# MELLEM-FOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE ANNUAL REPORT

Launching into a new strategy



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is organized around Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke's five signature areas from our new five-year strategy: <u>A Decade of Activism</u> and provides key figures on our finances and results as well as stories from our work internationally and in Denmark. Technically speaking, the new strategy period starts in 2023, but as much of the strategic alignment started in 2022, we have chosen to use the same focus areas here as well. 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 home-page <u>ms.dk</u>.



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## FOREWORD

In 2022, MS started working toward a new strategy: "The Decade of Activism". With it, we want to support young people and create communities that foster climate justice, co-citizenship, and activism. We believe this is the way forward in a time of myriads of simultaneous crises – war, climate change, growing inequality and attacks on rights and democracies worldwide.

The fog of Covid had barely lifted before war came to Europe. When Putin chose to invade Ukraine on April 24, 2022, in violation of international law, it left a significant mark on all aspects of our society. For several years, we saw European leaders paralyzed in the face of Russian war crimes in Syrian hospitals as long as we were supplied with cheap Russian gas and oil. Fortunately, the opposite happened in Ukraine. Here, the United States and Europe chose to mark a red line against the violation of the Ukrainian people's right to sovereignty. The debate on Denmark's defense and foreign policy continues, and MS participates actively. We criticise the so-called pragmatic tactics of the government, which have manifested themselves in the form of weapons systems purchased from a deeply controversial Israeli company that violate the human rights of Palestinians or with visits to autocracies such as in Egypt. We do not believe that pragmatism should be equated with unprincipled foreign policy.

The war in Ukraine showed the clear discrimination between European countries in the reception of refugees. European countries unequivocally demonstrated that when they cooperate, it is possible to take in larger numbers of refugees and integrate them quickly. This example of an effective and dignified reception of civilians fleeing for their lives should be the modus operandi in Danish and European politics - and not only implemented under special laws for a particular group of refugees. Denmark consistently receives harsh criticism from the European Parliament for going it alone to classify areas in Syria as safe, contrary to all international standards for peace and lasting security.

MS has firmly believed in every refugee's right to protection no matter where they come from. All refugees must be treated fairly and dignified - whether it is the Ukrainian refugees who gather in our yard on Fælledvej for solidarity dinners or the young Syrian women who are thrown into deportation centers because Danish authorities, contrary to all reason, assess parts of Syria as safe.

In the Action Aid federation, Arthur Larok took over as Secretary General, and we on the Board had the pleasure of meeting him. Through our seat on the international board, MS continuously underlines the importance and urgency of the climate justice agenda, and it was very encouraging that Action Aid was able to pull off a victory at COP 27 after a years-long struggle: a loss and damage fund. Bangladesh is one of the countries in the world that emits the least CO2 – but its population is one of the most climate-vulnerable on the planet. In a small village in southern Bangladesh, I met young people who, with Action Aid's help, have organised themselves and are demanding of their local authorities that dams must be built better to protect their villages. A number of young women and men are skilled climate activists who, through social media and with the help of our global platform, educate and mobilize young people all over Bangladesh to demand that politicians ensure climate justice.

In Denmark, MS' imprint has been evident in the climate finance area. Several headlines in newspapers have demonstrated what our campaign unit effectively delivers in terms of popular pressure to pave the way for a sustainable financial sector. Continued investment in and expansion of infrastructure for new fossil projects is unsustainable and the financial sector must end. 2022 was the start-up year for the new partnership agreement with Danida. Within MS, we been focused on correcting our economy after two hard years with Covid. The strengthening of our equity and diversification of our income has been in focus and has given us a good year on the financial bottom line.

So yes, things are going well for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke - though we are not there yet. We have a clear strategy, we are visible change actors and an organization with a lot of enthusiasts, members and employees who continue to fight for a fair, just and green world nationally and internationally.

#### - HAIFAA AWAD,

CHAIRPERSON OF MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE

## **MS IN NUMBERS**

### NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

#### Reach

	2021 RESULT	2022 RESULT
MEMBERS	16.095	15.866
FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS	29.955	33.575
PETITION SIGNUPS	108.295	136.295
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS	110.000	124.000

#### **National Cluster activities**

	2022 <b>RESULT</b>		
PEOPLE TRAINED	14.430		
PARTNERSHIPS, NETWORKS, ALLIANCES	65		
PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS	19.872		
VISITORS TO MS.DK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA	32.500		

## **GLOBAL RESULTS**

These figures represent results from our international work made in partnership with 15 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 <b>RESULT</b>	
AA PARTNER COUNTRIES	15	
HUMANITARIAN REACH	64.117	
CAMPAIGN REACH	9.161.124	
POLICY CHANGES	41	

#### Youth engagement

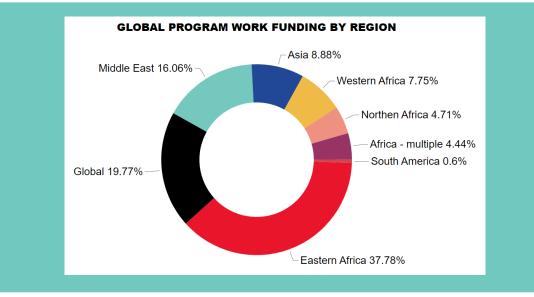
	2022 <b>RESULT</b>	
YOUTH TRAINED	28.651	
YOUTH ELECTED TO DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS	690	
YOUTH TAKING ACTION ON COMMON CAUSES	17.551	
YOUTH ACTIVITY ATTENDANCE	109.431	

## **FINANCE & ORGANISATIONAL**

### 2022 Annual result

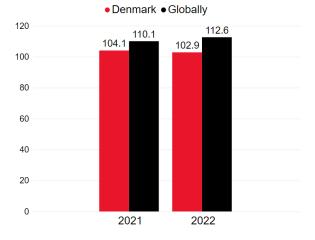
The result for 2022 is a net income of 3 million DKK, a good result compared to deficits experienced during COVID in 2020 and 2021. Our revised budget expected a deficit of 1,1 million DKK. The positive result is mainly due to a general increase in MS own income generating activities, a constant focus on strong delivery of externally funded activities, as well as a continuous follow up on un-funded costs.

	RESULT	BUDGET	RESULT
INCOME	2022	2022	2021
Institutional funding	147,082	149,497	153,776
Donations, Collections and other funding	41,713	34,740	28,991
Income generating activities	26,214	23,353	10,968
TCDC	21,813	4,588	7,666
Admin and other income	14,673	12,402	12,804
Income total	251,495	224,580	214,204
EXPENSE			
Global program work	-139,629	-136,698	-149,000
Work in Denmark	-32,906	-25,716	-21,620
Other expenses related to income generating activities	-26,442	-22,797	-15,580
TCDC	-21,790	-3,988	-7,403
Administration and management	-18,223	-25,521	-16,516
Private fundraising	-9,516	-10,968	-9,886
Expense total	-248,506	-225,688	-220,005
RESULT	2,989	-1,108	-5,801



### ESG & Staff overview

As a civil-society organization, finances are not the bottomline of our year-to-year operations. So in 2022, MS drafted its first Environment, Social, Governance report. It 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: <u>2022 ESG report</u>



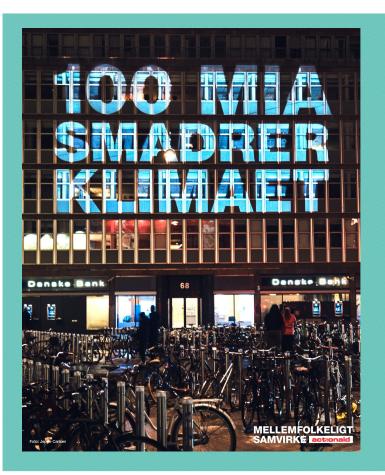
## **CLIMATE FINANCE**

### CHANGING CLIMATE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Our strategy clearly lays out what we hope to achieve regarding climate justice by 2027. We will build strong coalitions for change founded on youth which will stop investments in fossil fuel financing and promote a sustainable transition on the front lines of the climate crisis. In 2022, we already had great success in curbing fossil fuel financing in Denmark.

With the war in Ukraine came a global energy crisis caused by a reduction of Russian gas supply and a surge in prices for other forms of energy. Therefore, it proved difficult to gain traction for a campaign against new investments in oil, gas and coal. Nevertheless, our campaign was successful thanks to a targeted exposure of the financial sector's investments in fossil fuels and extensive press coverage.

In May, we launched a report with four regulatory proposals for how policies can ensure a green banking sector. The report formed the basis of our participation in the overall NGO election campaign leading up to the Danish general election on November 1st. Two of our regulatory proposals became part of Danish NGOs' joint election campaign demands four parties supported the demands and (Enhedslisten, Alternative, SF and Radikale). In November 2022, we launched the report **Banking on thin** ice. Two years in the heat. The report uncovers the ten largest Nordic banks' loans and investments in



fossil fuel companies, and it received extensive coverage in all the Nordic countries.

The month before, it was the pension companies that came under scrutiny. Using an extensive database that Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke has developed ourselves, we mapped that 16 Danish pension companies have invested over 14 billion DKK in the search for new fossil energy sources from the Arctic to Africa. According to the International Energy Agency, this is wholly incompatible with The Paris Agreement's goal to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Looking at other avenues than banks, three pension funds (Akademiker Pension, Lægernes Pension and AP pension) have subsequently adopted a general meeting resolution to stop financing expansion of fossil fuel investments, referenced in reports from Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke. Additionally, op-eds and social media posts from MS gained widespread traction and coverage from major media outlets:

- Kære bestyrelse i Danske Bank: Vi har brug for jer i klimakampen
  - Tim Whyte, MS, Jyllands-Posten
- <u>Rådgiver i Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke: Politikerne skal gøre finanssektoren grøn</u>
  - Katrine Ehnhuus, MS, in Politiken
- <u>"Galskab": Danske pensionskasser får hug for milliardinvesteringer i nye oliefelter</u>
  - Frederik Vincent, Børsen

## **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. 2022 was a turbulent year for democratic spaces but in partnership with others around the globe, MS has been able to move the needle. Internationally, this included new youth-oriented legislation in the Zambian national assembly and breaking down social taboos around menstruation or transgender inclusion in Bangladesh through social cohesion initiatives. The following examples focus on our national work here in Denmark.

## WEEDING OUT THE THISTLES

In 2022, we reached 70,000 signatures on our campaign against the authorities' deportation of Syrian refugees. We also marked our opposition to this unfair and inhumane refugee policy in the media, and during the election campaign it became a theme that there was a need to "weed out the thistles" in immigration policy. When the new SVM government, after much arm-twisting, published its platform, MS noted a small victory. The new government promises that it will:

"deal with the problem we have seen recently, with young women from Syria who have lost their residence permit despite having shown that they want to contribute to Danish society. Therefore, the government will grant the right to continued residence for certain foreigners who are training in areas where there is a short age of labour."

The position is far from a just and humane refugee policy, but we consider it a small win because MS has continuously highlighted the cases of female Syrian refugees that have had their residence permits revoked.

### A VICTORY IN TINGBJERG

Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke's work in the vulnerable residential areas (formerly known as ghettos) paid off in 2022. When on December 1st the government published the annual list of such residential areas, the residents of Tingbjerg, northwest of Copenhagen, breathed a sigh of relief: Tingbjerg was no longer blacklisted. Aisha Law, a project worker at Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and responsible for our work in vulnerable residential areas, explains what has made the difference:

## Q: The government will claim that its measures in the exposed residential areas have led to Tingbjerg being deleted from the list. Do you agree?

**AISHA**: The ghetto package has been introduced as a way of tackling crime and social problems in vulnerable residential areas. Unfortunately, there are no measures in the package that support the residents in education, jobs, help them get a higher income or contain preventive work. Instead, the initiatives in the legislative package are based on coercion and punishment, including double punishment for crime and forced relocations. Therefore, we do not believe that it is the government that can take credit for the positive development in Tingbjerg.



#### Q: How has MS's work contributed to Tingbjerg being removed from the list?

**AISHA**: *MS* and other local actors have worked for many years to create strong and positive communities that build residents' self-confidence, skills and motivation to become active citizens. Through our work, we help young people find their way to education and jobs. We are a valuable resource for the young volunteers who often seek our help in writing job or quota 2 applications. Together with other local actors, we bring two essential elements to create lasting changes for people in vulnerable positions: presence and time.

#### Q: During the election campaign, MS took a special initiative in Tingbjerg and two other vulnerable residential areas. What was it about and what was the result?

**Aisha:** MS ran larger programs in Vollsmose, Bispehaven and Tingbjerg with a focus on raising the voting percentage and increasing the democratic self-confidence and awareness of young people. Specifically, together with the young volunteers in the areas, we developed and implemented election evenings and stood on the streets on election day, encouraging people to vote. In addition, we also ran digital campaigns, where we both live-streamed an event under the name "Fade og Folketingesvalg" and made videos for SoMe with the young people about why it is important to vote.

## TINGBJERG ER IKKE LÆNGERE PÅ "GHETTOLISTEN"

En stigning i indkomstniveau har fået Tingbjerg af den såkaldte "ghettoliste". Det er godt for beboerne, der kan tage en langt større del af æren end de skiftende regeringer på Christiansborg.



The activities were a great success. There were over 100 participants, media coverage from e.g. DR and TV2 and several of the young people stood for the first time on a stage or in front of the media and told about their experiences of being a young minority citizen in Denmark. Unfortunately, the percentage of votes did not increase in the areas - on the contrary, they decreased. There are many structural factors at play when it comes to why people vote or not - and MS cannot change that in a month. The young people, on the other hand, had a good experience of being heard and that their voice is important. It testifies that election efforts and democratic formation is a long-term process that does not happen during an election campaign. Our activities first and foremost made a difference for the young people who helped drive the process forward, and if you want a higher voter turnout in the areas, it therefore requires long-term and sustainable efforts.

## **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

Strengthening progressive social movements is a core pillar of MS' new 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. Our social movement work in 2022 focused on founding a new social movement center and continuing to build our partnerships with movements and movement-supporting organisations around the world.

### GET TO KNOW MOVE

MOVE- Global Social Movement Centre implements, designs or pilots specific support mechanisms together with social movements, in order to address the lack of strategic capacity and tailored support mechanisms that enable better and safer impact of social movement work. MOVE provides a Social Movement Ecosystem for Human Rights Defenders and their movements to be supported in all aspects of their work through the full lifespan of their movements. Currently, it entails an integrated set of capacity strengthening activities for activists in social movements, core movement support functions to social movements, including funding and action research on relevant movements trends.

#### **KEY 2022 FIGURES**

14 direct social movement partners
90+ locally rooted AA partners
467 individuals & 15 organisations given access to human rights defense mechanisms

### **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

**AA INDIA / MOVE INDIA** – Has built the capacity of 150 Human Rights defenders in 2022 who have brought forward issues of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, especially women. These human rights defenders have managed to increase the pension/benefits for 1.5 mio people with disabilities, formed a movement of 800 women tea-leaf-plucker's and prevented 2 mio people from being evicted from their land.

AA NIGERIA / MOVE NIGERIA- Reignited the Nigeria Social Forum that brought together 130+ Human Rights Defenders, Movement leaders, Unionists, Networks, CSO's and media ahead of the 2023 general elections. The forum provided an opportunity to debate political processes and develop a shared charter of demand for the new government.

**TCDC** – Hosted 300 activists from Africans Rising and supported the development of a new continental declaration (Kilimanjaro Declaration 2.0) and hosted and co-organised the GOLD global trainer TOT. Also, TCDC has supported various east-African social movements and established a podcast studio and a movement podcast partnership with Beautiful Trouble.

**GP EL SALVADOR** – Mapped and engaged potential partners and movements in Central America to be ready to start as a MOVE partner in 2023 and add the Latin-American tradition for movement building and creative resistance.

### CASE STORY – AFRICANS RISING

Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity is a Pan-African movement of people working to foster solidarity and unity across Africa to build the future of social inclusion, peace and shared prosperity. Africans Rising supports local and regional movements in Africa in their own work and amplifying the voices challenging status quo. They have received support from AADK since 2017 in the form of direct funds, supporting the facilitation of their activities and events and help for the creation of their charter.

The All African Assembly in 2022 aimed to be accountable to its members for its mandate for the past six years of work as well as have participants discuss and strategize on the movement's commitments for the next strategic period. It brought together online and physically in Arusha at MS-TCDC over 600 activists, Pan-Africanists and movement representatives from 55 countries in Africa and African Diaspora to discuss critical issues facing Africans. In preparation for the Assembly, AR hosted various activities to serve as a mobilization platform for movements across the continent, establish relationships with each other, share ideas and make collective development plans. Part of the outcomes of the Assembly was the adoption of a revised vision document of the movement, the Kilimanjaro Declaration. The outputs from strategic brainstorming sessions informed the new strategy for the next 5 years, key campaigns and actions including those on Borderless Africa - Freedom of movement campaign, seeking to allow Africans move freely around the continent without restrictions for better trade, integration and development. The Assembly also saw the formation of the Pan-African Solidarity Action Network.



## **GLOBAL PLATFORMS**

The Global Platform network is MS' concept of locally rooted and internationally connected activist centers. They serve as places for youth campaign activists to initiate and participate in political organisation. Our goals for the GP network in the new strategy are to: 1) Grow and improve the network with platforms and local 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.

#### **KEY 2022 FIGURES**

**51** GPs in 25 countries**61%** of results from our country partners viewGPs as contributing to their success



### **EXPANDING THE GP NETWORK**

The structure of the Global Platform network has changed considerably in the last few years. In the past, MS directly administered GP operations and programming. In our continuing efforts to localize our work, however, the organisation has been equipping ActionAid country offices and other entities to open and operate their own GPs. The management of the GPs has also been disbursed into a global secretariat, sitting with MS, ActionAid Bangladesh and TCDC, the training center in Tanzania.

A major focus for the GP secretariat has been to support the localization of the GP work at country-level. Most of the older Global Platforms are set up in national capitals, and activities would often bring young training participants from across the country to the GP. Beginning in 2022, the GP Sec has supported countries in how they can utilize the GP methodologies and approaches to work with young people in their own contexts. These localization efforts allow GPs to work with the most marginalized youth in their programmes, including areas affected by displacement (IDPs, refugees, host communities).

Beyond the in-country expansion of the network, the GP Sec has also supported the establishment of GPs in new countries throughout 2022 – bringing the total of Global Platforms to 51 in 25 countries by the end of the year. While support is being provided to partners interested in opening GPs in countries such as The Gambia, Somaliland, Pakistan, etc., a specific expansion effort was launched in 2022 to heavily invest in working with the GP approaches within Europe. These efforts pursue both an avenue with ActionAid partners in Western Europe as well as other partners in Eastern Europe, including partnerships focusing on the Ukraine response.

### CASE STORY - YOUTH AS CHANGE MAKERS, SYRIA

This case story was collected through monitoring work done by Alam Janbein, the ActionAid Arab Region Syria program manager. She describes how youth have become more engaged in local leadership in Northwest Syria thanks to work done by the charity Violet and ActionAid Arab Region in partnership with MS.



"Through this first year of the [MS' Strategic Partnership Agreement program], in partnership with Violet, our local youth-led partner in Northwest Syria, we were able to witness the first-hand response of youth to several incidents, including a major security event. Local youth trained under the programme's activities contributed to building community resilience by leading on rapid needs assessment and actual emergency distribution. Through another initiative, they led on a multi-sector needs assessment through a participatory action research approach intended to identify local needs and gaps in accessing key services.

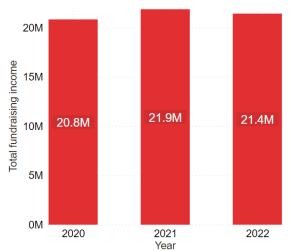
Through these two examples, local youth demonstrated that with the needed tools and after receiving required capacity building, they can have a positive impact on their own community resilience. This is one major step towards efforts implemented for the localization of resilience building.

Youth leadership and localized resilience building has resulted in youth being actual change makers. This youth leadership was critical to address urgent and critical needs through a collective bottom-up initiative. Building on the recently acquired skills, youth were supported to cultivate power within themselves, as they organized to ensure alleviating of suffering and increase resilience to shocks, in a fragile and emergency setting. These youth received structured trainings and capacity building through the newly established partner-driven Global Platform in Idleb on how to lead on participatory action research, in addition but not limited to building leadership in crisis and humanitarian disasters settings."

## FUNDRAISING

## INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING

Private supporter fundraising experienced a difficult year in light of the global economic recession. This was also felt in Danish society, effecting our ability to get new members, increasing our churn rate and lowering the initial amounts received from new members. However, our supporters in Denmark still provide a significant income, almost keeping in line with the great success of 2021.

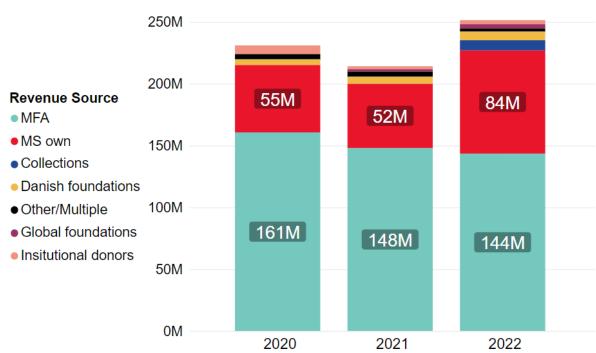


#### TOTAL FUNDRAISING AMOUNT BY YEAR

#### KEY 2022 FIGURES 18.617.020 DKK collected from members 2.840.665 donations 33.575 supporters (# giving single or membership donation)

## INSTITUTIONAL FUNDRAISING

2022 was a transitional year for institutional fundraising as we began to diversify our portfolio of funding sources. With the formation of the Fundraising signature project and renewed initiatives at the team level, MS is expanding its purview of fundraising. From 2021 to 2022, we decreased the share of Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding from 69% to 57% of total revenue. This coincides with new opportunities through CISU, various Danish Foundations and the EU, a trend which will continue through 2023 and beyond.



**REVENUE SOURCES BY YEAR** 

## **NEW GRANTS IN 2022**

**CISU: FRA LOKALT TIL GLOBALT ENGAGEMENT** – Funded by CISU with the goal that more Danish young people with minority backgrounds are engaged in global development work and support other young people in the world in seeking influence and influencing decisions that concern their lives.

**DANISH ARAB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (DAPP II)** – The Youth Inclusion and Employment Project (YIEP) focuses on enabling young people to be inspired and included in economic life. The target groups are burgeoning entrepreneurs and youth in search of employment. YIEP will equip young people with the right skills and connections so that they can secure decent jobs or engage in entrepreneurship. Achieving our goal means putting young people at the centre of our work and partnering with local implementers for impact.

**ETF 22/23 ENDING FOSSIL FUEL FINANCE IN THE NORDICS** – Financed by the Energy Transition Fund with the goal of ending fossil fuel finance in the Nordic, with a special focus on banks in Denmark.

#### KEY 2022 FIGURES

11 new grants started
3,1% growth in non-MFA institutional and foundation fundraising
12,1% reduction in MFA share of total revenue (with a rise in total revenue of 17,4%)

**KLIMAVALG 2022 – ET VALG OM DE UNGES FREMTID** – This grant aims to engage young people to have climate talks with their parents and others about the importance of this election for the climate and to stimulate politicians to create momentum around three climate demands of respectively agriculture, transport and the financial sector.

**KR ENDING FOSSIL FUEL BANKING** – Working in Scandinavia with the KR foundation to push the banks out of their fossil fuel investments and financing through policy work, campaigns and regulation.

**NORWAY ENDING PUBLIC FINANCE** – Finance by the European Climate Foundation, working in Norway to end the public financing of fossil fuels.

**SAMMEN OM UKRAINE** – Danish TV collection – Emergency response funding of DKK 5,337,500 received by MS for the Ukraine response from Danish TV Collection.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPAII)** – Institutional grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2022 – 2025, implementing their strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation.

**SUNRISE 22/23 END FOSSIL FINANCE** – Grant from Sunrise to work on ending fossil finance in both the banking sector and pension sector.

**TRYG: VEJEN TIL EN STEMME** – Grant from the Tryg Foundation to increase the turnout of young people with an ethnic background other than Danish in vulnerable residential areas.

UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL – Appeal funds raised for Ukraine Emergency Appeal.