



**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



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

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE** 

ABOUT THIS REPORT



This report is organized around Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke's five signature areas from our five-year strategy: A Decade of Activism, and provides key figures on our finances and results as well as stories from our work internationally and in Denmark. The report can be read together with the Rolling Political Plan, which provides annual goals and ambitions from our council. More details, results, and reports of our programs and campaigns can be found on our homepage ms.dk.

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FOREWORD



HAIFAA AWAD, CHAIRPERSON OF MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE

Looking back at 2023, we witnessed a world in crises. The climate crisis, the global democracy crisis and devastating wars and conflict all underlined the failure of the international system. However, glimpses of hope were also apparent in the power of people mobilizing for both climate, justice, equality and peace all over the world. Also, in the work of Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and our partners, we witnessed pockets of hope through the impact made at so many levels.

For me, 2023 is divided into a before and an after October 7th. Just as fiercely as we stand against the invasion and the blatant violations of international law in Ukraine, just as fiercely do we stand against them in Palestine. With the war in Gaza and the inhumane humanitarian crisis unfolding, I think of our Palestinian colleagues and partners whose lives have been shattered and I am in awe of the resilience they and the young people we work with in Palestine have. They continue trying to make a

difference around them whether through passing out dignity kits, building toilets or supporting the emergency response. At Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, we will continue to be an active voice in demanding ceasefire, the respect for international humanitarian law and for the Danish government to do much much more.

The time before October 7th was a busy one for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and the impact it resulted in was clear. Through research and targeted campaigns by our Nordic Center for Sustainable Finance, billions were shifted away from fossil fuels both by Danish pension funds and Danske Bank. Our co-citizenship work led to a significant rise in women voting in the Zimbabwean election,

a new youth community was created in Vollsrose by our National Youth Programme and our new citizenship campaign mobilized decision-makers, unions and young people to create better rules for obtaining citizenship in Denmark. In 2023, we also hosted the Copenhagen People Power Conference, urging actors to support social movements globally. This led to new partnerships, direct support for activists in danger and commitments from high-level officials at the UN and governments to support people power. Lastly, we supported Global Platform projects in Ukraine, Georgia, Romania, Poland and Moldova to strengthen youth led activism and organizing for free and inclusive societies in the face of invasion, human rights violations and democratic backsliding.

The first year of our strategy, “Decade of Activism”, has left me with a fierce belief in the impact that people can have when they come together. But it has also left me with a certainty that even more people power is needed to turn around the devastating crises of today.

Maj 2024

MS IN NUMBERS

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

REACH	2021	2022	2023
Members	16.095	15.886	16.969
Financial Supporters	29.955	33.575	36.193
Petition Signups	108.295	136.295	199.628
Social Media Followers	110.000	124.000	135.000

National Cluster Activities	2022	2023
People Trained	5.588	2.596
Partnerships, Network & Alliances	65	42
People participating in events	19.872	17.834
Visitors to MS.DK from SoMe	32.500	39.008



CASE STORY – CAMPAIGNING FOR CEASEFIRE

Since October 7th, MS approached the war in Gaza with a clear focus on human rights, international law, and humanitarian aid in order to protect civilians. We called for a ceasefire and the unhindered access of humanitarian aid into Gaza as attacks escalated and tens of thousands of civilians were killed as well as for the release of all the hostages.

Our work has spread across a wide range of activities. In 2023 we arranged two demonstrations in Copenhagen in collaboration with organizations like Amnesty International Denmark and Save The Children, which

resulted in thousands of people marching with us in the streets, and we supported the peaceful protests by social movements in Denmark calling for ceasefire. We had a significant presence in the media and on social media, and we found creative ways of underlining the need for a ceasefire, e.g., by projecting the words “Ceasefire Now” onto the facade of the Danish Parliament. The Danish public and our members showed great support for the work through signing our petitions and donating to our humanitarian work in Gaza. We arranged community events, such as a solidarity dinner at the Gaza Grill in Copenhagen, and very engaged people in the public also organized an overwhelming number of events to raise money for our humanitarian work in Gaza. Politically, we put significant pressure on the government to call for a ceasefire and do more to demand access of humanitarian aid. In collaboration with partners in Danish civil society pushing danish officials to demand respect for international law from Israel.

As the year drew to a close, the devastation in Gaza was severe and our work would be carried on into 2024. At this point we had managed to make our voices heard in the public debate, involving colleagues from all parts of MS, and in making strong partnerships with grassroots and civil society to continue the work going forward.

MS IN NUMBERS

GLOBAL RESULTS

These figures represent results from our international work made in partnership with 16 ActionAid partners, 6 MS programming units and dozens of partners, movements, networks, and alliances. The outputs of these partnerships range from new policies introduced at national assemblies to direct legal assistance for

those facing human rights abuses to alternative climate solutions. A few key indicators have been highlighted, however complete details about our international results will be presented in the Strategic Partnership Agreement annual report for the Danish Foreign Ministry once finalized at the end of June.



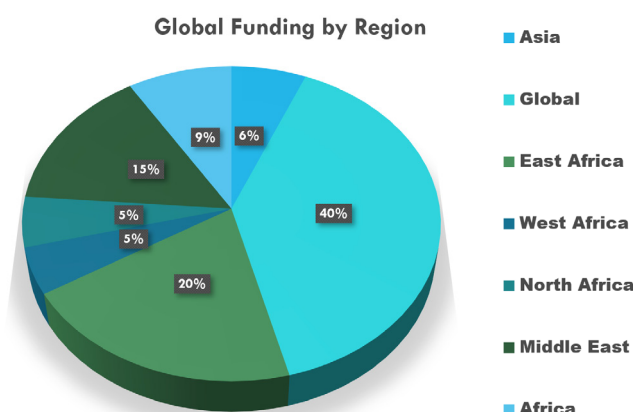
Overview	2022	2023
AA Partner Countries	15	16
Humanitarian	64.117	1.016.828
Campaign Reach	9.161.124	22.835.278
Policy Changes	41	57

Youth Engagement	2022	2023
Youth Trained	28.651	45.308
Youth Elected to Decision-Making Positions	690	4.300
Youth Taking Action on Common Cause	15.551	56.381
Youth Activity Attendance	109.431	164.441

MS IN NUMBERS

FINANCE & ORGANISATIONAL 2023 ANNUAL RESULTS

The result for 2023 is a net income of 0.278 million DKK. Our budget expected a better result, but we are pleased to come out with a positive result in a year with increased spending as a result of our growth strategy. Expanding as an organization always poses risks and we're pleased to see that the increased economic activity is not losing us money, and hopefully this will translate into greater net positive results in the coming years.



(all amounts in DKK 000)	Result	Result	Budget
Income	2023	2022	2023
Institutional funding	165,203	147,082	139,237
Donations, Collections, and other funding	40,064	41,836	38,615
Income generating activities	22,794	26,214	36,421
TCDC	22,276	21,813	16,660
Admin and other income	28,322	25,122	23,455
Income total	278,660	262,067	254,388
Expense			
Global program work	179,551	158,467	128,758
Work in Denmark	23,764	23,874	18,883
Expenses related to income generating activities	23,523	26,442	43,229
TCDC	22,241	21,790	15,453
Administration and management	16,983	18,990	32,816
Private fundraising	12,321	9,516	12,119
Expense total	278,382	259,079	251,258
Result	278	2,987	3,130

ESG OVERVIEW

As a civil-society organization, finances are not the bottom-line of our year-to-year operations. The Environment, Social, Governance report explores the organization'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 rapport 2023](#)

CLIMATE FINANCE

2023 was another year of highlighting the important issue of the damaging consequences of oil, gas, and fossil fuels investments. Our presence in this emerging field of finance activism was seen both in the streets with several demonstrations and activism campaigns, as well as in the Danish media landscape. We recorded 124 media hits on several of the largest media platforms spreading awareness and influencing the public discussion. We also organized a roundtable discussion held in Brussels, where we gathered investors, pension companies and

European trade bodies to exchange ideas to how pension savings can finance more green projects worldwide. In November 2023, MS organized a webinar on blended climate finance together with Eurodad. Speakers included investors and representatives of the European Commission and the European Development Finance Institution Association, and more than 150 people attended the webinar with attendees being a mix of CSOs, private sector, academics and civil servants.



CASE STORY – BILLIONS DIVESTED FROM FOSSIL FUEL EXPANSION

With targeted campaigns, Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke secured three major wins that will shift billions away from fossil fuels. Danske Bank was prompted to ban loans to companies expanding oil and gas production, Danish pension funds divested millions from coal as a direct result of our report and MS played a key role in making Norway drop public financing of fossil fuel projects.

After two years of pressure and campaigning from MS, Danske Bank took a pathbreaking decision to stop new lending to companies engaged in the expansion of oil and gas production and exploration. Danske Bank's new policy made it an international frontrunner among banks when it comes to loans and financing of new fossil fuels projects – and the only one taking this step among

the top-60 banks worldwide. In 2023, MS's report on Danish pension funds' investments in coal, oil, and gas lead directly to three pension funds acknowledging breaches of their own policy and committing to divest for USD 80 mio. in coal. For more than a year, one of MS key priorities on finance has been getting Norway to stop spending public finance on the fossil fuel industry overseas. In 2023, we achieved this as Norway signed an international statement which entails quitting international public finance to the fossil fuel industry and instead use this money to back the green transition. This covers the developmental finance institution and most significantly the export credit institution which has provided USD 1 billion to fossil fuel companies since July 2021.

CO-CITIZENSHIP

The common goal of our global, national, and local work is to create open, peaceful, and democratic spaces with inclusion for all and the safeguarding of basic human rights. 2023 was a year of new initiatives in pursuit of this goal as we launched a new campaign for the rights of people in Denmark without Danish citizenship. Additionally, the National Youth Programme (NYP) mobilized young people in Vollsmose, Odense, to form a youth community dedicated to driving positive change.

THE WOMEN AND YOUTH IN ELECTION PROJECT

The Women and Youth in Election Project, part of Zimbabwe's Strategic Partnership Agreement 11 program, significantly increased voter participation, particularly among women, leading to an 11% rise in eligible voters for the 2023 elections, with women making up 52%. Through Project Vote 263, nearly 20,000 individuals, predominantly women, were successfully assisted in voter registration. Moreover, with 60% of election observers being female, the project emphasized female participation. Despite challenges, including a decline in direct election of women to political office, the project supported eight young individuals, half of



whom were female, who secured elected positions. Additionally, the Women and Young People Situation Room managed 24 incidents of violence and electoral irregularities, responding to 136 cases overall, thus promoting inclusivity and addressing gender disparities in Zimbabwean politics.

CASE STORY – NEW YOUTH COMMUNITY IN VOLLSMOSE

In 2023, the National Youth Programme (NYP) mobilized young people in Vollsmose, Odense, to form a youth community for change. Vollsmose Youth Community (VUF) is a group of 10 passionate volunteers dedicated to their neighbourhood. They want to be vocal and active – and to push for positive change. They will create a platform where young changemakers can voice their opinions and take part in local events and national agendas on topics such as anti-discrimination, community organizing, youth led change etc.

Capacity building has been the focus in 2023. VUF members have received training in storytelling, event planning, fundraising, social media, and communication by NYP staff. Their first youth event in October was a huge success. More than 50 enthusiastic young people from the area participated in an event hosted by VUF that served as a forum for open and honest discussions about the triumphs and challenges faced by young minorities in Vollsmose.

CO-CITIZENSHIP

CITIZENSHIP CAMPAIGN

Children born in Denmark to parents without Danish citizenship do not automatically acquire Danish citizenship. Instead, they must apply for citizenship once they turn 18. Consequently, a large part of the Danish population – at least 10,5% – does not have Danish citizenship and subsequently lack the same citizen rights as their peers. Additionally, the criterion for obtaining citizenship requires the individual to have full-time employment for a period of 3,5 years before applying, education not considered. As a result, young individuals are faced with a difficult choice between pursuing further education, thereby delaying their chance for citizenship, or seeking employment, which is the fastest way to obtain citizenship. This is neither in the interest of the individual nor society. Moreover, the citizenship application process is extremely stressful and has grave personal consequences. Our campaign is striving to change these obstacles towards citizenship and aims for a more equal and fair society where those who are born and/or raised in Denmark and want to take an education are not put at a disadvantage. The campaign has gathered great public support and close to 60.000 people had signed the petition at the end of 2023.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS TWO POLITICAL GOALS

1. People born and/or raised in Denmark should automatically obtain Danish citizenship when they turn 18.
2. Education should be included in the employment requirements. We have been in dialogue with the government about our demands, especially Moderaterne, Radikale Venstre and Enhedslisten.



INITIATIVES

- We demonstrated outside of parliament on September 10th, where we had a panel of speakers, amongst others Rosa Lund, Samira Nawa, Tim Whyte, Amal Ehime, Christina Olumeko, and Anders Maher. We mobilised approx. 70 people.
- A happening on the Copenhagen Municipality's citizenship ceremony, to welcome new citizens and create communications content.
- Several videos and sharegraphics with a broad reach with case-stories, and supported Op-Ed's written by youth without citizenship.
- We have been featured in TV-shows, elaborating on the consequences of not having citizenship.
- We have created a small coalition with the grassroots organizations Os Udenfor and Fair Statsborgerskab, and FISKEN.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Strengthening progressive social movements is a core pillar of Mellemfolkeligt Samvirkes strategy. Social movements play a crucial role in both encouraging reforms and strengthening social confidence, while also protecting and expanding new political spaces at a time when authoritarian forces are growing. In 2023 we focused on gathering allies for shared learning and strategizing as well as international lobbying and advocacy so that international actors better understand and amplify the work of social movements and ensure better protection for Human Rights Defenders. We started the new El Salvador hub for Latin America and lay the groundwork for the new European Social Movement Centre based in Denmark. It was also a year of developing strategic partnerships, designing new knowledge products, and documenting our approaches, principles, and tools which resulted in 4 new courses in the Global Organising and Leadership Development (GOLD) capacity program and publications such as Building a Movement Mindset (Guide and Toolkit), People Power to address the world in Peril, and New Blood, a book about courageous Zambian activists.

GET TO KNOW MOVE

In 2022, Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke established the Global Social Movement Centre (MOVE) in collaboration with ActionAid Nigeria, TCDC, Tanzania, ActionAid Association India, and the global platform El Salvador. Anchored in our experience with community organizing, youth-led organizing and activism, MOVE provides an ecosystem for Human Rights Defenders and their movements to be supported in all aspects of their work through the different phases of their struggles. MOVE focuses on two interconnected aims:

- 1. Supporting social movements directly** through capacity strengthening activities, direct funding, action research and knowledge sharing.
- 2. Building an ecosystem of actors that can and**

KEY 2023 FIGURES

People Power Conference with **280** participants from **60** countries
2480 learners completed the mini GOLD courses
8 governments signed a pledge on movement support
100+ Human Rights Defenders supported with rapid response funds

should support movements, through international convenings, and developing resources for civil society organizations, decision makers and donors to be better and more relevant allies.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

AA INDIA / MOVE INDIA – AAA collaborated with over 80 diverse social movements, networks, alliances, and local organizations, encompassing youth-led, women-led, and community-led groups. 19.986 Human Rights Defenders trained through 675 trainings took actions on causes such as preventing atrocities, ensuring land entitlement, homestead land, right to food, and climate justice.

AA NIGERIA / MOVE NIGERIA – 4 movements supported by MOVE action fund, training, technical support, and mentoring formed a Youth Alliance, uniting 19 youth networks, activists, Human Rights Defenders, and social movements.

TCDC – MOVE supported the design of the GOLD program and hosted the GOLD Training of Trainers with 23 Global Platform trainers, launched the Troublemakers podcast, revived, and rebranded the Pan-African website, and hosted and organized Activist-in-Residence program which convened 9 prolific movement organizers and theorists from across Africa.

GP EL SALVADOR/ MOVE – GP El Salvador organized and hosted a regional forum with people from Peru, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Chile, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, to expand the partner network, share learning, inspiration, and practices from different struggles in the region, and agree on key struggles relevant across and joint activities.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS



CASE STORY — BUILDING PEOPLE POWER

In 2023, besides core program activities and support, MS organized two major global events that advanced two aims of supporting social movements directly and building an ecosystem for actors to support movements.

GLOBAL PEOPLE POWER FORUM: CONVENING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACROSS GEOGRAPHIES AND STRUGGLES

In February 2023, Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and MOVE partners organized the Global People Power Forum in Tanzania with the purpose to build a space and platform for social movements and civil society organizations to share lessons, heal wounds, strengthen hope, and explore collective strategies for change.

The program was co-developed by participants and a total of 85 people from more than 30 countries joined the Forum in person, the majority representatives from grassroots and social movements from across Asia, MENA, Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

The Forum served to build strong connections and relations across regions, share and analyze concrete stories of movements campaigns, strategies, tools, risks, and internal challenges. For Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and MOVE, it served to strengthen our legitimacy with social movements and get invaluable feedback, inputs and committed collaboration on our work within areas of training, research, and solidarity actions.

COPENHAGEN PEOPLE POWER CONFERENCE — BUILDING A BROAD ECOSYSTEM FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SUPPORT

Together with more than 15 Danish and international partners, MS hosted the Copenhagen People Power Conference (CPPC) on the 28th and 29th of September 2023 with 300 people from 62 different countries attending in person.

We gained a deeper understanding of the power and potential of social movements in the fight for climate justice, peace and security, and democracy and digital rights. We also created a broad agreement among key international stakeholders that movements are critical in order to create structural change across the world and lastly, we shared and developed specific ways to support and collaborate with movements to amplify their strengths and potential for success. The final report of the conference recaps key discussion points and gives concrete recommendations to how donors, civil society organizations and decision makers can best support social movements.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke at the conference and acknowledged that “We need concrete steps now so social movements can drive the change that our society so urgently needs”. 11 governments agreed to enter a community of practice on how to better support social movements. And both governments, UN actors and donors have now taken concrete steps to better support movements in their foreign policies, funding modalities and high-level convenings. Both governmental and non-governmental multi-donor networks have been established to pool funding together to support social movements and with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Open Society Foundations and Humanity United we have established a network for protection mechanisms to better support Human Rights Defenders and social movements under attack.

GLOBAL PLATFORMS

The Global Platform network is MS' concept of locally rooted and globally connected activist centers, supporting young people, organisations and movements fighting for social justice. The Global Platforms serve as places for young people to come together around activism and campaigning, and the network is connected by a shared approach to organising, learning, creative activism, and political youth engagement. Our goals for the GP network in the new strategy are to: 1) Grow and improve the network with platforms and local

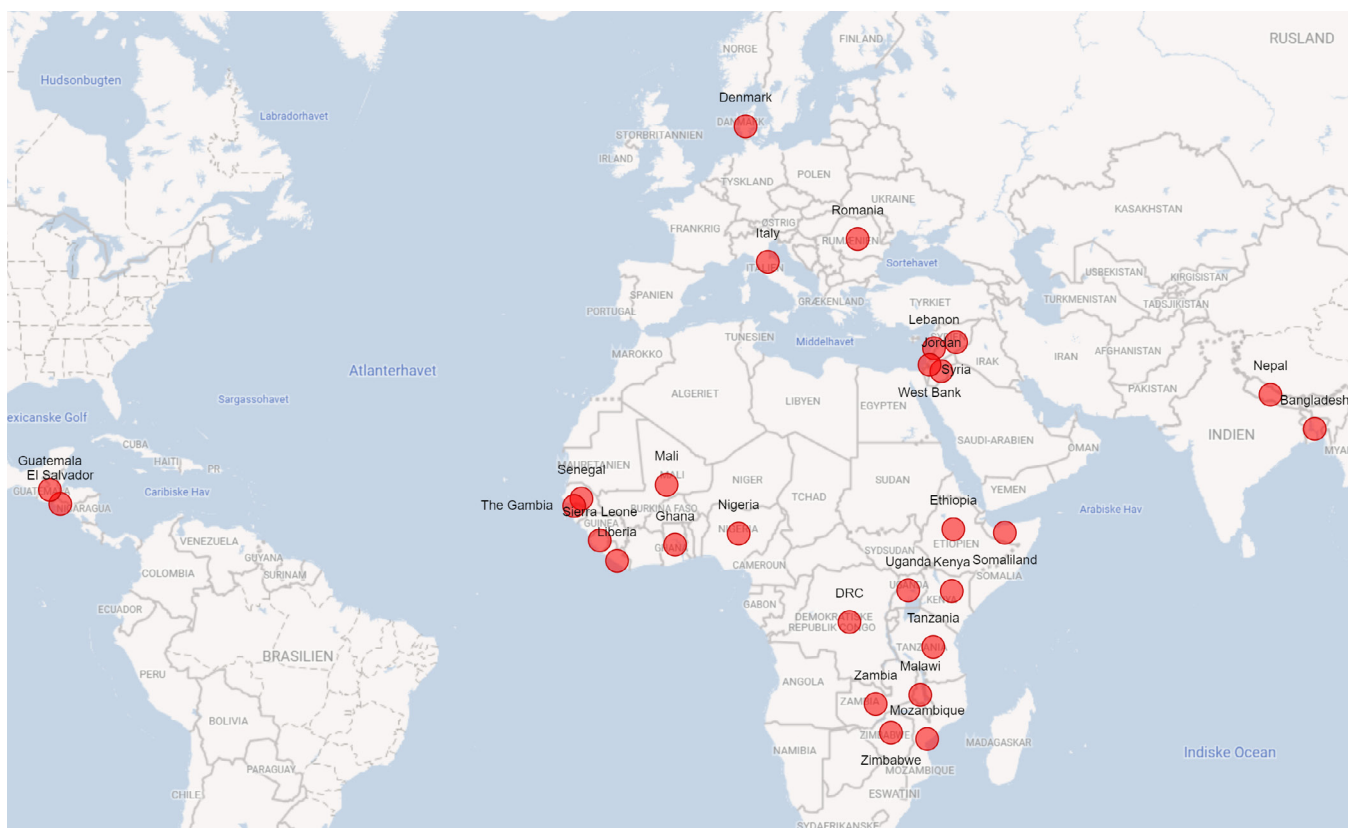
KEY 2023 FIGURES

77 GPs in 29 countries

400.000 young people mobilized for Climate Justice Days

2 new platforms opened in Europe

hubs around the world, including in Europe and fragile contexts; and 2) Strengthen the GPs in Copenhagen and Aarhus to become centers of volunteer and political engagement in Denmark.



GLOBAL PLATFORMS

EXPANDING THE GP NETWORK

The Global Platform network is rapidly expanding both in breadth and depth, with a growing presence globally and locally. ActionAid partners like Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Nepal have established multiple GP spaces within their countries, facilitating community engagement with youth across diverse contexts. Moreover, ActionAid is assisting interested partners, like those in DR Congo, The Gambia, and Somaliland, in integrating the GP concept into their strategies, fostering further expansion.

Strategic investment in Europe has yielded significant results, with new partners and donors onboarded. This expansion encompasses countries like Poland, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine, addressing various

GLOBAL PLATFORMS AARHUS

Global Platform Aarhus aims to be a space where people who want to take action for a more just and sustainable world can find tools and support as well as a community to support them in creating the change they want to see. Global Platform Aarhus is composed of around 110 volunteers and activists who manage a social business and organize political campaigns and activities. The division between activists and volunteers is made to highlight the fact that some work mostly on supporting Café Mellemfolk, our social entrepreneurship project, while others organize political activities. Moreover, MS

issues affecting youth, including the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and challenges like LGBT rights, shrinking civic space, and anti-liberal political trends.

By the end of 2023, the network had reached 77 physical Global Platforms across 29 countries, surpassing the goal of 75. This growth not only enhances local impact but also fosters global connections, enabling activists worldwide, including those in Denmark, to collaborate on common causes. Notably, the network played a pivotal role in mobilizing over 400,000 young people during ActionAid's global campaign on climate justice in September 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

- Palestine Solidarity**
- Women's rights day**
- Ignite Project**
- Climate Justice Days**
- Cooperative Festival**
- Anti-discrimination action-plan**

Aarhus published a concrete action plan on how to collectively combat ethnic discrimination.

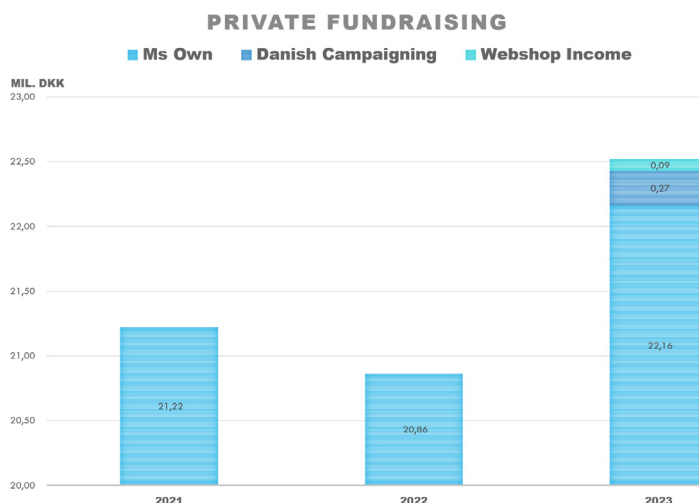
FUNDRAISING

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING

MS' private fundraising branch has a pivotal role in allowing the organization to optimally tackle all the crises that emerge throughout the years. Having a strong base of financial support from members and individual donors gives MS autonomy to act and engage wherever it is needed. In 2023 our Fundraising program had tremendous success in ensuring MS involvement and support both nationally and globally. With the war in Gaza, MS emerged on the frontline of the humanitarian and political landscape relating to the crisis, and our fundraising efforts both allowed this to happen and grew because of the publicity. The fundraising team raised nearly 3 million DKK in humanitarian funds, all the while capitalizing on the growing awareness of MS work. The result was an all-time high membership count of 16.969 contributing 18,7 million DKK to our work, laying a strong foundation for our efforts years to come.

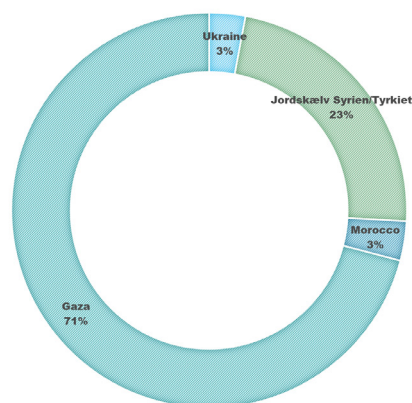
KEY 2023 FIGURES

22.500.000 DKK private donations
18.690.503 DKK collected from members
36.139 Supporters (#giving single or membership donation)
16.969 Members



HUMANITARIAN APPEALS: 2,8 MIL.

■ Ukraine ■ Jordskælv Syrien/Tyrkiet ■ Morocco ■ Gaza



FUNDRAISING

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDRAISING

2023 saw a large increase in revenue by more than 20 mil. DKK. This will attest to ever continuing growth of MS as both a civil society organization and a development organization. While we in 2023 secured 12 new grants from both new and old sources our Ministry of Foreign affair grants including the Strategic Partnership Agreement still amounts to 58% of our total revenue. While MS remains very proud and happy with our participation in the SPA, the aim continues to be a greater diversification of income so as not to be too reliant on a single donor.

NEW FUNDING

EU – ESC Act Local Think Local

EU – REBUILD

Verdensklasse

DI 2022 Ekstra – Sammen for Ukraine

Sønderborg – KulturFrontløber

BHJ Fonden – Sønderborg

Velux: Klimaambassadørerne

CISU II – TCDC

Nordea fund – Green Nørrebro

Sunrise 23-24

VE – Allianz/HART

NewDemocracy Fund - IMS

Revenue

