

**ACTIONAID
DENMARK**

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

**THE THIRD
YEAR IN A 'DECADE
OF ACTIVISM'**

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE** **actionaid**

2025

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is organised around Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke – ActionAid Denmark’s (MS) core strategic goals from our five-year strategy: A Decade of Activism. The report shares key figures on our work both nationally and internationally, and shares stories from 2025 related to Active Citizenship & Anti-Discrimination, Climate Justice, and Social Movements & Activism. More details, results, and reports of our programmes and campaigns can be found on our homepage ms.dk.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA
ActionAid

MS / AADK
Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke / ActionAid Denmark

TCDC
Training Centre for Development Cooperation - A Pan-African center in Arusha, Tanzania, founded by MS under a Denmark–Tanzania agreement. Offers capacity development in democratic governance, human rights, leadership, gender equality, youth participation, and climate governance

CSO
Civil Society Organisation

HRD
Human Rights Defender

DANIDA
Danish International Development Agency

SPA
Strategic Partnership Agreement - A formal collaboration promoting sustainable development and international cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NCSF
Nordic Centre for Sustainable Finance

NYP
National Youth Programme

REPORT

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FOREWORD



**HAIFAA AWAD, Chairwoman of
Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke - ActionAid**

If you have ever visited our headquarters in Copenhagen, you may have noticed the many quotes written across the walls. Some you pass by without thinking. Others stay with you. One that often takes my attention is by Helen Keller; *'Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it.'* The quote comes from her essay titled Optimism. But there is something almost ironic about that, because the world we are facing right now is not an easy one in which to feel optimism.

Across the world, democracy is under pressure. Civic space is shrinking. Repression is rising. Trust in institutions is fading. The right to organise, to speak freely, and to defend human rights is increasingly met with surveillance, violence, or silence. Alongside all this, global development funding is disappearing, and it can feel like our resources to create action are escaping us. In such a moment, optimism can be difficult to find. This is why we look instead for hope as we reflect on 2025.

As Václav Havel wisely wrote, hope is not about believing that things will turn out well. It is about knowing that something is worth doing, regardless of how it turns out. That distinction matters. This report is not a testimony about things that changed by chance or by themselves. It is an insight into the stories and the work of people who insist on making things better. Our incredible people who organise, who speak up, who take risks, who guide, and who act. This report is built around the kind of hope that is ignited through the real actions of strong people, not simply optimism.

2025 showed us many reasons to feel this hope, reminding us of how far our network of allies, partners, and movements can reach. In April, the 'People Power Conference' we hosted brought together nearly 300 activists, government officials, NGO representatives, and other supporters united by a common goal to confront crisis and repression. Creating this platform of solidarity and shared learning gave us three important reminders: that we have a strong collective voice, that we have the power to amplify it, and that we can create the spark to demand systemic change.

This report tells the stories of that People Power. In Vollsmose, we see the impact that youth engagement can have in reshaping local democracy around the municipal elections. In Zambia, young feminist leaders were put in positions of power for constitutional reform. In Aarhus, our workspace continued to be a hub of community engagement and advocacy in a city that comes alive in the name of hope and activism.

Every year, we further understand that democracy is built by bold and hopeful people, and that justice can be achieved when we mobilise and create spaces that foster action. We will hear from our Social Movements team, who provide direct support and protection for the most vulnerable activists. Our Climate Justice campaign that forced one of the largest Nordic banks to change course, is alone a huge source of inspiration for what we can achieve in just one year.

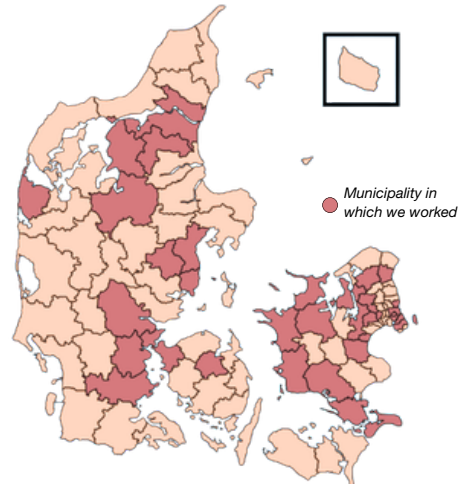
That is what this report stands for. In a world that gives us many reasons to withdraw, the people and movements we work with choose to stand up. Denmark continues to matter as a hub for strong civil society, with a renewed sense of global solidarity after recent public mobilisation for Greenland. This reminds us that even under pressure, we can find the power to act. When young people organise, when feminist movements make their way into decision-making spaces, when climate activists come together to strategise, we build and renew democracy from the ground up. That is the fire for hope we take with us for the next, eventful year.

April 2026.

OUR WORK, AT A GLANCE

WHERE WE WORKED:

MS' work went far, both nationally and on a global scale through our international partnerships.

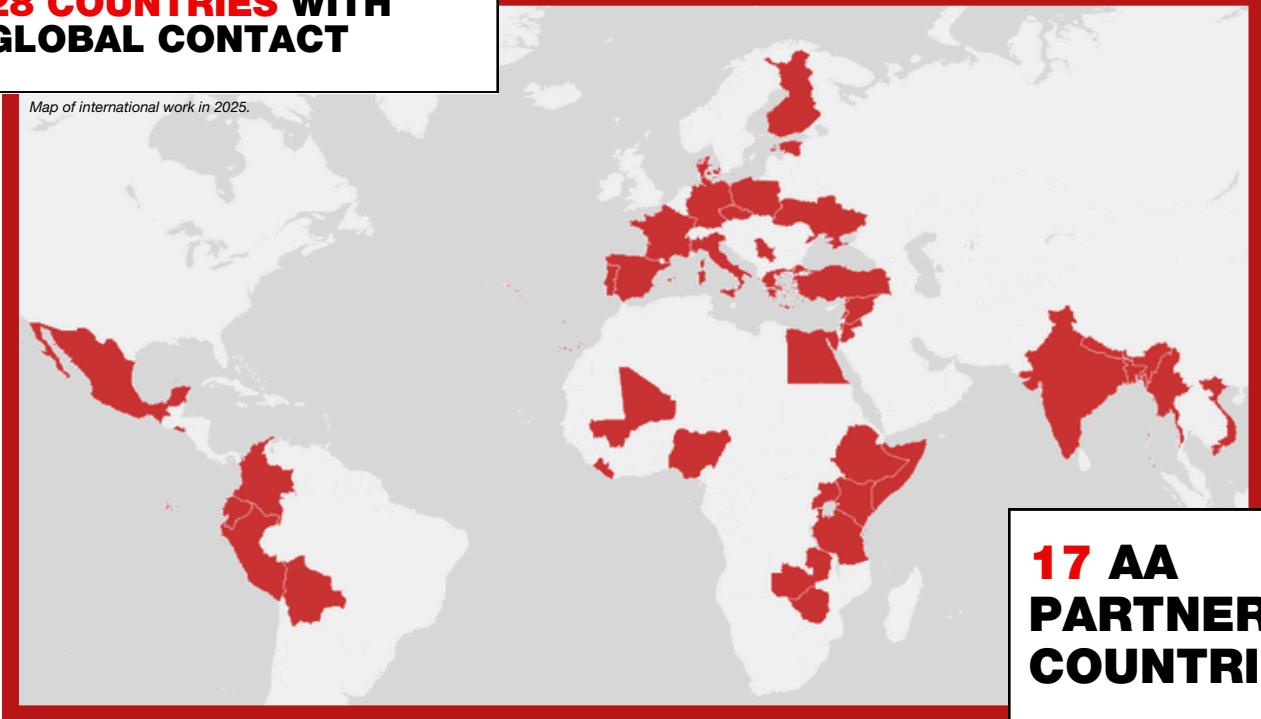


DIRECT ENGAGEMENT IN DENMARK

As shown on the map, our work in National Youth Engagement and Global Contact reached 33 municipalities across Denmark, through outreach **Workshops** and **Events**. We also worked with plenty more groups that visited Copenhagen for training.

VOLUNTEERS SENT TO 28 COUNTRIES WITH GLOBAL CONTACT

Map of international work in 2025.



17 AA PARTNER COUNTRIES

WHO WE REACHED:

These figures reflect national engagement through MS members and SoMe influence.

TOTAL REACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
20.002.500

Reach	2025	2024	2023
Members	16.334	16.398	16.969
Financial Supporters	21.145	33.356	36.193
Signups	63.911	59.588	199.628
Social Media Followers	161.216	144.142	135.000
Participants in Events	48.913	17.864	16.834

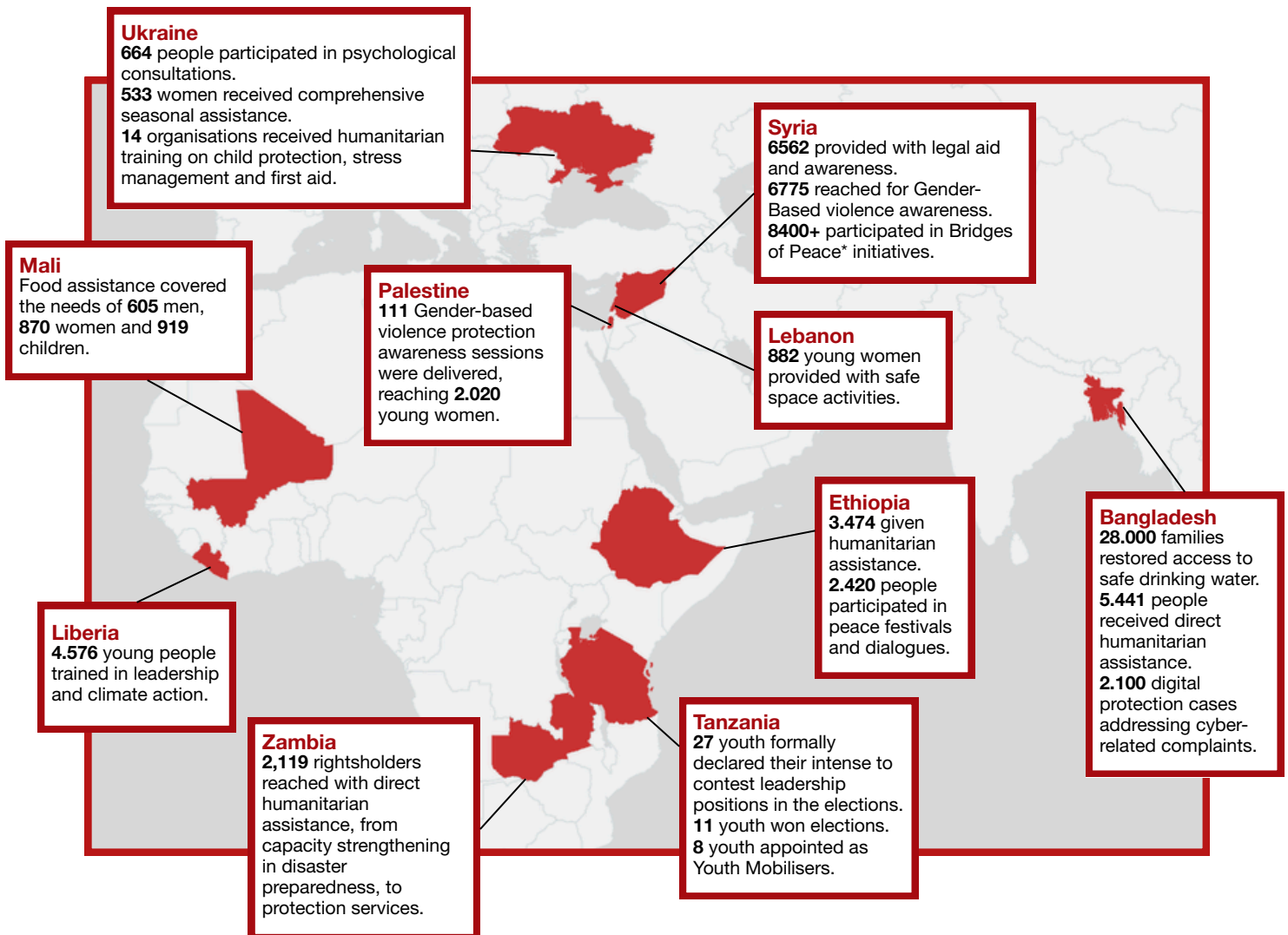
GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT WE ACHIEVED:

These results reflect outcomes from MS' international work under SPA, in partnership with 17 ActionAid partners, 6 MS programming units and dozens of other partners, movements, networks, and alliances. A few key indicators have been highlighted however complete details about our international results will be presented in the Strategic Partnership Agreement annual report at the end of June*.

Global Reach	2025	2024	2023
Campaign Reach	34.362.310	17.684.901	22.835.278
Humanitarian Outreach	199.692	385.671	111.336
Policy Changes	107	124	57

**Previous and future SPA reports can be found [here](#).*



* "Bridges of Peace" refers to peacebuilding outcomes achieved through youth-led civic action, dialogue, and community initiatives in Syria (SPAII), rather than a single implementing organisation

“PEOPLE POWER”

People Power is at the heart of MS’ approach. In 2025, we continued to invest in young people and social movements as political actors in their own right – both in Denmark and across the world. The following data reflects international engagement in partner countries, where we strengthened youth leadership and built collective action.

Youth Engagement	2025	2024	2023
Youth Trained	72.177	98.222	45.308
Youth elected to decision-making positions	3.775	10.038	4.300
Youth taking action on common causes	180.064	56.206	56.381
Youth activity attendance	204.577	200.145	164.441

The year was jam-packed with events intended to mobilise, inspire and unify the public. Some highlights were the People Power Conference in April, our Climate Justice Academy in June and our Peace March for Palestine in November.

2025 PEOPLE POWER CONFERENCE

In April 2025, MS hosted its second ‘**People Power Conference**,’ gathering social movement leaders, government representatives, academics and civil society stakeholders from around the world to amplify the impact of social movements. The conference was a great success and there will surely be more to come!



2025 People Power Conference

CLIMATE IMPACT

During the **Global Week on Climate Action 2025**, we mobilised more than 620,000 young people across countries, through grassroots action and digital engagement. Alongside our **VerdensKlasse** trainings, this created a unified call for climate justice, amplifying Danish and international youth voices and increasing pressure on decision-makers.

The 4th edition of the **Climate Justice Academy** brought together 17 young climate activists from Denmark and partner countries in June, at MS-TCDC in Tanzania. The Academy equipped participants with new tools and methodologies and provided seed funding for select projects to be implemented throughout 2025.

Our **Nordic Centre for Sustainable Finance** fights for climate justice by mapping financial institutions and their investments in coal, oil, and gas companies. They made a real impact in 2025, and we will get into their heroic work later!

2025 ESG REPORT

MS are committed to addressing the climate crisis and its structural drivers throughout our work, whilst also taking responsibility of our own organisational footprint. Our Environment, Social, Governance report explores the organisation’s composition and actions through a set of key indicators and lays the foundation for areas in which we want to improve in the future. You can read more in the report, linked on the website: [ESG Report 2025](#).

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

All of our work shares a common thread through our 2023-2027 strategy, which outlines how MS contributes to long-term democratic and systemic change through people-powered action. In 2025 we worked to enact political changes through **three main goals**:

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Democracy only works when everyone has a voice. MS supports young people and marginalised groups to organise, claim rights and influence decision making through active citizenship. The common goal of our global, national, and local work is to create open democratic spaces with inclusion for all.

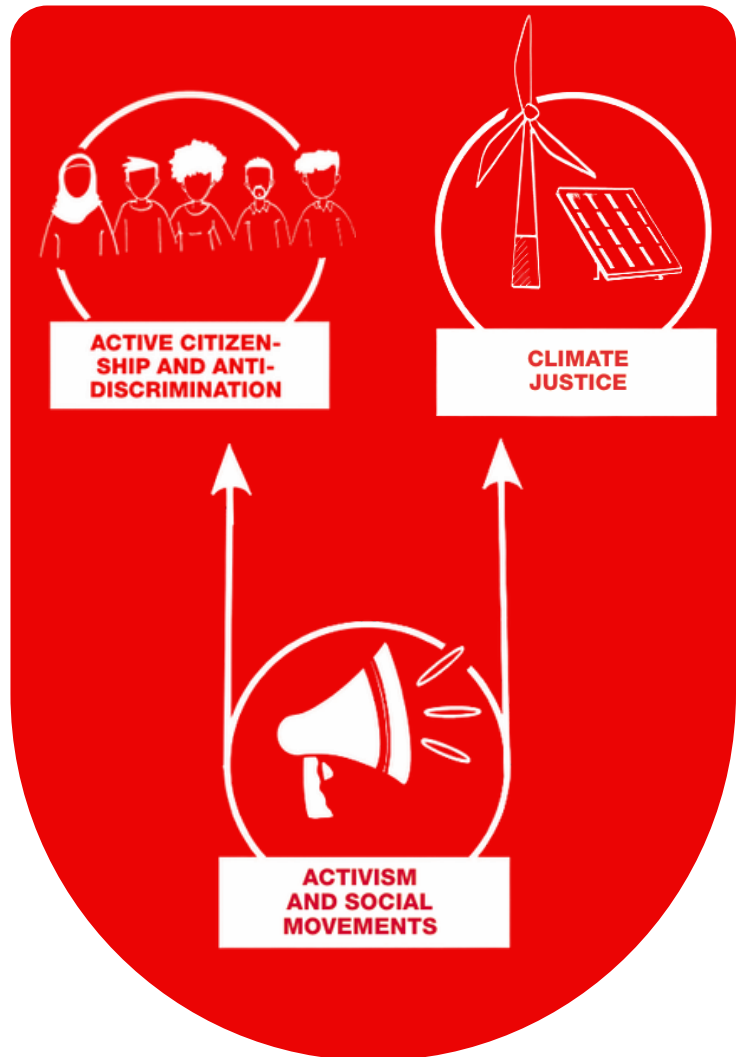
CLIMATE JUSTICE

The climate crisis is not only an environmental challenge, but also an issue of justice and power. MS works to spread this understanding, whilst challenging the systems that continue to fuel climate destruction and financing the sustainable transition. We build and support strong coalitions for change, and youth-led models for a just transition.

ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Social movements are essential drivers of democratic and social change, necessary to tackle causes such as climate justice and anti-discrimination. Our work prioritises supporting activists, and strengthening movements' abilities to organise, influence and sustain themselves with strong networks and strategic tools.

This report will now share some of our highlights from 2025, through people's stories that have guided our work and spoken true to our strategy.



FROM MARGINS TO MANDATE

YOUNG VOICES RESHAPING LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN VOLLSMOSE, ODENSE

In 2025, MS' National Youth Programme (NYP) have been working hard to engage local democracy all over Denmark. However, one story stuck out the most – the core volunteers of the Vollsmose Youth Community (Vollsmose Ungefællesskab) that we support. Last year, they went on a journey from being a small group of engaged young people to a respected, visible, and trusted actor that creates spaces for youth participation, democratic engagement and local ownership.

A LOCAL MODEL OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Vollsmose is an area that has historically experienced low voter turnout and limited trust in political institutions. Now, **this is changing**, thanks to the efforts Vollsmose Youth Community have made to focus on democratic engagement. Their empowering work has managed to shift both **who** participates and **how** participation takes place. Rather than viewing young people as a “target group,” our collaboration has positioned them as independent democratic actors with legitimacy and responsibility.

By working with local youth centres, high schools and politicians, these young activists made their mark. First, they built support: recruiting new members and then throughout the year becoming recognised as a bridge between youth, local institutions, and political decision makers. They wielded this new power to organise impactful democratic activities and events year-round.



The Vollsmose Youth Community at the 2025 Odense Youth Conference

FROM MARGINS TO MANDATE

A large part of **Odense's annual Youth Initiative Day**, the group helped organise a conference for 100 people that focused on how to use your voice to create change. Stepping away from simply formal politics, they harnessed creative and community-based forms of engagement, from storytelling and public dialogue, to organising online and sharing memes!

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The culmination of the year was their dedicated engagement around the lead up to the 2025 municipal election. Through targeted training in methods of organising, and increased knowledge about local democracy and elections, the young volunteers designed and executed a wide range of election-related activities:

- Information Meetings for local residents.
- Outreach at local high schools.
- Meetings with national-level decision makers, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- A large election event for 100 young people, with an alternative debate format where participants were “match-made” with political candidates.
- Street-level engagement on election day, encouraging people – especially first-time voters – to vote.

All of these activities were planned and carried out by the young volunteers themselves, and support from MS was focused on the safety and quality assurance of the programmes rather than creative control.

AN IMPACT ON DANISH DEMOCRACY

Our work with the Vollsmose Youth community has made an impact in two major ways:

1 The young people reached gained more **confidence** in using their voice, a stronger sense of belonging to their local community, and a clearer sense that political participation is something “people like them” can take part in. The group itself has grown stronger, more diverse, and more sustainable as a youth-led community.

2 This youth mobilisation contributed to a **much larger voter turnout** in Vollsmose. Turnout in the municipal election went from 43.5% (2021) to 51.5% (2025). The visibility and reach of young volunteers undoubtedly played an important role in this huge **eight percent point** increase, by normalising participation and reminding residents that their vote matters.

In 2025, The Vollsmose Youth Community have proven to all that young people from marginalised areas are not disengaged or apathetic to democracy. When voices are heard, and they are supported to lead, democracy is strengthened for everyone.

RUTH KANGWA: A VOICE FOR YOUTH IN ZAMBIA

HOW LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN YOUNG ACTIVISTS CAN HELP CHANGE WHO SHAPES DEMOCRACY

On October 2nd, 2025, a young female activist took her seat at an influential table in Zambian politics. Ruth Kangwa, former social movement Leader for Girls Gone Political, was sworn in as one of the 25 members of the Technical Committee, tasked with consulting the public and drafting amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia. MS have supported Girls Gone Political through Action Aid Zambia with fundraising from SPA II, building leadership development, policy literacy, and strategic engagement skills among youth feminist activists, including Ruth.

Her appointment was a huge milestone in demonstrating the work MS has done internationally for representation and participation. After our continued calls, advocacy and lobbying to have young people occupy decision-making positions, Ruth's story proves that people power can change everything.

“WE ARE A GENERATION BORN FOR A TIME LIKE THIS...”

**“...CALLED TO STAND AT THE INTERSECTION OF COURAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY”
- RUTH KANGWA**

A DIFFERENT PATH TO POWER

Ruth's journey from Youth Parliament and social movements, to constitutional reform, reminds us that investing in Youth Leadership does yield transformative results. Changing governance starts with changing the people who shape it, and when young people are armed with information, mentorship, and ethical direction, they don't just sit at the table, they upend it.

For a long time, Zambia's political and constitutional reform processes have been dominated by older, male elites, with young women systemically excluded from meaningful constitutional making spaces. Until recently, youth participation was largely symbolic, and women's representation remained below regional and global commitments.

However, advocacy work over the years for youth and female leadership in Zambia has changed public perspectives and discourses, allowing bright examples such as Ruth to earn their way into change-making positions.

RUTH KANGWA: A VOICE FOR YOUTH IN ZAMBIA

HOW WE ENACT CHANGE

Ruth's appointment was enabled both by her own incredible work, and through years of efforts to strengthen youth movements as legitimate political actors. Alongside our partners, we have been supporting youth-led and feminist advocacy that challenges the exclusion of young people in democratic spaces.

The resources mobilised through MS' programmes and Global Platform Zambia helped to unlock learning opportunities that have been crucial in **changing this narrative**. In 2025 our team were able to coordinate:

- Targeted capacity strengthening
- Youth Mentorship
- Safe spaces for learning and organising
- Strategy advocacy and coalition-building

Thanks to these collective actions and a shift in the narrative, the state has increasingly recognised youth led movements as legitimate contributors to national policy. Ruth's appointment especially represents a **turning point** in institutionalising youth and feminist leadership within Zambia's constitutional reform process.

NOW WHAT?

Ruth's achievement has inspired and reminded us all that narrative shifts and democratic renewal is possible, when we work hard to invest in **active citizenship and representation**. Her story reflects our core strategic belief, that democracy is strengthened when **power is redistributed** – meaning when those most excluded from decision-making gain real influence over the legal systems that govern them. We can't wait to see where Ruth ends up; undoubtedly her new position will help her to continue strengthening Zambian democracy for the next generation!



Ruth Kangwa is sworn in as a constitutional review technical committee member.

THIS YEAR, WE MADE THE TABLES TURN

NOW IT IS NORDEA'S CEO CHASING US...

In January 2025, MS' Senior advisor **Katrine Ehnhuus** from the **Nordic Center for Sustainable Finance** stepped onto a stage that few get the chance to speak at. For years, Katrine has been working to push Denmark's major banks to phase out their fossil fuel financing. But in 2025, she took on a giant: the largest bank in the Nordics and one of the largest globally, **Nordea**. Despite claiming that sustainability is at the "core of their strategy," they lend billions to some of the world's most polluting companies and have watered down their rules for investing in fossil fuel companies. But Katrine was determined to hold them accountable.

KATRINE'S SPEECH

After several months of one media story after the other uncovering Nordea's climate betrayal, Katrine went to Nordea's Annual General Meeting in Helsinki. At the event, Katrine was asked to shorten her address, keeping it polite, and keeping it comfortable. **Katrine declined.**

As she took to the podium, she stood her ground and gave a strong 10-minute speech that personally addressed Nordea's CEO Frank Vang-Jensen, embodying MS' values of courage, and daring to do what is right. Katrine reminded the room of the worsening injustices caused by the climate crisis and challenged Nordea's promotional campaign to "use its size and strength as a force for good."

Katrine points out that "a force for good would not finance AkerBP, TotalEnergies, ExxonMobile..." all companies engaged in expansions of oil and gas development. She reminded the room of the contradiction and hypocrisy in promoting their methane reduction efforts to distract from the enormous expansion plans of fossil fuels.

"A FORCE FOR GOOD WOULD NOT FINANCE AKERBP, TOTALENERGIES, EXXONMOBILE..."

She also reminded everyone that Nordea's competitors have already taken significant steps in restricting fossil fuel finance. Her message was clear:

NORDEA IS LAGGING BEHIND AND HAVE NO MORE EXCUSES

The room was quiet. Some attendees shifted uncomfortably in their seats. This was not the standard, polite AGM speech. This was a direct, evidence-based, demand for change.

THIS YEAR, WE MADE THE TABLES TURN

NOW IT IS NORDEA'S CEO CHASING US...

A CEO RUNNING UP THE STAIRS...

After the assembly adjourned, Katrine collected her notes and headed for the exit. At least, until met by CEO Frank Vang-Jensen who had jumped out of his chair on stage to chase her up the auditorium stairs, grabbing her shoulder to ask for the chance to speak to her one to one.

In the fifteen-minute conversation that followed, he acknowledged the seriousness of her address. While not ready to commit to a full end to their fossil fuel financing, he asked her what smaller step the bank could take now.

Katrine answered clearly:

NORDEA SHOULD STOP BUYING BONDS FROM OIL AND GAS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Bonds have become the primary tool through which fossil fuel companies raise capital. Cutting off this source of finance would strike directly at the heart of expansion plans. If we are to end fossil fuel expansion, it is key that we make banks commit to not buying these bonds. Having Nordea lead the way here would have huge value.



Katrine at the AGM

9 MONTHS LATER: THEY LISTENED

In Climate Justice campaigns, victories rarely come quickly. We expected the usual internal reviews, delays, and lengthy processes.

However, within 9 months, Nordea had made a public announcement: **Nordea would stop buying bonds from companies expanding in oil and gas production.** With that, Nordea became one of the first major banks in the world to take this step. It marked one of the most significant Nordic climate-finance shifts of the last few years.

This has been a huge win for the team and having such a major actor lead the way was a necessary step to climate justice. However, the work is not over. There is plenty of campaigning ahead for Katrine and the NCSF who are pushing for structural changes that will secure the financing needed for a green and just transition.

THE DEMOCRACY PHONE

SUPPORTING MOVEMENTS AT RISK

Defending democracy means being on call 24/7. For our team at MS behind the democracy phone, this defence is given by providing emergency support whenever the phone rings. When we interviewed one of our colleagues behind this crucial protection tool, we honestly didn't expect the stories told. The work they go through and facilitate is not only impressive, but touching, and with an incredible dedication to activism and social change.

Activists do not call to be told what to do – they call to be guided by resources, connections and risk evaluations.

"The main question we ask them is: Is there a more effective way to do this? And is there a safer way to do this? And we have a thousand tools to help them figure that out and a thousand ways to make it safer and more effective"

WHEN THE PHONE RINGS...

The other end of the line is never the same. It might be an activist whose colleague has just been arrested, a movement who discovered informants are sitting in their meetings, or a call for help because someone has disappeared or been beaten. There is no script for these calls – just the responsibility of being there, and finding a solution in the case of crisis.

"Most of my days is just talking to a thousand different people, rescheduling meetings with unorganised organisers and checking in, talking, sharing info, sharing articles, sharing our learning materials, asking people if they feel safe and if they're good, connecting them, vouching for others..."

AN EMERGENCY HOTLINE

MS' Democracy phone was set up in 2025 and is a 24/7 emergency hotline for activists and social movements at risk. Part of the MS' Social Movement support work, it is one of the many ways we protect and promote activism and international campaigns. But the phone is not designed to be a call centre or command line, its value is as an entry point into the wider ecosystem of support we have built.

That's why it matters to keep the phone's focus on democracy. Emergency response is only one part of the work: the real emphasis is on sustainable strategies, learning, and long-term movement survival.

WHAT WE SAW IN 2025

In many ways, 2025 marked a turning point for social movements. Global conditions for HRDs took a downfall, and around 43% of global development funding disappeared, leaving many more activists without protection or backing. As a result, **requests for emergency support rose by about 80% in 2025.**

Patterns of repression also intensified. Crackdowns became faster and more systematic. More and more, pressure on activists has emerged quickly with intense surveillance, arrests and violence. At the same time, the capacity to enforce consequences on global leaders for this repression is diminishing.

THE DEMOCRACY PHONE

Our team noted a deepening disillusionment among young activists, with many of them no longer holding faith that democracy can deliver meaningful change. The movements we support are therefore showing greater risk-willingness in preparing more uprisings, and more activism. But when you are responsible for protecting these movements, it is a huge challenge to encourage mobilisation whilst trying to ensure everyone's safety.

IN 2025 WE:

- **RECEIVED AROUND 400 REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT**
- **SPENT 5+ PERSONAL HOURS A WEEK ON THE PHONE**
- **SPENT 1,5 MILLION DKK ON ACTIVIST PROTECTION**

NOT A BAND AID

"It's important that we don't become a band-aid phone... if somebody gets hurt, and we put a band-aid on the wound and send them out there again, and then they get hurt by the exact same thing again."

In an increasingly scary world, the team made it clear that their goal is to enact long term stability and safety rather than acting simply as a "band-aid." One of their most crucial tasks in 2025 was establishing out of country safe houses for a range of groups working in the DRC. The houses mix activists from social movements that generally have nothing to do with each other, but can then facilitate them to build relationships with each other.

Everyone gets to learn more and expand their networks, which builds support in two ways: protecting activists physically, and strengthening social movement networks and communities. By allowing resilience to be built from within, they help to promote security that will outlast the safehouse and sustain movements for longer.

DENMARK, A SAFETY HUB

The Democracy Phone is based in Denmark and made possible by our strong civil society and cultural freedom. Of course, the safety granted by operating the service from Denmark is a huge factor. But, it also speaks to Denmark's culture of volunteering and ability to organise across class divides that can help advise on effective democracy.

"In '25, we became much better at figuring out what we can do and how much we can do for who."

As we go on, we keep learning how to find more sustainable ways to survive with the resources, time and mental headspaces available. It is crucial not to overpromise, to know boundaries and to know when we have helped enough.

In a time where global civil society and democracy are at risk, this work is essential to protect social movements and activists. Our incredible team have established a reliable network of partners that respond quickly and have integrity. By living with the values of doing what we say, and caring deeply about the support of our partners, we are confident the democracy phonenumber will stay connected for years to come.

A DAY AT MEJLGADE 53, AARHUS

One of the beating hearts of MS is our space at Mejlgade 53 in Aarhus. Our beloved colleague shares with us one day during a busy weekend, and a story of engagement with volunteers and a strong community.

THE DREAM OF A NEW CITY

On the last weekend of September, Mejlgade 53 is covered in red. Crimson sheets are strung over the yards, pink plastic curtains are hanging all over entrances, and doorways and gates with red lights are tinting the building in scarlet tones.

Early afternoon, Friday 26th of September, young people are congregating in the yard as the mayor of Aarhus is inaugurating Den Nye By (The New City). A utopian youth democracy project from 250 volunteers of over 70 different groups that have reimagined our buildings, meeting rooms, offices, and studios to create a microcosm of what they want to see in their city.

Reimagining the city as a soft body, to use the universe of poet Inger Christensen (1935-2007), means that the pathways around the buildings feel more like arteries, the stomach is our eatery, and the heart would be a space for art, workshops and much more. The red we fly is not just a metaphor for lifeblood but also for the passion that hundreds of volunteers pour into making a festival and celebrating the change we wish to make.

As the young people shuffle inside after the mayors' opening remarks, I make my way to our office space, the only room not taken over by the festival. Andreas and our food justice groups are mid-interview with Aarhus University, discussing the farmers markets they have set up in our yard. One Sunday a month we have a market day where small-scale farmers can sell directly to consumers, so you can buy your food

“A society can be so rocky”, as Inger Christensen wrote in 1969 “until someone starts building / a city as soft as a body”

from a local farm. Andreas waves at me through the office window and I turn to enter the stairs up to Café Mellefolk.

This Friday afternoon, the café is bustling and people are munching away on plant burgers and polenta fries. The spillover from the festival is visible, with artists and dressed up partygoers having cocktails for lunch while the volunteers in the bar are busy taking orders, steaming milk for cappuccinos, and pouring pints.

On the stage at the far end of the café a small group of alternative youngsters are examining wires, plugging in monitors and testing speakers. They are organising a fundraiser this weekend in the cafe where a handful of local punk bands play and all the participants are encouraged to donate to Mellefolkeligt Samvirkes' Gaza fundraiser. But, they are struggling to set it up because the Friday Pub quiz is also waiting to be set up for tonight, so they are all scrambling to get ready as the café gets more and more crowded.

As I exit the café, I meet a group of elderly activists who have just finished their choir practice. The 'Street Choir for Justice' are on their way down from our big event room on the top floor – they come and sing for all our demonstrations,

A DAY AT MEJLGADE 53, AARHUS

particularly every Saturday for the Palestine demonstrations. They are electric because they have been shown on Al Jazeera's coverage of a Palestine-related conference in Copenhagen. They huddle down the narrow stairs all wearing the choir's signature red hat. I proceed upstairs because after the choir has used it, it has been rented out to Palæstina Film Festival and will be screening 'Where the Olive

Trees Weep.' The director is coming to host a Q&A, so I want to double-check that all the equipment is there and working as intended. As I enter, the

room is quiet, but you can hear the humming from the festival in the yard. It has been renovated recently and now we have a shiny loft room of about 175m². You should visit it if you come by.

As I return to the stairs and pass the cafe I think of my favourite MS Aarhus event which is coming up this Sunday. **The big meeting.** Every month for the past 5 years we've had our monthly community meeting in the café, where anyone to do with MS Aarhus is invited: volunteers, activists, council and board members. Our 12 different activist groups present their work, we talk about what is going on in the organisation, have a Kahoot quiz and then share a big dinner.

Sometimes we even have a beer and a boogie. These meetings give us and the community a great deal of purpose, and people get to connect and get a sense of just how much work we do in Aarhus, from festival stewardship to farmers markets, social media training, anti-discrimination workshops and feminist leadership training.

I always leave those meetings with the feeling

that we have a strong community.



The courtyard at Mejlgade 53

In the yard, the lanterns, red coloured light bulbs,

and burgundy spotlights are on. People are rushing past each other to find a workshop or a concert. The air is mild and warm and the bar we sat up in the yard will eventually outsell the café as the party stays outdoors. During this weekend Mejlgade 53 came to life in an unexpected way. The festival, music, and film screenings were all a huge success. So much so that us, the organisers, used the event as an application to make Aarhus the European Youth Capital in 2029. Because we believe that if we act together, we can create the utopia we want, even if it is **creating a city soft, warm and living, like a human body.**

**You can read more about GP Aarhus in their 2025 Activity Report*

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2025, MS had a successful and productive year for our resource mobilisation and fundraising. Internationally, we participated in “Impact Week 2025”, Europe’s leading forum on impact investing and blended finance, bringing together investors, philanthropic organisations, development actors, and policy makers to explore innovative funding for sustainable solutions. For MS, attending this event offered an important opportunity to understand how these financing approaches can complement our programmes, especially those that are climate-related, inspire innovation in our work, and open possibilities to collaborate with new allies such as the private sector and foundations to advance climate justice, community-led action and programme strategies. Our participation signals that climate change is an issue that requires all-hands-on-deck for a massive transformation of finance flows.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

On the **international side**, the first half of 2025 was dominated by considerable shifts in the donor landscape and funding levels as Trump cut financing and others unfortunately decided to follow suit. This did cause some disturbance for MS, but towards the end of the year, important partnerships were made to progress work on democracy in Eastern Europe as well as youth work in Tanzania. In addition, very important emergency response funding came through from DANIDA for Gaza and Syria.

On the **national side**, partnerships continued to thrive for our work with both youth in Denmark and with financial institutions on climate. In addition, several important partnerships were made around our physical space between Fælledvej and Ravnsborggade. A strong vision that combines sustainability, climate action and activism is in the making and several donors recognised this in its initial stages in 2025.

BREAKDOWN OF HUMANITARIAN APPEALS

Region	Amount in DKK	%
Palestine	492.000	83%
Tanzania	19.000	3%
Syria	81.000	14%

PUBLIC DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

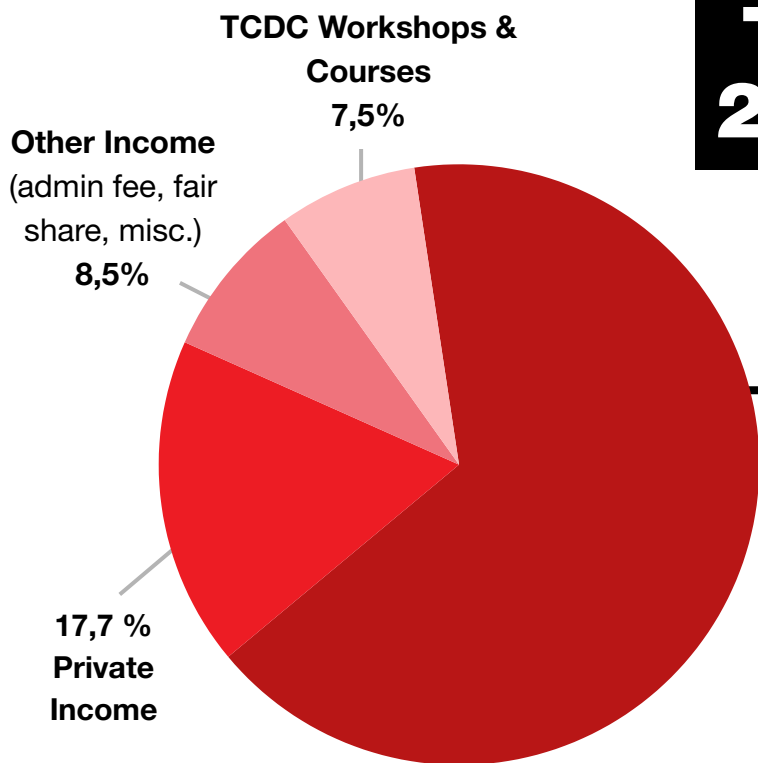
21.145 SUPPORTERS (SINGLE OR MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS)

16.334 MEMBERS

611.877 DKK IN HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

**TOTAL REVENUE:
269 MILLION DKK**

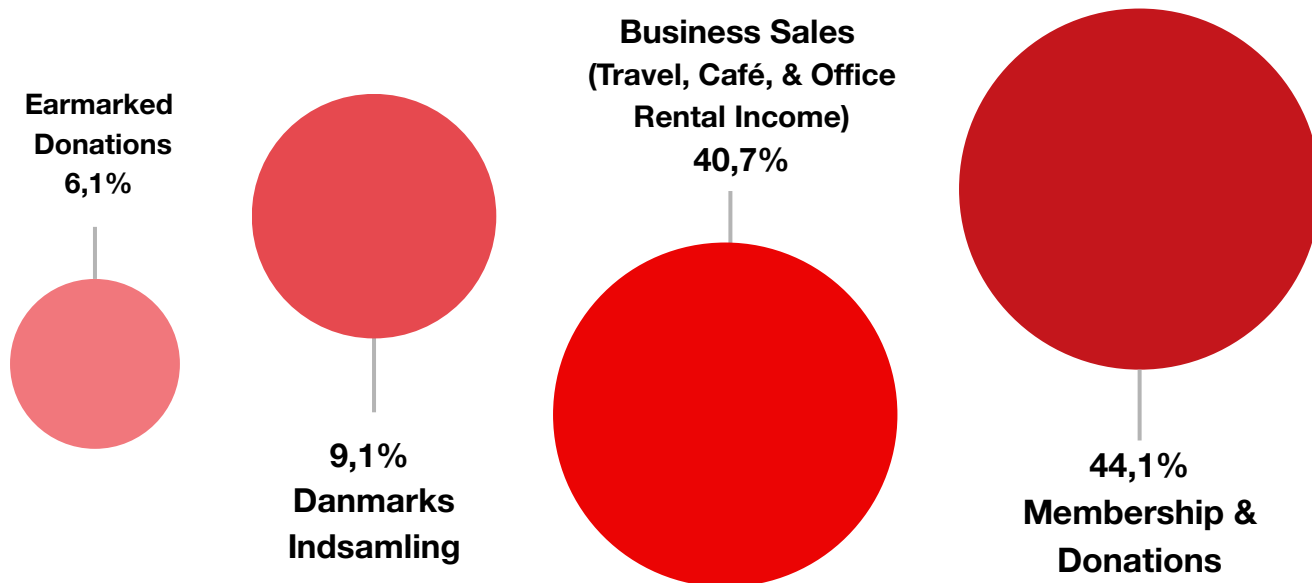


66,3% Institutions & Foundations

Source of Funding	Amount in DKK*	% total revenue
DANIDA	162 million	60%
Private Foundations	13 million	5%
EU	3 million	1%
Other Danish Public Institutions	1 million	0,4%

*Amounts on this page are rounded up to the nearest million DKK

PRIVATE INCOME: 48 MILLION DKK





Climate Justice Academy, 2025



Musik for Palæstina

Ulighed i verden. Det er problemet. Derfor bringer vi mennesker sammen for at skabe fællesskab og forandring. Sammen med ActionAid kæmper vi i 45 lande for at styrke menneskerettigheder og udrydde fattigdom.



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