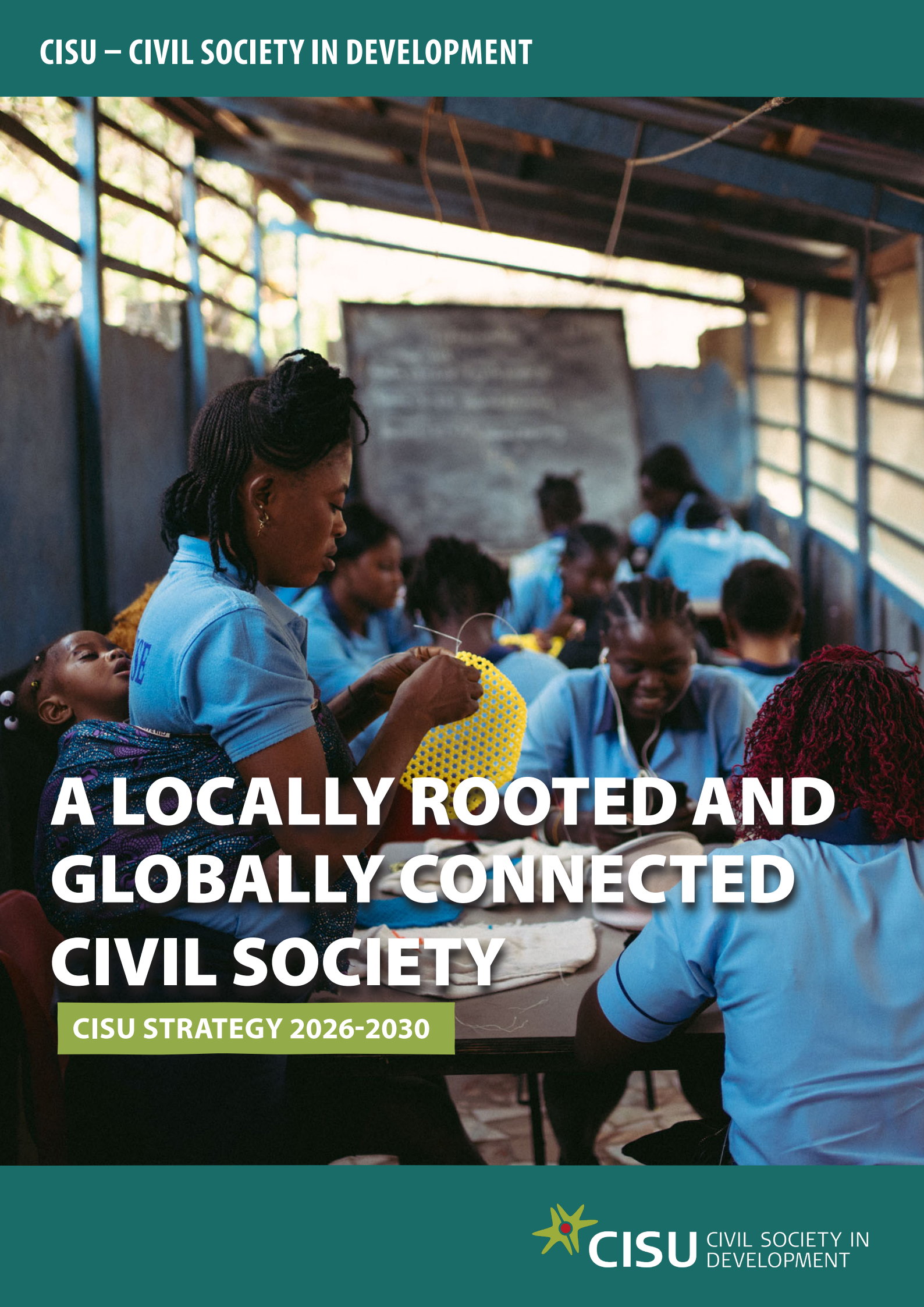




# A LOCALLY ROOTED AND GLOBALLY CONNECTED CIVIL SOCIETY

CISU STRATEGY 2026-2030

## CISU – Civil Society in Development

CISU's member organisations are at the core of CISU's work.

The member organisations bring experience and expertise in areas such as human rights, education, sports, innovation, climate adaptation, and health. They apply these strengths in partnerships with civil society organisations worldwide that work towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals through a rights-based approach. These partnerships emphasise mutual learning and the exchange of experiences centred on shared thematic interests. Through these partnerships, civil society organisations in Denmark and worldwide strengthen one another.

# Rights and a shifting Global Order

There is escalating uncertainty in the world affecting us all. Democratic rules are being undermined, civic space is under pressure, the human rights agenda is being challenged, and financing for international development cooperation is in crisis.

At the same time, political support for development cooperation can no longer be taken for granted — not even in Denmark. Yet we have a foundation and grounding to build on: a Danish civil society that, through partnerships with locally led organisations and movements, fosters public engagement with the world.

CISU's member organisations and their partnerships stand on a strong common platform. Their capacity has grown over many years, resulting in stronger local civil society organisations and communities. Increasingly, joint efforts protect people's rights, support democratic development, promote global justice and sustainability, and counter the root causes of poverty and inequality.

Expectations regarding civil society's legitimacy, results, and leadership are rising. CISU already operates with a strong mandate and enjoys considerable trust. That comes with responsibility. We must show due diligence. The coming years require that CISU can present renewed answers to our role in development cooperation.

We are a collective of around 300 member organisations representing 1.3 million members. Together, we create local ownership, agency, global engagement, and innovation capacity. This gives CISU a unique legitimacy and autonomy.

This is what we are driving forward with this strategy for 2026–2030.

# What change will CISU contribute to?



With the 2026–2030 strategy, CISU aims to strengthen civil society and focus on how CISU will contribute to a locally rooted and globally connected civil society that works in partnerships to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals through a rights-based approach.

CISU will strengthen civil society to be:

## INDEPENDENT

A strong civil society builds robust, independent and sustainable organisations that drive political, economic and social change, and counter the root causes of poverty and inequality.

## DIVERSE

A diverse civil society includes, represents and is accountable towards people and communities and their strives for change.

## LOCALLY ROOTED AND GLOBALLY CONNECTED

A locally rooted and globally connected civil society collaborates through partnerships and engages their members, constituencies, and citizens in solidarity and collective action on local and global agendas.

# How will CISU strengthen civil society?

The context in which CISU, member organisations, and partners operate contains both challenges and opportunities for how we seek to contribute.

In order to strengthen civil society to be independent, diverse, locally rooted, and globally connected, CISU will focus on three key roles:



**A CHAMPION OF  
REIMAGINING  
PARTNERSHIPS**



**A CONVENER OF  
LEARNING AND  
NETWORKS**



**A RECOGNISED AND  
VISIBLE ACTOR IN  
DENMARK**



**SCAN**

to go to CISU's  
interactive world map





# A CHAMPION OF REIMAGINING PARTNERSHIPS

PHOTO: JUST NEPAL FOUNDATION

The number of global challenges is increasing, while development funding to address them is declining. Declining global development funding also puts pressure on CISU's own funding modalities. A more active civil society — both in Denmark and worldwide — has the capacity to deliver relevant societal solutions, but these cannot be fully supported by CISU under current conditions. At the same time, CISU depends on a single primary funding source.

Civil society actors globally have taken the lead to rethink development cooperation in response to legitimate debates about power and roles. This highlights the need to further develop partnerships. It is important to clarify the mutual value created in partnerships, but this is challenging in a sector that tends to maintain existing responsibilities and power structures in an effort to reduce risks.

On the other hand, CISU operates with a high degree of trust in our systems — both as a strategic partner to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and among our grantees. Partnerships between CISU's members and civil society organisations worldwide are a powerful way to drive locally led development and ensure sustainable local solutions that last.

CISU's privileged position — due to both member organisations rooted in local communities, and political support — obliges us to be ambitious in partnership and funding approaches that support locally led development and more equitable power-sharing. Therefore, CISU will be:

## A CHAMPION OF REIMAGINING PARTNERSHIPS

- **CISU will continue to develop partnerships with a focus on how each party's unique contribution creates the greatest mutual value.**
- **CISU will stimulate new approaches to partnerships and funding modalities that support co-creation, local decision-making, and resource mobilisation.**
- **CISU will simplify application procedures and processes for applicants.**

# A CONVENER OF LEARNING AND NETWORKS



PHOTO: KIM JENSEN

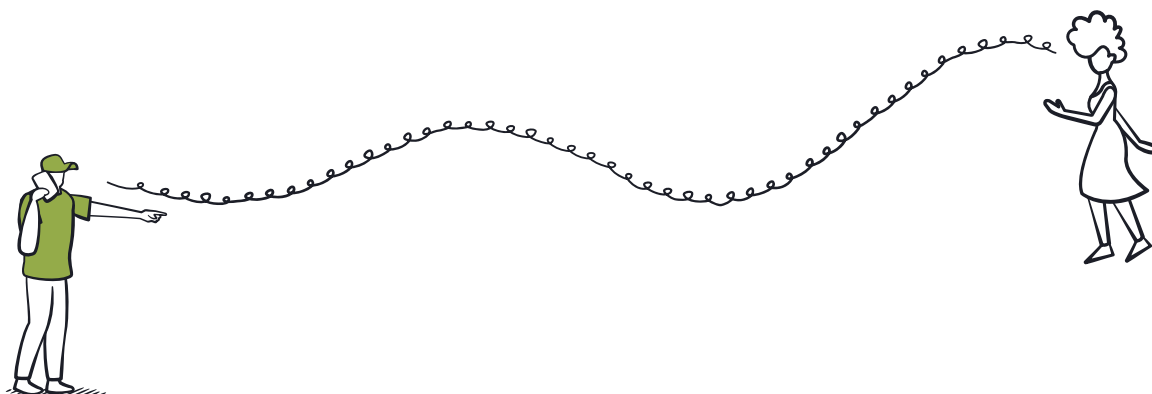
Globally, civil society, freedom, democracy, and human rights are under attack, while climate changes cause destruction, and human-made conflicts force people into displacement and desperation. Access to truthful information is becoming increasingly restricted in many parts of the world.

At the same time, vibrant civil societies around the world are blossoming, finding new paths and directions. Civil societies that are strong in mobilisation, action, analysis, and new ways of organising. There is hope in the fact that future strong alliances across civil societies will increasingly be driven from the Global South, and that innovation and locally led initiatives will continue to grow in scale, quality, and impact.

Mutual learning and collaboration are the foundation for solidarity-driven solutions and sustainable change. CISU can connect the diverse forces that collectively can address the challenges we face. Therefore, CISU will be:

## A CONVENER OF LEARNING AND NETWORKS

- **CISU will learn from and with member organisations, partners, and international stakeholders.**
- **CISU will convene civil society to exchange experiences and knowledge and build bridges to other sectors and societal actors to increase impact and resources.**
- **CISU will strengthen the focus on partnerships and secure global perspectives in learning activities.**





# A RECOGNISED AND VISIBLE ACTOR IN DENMARK

PHOTO: TOMAS GESTSSON

Civil society is in a position where we must fight for support and legitimacy for our cause and the work we do. Public and political backing for development cooperation cannot be taken for granted — neither in Denmark nor in comparable countries.

In contrast, there is great potential in the collective strength of CISU to play a strong role in influencing and engaging Danish society. A globally engaged civil society in Denmark is growing and becoming more diverse. Organisations, diaspora groups, and social movements are developing new approaches to solidarity and acting as a locally rooted and globally connected civil society.

Civil society — globally and in Denmark — plays a critical role in promoting just and democratic societies. This collaboration has taken place for decades, but it is more important now than ever.

Recognition and visibility of civil society's role and results are essential to strengthening support for civil society both in Denmark and globally. Therefore, CISU will be:

## A RECOGNISED AND VISIBLE ACTOR IN DENMARK

- **CISU will support the community of actors who inspire the wider Danish public to act in global solidarity and engage critically with global issues.**
- **CISU will work with member organisations to improve the framework conditions for civil society organisations that support locally led development and an increased Danish engagement in global development issues.**
- **CISU will be an active public defender of a strong civil society in its own rights, based on civil society's contributions and roles locally and globally.**
- **CISU will actively safeguard civic space and counter misinformation and disinformation in alliance with the global civil society.**

## CISU MEMBER ORGANISATIONS PR. 01.01.2026

100% for Børnene · 3F - Fagligt Fælles Forbund · access2innovation · Act for Life · Action for Relief and Development (ARD) · Acts Mission · ADDA · ADRA Danmark · Afghan Daanish Foundation · Africa-Asia Impact · AfriCAN · African Youths In Denmark · AfricaPowerForening · Afrika Forum · AHAS Group (African Hum. Hiv/Aids Support Group) · AIDS-Fondet · AIP Foundation Denmark · Aktion Amazonas · Aktion Børnehjælp · Alternatives to Separation (ATOS) · AMIS – A More Inclusive Society · Amnesty International · ARD - Art Research Dialogue · Arkitekter Uden Grænser · Assist · Axis · Bandhab · Banglabørn · Baptistkirken i Danmark · Bedre syn til Afrika · Bekæmpelse af fattigdom og analfabetisme (BAFAA) · Bendula · Bevar Ukraine · Bidrag til Ghana · BIEN Danmark (Borgerlønsbevægelsen) · BISU - Håndværkere uden Grænser · Brighter Horizons · Brødremenighedens Danske Mission · Børn i Afrika · Børn uden Grænser · Børne- og Ungdomspædagogernes Landsforbund (BUPL) · Børnenes Liv · C&C Hjelpeprogrammer · Care For Others · Care4people · Carrot Aid · Center for European Citizens' Democracy · Center for Konfliktløsning · Center for Voldsforskyggelse · Children of Somalia · Chin Community In Denmark (CCDK) · Christian Mercy Denmark · CISED · Civil Connections Community Foundation (CCCF) · Colombia Solidaritet · Conducive Space for Peace · Congos Børn · Cross Cultures Project Association(CCPA) · Crossing Borders · Cwero Ungdom for Udvikling Forening, Danmark/Uganda (CUUF) · Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) · Danish Minorities' Center for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD) · Danish Muslim Aid · Danish Relief Group - Nødhjælpsdepotet · Danish-Belarusian BELADANIA CULTURE SOCIETY · Danmarks Lærerforening · Danmission · Danner · Dansk Afghanistan Komite · Dansk Blindesamfund · Dansk Congolesisk Forening (DCF) · Dansk Folkehjælp - DFH · Dansk Handicap Forbund · Dansk International Bosætningsservice (DIB) · Dansk Kulturinstitut · Dansk Mongolsk Selskab · Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (DOF) · Dansk Socialrådgiverforening · Dansk Støtte til Ukraine · Dansk Vietnamesisk Forening · Dansk Zoologisk Selskab · Danske Baptisters Kvindenetværk · Dansk-International Nødhjælp · Dansk-tanzaniansk Netværk for Undervisning · Dansk-Ugandisk Venskabsforening · Dansomala forening · DareGender · Demokrati i Europa, Oplysningsforbund (DEO) · Den Danske Helsinki-Komité for Menneskerettigheder · Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) · Det Danske Afrika Selskab · Det Konservative Folkeparti · Det Somaliske Fællesråd · Development & Sustainability Initiatives (DSI Denmark) · DFUNK (Dansk Flygtningehjælp Ungdom) · DGI Midtjylland · Dialogos · DIGNITY - Dansk Institut Mod Tortur · Dreamtown · DUI - Leg og Virke · DUI Leg og Virke Aalborg · Dunia ya Watoto · Educate Bali · Education Development Tanzania · eKids-Kilifi · Emergency Architecture & Human Rights (EAHR) · Emotions Foundation · Ethos · Etnografisk Formidlingsfællesskab · Europabevægelsen · Fair Trade Danmark · Farmaceuter uden Grænser · Female Freedom · Feminenza Danmark · Flygtningebørn.dk · FN-Forbundet · FOA - Fag og Arbejde · Folkekirkens Nødhjælp · For a new tomorrow (FANT) · Foreningen Det Sociale Netværk · Foreningen Livsberigende Kommunikation (LIVKOM) · Foreningen Read4Free · Fremtid og Håb · Friluftsrådet · Fødder & Rødder · Gambias Venner · GAME · Games (Gambia Media Support) · Ghana Biblioteksvenner · Ghana Venskab · Global Aktion - Mennesker & miljø før profit · Global Care Danmark · Global Hope Denmark · Global South Collective · Go Zebra · GoKenyaChange · GURYASAMO · Gymnasieskolernes Lærerforening · Hadsten Hawks · Handball That Impacts · Hazara-Dansk Forbund · Heritage International · Himalayan Project · Hope Danmark · Hornbæk IF-Barass Sports Centre - venskabsklub · Hovedstadens Basketball Fællesskab · ICOEPH – DASAM (Dansk Selskab for Miljø- og Arbejdsmedicin) · Ifin Organisation · IGF Danmark · iiINTERest · IMCC (International Medical Cooperation Committee) · Ingeniører uden Grænser (IUG) · Initiativgruppen Esbjerg · Integrated Danish Scholarship Programme (IDS) · Integrationsrådet i Aarhus Kommune · International Aid Services (IAS) · International Børnesolidaritet · International Kontakt · IWGIA · Jysk landsbyudvikling i Nepal · KFUM og KFUK i Danmark · KFUM-Spejderne · Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste · Kolektiva · Kooperationen · Kræftens Bekæmpelse · Kulturforeningen Meigart · Kvindernes U-landsudvalg (KULU) · Kvinderådet · Lake Natron Maasai Support · Land of Hope · Landsforeningen for Økosamfund · Landsforeningen Levende Hav · Lastivka - Ukrainian Organisation of Denmark · LGBT Asylum · LGBT+Danmark · LittleBigHelp · Livets Lys · Lost Farm · Lotus Buds · LoveSpring · Madagascars Venner · Fihavanana · MAF Danmark · Malteserridderernes Hospitalsorden · Det Danske Kommanderi Dagmar · Maritime Anti-Corruption Network · Maternity Foundation · Mejerifolk uden Grænser · Mellemamerika Komiteen (MAK) · Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke Actionaid · Mercy Ships-Danmark · Mi Cuerpo/Min Krop · Miljøbevægelsen NOAH · MiMundo · Mission Afrika · Mission10forty · MMCC Global · Moja – stitch for education · Morsø U-landsforening · MUNDU - Center for global dannelse · My African Child · Myanmar Action Group Denmark · MyMedia · Netværket for økologisk folkeoplysning og praksis · New Chess House · NGO Arushas Venner · Nordisk Folkecenter for Vedvarende Energi · Nunca Mas · Odense Aftenskole · Operation Dagsværk · Orangutang Fonden/Save the Orangutan · Organisationen for Fred og Udvikling i det Sydlige Somalia (OFUSS) · Oxfam Danmark · Pamodzi Denmark · Partners (Frederiksberg Integrations Forening) · People & Planet · Periamma · Permakultur Denmark · PlanBørnefonden · Plant et træ i Himalaya · Preferred by Nature (NEPCon) · Problemknuserne · Projekt Ulandshjælp til Selvhjælp · Promissio · PUGAD · Pushkar Children Trust · Radio Mælkebøtten · RAISE - Research & Action for Income Security · Rajo Organisation · Rapolitics · RAW - Rights for All Women · Rebuild Aid Foreningen · Redder Af Verden · Rising Hope · Roble Charity DK · Røde Kors i Danmark · Røgen Borgerforening · Rådet for International Konfliktløsning (RIKO) · S/he Denmark · Sankt Vincent Grupperne · Saving Rivers and Lakes · SDD-Somali Danish Diaspora · SDG WORLD · Senior Hearts for Kenya · Seniorer uden Grænser · Sex & Samfund · ShelterBox Danmark · SILBA - Initiative for Dialogue and Democracy · SIND Landsforeningen for psykisk sundhed · Skillz · Skoleliv i Nepal · Skovby Sportsklub · Socialdemokratiet · Somali Rehabilitation and Development Association "SORADA" · Somali Youth For Youth · Somalisk Forening for Genopbygning (OFROSOM) · Soroptimist Internat. Danmark · Soroptimist International, klub København · SOS Børnebyerne · Spedalskedsmissionen (TLM DK) · SPOR MEDIA · SRNF · Stairway Danmark · Street Society · Støtteforeningen Det Danske Hus i Palæstina · Støtteforeningen til Projekt Nenkash Educational Center · Støtteforeningen til Selvhjælp i Uganda · Støttegruppe for Sheromeda Football Project · Sustainable Aid · Sustainable Education For Uganda (SEFU) · Svalerne · Tandsundhed Uden Grænser · Tanzibarn · Terre des hommes, Danmark · TES Skolen i Afrika · The African Footprint Foundation · Togo Esome · Tostan Danmark · TRIANGLEN · Ubumi Prisons Initiative · Udviklingsamarbejde for bæredygtig udvikling (UBU) · Ulandshjælp Fra Folk til Folk · Humana People to People · Ungdommens Røde Kors · Ungdomsbyen på Global Platform · VedvarendeEnergi · Venner af Belarus i Danmark · Talaka · Venner for Livet Børn og Unges Forening · Venskabsforeningen Danmark-Bhutan · Venskabsforeningen Danmark-Burkina Faso · Verdens Børn - International Børnehjælp · Verdens Skove · Viva Danmark · VVC Skolen For Voksne · WAWCAS International · WAY (Women and Youth) Empowerment · Wycliffe Danmark · Yasally Charity Organisation · Youth for Development Denmark (YFDD) · Zoologisk Have København · Økologisk Landsforening · Østafrikas Venner