the map visualises the number of grants awarded, it is also helpful in underlining that the Eastern and Southern African regions received the largest amount of funds (DKK 14.194.486), followed by the Middle East in the form of the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon (DKK

5.221.167). Also, African countries clearly received the highest number of grants (21) with eight of these being granted for Somalia (drought/conflict).

All of the awarded grants were under the Rapid Response modality. The Anticipatory Action (AA) modality did receive seven applications, which all did not live up to the assessment criteria. The reasons behind this are reflected on in chapter 2 of this report.

## Funding ceilings

The DERF operates with funding ceilings to align the requirements of small and large interventions. Less experienced organisations continue to be able to relatively simply qualify for implementing interventions below DKK 200.000. Organisations that apply for above DKK one million need a track record of similar-sized interventions and demonstrated humanitarian experience.

In 2024, seven interventions were approved below DKK 200.000, while five interventions were above DKK one million.

The majority of interventions, namely 29, were in the middle funding ceiling bracket between DKK 200.000 and DKK one million.

The relatively small number of grants below DKK 200.000 should be seen in contrast to 2023 where there were only five, thus perhaps an indication of the reach of the DERF in terms of regional calls (South- and Southeast Asia, East and Southern Africa) enticing smaller CSO partnerships in applying. Typically, when organisations have previously applied for DERF funding or are new to the DERF but demonstrate capacity to apply for above DKK 200.000, they will typically apply under the middle funding ceiling.

The number of grants above DKK one million has similarly risen by two, up from 3 in 2023 although data and direct comparison between years hinge on several variables and cannot readily be ascribed to an increase in humanitarian assistance capacity of the successful applicant organisations/partnerships. However, the DERF continues to restrict many calls for applications below DKK one million in order to accommodate a more diverse group of applicants.

## Chapter 2

# Performance against result framework

In this chapter the DERF reports on achievements within the result framework formulated in the agreement between the DERF and the Danish MFA. The result framework operates with indicators on impact level, outcome level and output level. The three levels form the following three sub-chapters (2.1, 2.2, 2.3).

The result framework follows the logic of the Theory of Change, which divides the overall goal of the DERF into three different spheres. Each sphere forms a level in the result framework, where the administration of the fund, calls and modalities form the output level, the crises and criteria for applying to the DERF form the outcome level, and the beneficiaries and content of the interventions constitute the impact level.

The dataset used to qualify the impact of the DERF in 2024 comes from the reports of DERF interventions, meaning that all 32 interventions that submitted final reports and had them formally approved in 2024 have provided data for this chapter.

## 2.1 Results on impact level

### Preventing further loss of lives and escalation of suffering

The total number and composition of target groups reached in 2024 were reported across all interventions, with data disaggregated by gender and age. As illustrated in table 4, the number of people reached in 2024 is slightly higher compared to the figures from 2023. The figures for 2024 are based on 32 interventions / reports, the exact same as the year before (2023).

When looking at the composition of the target group, 59% of the people reached in 2024 were women while 72% were youth (including children) – the proportion of youth stands in stark contrast to the proportion for 2023 which was just 49%. Concurrently, 70% of the people reached in 2024 were described as vulnerable.

The number of refugees, IDPs and host communities reached was in 2024 significantly higher than in the previous years (75.507 people). The reason for this increase is mainly because of the types of crises the DERF responded to in 2024. As the DERF has no annual targets, an increase in numbers of people reached is not an achievement in itself. The numbers depend on many factors, such as the types of activities a grantee suggests for a certain type of crisis.

**Of all grants reported on in 2024, 49% included cash-based assistance (CBA) as part of their interventions.**

This is a significant increase compared to the year before (31%) and for the same number of interventions. This potentially signifies a trend towards more frequent use of CBA promoted by the DERF as well as by the humanitarian sector more broadly. At the same time, 69% of the grants decided to provide goods, while 56% included services as part of their intervention.

ILLUSTRATION 3: SUMMARY OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE DERF

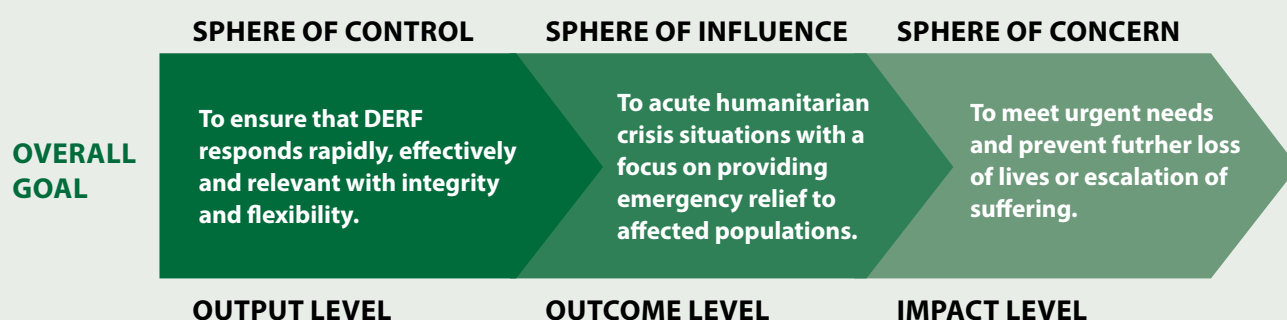




TABLE 4: IMPACT LEVEL OF THE RESULT FRAMEWORK (2025 REVISION)

Impact level	2022	2023	2024
<b>Impact 1: Further loss of lives and escalation of suffering have been prevented</b>			
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Total and composition of target group reached, disaggregated by gender/age	132.542 people 72.394 women 91.454 youth 53.871 refugees	102.026 people 57.625 women 50.285 youth 29.221 refugees	123.406 people 72.695 women 89.002 youth 75.507 refugees
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Modes of assistance supported by the DERF	Cash: 11 grants Voucher: 4 grants Goods: 27 grants Services 22 grants	Cash: 10 grants Voucher: 2 grants Goods: 20 grants Services: 21 grants	Cash: 15 grants Voucher: 0 grants Goods: 22 Services: 18
<b>Impact 2: DERF funded interventions contribute to meet urgent needs of people affected by crisis</b>			
<b>Indicator 3:</b> % of implementing organisations who are part of coordination	72%	81%	85%
<b>Indicator 4:</b> Humanitarian sectors engaged in through DERF grants interventions	WASH: 20 grants FSL: 11 grants Health: 17 grants Nutrition: 25 grants Shelter: 15 grants Education: 0 grants Protection: 10 grants	WASH: 16 grants FSL: 11 grants Health: 8 grants Nutrition: 14 grants Shelter: 8 grants Education: 1 grant Protection: 6 grants	WASH: 15 grants FSL: 9 grants Health: 17 grants Nutrition: 21 grants Shelter: 14 grants Education: 2 grants Protection: 6 grants
<b>Indicator 5:</b> # of interventions that manage to adjust to changing needs	31 grants (86%)	26 grants (81%)	31 grants (76%) Several grants had 2 or more adjustments
<b>Impact 3: Particularly vulnerable groups have been reached</b>			
<b>Indicator 6:</b> # of vulnerable persons targeted through DERF interventions	114.174 vulnerable people (mix of all types)	84.621 vulnerable people (mix of all types)	86.381 vulnerable people ('types' no longer part of indicator)
<b>Indicator 7:</b> # of DERF interventions that include refugees / IDPs / host communities	25 grants included this target group	22 grants included this target group	22 grants included this target group (69%)

Somewhat like trends in 2023, 34% of the grants chose to focus their intervention on a single mode of assistance. The remaining 21 grants combined two or more modes of assistance. It remains arbitrary as to what defines and is taken to be a 'service' by the DERF users and efforts are considered to have clearer definitions as a guide included into the CISU online platform 'Vores CISU' to avoid such bias.

The DERF regards services as support in the form of response team or assistance delivery training/simulation and distribution setup, whereas a broader definition may be applied by DERF users to include transport of goods (e.g. food, water & NFIs) and well as development, dissemination of information material and sensitisation of related messaging on, for example, WASH or agricultural practices.

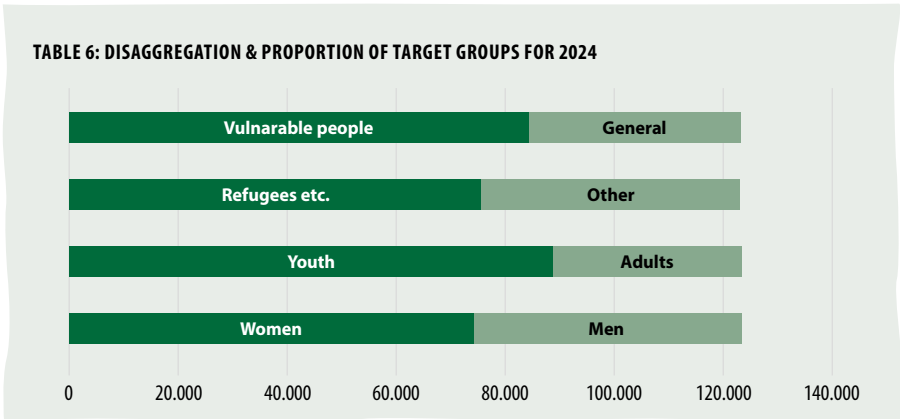
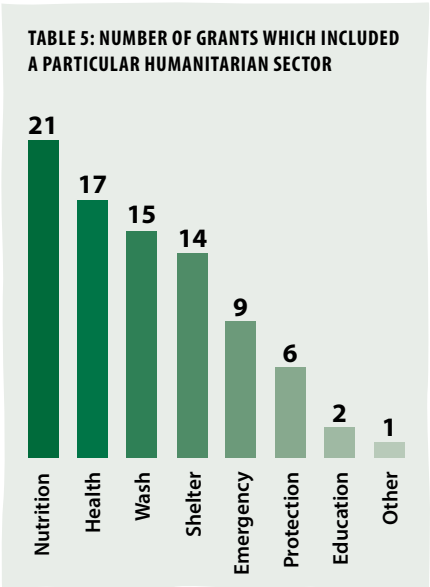
The DERF remains flexible as to whether interventions apply one or several modes of assistance. Applicants are still required to justify their choice of mode of assistance as part of their intervention strategies.

Meeting urgent needs of  
people affected by crisis

There is a growing number of DERF-funded interventions that are part of coordination mechanisms. Since 2022, this number has steadily increased, reaching 85% in 2024. This marks an encouraging trend. Effective coordination is essential to ensure that humanitarian assistance is timely, targeted, and complementary. It helps avoid duplication, strengthens overall impact, and promotes collaboration with relevant humanitarian actors and structures. The trend shows that DERF interventions are increasingly aligned with broader response efforts and implemented in close cooperation with national and international stakeholders. This reflects a strong commitment to the humanitarian principle of coordination and should be further encouraged.

The numbers of grants within the different humanitarian sectors have to be seen in the context of the specific crisis they responded to.

Most grants included nutrition (21 grants), health, WASH and shelter as sectors typical of their intervention. Many grants provided in contexts characterised by conflict and/or natural disaster events, and which involved uprooting of a target groups, have surprisingly not reported on shelter support in terms of sector specificity. This pertains to intervention reports from Sudan, Ukraine (conflict), Southern Africa (cyclone), Somalia (floods) and Afghanistan (earthquake).



Overall, 66% of the interventions included two or more sectors in their response, following a practice to address several needs of their target group as well as indication/perception of overlapping sectors (e.g. nutrition, Emergency FSL and health, or of WASH and health).

In 2024, 31 grants – representing 76% of all funded interventions – managed to adjust to changing needs during implementation.

While still a strong majority, this figure represents a slight decrease compared to 2022 and 2023. In volatile and unpredictable humanitarian contexts, the ability to adapt is not only acceptable but essential. Adjustments made during implementation reflect the flexible and needs-driven nature of effective humanitarian response. They demonstrate a commitment to staying relevant and ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most, even as conditions evolve.

Reaching particularly  
vulnerable groups

Each proposed and granted intervention has its unique description of vulnerability. Women, girls, female headed households, as well as women with small children are most often mentioned as part of the vulnerable group. It is with this in mind that more than half (59%) of the total target group are indicated as women.

People with disabilities and elderly people typically make up the remaining segment of the supported vulnerable, crisis affected populations. Most interventions utilise own or combine with external assessment of vulnerabilities as selection

criteria for support, while a few describe entire communities as vulnerable and assist these collectively. In many countries with pronounced and pervasive vulnerability, such as the occupied Palestinian territories, Somalia/Somaliland, Sudan, Mozambique and Myanmar it remains extremely difficult not to regard entire local populations as particularly vulnerable, making identification and selection a complex exercise.

The number of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and host community members reached in 2024 must be viewed in relation to the number of grants that included refugees among their beneficiaries. In total, 22 out of 32 grants (69%) targeted refugees. This share is exactly the same as in 2023. The grants that included refugees, IDPs and host community members as a significant part of their target groups were awarded to the crises in the oPt, Somalia & Sudan, collectively making up 61% of this type of target group supported by the DERF in 2024.

2.2 Results on outcome  
level

CSOs responding to  
humanitarian crisis

In 2024, the rapid response modality of the DERF formed the basis for applications to five rapid onset crises, two slow onset, and four spikes in a protracted crisis. In chart 8 you can see the specific calls opened under each category.

The distribution between types of crises follows the trend of previous years. The slightly higher number of spikes in pro-

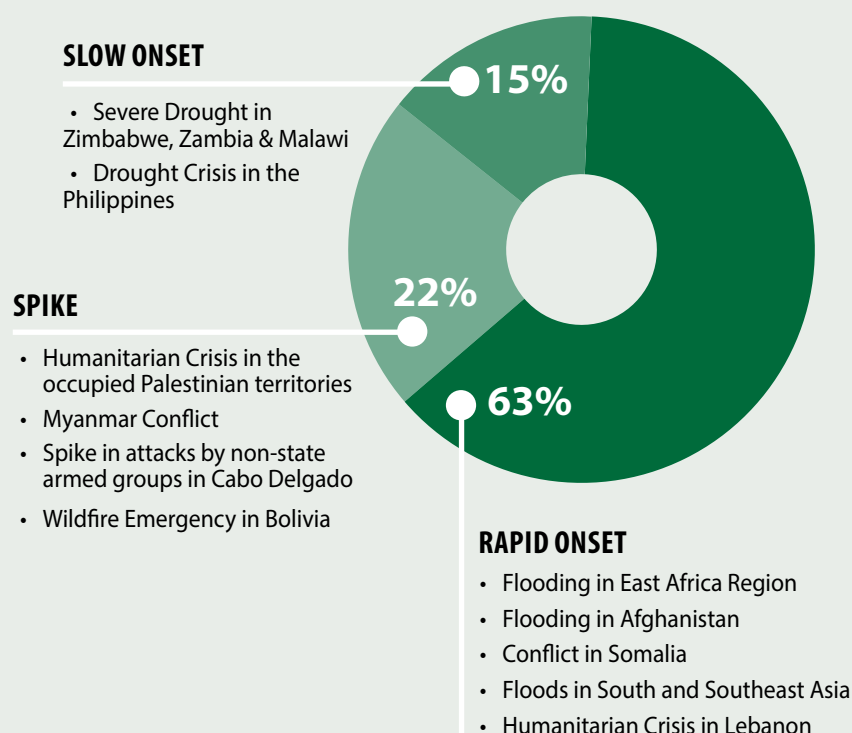
TABLE 7: OUTCOME LEVEL OF THE RESULT FRAMEWORK

Outcome level	2022	2023	2024
<b>Outcome 1: Civil Society Organisations are responding to humanitarian crisis</b>			
<b>Indicator 8:</b> # and type of humanitarian crisis the DERF is responding (disaggregated by climate / conflict related and rapid onset / slow onset / spike)	6 climate related 2 conflict related 5 rapid onset 1 slow onset 2 spikes	5 climate related 4 conflict related 6 rapid onset 1 slow onset 3 spikes	6 climate related 5 conflict related 5 rapid onset 2 slow onset 4 spikes
<b>Indicator 9:</b> # and size of Danish CSOs and implementing organisations that manage to access grants	14 small CSOs 8 medium CSOs 5 large CSOs	11 small CSOs 8 medium CSOs 11 large CSOs	10 small CSOs 7 small CSOs 13 large CSOs
<b>Outcome 2: Civil society contributes to reduce the impacts of climate change related hazards (previous: Humanitarian Principles are followed by grantees)</b>			
<b>Indicator 10:</b> # of interventions that significantly contribute to climate change adaptation action	N/A – new indicator	N/A – new indicator	7 interventions
<b>Indicator 11:</b> # of civil society organisations that respond to weather related hazards	N/A – new indicator	N/A – new indicator	22 Danish CSOs and 36 local implementing partners
<b>Outcome 3: Localisation is strengthened through DERF supported responses</b>			
<b>Indicator 12:</b> % of DERF grants spent in crisis area	89%	88%	88%
<b>Indicator 13:</b> % of DERF interventions which are implemented by local partner organisations	94%	98%	94% (30 out of 32 interventions)

tracted crises is partly due to rising levels of conflict around the world – including in places like Myanmar and Mozambique that often do not receive much media attention. Similar to previous years, crises responded to also include those with markedly more media exposure, such as the evolving crisis in the oPt as well as the spillover effects into Lebanon. The DERF continued to respond to ‘less visible’ crises, hereunder new conflict incidents in Somalia and the consequences of extensive wildfires in Bolivia.

The number of climate related, or rather, weather-related crises responded to was in 2024 back to six (all under the rapid response modality, compared to five in 2023). Looking from 2022, 2023 to 2024 there has been a gradual rise in DERF calls related to conflicts with weather-related crises remaining steady. This was also visible though the types of calls the DERF opened in 2024, with five being related to conflicts (oPt, Myanmar, Somaliland/ Somalia, Mozambique & Lebanon), compared to two in 2022 and four in 2023.

CHART 8: CALLS OPENED FOR TYPE OF CRISES (RAPID, SLOW ONSET AND SPIKE IN A PROTRACTED CRISIS)





### The DERF continues to be equally accessible for small as well as for large CSOs.

The definition of who is a small or a large CSO is based on their organisational annual turnover: small CSOs have an annual turnover below DKK 200.000, medium-sized have a turnover between DKK 200.00 and 1,5 million, and large CSOs have an annual turnover from DKK 1,5 million and above.

Applying this definition means that many of the DERF users who applied for funding as a small CSO during the previous years, have now moved to the medium-sized CSO category. For the same reason, the number of large CSOs has increased compared to the previous years (see table 9 for organisational details).

In 2024, 30 Danish CSOs received DERF grants, which is similar to the number of CSOs granted in 2023. This underlines that DERF continues to be relevant for a broad range of civil society organisations.

By the end of 2024, all available funds for the year had been fully utilised in response to humanitarian crises.

### Contributing to reducing the impact of climate change

In 2024, seven interventions were assessed to significantly contribute to climate change adaptation action. More broadly, 68% of the grants awarded by the DERF were related to climate change or weather-related events and responded to resulting humanitarian crises. This is a marked increase of 10% compared to the previous year even if the majority of the remaining grants falls into the category of being related to armed conflict. As with previous years, it is common that humanitarian crises are made up of a number of key drivers converging resulting in outright disasters where conflict and hydrometeorological hazards converge with devastating effects on regions, countries and localities already suffering from an escalation in meeting essential needs.

Aspects of hydrometeorological disaster events and their attribution to climate change are immensely complex. For some disaster events there are a significant number of scientific studies indicating the links between a given disastrous weather event and climate change (e.g. the El Niño & La Niña phenomena) and for other events this may not be the case for which reason attribution becomes highly uncertain or arbitrary.

For 2024, two weather-related disaster events stand out in terms of their geographical extent and severity with two regional calls due to widespread, severe and evolving flooding events accounting for a total of 18 awarded grants for the East African region and South and Southeast Asian regions. The DERF was in fact challenged by the nature and extent of the flooding as a basis for deciding which countries to include as part of the respective calls for proposals, with parts of South Sudan being gradually more affected in East Africa as flooding evolved and the same also for Nepal in South Asia,

TABLE 9: NAMES OF GRANTEEES PER SIZE OF CSO

#### Small CSO

Charity for Life  
Dansk Afghanistan Komite  
Dansk-Ugandisk Venskabsforening  
C&C Hjælpeprogrammer  
Myanmar Action Group Denmark  
Organisation for Fred og Udvikling i det Sydlige Somalia (OFUSS)  
Rebuild Aid Foreningen  
Somali Rehabilitation and Development Association (SORADA)  
Ulandshjælp fra Folk til Folk – Humana People to People  
Ungdom med Opgave

#### Medium CSO

Action for Relief and Development (ARD)  
Baptistkirken i Danmark  
Iftin Organisation  
MMCC Global  
Rajo Organisation  
Somalisk Forening for Genopbygning (OFROSOM)  
Tandsundhed Uden Grænser (TuG)

#### Large CSO

Aktion Amazonas  
Dansk Folkehjælp  
Dansk International Bosætnings-service (DIB)  
Danish Muslim Aid  
Danner  
Dreamtown  
100% for Børnene  
International Aid Services (IAS)  
IWGIA  
Seniorer uden Grænser (SuG)  
Vedvarende Energi  
Viva Danmark  
Ubumi Prisons Initiative

TABLE 10: NUMBER OF GRANTS AND AMOUNTS GRANTED IN RELATION TO WEATHER-RELATED DISASTER EVENTS

Weather-related disaster events / hydrometeorological hazard	# of grants	Amount granted
Severe Drought in Zimbabwe, Zambia & Malawi	5	3.918.220
Flooding in East Africa Region	10	5.863.318
Flooding in Afghanistan	2	500.000
Drought Crisis in the Philippines	1	700.000
Floods in South and Southeast Asia	8	5.348.414
Wildfire Emergency in Bolivia	2	1.909.999
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>DKK 18.239.951</b>

both countries not included in the initial regional calls.

**In 2024, 22 Danish civil society organisations responded to weather-related hazards through 28 interventions.**

Together with their implementing partners, a total of 58 organisations were involved across these 28 grants.

### Strengthening localisation through supported responses

In 2024, 88% of the budgeted funds were allocated to be spent in crisis areas, and 84% were set to directly benefit the crisis-affected population. These figures exceed the DERF's minimum requirements (80% and 60% respectively) and are on par with the levels recorded in 2023.

The DERF prides itself through its strong support to localised disaster or crises response. This includes focus on implementation through mutual partnerships, a significant percentage of funds reaching the affected populations, as well as additional enablers in support of strengthened inclusion and local leadership.

**In 2024, 94% of the grantees had implemented their interventions through local partner organisations.**

Only two grantees were self-implementing whilst for interventions granted during 2024 only one grantee is self-implementing (i.e. 98%). Obviously, having a relatively small sample size of 30-40 interventions renders percentages somewhat misleading in that a small fluctuation in numbers leads to seemingly larger deviations when expressed as percentages. However, having an overwhelming majority of local implementing partnerships demonstrates the strength of the DERF to reach the local CSOs or CBOs close to the crises affected populations. At the same time, the proportion of intervention funds directly reaching the affected populations remains substantial and stable.

Apart from the formulated and now revised indicators reported on by the DERF, the fund also commits to local leadership by ensuring that implementing organisations are as much part of the development of the actual intervention as possible. As a minimum implementing organisations are required to develop the local context description, annexed to the application. The idea is that local implementors will have additional detail to share related to the proposed intervention, the context in which it is to take place and not least be able to share better insights into the plights of crisis-affected populations they endeavour to assist. DERF also requires

the implementing organisation(s), and the Danish grantee acknowledge the partnership application by cosigning the cover page.

Furthermore, with the ambition to support localised response and strengthen local leadership, the DERF piloted two initiatives in 2024: flexible funds for locally prioritised activities and a 5% lumpsum for local administration. The flexible funds aim to promote community participation and decision-making in the use of granted funds, while the lumpsum allows local partners full discretion over administrative spending, thereby enhancing ownership and autonomy in crisis response. The DERF has piloted this from June 2023 to September 2024. After a short evaluation, the pilot continues, until it can be integrated as a permanent part when the DERF guidelines are updated during 2025.

## 2.3 Results on output level

### Humanitarian funding provided

In 2024, none of the applications submitted under the Anticipatory Action modality resulted in a grant. A total of seven AA applications were received, six of which were for Somaliland/Somalia and one for Zimbabwe with two Somali diaspora organisations reapplying with intervals of a few months, tied to the prevalent – and in recent years woefully underperforming – rainy seasons in Somalia.

The challenge of making Anticipatory Action a functional modality is not new to the DERF and has also been described in the external review of the fund. There is a need to adjust the modality in a way that it becomes easier to understand for

its users. There also may be a need to pilot early action in different formats in order to learn how this may work better.

The DERF management has already initiated a process of revision of the modality and will include it the adjustment process to the DERF with new guidelines and formats expects during 2025.

**The number of grants awarded under the Rapid Response (RR) modality reached 41 in 2024, thus accounting for all DERF grants disbursed during the year.**

The Rapid Response modality remains the primary mechanism for DERF grant allocations. While up to DKK 4 million are annually earmarked for anticipatory action, the vast majority of DERF funding continues to be channelled through the RR modality due to its responsiveness and alignment with the acute nature of most humanitarian crises.

Overall, for 2024 the application/grant approval rate was comparatively high with 61%. As always, average approval rates fluctuate depending on individual calls and the number of applications received. As an example, the call Flooding in East Africa Region had a total of 17 applications with 10 approved (59%) and seven rejected. Conversely, the call Drought Crisis in the Philippines had a total of four applications with only one successful in being granted (25%). Having said that, the call Floods in South and Southeast Asia had a total of eight applications, all of which were approved and received grants. As opposed to previous years, 2024 did not see any opened calls without any successful applications, also if two of the calls (conflicts in Mozambique and Lebanon) were characterised by having only one successful application per call.

TABLE 11: OUTPUT LEVEL OF THE RESULT FRAMEWORK

Output level	2022	2023	2024
<b>Output 1: Humanitarian funding provided for Rapid Response (RR) and Anticipatory Action (AA) interventions</b>			
<b>Indicator 14:</b> (new indicator) Amounts granted, and number of grants provided under the Anticipatory Action (AA) modality	N/A (new indicator)	N/A (new indicator)	No AA granted interventions (7 applications rejected)
<b>Indicator 15:</b> (new indicator) Amounts granted, and number of grants provided under the Rapid Response (RR) modality	N/A (new indicator)	N/A (new indicator)	DKK 28.770.853 41 intervention grants
<b>Output 2: Timeliness in approval of applications and disbursement of funds</b>			
<b>Indicator 16:</b> (new indicator) # applications are approved within an average of 12 working days	28 out of 36 (78%)	25 out of 43 (58%)	29%
<b>Indicator 17:</b> (new indicator) # of days from signature of grantees contracts until disbursement of funds	Average of 11 days	Average of 13 days	Average of 17 days
<b>Output 3: Support services provided to DERF grantees</b>			
<b>Indicator 18:</b> (new indicator) # of grantees who received technical backstopping services through phone or email	Support through phone, mail, advisory support	Support through phone, mail, advisory support	55
<b>Indicator 19:</b> (new indicator) # of grants that received technical backstopping through DERF monitoring visits	2	5	2



### Timeliness in approval of applications and fund disbursements

The DERF operates with a target of spending not more than 12 workdays from receiving an application until approving it. This target has been met in previous years when looking at the average of workdays spent (11 days in 2022 and 12 days in 2023). There are always some applications which may take longer time than expected. In 2022, 78% of assessed applications were responded to within 12 workdays, in 2023 this number was 58%. In 2024 these numbers declined considerably. Only 29% of DERF applications were approved within the target of 12 workdays. The same tendency can be seen when looking at the average number of days from receipt of an application until approval, which in 2024 was 17 workdays.

The DERF is not satisfied with this significant decline. Reasons for the long processing time were many, some being internal delays, others being issues within the granting system of not delivering work to agreed deadlines. Too little communication between the DERF and the granting system also contributed to delays.

Measures are being explored to improve the situation, and some of them have already been effectuated towards the end of 2024. In connection with the extension of contracts a number of changes within the granting team were effectuated. At the recent calibration meeting between the DERF and the granting system, the issue of delays has also been brought up. The current assessment consultants and members of the granting committee are committed to meet the short deadlines they are given.

Furthermore, the internal procedures have been streamlined and internally communicated. The DERF continuously reviews and refines its internal procedures to strengthen the funding system and reduce delays in the future. Further efforts are underway to improve workflows and ensure that key functions are less affected by unforeseen absences.

### Support service provided to DERF grantees

In 2024 and based on past years' experience, the DERF has decided to address

TABLE 12: PARTICIPATION IN CALL INFORMATION MEETINGS

Call information meeting	# of participants	Satisfaction
Conflict in Somalia	14	Generally high satisfaction. Questions about sectors and addressing IDP needs without overlap
Floods in South and Southeast Asia	13	High satisfaction. Focus was on the context in numerous countries. Lots of room for direct Q&A

the indicator related to the provision of technical and administrative support services. However, as logging of arguably very frequent phone calls and the receipt of emails related to DERF administrative and technical issues and queries remain a formidable task, the DERF team at CISU will need to rethink its way to document this monitoring practice (phone calls and email support).

As a continuous trend in 2024, CISU grant managers spent most of their time on administrative support to grantees. All 41 grantees did receive support. This is done by phone or through the DERF email. The team of DERF advisors, which also includes the two members of the management team who are on an advisory contract as well as the financial management specialist, provide support to applicants through phone (particular of a technical, alert/call/application related nature) or through prebooked advisory sessions (feedback on draft applications or on decision notes when an application is rejected etc.). In 2024, 22 advisory sessions were conducted by the DERF, compared to 25 in 2023.

Nonetheless, add to the above advisory sessions the many phone calls and emails, often involving repeats or follow-ups, the mentoring and support extended towards DERF users remain considerable and is often praised as invaluable from particularly small- and medium-sized organisations.

Another form for support service is the call information meetings, which are held when there is a critical mass of potential applicants likely to respond to a call. If not, the content of such meeting is provided through advisory sessions. In 2024, two call meetings were held.

In addition, DERF Experience Exchange Workshops were, as usual, organised. Participation in at least one workshop was mandatory for all DERF grantees during the implementation period. These online workshops provided a space for mutual learning between DERF-funded organisations implementing humanitarian interventions in similar contexts. Participants were invited to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and share practical solutions – both with the DERF team and with fellow implementers. This peer-to-peer dialogue helped strengthen interventions and offered valuable learning across organisations facing similar operational realities.

Capacity building was also part of the services provided. In 2024, CISU offered several training sessions relevant for DERF users, including topics such as travel security (in theory and practice), monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL), grant management and compliance with CISU's financial requirements, effective monitoring visits, introduction to PSHEA (Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse), and codes of conduct focusing on corruption and misconduct. All these sessions were conducted as part of CISU's general capacity building training offers available to all CISU members and grantees.

In 2024, two DERF-funded interventions received technical backstopping thorough monitoring visits – both conducted in Uganda. In 2025, a higher number of visits are expected, as funds have been allocated for this purpose. Additionally, DERF plans to initiate third-party monitoring to enable access to hard-to-reach contexts, such as Somalia, where a significant number of grants have been awarded and where direct monitoring remains a priority.

Chapter 3

Highlighted topics

A lens on humanitarian crises on the African continent

In 2024, approximately half of the DERF funds responded to humanitarian crises on the African continent. 21 grants out of the total of 41 (51%) were awarded to African countries. When looking at the amounts spent, it amounts to 49% for Africa. This is an average which is similar to previous years.

The crises responded to on the African continent in 2024 included:

- Spike in attacks by non-state armed groups in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.
- Severe Drought in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi (grants awarded to all three countries).
- Flooding in the East African Region (grants awarded to Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Burundi).
- Conflict in Somalia.

2024 was characterised by very harsh climate related crises in Africa. During the first half of the year, Southern Africa experienced severe drought, while at the same time large parts of East Africa were hit by extensive rains causing flooding. Therefore, DERF had two large calls open at the same time to respond to these regional weather phenomena.

**Somalia and Somaliland** have throughout the years been a special focus area



PHOTO: KIM JENSEN, CISU

for the DERF. The situation is complex and includes extreme and prolonged drought, sporadic flooding during rainy seasons, and intercommunal clan clashes that flare up, often with little or no warning. Besides that, Al-Shabab still causes a security risk in large parts of Somalia.

The DERF has a large number of users who are active in Somalia and Somaliland. These consist, to a large extent, of small diaspora organisations. They have throughout the years received many grants to respond to a number of crisis situations in Somalia. However, as the crises become more protracted, it also becomes difficult for the DERF to respond to, as the DERF has no mandate to open calls in protracted crises, unless there is a new spike in the crisis. This may be one of the reasons

why the DERF in 2024 only supported eight interventions in Somalia and Somaliland, compared to 22 in 2023 and 15 in 2022.

**West Africa and Sahel Region:** The DERF did in recent years not respond to crises in West Africa or the Sahel Region. The reason for this is likely to be that the small and medium-sized Danish CSOs have no or very few partnerships in these regions. The DERF did not receive any alert from its users, and when considering opening a call for applications based on international appeals, the DERF was hesitant knowing that there is limited knowledge of any organisation with partnerships in the affected countries. Therefore, the DERF unfortunately remains less relevant to crises in those regions.

TABLE 13: PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS SPENT, AND GRANTS AWARDED TO CRISES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT OVER TIME.

Description / Year	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of the pool of fund spend on crises in African countries	51%	48%	49%
Percentage of number of grants given to crises in African countries	64%	64%	51%

## Learning at fund level

**Advisory Board:** The DERF advisory board (AB) consists of representatives from the NEAR Network, the Start Fund, the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), and Ground Truth Solutions. The Terms of Reference of the AB say that “the AB shall support the DERF to strengthen localisation by giving the global community a stronger voice within the DERF. This also includes a mandate to propose new and more localised approaches to be applied by the DERF, if in accordance with the contract between the DERF consortium and the Danish MFA.”

With this mandate, the AB has met twice during 2024, once online and once physically, and discussed the concepts of anticipatory action, local leadership among other topics. The discussions lead to a list of recommendation for the DERF, which informed the DERF management in its organisational learning and evolving process of adjusting the fund.

**Piloting more local leadership:** As explained earlier (section 2.2), the DERF piloted two initiatives in 2024 to promote the localisation agenda. These were based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Board in 2023 and approved by the MFA when the pilot started in 2023. As previously outlined, the two elements piloted were: first, the introduction of a 5% administration lumpsum for the implementing partner, similar to the 5% provided to the Danish organisation; and second, the inclusion of a budget line for flexible funds for activities. Applicants are here allowed to budget with 10% of funds not planned for at the time of applying. Communities, including the target group, are meant to be involved in the decision making about how to spend these funds.

### Example from Zimbabwe:

Six communities (249 families) benefited from community-driven drought mitigation projects. Flexible funds were allocated to support community-led projects, prioritising local needs and encouraging active participation from all community members, especially women.

### Example from Somalia:

The flexible funds facilitated dialogue and consensus building between the implementing organisation, the community, and the local administration on what activities to prioritise. The dialogue process was very engaging and brought out the power in communities to take lead in providing solutions to their lived challenges. The community prioritised cholera prevention measures which were appropriate as there was an evolving outbreak already.

The pilot ran from June 2023 to September 2024. During that period, 9 out of 48 grants made use of the possibility of including flexible funds. When reporting about the use of the funds, not all described in a sufficiently detailed way how they have involved the communities in the decision-making about the use of the funds. This revealed the need for better guiding questions in the reporting formats.

The 5% lumpsum for local administration was in the beginning not applied by all applicants. Since then, it was made mandatory. The budget format was adjusted in a way that it pre-fills the 5% lumpsum, resulting in that most applicants now correctly use this function.

The pilot continues to run, and the plans are to integrate it as a permanent part of the DERF from next time the funding guidelines will be updated.

**Review of the DERF:** In early 2024, a consultant conducted an external review of the DERF. This included the views of DERF management, the granting system, the DERF users, partners, and the beneficiaries. The review concludes that the DERF is highly relevant and efficiently managed. It also documents a high satisfaction rate among its users.

The review also describes a few suggestions for improvement, like changes to the indicators formulated in the result framework of the fund. These suggestions have been incorporated in the revision of the framework when preparing for the extension of the DERF contract.

**Scoping Study:** The review was followed up with a scoping study, looking further into the parts of the DERF which could need some improvements or adjustments. On an overall level it stood out clearly that there is no need to adjust something which works well. However, there were also a number of suggestions for how to adjust the Anticipatory Action modality, the assessment criteria, among other things.

This list of recommendations forms one of the inputs for the organisational learning within the DERF. The management team is discussing the learning and working on specific improvements for implementation during 2025.

Scan or click on the QR-code to download the scoping study



## Quality Management and Complaint Mechanism

The Danish Emergency Relief Fund's (DERF) Quality Management System (QMS) is built upon the CISU Code of Conduct (CoC) for the management of pooled funds. The CoC brings together CISU's core principles, guidelines, and recommended practices related to accountability, transparent fund management and organisational capacity strengthening. This framework ensures that DERF's operations are conducted with integrity and effectiveness, while also serving as a model of good practice within the sector.

In parallel, DERF has established a Business Integrity Management System (BIMS), which complements the QMS.



## HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

BIMS integrates the CoC with DERF's Financial Management and Accounting Manual, the system for defining responsibilities and ensuring segregation of duties, audit procedures, and comprehensive grant management processes.

These two systems—QMS and BIMS—are designed to function in close coordination. Their processes are interconnected and continuously inform each other through ongoing quality assurance, internal control measures, and monitoring and evaluation activities at both fund and grant levels. This dynamic feedback mechanism ensures that DERF's standards and procedures are regularly updated and improved, maintaining high levels of accountability, efficiency, and donor confidence.

### New financial management system

At the beginning of 2024, CISU initiated the implementation of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, a modern, cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system designed to streamline financial and operational processes. Business Central offers enhanced functionalities for budgeting, accounting, reporting, and audit trails—providing a scalable and secure platform that supports the evolving needs of DERF and CISU.

A key feature of this implementation is the automated integration with Vores CISU, the system used for managing grant applications, disbursements, and monitoring. This integration reduces reliance on manual data entry, thereby minimizing the risk of human error and strengthening the reliability of financial data.

Moreover, the system enforces segregation of duties by design, assigning distinct roles and access levels to DERF and CISU staff, which enhances accountability and internal control.

This digital upgrade supports CISU's broader strategic goals of digital transformation, efficiency gains, and risk mitigation. By adopting Business Central, CISU – and thus the DERF – is better positioned to ensure timely, accurate, and transparent financial management—key expectations of both fund governance and donor accountability.

### Strengthening Accountability

CISU is responsible for ensuring that all grantees are fully aware of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' guidelines. These guidelines require grantees to establish an anti-corruption policy, a policy for the prevention of sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse (PSHEA), a policy prohibiting child labor, and an anti-terrorism policy. Grantees may develop these policies as separate documents or consolidate them into a comprehensive ethical code of conduct.

To uphold the standards from the guidelines, the Ministry's clauses on anti-corruption, PSHEA, anti-child labour, and anti-terrorism must be explicitly included in all contracts and partnership agreements.

CISU applies a proportional approach to these requirements: the scope and complexity of the policies and procedures expected from each grantee are aligned with the size and nature of the funded initiatives, as well as the grantee's operational and administrative capacity.

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening accountability across all areas of its work, CISU's Accountability Taskforce has, in 2024, developed a dedicated Accountability section on the CISU website.

This new resource serves as a comprehensive hub, addressing all key dimensions of organisational accountability, including anti-corruption, safeguarding (with a focus on the prevention of sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse—

PSHEA), anti-child labour, anti-terrorism, complaint mechanisms, codes of conduct, and monitoring practices.

For each thematic area, CISU has created a detailed subpage structured to support both understanding and practical implementation. Each subpage includes the following elements:

- What is it? – A clear definition of the topic
- Why is it important? – The relevance of the issue in a development and humanitarian context
- What should your organisation do? – Practical steps and minimum standards for compliance
- Inspiration and examples – Case studies and good practices from the field
- What can CISU help with? – Available support, tools, and advisory services
- What does CISU do? – CISU's own internal procedures and commitments

To ensure that grantees and partners are fully equipped to engage with and benefit from this resource, CISU has incorporated the accountability website into its capacity development and communication efforts. This includes targeted training sessions, webinars, and guidance materials, as well as regular updates through CISU's communication channels.

These efforts are an integral part of CISU's broader capacity-strengthening strategy, which aims to empower Danish civil society organisations and their partners to implement high standards of accountability, transparency, and good governance. As one of CISU's core tasks, capacity strengthening ensures that grantees are not only compliant with donor requirements but are also continuously developing the skills, systems, and ethical frameworks necessary to deliver effective, responsible, and sustainable development and humanitarian results.

Scan or click on the QR-code to visit CISU's accountability pages



## Chapter 4

# Statement of accounts

The DERF is funded by the Danish MFA for a four-year period (2021-2024) with annual allocations for the DERF pool of funds for potential grantees to be approved on the Danish Finance Act on an annual basis.

The original budget for 2024 was 25 million DKK. However, part of the budget for the pool of funds were not utilised in 2023, as a call was opened before Christmas and thus most of the grants awarded under this call was awarded early

2024. These unused funds for the grants were bookkept under provisions, and as such they are not included in the updated budget. However, the updated budget for 2024 included the unused funds for general administration and programme support, as per agreement with the Danish MFA, a total of

The annual accounts for 2024 shows the following utilisation of the 2024 updated budget.

The percentual division between the main categories has been adapted in the updated budget, and the annual accounts for 2024 are in line with the agreed division between the main categories as shown below.

The unused funds will be transferred to the first year of the extension of the DERF 2025 – 2028 and re-allocated to the relevant budget lines in the updated 2025 budget as per agreement with the Danish MFA.

Main Categories		Orig. Budget	Upd. Budget	Accounts	Balance
A	General administration	1.590.855	1.658.355	1.515.501	142.854
B	Programme support	681.645	808.774	844.279	-35.505
C	DERF Pool of funds	22.727.500	22.727.500	22.727.500	-
D	<b>Total Annual Budget &amp; Account</b>	<b>25.000.000</b>	<b>25.194.629</b>	<b>25.087.281</b>	<b>107.348</b>

Main Categories		Orig. Budget %	Upd Budget %	Accounts in %
A	General administration	6,4%	6,6%	6,0%
B	Programme support	2,7%	3,2%	3,4%
C	DERF Pool of funds	90,9%	90,2%	90,6%
D	<b>Total Annual Budget &amp; Account</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Outlook

It seems that the world will not become a better place in the near future. Conflicts and natural disasters are expected to continue or to increase in frequency and severity. At the same time the humanitarian aid system is challenged by nationalistic or shifting political agendas. The DERF looks into 2025 with some concerns. What is already known is that the most vulnerable people will be the ones that will be hardest hit; their needs for humanitarian assistance will remain high or even increase.

The DERF is geared to get support to where it is needed and to who needs it the most. But the available funds are limited, and a scale-up of the DERF would make a difference to reach more people suffering in humanitarian crises.

The different steps leading to the extension of the contract between the DERF and the Danish MFA happened timely and enabled the DERF to resume operations in early 2025. The first call for applications was opened on January 16, 2025, responding to a cyclone affecting Mozambique.

Besides the extension of the DERF contract, other processes started in 2024 will culminate in 2025. This includes the work of adjusting the DERF to changes in its context. During 2024, the Core Humanitarian Standard was adjusted through a comprehensive consultative process. The DERF had chosen to align with the 9 commitments of the previous standard and does therefore need to make new adjustments.

Besides that, the gathering of learning described earlier in this report call for adjustments of the Anticipatory Action modality in order to make it more comprehensive and better suited for the DERF users.

Overall, the DERF management team is using the first semester of 2025 to work on a set of adjustments that will enable the DERF to continue to be a humanitarian pool of funds, keeping a strong focus on locally led humanitarian response. The adjustments foreseen will not go beyond the existing contractual agreement of the DERF. It is expected that the adjustments, after a dialogue with the Danish MFA, can enter into force during the second half of 2025.

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