DONOR INTELLIGENCE

Denmark MFA / Danida: funding and application reference

Last updated 2026-11-19 | Version 1

Scope: Denmark - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Danida

Evidence: Official donor references reviewed 2026-11-19

https://salientone.eu/humanitarian/donors/denmark/

Funding perspective

Salient One analysis

Denmark runs two relevant routes: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Calls for Proposals, and the CISU-managed Danish Emergency Relief Fund for Danish CSOs without a strategic humanitarian partnership. A CfP can be one- or two-stage and its information note carries the binding requirements. DERF is a rapid, localised mechanism with its own formats, budget guide and audit trail. The routes are not interchangeable; eligibility and management differ.

Funding routes and access

Danida Call for Proposals. Access: Open to organisations meeting the specific call's requirements; one- or two-stage. Purpose: A project proposal against the call's objective and criteria.

DERF Rapid Response. Access: Danish CSOs without a strategic humanitarian partnership, through local partners. Purpose: Rapid life-saving response to an acute crisis.

DERF Early Action. Access: Same DERF eligibility; anticipatory window. Purpose: Action in anticipation of a humanitarian crisis.

Global priorities

Calls for Proposals are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' open grant route: organisations propose projects against the call's objective and criteria. All grants offered as open CfPs are published on the page.

Three channels. Danish development assistance runs through multilateral, bilateral and civil-society channels, each with its own guidelines. The civil-society channel covers strategic partnerships, pooled or delegated funding and grants.

DERF purpose. DERF provides flexible, rapid funding to save lives and prevent further escalation of suffering, supporting Danish civil society organisations' humanitarian interventions through local partners or their own organisation.

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Eligibility and partner access

Each CfP sets the specific requirements and criteria. Applicants must read the call and the attached information note; failure to meet the published requirements leads to rejection.

DERF eligibility. DERF supports Danish civil society organisations that do not have a strategic humanitarian partnership with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working through local or national partner CSOs and/or their own organisation. Countries must be on the OECD/DAC list of eligible recipients.

Two modalities. DERF funds Rapid Response to an acute crisis and Early Action in anticipation of a crisis. The modality determines the timing and the evidence expected.

Application process

One- or two-stage CfP. In a one-stage procedure applicants submit a full project proposal with the required annexes. In a two-stage procedure a concept note is assessed first and selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.

DERF application. DERF applications are submitted through CISU's online platform using the DERF application formats and budget guide, with the organisation's annual accounts.

Assessment and decision. The call or DERF guidance sets the assessment and decision route. A CfP is time-bound; DERF responds to calls and alerts rather than a single annual round.

Documents and attachments

CfP package. The call and its information note define the proposal or concept note, the annexes and the submission route. Read them together; the note carries requirements that are not in the headline notice.

DERF package. DERF publishes application formats and a cover page, a budget format and budget guide, disbursement and adjustment requests, and final report and accounts templates.

Institutional evidence. The DERF package includes annual accounts and audit arrangements. The applicable call or DERF guidance determines what is required at application and at report stage.

Funding cycles and timing

CfP timing. The page lists active and expired Calls for Proposals. Deadlines, requirements and criteria are in each call and its information note; an expired call is not a current window.

DERF timing. DERF operates through calls and alerts with assessment periods rather than one annual deadline. Rapid Response and Early Action have different decision needs.

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Programme design and donor methods

The Aid Management Guidelines are the reference for Danida policies, guidelines and tools, including the civil-society channel. They do not replace the specific call or agreement.

DERF management. DERF is managed by CISU in a consortium with Save the Children Denmark. It supports localised response and particularly vulnerable groups, including refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Assessment and scoring

CfP proposals are assessed against the call's published criteria. The information note and the call carry the requirements; non-compliance leads to rejection.

DERF assessment follows the DERF guidelines. The public pages do not publish a weighted scoring grid, so the call guidance and the grant manager's assessment govern.

Financing and delivery conditions

CfP grants. The call and information note set the grant purpose, budget rules and co-financing or contribution conditions. Do not transfer amounts from another Danish call.

DERF grants. DERF provides flexible, rapid funding within its published formats and budget guide; the maximum and modality are set in the current DERF guidance.

What this means for applicants

Salient One analysis

Choose the route before drafting. A Danida CfP and DERF are different instruments with different managers and eligibility. Confirm the route before committing to a concept, budget or partner structure.

DERF rewards localised access. The mechanism is built for Danish CSOs to respond through local or national partners or their own presence. Show the access and delivery role, not only the humanitarian need.

Scope and applicability

Danida Calls for Proposals and DERF are separate routes with separate managers and eligibility. A CfP page is not an open window until the specific call and deadline are current. DERF is limited to Danish CSOs without a strategic humanitarian partnership with the Ministry.

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Sources and evidence notes

Danida Calls for Proposals

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. Open and expired CfPs, one- and two-stage procedures, and the requirement to read the information note.

Used for: Funding routes and access; Global priorities; Eligibility and partner access; Application process; Documents and attachments; Funding cycles and timing; Assessment and scoring; Financing and delivery conditions; What this means for applicants

https://um.dk/danida/calls-for-proposals

Danida Aid Management Guidelines

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. Policies, guidelines and tools for Danish development assistance, including the civil-society channel.

Used for: Global priorities; Programme design and donor methods

https://um.dk/amg/en/

CISU: Danish Emergency Relief Fund

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. DERF purpose, eligibility, rapid response and early action modalities.

Used for: Funding routes and access; Global priorities; Eligibility and partner access; Application process; Funding cycles and timing; Programme design and donor methods; What this means for applicants

https://cisu.dk/en/funding/derf-danish-emergency-relief-fund/

CISU: DERF guidelines and formats

Reference edition 2026-11-19

Reviewed 19 November 2026. Application formats, budget guide, online submission, reporting and audit.

Used for: Application process; Documents and attachments; Assessment and scoring; Financing and delivery conditions

https://cisu.dk/en/funding/derf-danish-emergency-relief-fund/guidelines-and-formats-for-the-derf/

Salient One analysis is editorial interpretation of the official references. Current calls, amendments and signed agreements determine binding requirements. A donor strategy or historical procedure does not establish an open funding opportunity.