

# **SSC Framework Programme**

## **Annual Status Report 2024**

### **Danish Environmental Protection Agency**

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Summary of programme spending					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Budget (DKK)	33.640.000	31.850.000	28.450.000	26.060.000	120.000.000
Expenditure (DKK)	23.414.820	29.827.851			
Variance (%)	70%	94%			

Off track	Partly on track	On track
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Overall progress on programme outcomes								
Outcome 1 (put X)			Outcome 2 (put X)			Outcome 3 (put X)		
		x			x			x

Narrative summary	
Programme outcome 1 <i>(capacity building)</i>	<p>Overall the framework programme is succeeding in supporting stronger legislative frameworks and institutional capacity of partner authorities.</p> <p>Capacity building is taking place in many shapes in the different projects from fact finding missions, training courses and bilateral expert workshops to demonstration projects and best practice study tours.</p> <p>Meetings with authorities, knowledge centers/universities and companies debating complex environmental challenges and discussing solutions in terms of legal enforcement, management schemes, new technology etc. is the core of all SSC projects.</p> <p>The framework programme in 2024 had several direct impacts in the form of national regulatory framework and institutional capacity, benefiting level of environmental protection and sustainable development.</p>
Programme outcome 2 <i>(bilateral cooperation)</i>	<p>All projects under the framework programme are continuously used - by the projects themselves and by the embassies - to expand networks, new partners, authorities and companies. The peer-to-peer cooperation have been used for active and effective bilateral technical and diplomatic engagement in support of the green transition.</p> <p>Engagement in national working groups in the partner countries, and presentations of Danish best practices and tech solutions on global conferences is used to share knowledge and to become visible in broader circles.</p>
Programme outcome 3 <i>(private sector exposure)</i>	<p>Overall the framework programme has enhanced exposure of the Danish private sector's sustainable development solutions and green financial investments in partner markets.</p> <p>The peer-to-peer cooperation have been used as a platform for promoting Danish solutions that can contribute importantly to tackling challenges in circular economy, water, pollution control, and environmental management.</p> <p>Especially on study tours to Denmark, efforts are put into show casing as many aspects of Danish governmental management and applied tech solutions on location. Visits to companies, public water and waste utilities are important components. Relevant partners are Trade Council, State of Green, Danish Export Association as well as Danish Industry. Also SSC related Business Days on the embassies are well received by Danish companies.</p>

Overview of project progress	
Project details	Assessment of project progress against <i>programme outcomes</i>

	Project title	Country	Phase	Outcome 1 (Put X)			Outcome 2 (Put X)			Outcome 3 (Put X)		
1.	China, water	China	2			x			x			x
2.	Ethiopia, water	Ethiopia	1		x				x			x
3.	Kenya, circular economy	Kenya	2			x			x			x
4.	Kenya, water	Kenya	1			x			x			x
5.	Morocco, water	Morocco	1			x			x			x
6.	India, water	India	1			x			x			x
7.	Indonesia, circular economy	Indonesia	2			x			x		x	
8.	Thailand, circular economy	Thailand	1		x				x			x
9.	South Africa, water	South Africa	3		x			x			x	
10.	Ukraine, water	Ukraine	Inception			x			x			x

#### Overall comments on project progress (with a special focus on outcome 1 – capacity building)

Overall a very good progress of all projects. The depth of the cooperation varies from country to country, reflecting the different stages of the cooperation and the national/local conditions, but no projects are on pause or considered for discontinuation.

The cooperation with Ethiopia is undergoing a transition into a traditional peer-to-peer cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Energy, and not just solely building on cooperation at local level. This transition – and change of staff from the Danish side – have necessitated changes to the workplan, and thereby not completed the initial workplan.

The cooperation with Thailand and South Africa have recently started new phases, and the workplans are therefore not yet in full operation, but is expected to be through 2025.

Reflecting the different needs and preconditions on the countries, efforts on seemingly similar topics are implemented in various ways, but basically building on a number of strong Danish experiences. Learning across the projects are pursued internally in the Danish EPA, and models for sharing directly between the cooperating partners are being designed.

The core Danish expertise being used are groundwater (mapping, modelling and protections), water supply (No-Revenue Water, water saving, cost-efficiency); wastewater (energy/climate impact, cost-efficiency, nature protection); climate adaption, including nature-based solutions; waste (sorting/management and circularity); Extended Producers Responsibility; Circular Economy strategies; and industry pollution controls.

Impact assessment is always a challenge on these kind of peer-to-peer, capacity building activities. It is difficult to design an indicator that capture the specific impact of the cooperation, separate from the overall development. In order to improve our efforts, and identify our successes, we actively share the experiences across the projects on outcomes and opportunities to assess the impact of our contribution.

## Detailed programme results

<b>Outcome 1</b>	<i>Stronger legislative frameworks and institutional capacity of partner authorities to implement and manage systems that promote 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management, with a cross-cutting focus on climate mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity.</i>	Status ((put X))
Outcome indicator	<i>Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the FP in areas of circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management</i>	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>X</div> </div>

Year	Baseline/Target	Achievement
2023	0	16
2024		24
2025		
2026	15	

<b>Output 1.1</b>	<i>Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities to implement their mandates for 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, -supply and wastewater management delivered as expected</i>	Status ((put X))
Output indicator	<i>Progress on projects' annual work plans under the FP linked to capacity and legislative frameworks on 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management</i>	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>X</div> </div>

Year	Target	Achievement
2023	100%	90%
2024	100%	95%
2025	100%	
2026	100%	

### Narrative description of progress

Against the outcome indicator (*number of regulatory frameworks and institutional systems supported*) the framework programme is succeeding beyond the full four year target. Clearly the target has been set too modest when establishing the programme, but nonetheless a positive signal on the success of the instrument.

There are a large variation of achievements from country to country, but a clear trend of increased number of achievements the longer the cooperation have been in place. Overall, it is positive to see the high number of regulatory frameworks and institutional systems being supported by the SSCs, also reflected in high level of satisfaction on the cooperation from the partner's side.

Given the multiple partners involved in the cooperation, it is unlikely to achieve 100% fulfilment of the annual work plans. With the framework programme DEPA has inaugurated a more systematic scheme for regular revision of work plans that shall ensure realistic work plans, which are more results oriented and not just mission schedules.

Realistic budgeting in the projects are an ongoing challenge. Budgets of the projects are being reviewed twice a year against updated work plans, which is contributing to higher predictability of final spending per year. In order to achieve this it is important for the projects to have the confidence that if the budget is fully used and new activities are needed, additional funding should be easily available from the un-allocated funds of the framework programme. Being able to adapt quickly, to use new momentum with partners for further activities, is an important asset of the SSC for new actions.

<b>Outcome 2</b>	<i>More active and effective bilateral technical and diplomatic engagement in support of the green transition linked to circular economy, waste and pollution management, and water resources, water supply, and wastewater management</i>	Status ((put X))
Outcome indicator	<i>Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to the FP's work on circular economy, waste and pollution management, and water resources-, supply, and wastewater management to promote international relations on climate and the green transition</i>	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>X</div> </div>
Year	Baseline/Target	Achievement
2023	0	46
2024		95
2025		

2026	15	
<b>Output 2.1</b>	<i>Embassy and project initiatives, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy through 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management, delivered according to plan.</i>	Status ((put X))
Output indicator	<i>Annual progress on Embassies' and projects' annual work plans linked to the FP's contributions to bilateral relations and green diplomacy</i>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
2023	100%	95%
2024	100%	95%
2025	100%	
2026	100%	
<b>Narrative description of progress</b>		
<p>The achievements on bilateral technical and diplomatic engagement linked to the framework programme is shared between the SCCs and other embassy activities. It is very positive to see the high number of achievements in total, reflecting the already known fact that the embassies overall are very satisfied with SSCs also as a tool to promote the bilateral cooperation within the counties. The fact that it goes far beyond the overall target of the framework programme, is just a question of unrealistic target setting.</p> <p>High-level meetings with Ministers; Ambassadors, Director General level have contributed to highlighting the SSC projects and securing engagement in partner countries. Likewise high-level visits to Denmark took place in 2024 on Minister and Director levels from Kenya, China, Indonesia, South Africa.</p>		

<b>Outcome 3</b>	<i>Enhanced exposure of the Danish private sector's sustainable development solutions and green financial investments in partner markets where they can contribute importantly to tackling challenges in circular economy, water, pollution control, environmental management and biodiversity</i>	Status ((put X))
Outcome indicator	<i>Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organizations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the FP</i>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Baseline/Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
2023	0	13
2024		40
2025		
2026	15	
<b>Output 3.1</b>	<i>Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities to implement their mandates for 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, -supply and wastewater management delivered as expected</i>	Status ((put X))
Output indicator	<i>Progress on projects' annual work plans under the FP linked to capacity and legislative frameworks on 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management</i>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
2023	100%	90%
2024	100%	95%
2025	100%	
2026	100%	
<b>Narrative description of progress</b>		
<p>Overall there are good achievements on exposing private sector solutions as part of the projects, or using the projects as platform for separate activities to expose the private sector. Basically the many achievements on regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities are reflecting the Danish experiences, of which the Danish private sector solutions are also fostered, and thereby providing a special opportunity for Danish companies.</p> <p>With a shorter commercial horizon for Danish business, Trade Council are organising visits from the partner countries in cooperation with the SSC projects to showcase opportunity of Danish solutions in the partner countries for a sustainable development. Also business meetings on the embassy with participation from Danish Tech companies and partners buyers have been arranged in the cooperation between Trade Council and the SSC projects.</p> <p>At delegation visits to DK the business aspect is involved by coordination with State of Green, Export Council and Danish Industry etc. including through visits to and presentations by companies and consultancies.</p>		

In 2024 dialogue meeting with the private sector was organised on Circular Economy and on Water. The private sector identity on waste and CE is still quite fragmented, but there are a growing interest from specific companies and sub-sectors to utilise the SSC as a stepping stone to work with specific markets. On water the private sector identity is more developed, and it is possible to share experiences and coordinate more closely on the specific markets. The private sector dialogue are well received by the industries and associations, and the annual meetings are becoming a tradition.

Other results and challenges	
Other achievements and unexpected result	<p>The rapid establishment of connections to the Kenya water ministry, and formulation of a close partnerships drawing on Danish groundwater expertise, has been a positive surprise. We have been able to match the relevance in Kenya with the Danish experiences, and from day one have had a strong high level priority from the Kenyan side to the cooperation.</p> <p>In Ethiopia the SSC has been instrumental in designing and initiating a Danida funded capacity building programme on rapid groundwater mapping and protection. Aarhus University will in 2025 start a peer-to-peer cooperation with universities in Ethiopia on geological mapping, building on a number of specific cases in the country. The SSC will benefit from the development of skills at both national and local level to enhance the achievements on groundwater mapping, -modelling and protection.</p> <p>In South Africa the SSC has contributed with central building blocks for the water sector reform that is now going to be supported by a 300 million DKK Danida funding programme for full scale implementation.</p> <p>The political focus in Kenya on future of waste pickers with more waste separation in the waste handling system, has been a positive extra to the cooperation. The goal is to strengthen the position of waste pickers in the waste value chain and in the society more broadly. The waste pickers skills in waste sorting and not least the valuation of fractions, is an asset they should be empowered to be further utilised in a more systematic waste sorting system of the future. Vocational training and education of waste pickers are therefore included in phase 3 starting in 2025.</p> <p>In Morocco Danish companies have won a commercial contract tendered and financed by the Moroccan partners for geophysical groundwater mapping and hydrological modelling and as a direct result of the water sector cooperation. This shows that SSC and commercial cooperation can be closely linked.</p> <p>The cooperation with the Indonesian environment ministry is maturing into a partnership of trust, where the ministry are inviting DEPA into close cooperation on core policies and strategies of the ministry. Being a close partner on national policies and means of implementation on waste management and sorting, as well as on the ministry strategy on circular economy, is a positive result of being available and able to adjust to the needs of the ministry.</p>
Main challenges encountered	<p>Changing political priorities by partners and change of key staff by the partners are the much common challenges that the projects are facing. It is therefore essential for us to be agile and able to adapt to changes of priorities and new people, in order to maintain momentum with the partners.</p> <p>Delays of activities are very common, complicating the opportunity for efficient workplaning. We manage quite well in adapting to the needs of our partners without conflicting with other prioritised tasks of the key experts from DEPA. All experts from DEPA in the projects are working at least half of their time on national files, which is ensuring up-to-date knowledge in their fields. The segregation of approximately half the tasks of DEPA to the Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, has put a strain on the available resources of experts in DEPA, but this will hopefully only be a temporary situation when adapting to the new economic situation of the agency.</p> <p>Lack of necessary human resources with the partners to ensure on-going continued engagement – especially between missions - or depending too much on few individuals, is a general challenge. The best mean to overcome this is to couple the activities as close as possible to existing</p>

	or new priorities within the partners, to ensure relevance of the activities and thereby a match with prioritised resources as well.
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Recommendations		
Recommended changes and adjustments	<p>Overall the framework programme is working according to the expectations within the current requirements and guidance from MFA.</p> <p>The opportunity to work more programmatic and strategic is central to the framework programme, and in general this is supported well by the setup and the instrument as such.</p> <p>Flexibility of the instrument, to seize opportunities in the cooperation still need attention in order to ensure that options for accelerate, scaling or deepening the cooperation is utilised.</p> <p>‘Dream big, but set ambitions to a manageable level’ seems to be the mantra in the SSC projects.</p> <p>There is a need to be able to be agile and adjust directions of work plans, outputs and sometimes also outcomes. Changes in political interests, context or accessible competences needs to be observed closely while maintaining the overall objective of the cooperation.</p>	
Follow up on previous recommendations	Recommendations	Implementation
From SMG	None	
From PMG	None	
From mid-term review	N.A.	
Other	N.A	

## Revised Framework Programme Budget

2023		2024		2025		2026		TOTAL	
Budget	Forbrug	Budget	Forbrug	Budget	Revideret	Budget	Revideret	Budget	Revideret
530.000	510.148	0		0		0		530.000	510.148
1.300.000	1.451.826	0		0		0		1.300.000	1.451.826
2.000.000	1.193.963	3.500.000	3.571.012	3.500.000	3.382.884	1.000.000	1.885.492	10.000.000	10.033.351
						1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000
4.300.000	3.292.392	3.300.000	3.751.764	1.800.000	3.423.150	0	0	9.400.000	10.467.305
						2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000
5.300.000	4.351.835	3.600.000	3.891.891	0	0	0	0	8.900.000	8.243.726
				2.500.000	4.051.199	2.000.000	2.000.000	4.500.000	6.051.199
5.900.000	4.429.076	3.700.000	3.558.515	0	2.000.000	0	0	9.600.000	9.987.591
				3.000.000	2.500.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	5.000.000	4.500.000
700.000	449.791	0		0		0		700.000	449.791
4.400.000	2.150.603	4.500.000	3.799.025	3.600.000	5.961.838	0		12.500.000	11.911.466
								0	0
70.000	132.831	0		0		0		70.000	132.831
2.100.000	1.644.711	3.600.000	2.733.736	3.100.000	3.893.476	1.200.000	2.828.077	10.000.000	11.100.000
						500.000	500.000	500.000	500.000
390.000	688.889	0		0	0	0	0	390.000	688.889
3.100.000	1.376.163	3.600.000	2.711.979	2.400.000	3.588.424	900.000	3.323.434	10.000.000	11.000.000
		0		0		1.000.000		1.000.000	0
1.500.000	715.951	0	1.585.019	0		0		1.500.000	2.300.969
		2.500.000	589.780	3.500.000	3.760.463	2.000.000	2.000.000	8.000.000	6.350.243
1.500.000	1.026.642	0	978.420	0		0		1.500.000	2.005.061
		2.500.000	2.090.263	3.500.000	4.844.594	2.000.000	4.000.000	8.000.000	10.934.857
		0	531.712	0	1.529.470	0	0	0	2.061.182
					2.000.000		4.000.000	0	6.000.000
300.000	0	800.000	18.395	300.000	250.000	300.000	0	1.700.000	268.395
250.000	0	250.000	16.339	250.000	250.000	250.000	0	1.000.000	266.339
				1.000.000	1.000.000			1.000.000	1.000.000
						9.910.000	4.784.829	9.910.000	4.784.829
<b>33.640.000</b>	<b>23.414.820</b>	<b>31.850.000</b>	<b>29.827.851</b>	<b>28.450.000</b>	<b>42.435.498</b>	<b>26.060.000</b>	<b>30.321.832</b>	<b>120.000.000</b>	<b>126.000.000</b>



## Risk Management Plan

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response	Residual risk	Background to assessment
<b>Contextual risks</b>					
International crisis or pandemics stall or delay project activities and travel	Likely	Major	Changing schedule and plans for missions, study tours and other physical events and activities; make use of virtual communication means		COVID pandemic experienced in 2021 and 2022. International crisis are escalating. This may interrupt capacity development activities involving travel, or in case the partner authorities' urgently need to shift focus of staff and resources to addressing pressing other needs. This can impact working relations and results performance for some activities.
Climate variability and natural shocks especially affecting water resources	Likely	Minor	The FP itself is largely a response to this overall risk which is therefore already reflected in its focus. Moreover, the FP's focus on strengthening framework systems will remain relevant and may not necessitate fundamental adjustment in case of extreme weather events, or similar. Besides this, the risk will mainly be addressed at country/project level where activities/focus of the support would be adjusted to events not already reflected in the project designs.	Some risk will remain	Climate variability and natural shocks are frequent in several of the partner countries, for instance, Kenya and Ethiopia, with large effects in terms of drought or heavy, irregular rains, polluted wastewater, etc.
<b>Programmatic risks</b>					
Partner authorities' internal processes delay implementation progress.	Likely	Major	Analyse causes for delays as basis for deciding response; On-going dialogue and up-front assessment of potential barriers, as basis for deciding the necessary adaptation of work plan, activities and budgets; learning and adaptation.	Associated risks might continue and longer-term change of programme and focus might be necessary.	A typical risk in public sector reform and institutional development process, which has affected some projects in the previous phase. At times due to sudden emergence of competing other national priorities, which shift staff/institutional focus momentarily; unexpected capacity weaknesses in areas key to, but not targeted by, the authorities' capacity development activities: shifting of staff, or other institutional barriers emerging.
Challenges in mobilizing national partner staff for inputs on specific activities.	Almost certain	Minor	Requires adaptive and flexible management, change of work plan, activities, timing and inputs from DEPA and others.	Some activities can be delayed or not implemented as foreseen.	Changes in context, framework conditions and/or institutions are common.

<b>Institutional risks</b>					
Implementation challenges or delays arising from the FP is new and not a fully tested mechanism	Unlikely	Minor	Generally the PMG will monitor implementation and ensure learning and proper responses to gaps. Further, the MTR will include a focus on overall implementation challenges and responses.	Some risk will remain	First year of operation have shown integration of the FP into DEPA administration and few outstanding issues with MFA, but some gaps or needs may still arise.
Changing priorities by the MFA on the partner countries, time-use by the sector counsellors, and business promotion within the SSCs	Likely	Major	<p>Ongoing dialogue with both the Embassies and MFA on overall priorities should prepare DEPA for adaption to new priorities.</p> <p>Also bilateral discussions between DEPA and MFA on new strategic perspectives for the SSCs.</p>	Some risk will remain for both delays and major changes.	SSCs are at the same time a dynamic and constant instrument. Being part of development assistance and building the topical skills of DEPA, capacity building in relation to regulatory framework and implementation is constant element of the SSC. At the same time, changing foreign policy priorities and balance with business promotion, puts a dynamic requirement to the SSCs.

## Communication Plan

The overall communication plan for strategic sector cooperation (SSC) aims to ensure broad knowledge about the DEPA's work on international cooperation, and in particular, SSC projects, with focus on results and dissemination of best practices in SSC work.

The Communication Plan is dynamic and will be updated and implemented according to developments with policies, results, lessons learned and needs and opportunities identified by partners and staff involved in SSC cooperation. The Communication Plan targets a wide audience in both Denmark and globally with the use of SoMe channels, homepages, production of videos, explainers and story-telling from both Denmark and partner countries.

In some cases individual communication plans are developed for the separate SSC projects

For Whom? Target Group/Audience	What? (the message)	When?	How?	Responsible
<b>Target Group 1:</b> Danish public and sector associations, municipalities, utilities, universities and others.	<p>Stories, Images and other visual means about DEPA's SSC work, the SSC projects, challenges and concrete results.</p> <p>Short videos for SoMe and DEPA Homepages.</p> <p>DEPA homepage updated on SSC cooperation and SSC projects.</p> <p>Press releases</p> <p>Document and disseminating results from SSC projects</p> <p>Reports, studies, guidelines etc.</p> <p>Meetings with professional associations and with private companies that are members of the associations</p>	<p>During implementation of SSC projects, i.e. minister visits, missions in-country, study tours in Denmark, major outputs produced, milestones achieved etc.</p> <p>Once a year</p>	<p>Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter if relevant</p> <p>DEPA homepages and news</p> <p>Produced photos and video during missions.</p> <p>Story-telling</p> <p>Internally (PMG) / PSG and update of homepage</p> <p>Separate sectoral meeting on water and circular economy between DEPA and association or companies representing the Danish export marked</p>	<p>Project Manager (content)</p> <p>Communication Focal Point (publishing on SoMe and homepage)</p> <p>Project managers and technical staff (DEPA)</p> <p>Press Unit (press releases)</p> <p>Project Managers</p> <p>DEPA</p>
<b>Target Group 2:</b> Public and institutions in partner countries and globally.	<p>As above-mentioned</p> <p>Stories about Danish strongholds, state-of-the-art solu-</p>	As above-mentioned	<p>As above-mentioned</p> <p>Make use also of other communication materials, i.e. State-of Green</p>	As above-mentioned + embassies / sector counselors

	<p>tions in water, circular economy and biodiversity sectors, energy efficiency, climate-neutrality and other themes of relevance.</p> <p>Talks organized by DFC</p> <p>Presentation of the SSC projects' achievements</p>	Frequently	<p>Communication channels used by the specific partners</p> <p>Talks organized by DFC</p>	<p>DEPA and DFC</p> <p>Project Managers. Track team managers</p>
<p><b>Target Group 3:</b> Internal communication in DEPA</p>	<p>Results reporting for SSC programme and its projects.</p> <p>[Outcome harvesting and reporting – pending].</p> <p>SMG meetings PMG meetings Annual reporting DEPA management meetings</p>	<p>Once a year – Strategic Management Group (SMG)</p> <p>Twice a year – Programme Management Group (PMG)</p>	<p>DEPA Intranet</p> <p>Dedicated communication</p>	<p>Project Managers and Communication team</p>

## Annex 1 - Project Summaries against the Programme Objectives

Project title	<i>Strategic Sector Cooperation on Water between Denmark and Ethiopia</i>		
Country	<b>Ethiopia</b>		
Phase	1	Phase duration (from-to)	2023-2026

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development)  (Put X)			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation)  (Put X)			Programme outcome 3 (private sector)  (Put X)		
	x				x			X
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]								Number
								0
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Procent
								50%
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: ‘Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								2
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan								Procent
								100%
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: ‘Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project								Number
								4
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Procent
								100%
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1	<p>Capacity-building activities are ongoing regarding to groundwater management (Outcome A) and effective water supply (Outcome B) in the two partner cities. Many experts from utilities and bureaus of both pilot areas of Hawassa (Sidama region) and Dire Dawa have attended capacity building training on GIS basics, database management, piped network digitalization, etc.</p> <p>However, progress of the two outcomes (A and B) have not been satisfactory. A combination of change of priorities and staff within the water utilities in both cities, change of personal within the Danish teams including the sector counsellor for Water at the embassy, and limitations on project management resource at DEPA, are the reasons behind the lack of progress.</p> <p>A temporary long-term adviser from the Danish EPA was posted in Addis at the embassy from July 2024 to February 2025 as maternity leave cover for new sector counsellor. The adviser worked on the SSC programme and helped the embassy with the design and MOU development for a new project on Rapid Groundwater Resource Mapping with Aarhus University as implementing partner, and managing a Danish funded UNICEF WASH programme in Ethiopia.</p> <p>It is anticipated that with return of the sector counsellor, more project management capacity from the DEPA side, and clearer delivery agreements with the component managers and partners, SSC implementation will accelerate from early 2025. Overall Ethiopian commitment to the cooperation is strengthening with the strong Danish assistance to Ethiopia on water supply.</p> <p>As for the cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Energy (Outcome C), discussions are ongoing on how to expand the cooperation and capacity building to the national level, using the experiences from the pilots in Outcomes A and B and Danish experiences in general, in setting up governance tools (regulatory and implementing tools) for national groundwater</p>							

	<p>mapping and protection. This work will be clarified in the first half year of 2025 during a mission to Ethiopia.</p> <p>Finally, experts from MoWE, Hawassa and Dire Dawa participated in the Danida Fellowship Centre training courses. In 2024, five experts from partner organizations participated in capacity building training facilitated by DFC. Three experts attended the 'Groundwater Governance and Drinking Water Management' course in Denmark from August 19 to September 6, 2024, while two participated in the 'Organizational Change Management' course in Denmark from August 12 to 30, 2024.</p>
Programme outcome 2	<p>Denmark is part of the WESWG (Water and Energy Sector Working Group) and participated in most of the Water Supply and WRM (Water Resource Management) sub-groups meetings in 2024. There has been a significant number of meetings with partners, donors and universities in both Ethiopia and Denmark, with a number of potentially promising areas for cooperation and synergy. Denmark shared lessons learnt and ideas for future scaling and expansion of the SSC activities at all these forums and meetings.</p> <p>Besides this, Denmark has taken lead on understand the groundwater mapping projects currently and previously implemented in our project locations through bilateral discussions with donor partners, universities and national and regional governments. The purpose is to build better synergies between groundwater mapping actors for data sharing and future project planning in light of our expanded support to this area through the SSC and the new Aarhus University project.</p>
Programme outcome 3	<p>In 2024, the Danish embassy has started the project Rapid Groundwater Resource Mapping with Aarhus University. This project will work in synergy with the SSC and focus on building up capacity in Hawassa and Dire Dawa in geophysics and demonstrating TEM technologies in an Ethiopian context.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Embassy assisted Grundfos with setting up meetings with UNCHR and pitching their products for humanitarian settings, where water trucking is very dominant. The Embassy facilitated a meeting between MOWE's ONE WASH National Programme and Grundfos to discuss use of climate resilient water supply and management hardware in the wider WASH programming in Ethiopia and the business case for investing in products of better quality for longer term sustainability. The Embassy also facilitated inclusion of TEM geophysics technology, owned by the Danish TEM Company, into the new Africa Partnership for Peace and Sustainability. The aim is to create peace and stability through identification of climate resilient ground water sources, which can guide drilling and installation of sustainable water supply systems.</p>

Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>The government has launched large economic reform process, with the Home Grown Economy reform aiming to increase macroeconomic stability, control inflation, provide more conducive environment for trade and investments and increase productivity. However, the reform process has had to give way to conflict, drought, etc. An IMF support programme, as well as possible budget support from bi- and multilateral partners, will be important for Ethiopia's economic recovery, but will require further economic reforms including currency devaluation, which in the short term would aggravate the inflation. Ethiopia received a total of \$4.9 billion in Development aid from international partners in 2022, with the World Bank's IDA, the US and the EU (including member states) as the largest international donors.</p>

Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total*	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10.999.178	672.268	3.592.510	2.711.980	4.088.191	6.904.756

\* Initial budget 9.999.178 DKK expanded with one mill. DKK for posting of a long-term adviser from the Danish EPA to the embassy as temporary replacement for the sector councilor on maternity leave.

Project title	Strategic Sector Cooperation on Water between Denmark and India		
Country	India		
Phase	Phase 1	Phase duration (from-to)	2021- June 2025

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) (Put X)			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) (Put X)			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) (Put X)		
		x			x			x
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]								Number
								1
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								7
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organizations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project								Number
								3
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Procent
								100
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1	<p>In 2024, there has been substantial capacity development activities. Concrete training courses in geophysical mapping methods, hydrological and geochemical mapping and train-the-trainer courses in energy efficiency of water supply pumps (Pump Audit) has been developed and executed (with the exception of the geophysical training and the second round of the Pump Audit training, that were developed in 2024, but completed in January 2025). In addition, the Pump Audit training was further utilized by the SSC partner TWAD Board (Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board) in follow-up training session as part of the approach. In the end it therefore impacted even more water professionals and confirmed the usefulness of the train-the-trainer approach.</p> <p>In addition to the training activities, a geophysical mapping campaign, demonstrating the novel sTEM profiler tool and acquiring data for deciding the location of monitoring wells, has clearly showed that the SSC partner of TNWRD (Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department) are now ready to continue the mapping themselves. In the middle of 2025, they plan to initiate a project on managed aquifer recharge (MAR) to mitigate sea water intrusion, where geophysical surveys and modelling are central parts for implementing MAR injection structures and monitoring. As part of the project they will purchase sTEM equipment from the Danish producer and do the geophysical data collection themselves, with the role of Denmark (SSC phase II) limited to provide advice to the planning and the data interpretation, but not for the data collection itself.</p> <p>In the previous years, lack of commitment from TWAD Board caused substantial delays and slow progress of the SSC. In 2024 there has been a productive dialogue with TWAD Board - mainly due to the active involvement of the new Joint Managing Director. However, even though the year was busy with developing and executing the mentioned Pump Audit training, it was not possible to catch up on the remaining delays. The dialogue also resulted in the conclusion that there currently are no opportunities for cooperation on some of the other SSC phase I planned activities of water metering (outcome A) and water quality (outcome C) with TWAD Board. Both topics will probably be part of SSC phase II, where e.g. TWAD Board requests Danish support on how to effectively handle the huge amount of data from a new project of installing more than 8000 smart meters in the water supply distribution system, with the purpose of reducing leakage and revenue collection.</p> <p>A delegation of 10 officials representing the government of India and Central Groundwater Board (CGWB - an institution under the Ministry of Jal Shakti) visited Denmark in October</p>							

	<p>2024. Their focus was on technology, groundwater regulation and Danish approaches to sustainable groundwater management.</p> <p>Two centre of excellences (CoE) was established in 2024, both with DEPA in the steering committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smart Lab on Clean Rivers, aligning the work from the SSC in this initiative with the works of the Indian Institute of Technology in Varanasi (IIT BHU) and the National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG).</li> <li>- CoE on Smart Water Modelling, aligning the work from the SSC in this initiative with the works of Central Water Commission (CWC) and CGWB.</li> </ul> <p>Another SSC activity with a very positive outcome was the 2024 Water Challenge activities, that culminated at the Digital Tech Summit in Copenhagen October 30.-31. From India 13 university students and young entrepreneurs participated. Finally a total of 29 officials from departments including CGWB, TWAD, MAWS, NJJM, TNWRD and NMCG have participated in DFC training courses in Denmark.</p>
Programme outcome 2	<p>SSC India is specifically mentioned (task #11) in the Joint Working Plan following the agreement of the Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) between India and Denmark, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. One of the objectives of the GSP is strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.</p> <p>Concretely, SSC India supports this GSP goal by a focus on upscaling and disseminating results of the partnership through platforms and modalities already in place. In 2024 as a result of this, VCS Denmark did three well-attended webinars on different water supply topics, reaching out to chief engineers and other key officers responsible for implementation of sustainable water supply across all of India. [A final phase I webinar was conducted March 19<sup>th</sup> 2025].</p> <p>Late 2024 the first Joint Working Group between senior officials from Jal Shakti and the Danish Ministry of Environment was held. The meeting was very positive and evolved around the positive partnership on a broad areas of water related themes.</p> <p>Sound dialogue has continued with CGWB with the purpose of setting up a Centre of Excellence on Groundwater Mapping. In addition to CGWB visit in October, the dialogue ended in a decision in the Joint Working Group between Jal Shakti and Danish Ministry of Environment to expand the existing Center of Excellence on Smart Water (see programme outcome 1). This is an important prerequisite for partnering with CGWB in the remainder of phase I as well as in phase II and for upscaling all relevant activities on ground water to national scale.</p>
Programme outcome 3	<p>A Danish business delegation visited New Delhi and Tamil Nadu in September 2024, organized by the Trade Council at the Danish Embassy in India together with DI-Vand. The visit to New Delhi was a part of the biannually India Water Week, and DEPA participated in the visit. Keynotes by the Head of the DEPA Groundwater Unit together with plenary sessions and panel debates on Danish water supply regulation was merged with private sector presentations and exhibition at the Danish Pavilion to give the full picture of Danish approach of synergy between technology and regulation. A technical workshop at Grundfos in Chennai, and a SSC celebration seminar, funded by the Trade Council, completed the mission.</p> <p>In addition, as mentioned under Programme outcome 2, TNWRD will now purchase TEM equipment, and thereby providing another pilot demonstration project, that can be used by the Danish manufacturer of the equipment to expand a promising market to more parts of India.</p> <p>Roundtable discussions was held in Chennai, focusing on the future of water technology with an emphasis on energy efficiency. Representatives from MAWS and TNWRD were invited to participate, enabling dialogue between Danish technology providers and Indian water authorities.</p> <p>Showcasing of Danish technology were integrated part of the visits to Denmark.</p>

Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	The 2024 Indian general elections were held from April 19 to June 1. While it remains to be seen how the results will shape political and administrative dynamics in the long term, the elections led to a new parliamentary composition. The election period and subsequent transition



	<p>slowed cooperation with Indian authorities as administrative processes and decision-making were temporarily affected.</p> <p>In June 2024, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MJS) appointed Mr. C.R. Patil as the new Union Minister. Mr. Patil follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who held the position from 2019 to 2024. Both ministers have been key figures within the BJP and are known for their close alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This continuity in leadership has reinforced the central government's commitment to advancing India's water agenda. Mr. Patil's appointment ensures policy continuity while potentially accelerating efforts in water resource management. This consistency strengthens the national water agenda and may facilitate deeper institutional and financial commitments to long-term projects such as clean river initiatives and sustainable sanitation programs.</p> <p>In the latter half of 2024, the expected conclusion of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) introduced a degree of uncertainty among Indian authorities regarding the next steps for rural water supply initiatives. This uncertainty influenced discussions on future cooperation and strategic priorities, as stakeholders awaited further clarification on post-JJM policies and programs. [In the beginning of 2025, it was clarified that JJM is extended to the end 2028].</p>
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
12.579.109	7.462.638	4.321.757	3.558.515	11.021.153	1.557.956

Project title	Strategic Sector Cooperation in Circular Economy and Solid Waste management between Denmark and Indonesia		
Country	Indonesia		
Phase	2	Project duration ( <i>from-to</i> )	July 2023 – June 2026

Off track	Partly on track	On track	
<b>Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes</b>			
<b>Overall assessment of progress</b>			
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) (Put X)	Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) (Put X)		Programme outcome 3 (private sector) (Put X)
	X		X
<b>Programme Outcome 1 indicator:</b> <i>'Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project'</i>			Number
			3
<b>Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>'Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected'</i>			Procent
			100%
<b>Programme Outcome 2 indicator:</b> <i>'Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project'</i>			Number
			1
<b>Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>'Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan'</i>			Procent
			90%
<b>Programme Outcome 3 indicator:</b> <i>'Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project'</i>			Number
			6
<b>Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>'Progress on embassies' and projects' annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector's engagement'</i>			Procent
			75%
<b>Short narrative description</b>			
Programme outcome 1	<p>(Stronger legislative frameworks and institutional capacity of partner authorities to implement and manage systems that promote 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management, with a cross-cutting focus on climate mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity.)</p> <p>The SSC Project has contributed to capacity development through visit to Denmark, advice and sparring during visit to Indonesia and support national and international conferences and learning events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2024, DEPA provided technical and financial support to development of KLH strategy for waste management. Collaboration with KLH and national consultants took place during launch seminar, seminar in Bandung and bi-weekly meetings. Fruitful dialogue and discussions were held on ministerial strategy development, national priority/target setting, data reporting and presentation of the waste sector in Indonesia. Most work was done on 2024, and the strategy is expected completed in April 2025.</li> <li>• Cooperation with KLH and ADUPI was initiated for establishment of a national on-line platform/register for plastic recycling companies in Indonesia. A contract was signed with ADUPI for a six months period. Most of the work was done in 2024 and will be completed and launched in April 2025.</li> <li>• Extensive dialogue and working sessions were held with KLH on strengthening the national waste bank programme. DEPA provided technical and financial support to prepare, launch and disseminate new national guidelines on waste banks (both in Bahasa and English). The Embassy participated with KLH and national stakeholders in several large events where KLH launched and disseminated the national guidelines.</li> <li>• 2 workshops conducted with cities in 2024.</li> <li>• 2 visit by Odense Waste Utility to Indonesia and webinars on municipality waste management.</li> <li>• 15-18 persons have participated in DFC courses in Denmark in 2024</li> </ul>		

	<p>Programme Indicator 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National waste bank guidelines developed and disseminated</li> <li>• Ministerial strategy close to completion.</li> <li>• National data base for private plastic traders close to completion</li> </ul> <p>100% achieved Very good progress in 2024.</p>
Programme outcome 2	<p>(More active and effective bilateral technical and diplomatic engagement in support of the green transition linked to circular economy, waste and pollution management, and water resources, water supply, and wastewater management.)</p> <p>The SSC Project has contributed actively and effectively to enhancing bilateral relations through direct involvement, relation-building and sharing of knowledge and know-how etc. Besides of good working relations with KLH and other national partners, good relations are also maintained with the Indonesian Embassy in Copenhagen.</p> <p>With the new Government in Indonesia (including new Environment Minister and new Vice Environment Minister), the Embassy has established a very good and close connection and dialogue at political level. The Embassy has participated in several events with the Ministers, meetings have been held and DEPA/Embassy have also participated in meeting with Vice Environment Minister. The Environment Minister will be visiting Denmark in April 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2024, the Embassy has participated in many national environment events with KLH and other national actors and partners.</li> <li>• A close and constructive dialogue and cooperation with the new environment minister, new environment vice-minister, KLH management and staff, other ministries and national partners have been further strengthened with many joint activities and events in 2024.</li> <li>• Close working relations have been consolidated and further developed in 2024 with central and local authorities and many other actors.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting for Phase 2 held on 30. May 2024.</li> </ul> <p>Programme Indicator 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between Odense Waste Utility and 5 cities established.</li> </ul> <p>The cooperation has continued in 2024 and it is evident that the continuity of the meetings have opened up for closer dialogue. However, there is scope for deepening and developing the cooperation between Odense Waste utility and the cities further. One visit to Denmark is planned for the cities in June 2025. Also 2 DFC participants will visit Odense Waste Utility in 2025</p> <p>100% achieved.</p>
Programme outcome 3	<p>(Enhanced exposure of the Danish private sector's sustainable development solutions and green financial investments in partner markets where they can contribute importantly to tackling challenges in circular economy, water, pollution control, environmental management and biodiversity.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEPA participated in Indonesia Investment Forum organized at Danish Industry on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.</li> <li>• In 2024, meetings were held with Danish Embassy's Investment Adviser and Trade Section to explore possibilities and synergies and collaboration.</li> <li>• DEPA organized a business network meeting in Odense for Danish companies working with or interested in international circular economy. Presentation was also made on Danish engagement in Indonesia. 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.</li> <li>• A number of visits have been made to private companies in Indonesia in 2024.</li> <li>• The Embassy has participated in several investment events and dialogues with GoI on how to mobilise green financing.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEPA has worked focused on delivering messages and knowledge of what is required for developing bankable, feasible investments project, also to boost private sector involvement in the resource and waste sector.</li> <li>• Indonesian Environment Minister will visit IFU/DSIF on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 to talk about green financing and projects in Indonesia.</li> </ul> <p>Programme Indicator: Several activities have been undertaken. But the SSC Project cannot claim that any direct commercial contracts have been signed due to direct result of the SSC cooperation.</p> <p>75% achievement of this target.</p>
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Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>The new Government of Indonesia has expressed its commitment towards green transition and a more sustainable socio-economic development in the country. There are also national policies and strategies in place for the waste sector, and the challenges are to a large extent related to implementation and enforcement. However with the new government, and new minister and vice-minister for environment, many new initiatives are being made in order to accelerate and improve the environmental conditions in Indonesia.</p> <p>During meetings with Environment Ministers during the last half year, the impression is that the GoI prioritises investment in Waste-to-Energy, cleaning-up campaigns at Bali and in Jakarta, activation of CO2 credits, mobilisation of international financing and other issues. A new national Circular Economy Roadmap has launched Medio 2024, and there is a great potential to accelerate recycling and work towards a more circular development.</p> <p>The progress of advancing green transition, including circular economy and waste management is challenging. The potentials for green transition, circular economy, renewable energy and waste management have considerable potential, but are not fully explored. There is still a way to go until Indonesia has basic waste management services in place and until a circular economy (CE) approach is fully understood and more integrated within the Indonesian economy. In the new long-term development strategy, national targets and priorities have been included for advancing circular initiatives and strengthen work on reduction and handling of waste. KLH is contributing to delivering on the national CE targets and priorities.</p> <p>There was general election in autumn 2024, and some slowdown of activities were experienced both at central and local levels. After election and appointment of new president, new government and new majors and regents there has also been reforms and changes in the central and local administrations. This has meant that some activities were on-hold for a couple of months in late 2024 and beginning of 2025.</p> <p>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is being addressed by KLH and other ministries, and a decree for a national road map that shall place higher responsibility on producers to manage waste in their production was issued in 1991. The roadmap might not be a fully developed EPR approach with the producers paying for the handling of product residuals, but it is a first important step in the right direction. GiZ has prepared an EPR study with recommendations. KLH has a clear understanding of the challenges and gaps. However, the political attention still has to be intensified, and a number of ministries needs to be involved right from the beginning.</p> <p>There is some legislation in place for electronic waste (WEEE) and hazardous waste, but implementation and enforcement are weak. KLH has expressed an interest in learning about international best practices experiences and inputs to strengthen the national systems on handling WEEE and hazardous waste. Some discussion is taking place as to how Denmark can assist in enhancing handling of WEEE in Indonesia.</p> <p>The waste sector lacks funding to sustain basic waste services, and new legislation on retribution fees are only partial implemented. The authorities in Jakarta has taken new initiatives for more user payment/retribution fees for waste services. Other local authorities have also taken new initiatives in an attempt to introduce and expand retribution/payment for waste services, i.e. Malang Province and Municipality.</p> <p>The local authorities possess some technical knowledge but lack financial capacity to develop, maintain and operate large projects in the waste sector. Investments are often centrally funded and implemented, and the operation and maintenance thereafter rest with the local authorities.</p>

	<p>Projects are typically undertaken in a scattered manner on ad-hoc basis and longer-term sustainability is often weak.</p> <p>The formal waste sector take care of collection and disposal of app. half of the waste, whereas the informal sector/private sector deals with collection and recycling of higher value fractions, i.e. metal, paper, glass and others. The other half of the waste is discharged or burned illegally or left uncontrolled in the open. Reforms in the waste sector in Indonesia are needed to develop new organisational models and financial structures for waste management services at provincial and municipality levels. KLH is interested in learning more about international best practices of how to integrate the informal waste sector in the formal sector.</p> <p>KLH has developed and maintains the national waste data systems in Indonesia, i.e. SIPSN and SIMBA (for waste banks). Not all local authorities report into the national data system, and ensuring quality and reliability of data is a challenge. KLH is aware of the importance of good, consistent and reliable data for informed decision-making, waste planning, management and reporting, and has expressed interest in support for strengthening national waste data systems.</p> <p>Indonesia is an active member of the ASEAN, and comparative studies show that the waste sector in Indonesia performs on average level compared to neighbouring countries in the ASEAN region. World Bank, ADB, GiZ, Denmark Netherlands and other international partners provide support to circular economy and waste management in Indonesia. Indonesia takes active part in the ASEAN cooperation on environment, circular economy and waste management. EU supports the Denmark-led Team Europe Initiative project in ASEAN on circular economy. It is expected that this project will also engage with Indonesian authorities and partners.</p>
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10.000.000	1.193.961	4.275.858	3.562.014	4.755.975	5.244.025

Project title	Strategic Sector Cooperation on Environment between Denmark and Kenya		
Country	Kenya (CE)		
Phase	2	Project duration ( <i>from-to</i> )	October 2021 – end of year 2024

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) <div>(Put X)</div>		
		x			x			x
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]								Number
								3
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Procent
								100%
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: ‘Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								20
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan’								Procent
								100%
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: ‘Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project’								Number
								3
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Procent
								100%
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1		<div>The Kenyan EPR (extended producer responsibility) regulation is a success.</div> 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	negatively affected. Just transition will be a focus area in phase 3 of the SSC project (2025-2027)
Programme outcome 2	<p><b>The bilateral relationship between Kenya and Denmark has been strengthened.</b> Through high-level visits, Kenyan participation in DFC courses and master's degrees in Denmark and, not least, through the day-to-day relationship building with SSC partners in Kenya and DEPA missions to Kenya.</p> <p><u>High-level visits</u> During 2024 a number of high-level visits from Denmark to Kenya also involved the SSC circular economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister of Environment, Magnus Heunicke participated in UNEA6 in February 2024. During his stay in Kenya, he also had several engagements with the SSC cooperation on circular economy. Aside from meeting high-level stakeholders – the then Cabinet Secretary for environment in Kenya, Soipan Tuya, and the Permanent Secretary Festus K. Ng'eno, he also visited the Dandora dumpsite and engaged directly with leaders of the local waste pickers working there. He also visited the largest market for second hand textiles in East Africa which is situated in Nairobi (called Gikomba). Finally, he attended the SSC supported LOOP Forum visiting and engaging with Kenyan and Danish businesses exhibiting at LOOP Forum.</li> <li>• Dan Jørgensen visited Kenya in May 2024 and also went to the Dandora dumpsite to engage with the waste pickers and understand the challenges of waste management in Kenya.</li> </ul> <p>These high-level engagements cemented Denmark's position in Kenya as a partner that is committed to furthering a just transition to a circular economy in Kenya and who appreciates the role of all relevant actors: government, private sector and civil society.</p> <p><b>DFC courses and scholarships for master's studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 40 Kenyan SSC partners have participated in DFC courses in 2024.</li> <li>• Three candidates nominated by the SSC Circular Economy were successful in securing a master's scholarship and started their studies in Denmark in August.</li> <li>• The DFC alumni are strong ambassadors for Denmark and Danish solutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Day-to-day relationship building and missions to Kenya</b> Strong relationships are built through the peer-to-peer exchange that is at the core of the SSC instrument. Kenyan officials who have worked for a long time now with their Danish counterparts are very aware and appreciative of the Danish approach to e.g. environmental auditing, waste management, etc.</p>



<p>Programme outcome 3</p>	<p><b>The Danish Circular economy conference LOOP Forum adopted by Kenya</b></p> <p>The SSC has introduced LOOP Forum to Kenya (2023) – an event showcasing circular solutions primarily from businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At LOOP Forum 2024 the SSC managed to secure participation from three different Danish companies who are currently not present in Kenya: <b>ATEA:</b> Promoted IT collection and recycling solutions, <b>Transform:</b> Focused on nature-based solutions for climate and environmental challenges, <b>Agrain:</b> Demonstrated the processing of brewery by-products into new food products. The companies all expressed satisfaction with the connections that they were able to make through their presence at LOOP Forum.</li> </ul> <p><b>SSC project, DI, and Bestseller Foundation supports greening of new textile policy in Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenya is currently developing a new Cotton, Textile and Apparel policy. The SSC has facilitated a joint Danish input to the policy from Bestseller Foundation, Danish Industry, DEPA and RDE.</li> <li>As a concrete follow-up, we are now working on a jointly (DI, Bestseller Foundation and SSC) organised study tour for a Kenyan delegation to Denmark to present Danish sustainable solutions within the textile sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Danish IT company enters Kenyan market with SSC support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During phase 1 and 2 of the SSC project, the SS partners developed a revised (paper) template for environmental auditing and licensing in Kenya.</li> <li>In 2023 the Danish company cBrain offered to digitalise the system for NEMA as part of the SSC project. A contract for a pilot of this digital system was made between DEPA and cBrain and later it was transferred to a short-term contract between NEMA and cBrain.</li> <li>Despite the pilot ending 2024, NEMA intends to keep using the digital template just moving it to their new, up-coming NEMA IT-system when that is implemented.</li> <li>CBrain also developed a pilot for EPR registration for NEMA as part of the SSC project. This pilot has now been transferred fully to a NEMA / cBrain</li> <li>The EPR-registration system is now an integrated part of NEMAs daily running. Hence, when the EPR regulation was gazette in Nov. 2024, NEMA was ready for companies to register digitally – and cBrain had officially entered the (green) Kenyan market with initial market entry support of the SSC project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Context of country and sector</b></p>	
<p>Key developments in country and sector contexts</p>	<p><b>Summer 2024 Kenya faced serious political and social unrest.</b></p> <p>That lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A re-shuffle of the cabinet secretaries (ministers)</li> <li>Stalling of budget approvals</li> <li>Human rights abuses</li> </ul> <p>This influenced the SSC partners and thus the SSC project.</p> <p>Despite some severe setbacks and uncertainties amongst the implementing partners, especially NEMA (the National Environment Management Authority), the new cabinet secretary for MoECCF (Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry) also took some bold and positive steps towards a green and circular economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 4th 2024 the long-awaited EPR regulation (extended producer responsibility) was gazetted.</li> </ul>



	Kenya is in the process of developing a new Cotton, Textile and Apparel policy. The SSC has – in collaboration with Danish Industry and Bestseller Foundation – tried to use this as an opportunity to influence the new policy in a more sustainable direction.
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total (2024)	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10.285.601	6.401.764	3.890.890	3.891.891	10.293.656	-8054

Project title	the Strategic Sector Cooperation on Water between Denmark and Kenya		
Country	Kenya (Water)		
Phase	1	Phase duration (from-to)	Nov. 2024 – end of year 2027

Off track	Partly on track	On track	
<b>Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes</b>			
<b>Overall assessment of progress</b>			
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) (Put X)	Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) (Put X)		Programme outcome 3 (private sector) (Put X)
	x		x
<b>Programme Outcome 1 indicator:</b> <i>‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]</i>			Number
			0
<b>Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>‘Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’</i>			Procent
			100
<b>Programme Outcome 2 indicator:</b> <i>‘Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’</i>			Number
			15
<b>Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>‘Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan’</i>			Procent
			100
<b>Programme Outcome 3 indicator:</b> <i>‘Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project’</i>			Number
			5
<b>Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%)</b> <i>‘Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’</i>			Procent
			100
<b>Short narrative description</b>			
Programme outcome 1	The formulation process and the first mission of phase 1 (dec. 2024) has in modest way already contributed to capacity development. Two fact finding missions in 2024, the first mission of phase 1 (dec. 2024) and not least the visit to Denmark by the Kenyan minister of water (Nov. 2024), has enhanced knowledge sharing between Denmark and Kenya. Both at ministerial and local government level and included the Danish business sector and international NGOs and UN organisations, as well as local WRUAS (water resource users associations). We have had 2 high level delegations to Denmark in 2024 giving the sector leadership solid exposure to Danish governance solutions and technologies.		
Programme outcome 2	The formulation and up-start of phase 1 has contributed to enhancing bilateral relations. The Danish Minister of Environment and the Kenyan MoWSI Minister met in November 2024 and signed the SSC Project document. The recurrent missions by the DEPA staff and the presence of the Sector Counsellor has made the sector aware of the new facility in Kenya and has improved Denmark's position in the Kenyan water sector.		
Programme outcome 3	The two high level delegations to Denmark (April and November 2024) have participated in round table discussions with Danish private sector companies with business interests in Kenya – two arranged together with DI Water. Furthermore, DHI hosted a half day workshop on water resource management exposing the Kenyan ministers delegations to the positions of Danish private sector, academia and Danish NGOs working within the eco-system of groundwater/pollution control /Nature-based solutions (NbS). In addition the delegations met with IFU. The SSC project has a very close cooperation with ECODIP both in Denmark and Kenya. The DEPA project staff and the sector counsellor often acts as entry points for Danish companies and makes sure to include and, depending on request, hand over to ECODIP.		

<b>Context of country and sector</b>
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Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>2024 was an eventful year in the Kenyan water sector. It started on a very strong note with the long-awaited launch of the National Water and Sanitation Investment Strategy in connection with a well-organised and well-attended conference in early February. Denmark was via our water sector components in the country programme a gold sponsor for the conference and took additionally a prominent role with keynote from the Danish ambassador, contributions from DEPA and IFU in technical sessions and several Danish companies participating in the ad-joined exhibition. The investment strategy outlines the state of affairs, put solid numbers to the huge investment backlog and additionally lists subsectors and concrete projects where investments are urgent. An important landmark for the Kenyan government.</p> <p>The release of the financial bill in June 2024 ignite significant protest unrest across the urban centres in Kenya with several fatalities. Especially the youth, GEN Z where protesting against increased taxes from a government with little to show for it. The bill was retracted and the President induced significant budget cuts - 20 % on the water sector budget - a cabinet shuffle that gave us the current CS Eric Mugaa and an attempt to achieve savings and increase efficiency by merging of state agencies with overlapping mandates.</p> <p>The proposal for the water sector is to amalgamate the Water Resource Authority with Water Services Regulatory Board and Regional Centre for Ground Water which in Denmark would be the equivalent to amalgamating the Danish Environment Protection Agency with Denmark and Greenlands Geological Surveys (GEUS) and the National Danish Water Regulator.</p> <p>It became very silent soon after the announcement in July, but has stirred again now in early 2025. All mentioned institutions are partners with the current project and the mergers could potentially impact project implementation.</p> <p>The Sector Counsellor has been appointed for the Nairobi River Commission Advisory Board (NRC is an important partner for the project) and has further accepted the chairmanship of the Water and Sanitation Development Partners Group. Both positions will provide good platforms for leveraging and communicating the SSC project in the sector</p>
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
12.000.000	0 (inception phase)	589.780	589.780	589.780	11.410.220

Project title	Strategic Sector Cooperation project on groundwater and wastewater between Denmark and China		
Country	China		
Phase	2	Phase duration (from-to)	01.07.2021-31.12.2025

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) <div>(Put X)</div>		
		x			x			x
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]								Number
								2
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								17
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project								Number
								14
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Procent
								100
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1	On the basis of the DHI demo-projects on wastewater from Beijing and Jiangsu and best practices from Danish management policy briefs were conducted. The policy briefs on wastewater management recommendations were finalized in autumn 2024 and was submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) in beginning of 2025.							
Programme outcome 2	Many visits to public and private institutions on the study tours in DK provided good opportunities to gain knowledge from Chinese water experts as well as insights into new Chinese strategies and future initiatives. Enhancement of Green Joint Work Programme in relevant meetings. Also DEPA hosting additional visits from Chinese provinces interested in learning about Danish water management improves bilateral relations and knowledge sharing between DK and China outside involved project partners.							
Programme outcome 3	Rambøll was employed as consultant on revision of the modelling guideline on the ground-water track. This gave them direct contact and access to water institutions on national, regional and local scale in China, including knowhow of research methods, techniques and cases. TEM Company was involved in the MAR task on the groundwater track, giving presentation, held live-demonstration of their equipment on Embassy ground and their products used by Aarhus University on the demonstration project in Hebei. On study tours to Denmark around 8 Danish water tech companies have been exposed.							

<b>Context of country and sector</b>	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>The geopolitical context of relations between China and Europe was marked by trade tensions and China's relationship with Russia in 2024.</p> <p>On the environmental and water agenda, China played a crucial role in opposing efforts targeting plastic production limits, hampering the progress on a global plastic treaty. China and India relations were tensed as China approved a new mega dam project (to become world's largest), three times as big as Three Gorges Dam, on a holy Tibetan River at the border to India cutting the resource upstream. In response India released the news of an equal sized dam project downstream to 'offset' the impacts. Both dams has generated concerns over China's power position in having a massive dam upstream, ecosystem damages and displacement of residents.</p> <p>For Chinese water sector, the following policies were released: Regulation on Water Conservation by State Council, Guiding Opinions on Further Advancing Rural Domestic Sewage Treatment (Dec. 2023) issued by MEE and MARA, Guiding opinions on accelerating development of water conservation industry by NDRC and Notice of the MWR on strengthening water</p>

	quota management for key industries. Last but not least 2024 was also the year where the book “Water Governance in China, Perspectives of Xi Jinping” was released by MWR.
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10.010.477	3.943.352	3.463.449	3.751.763	7.695.115	2.394.286

Project title	Strategic Sector Cooperation in the Water Sector in Morocco.		
Country	Morocco		
Phase	1	Project duration ( <i>from-to</i> )	July 2023 – June 2026

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) (Put X)			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) (Put X)			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) (Put X)		
		X			X			X
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’								Number
								1
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Percent
								75%
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: ‘Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								2
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan								Percent
								75%
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: ‘Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project								Number
								2
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Percent
								100%
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1	<p>(Stronger legislative frameworks and institutional capacity of partner authorities to implement and manage systems that promote 1) circular economy, sustainable waste management, and pollution control; and 2) sustainable water resources, water supply and wastewater management, with a cross-cutting focus on climate mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity.)</p> <p>In 2024, SSC Programme has undertaken missions to Morocco and visits to Denmark, conducted a number of trainings and workshops in wellfield management, communication, surface water monitoring, geophysics, data management, GIS, modelling and other activities. Significant efforts have been made in 2024 to enhance technical capacity among Moroccan partners. Progress on achieving this outcome is well underway. 50 participants have also joined DFC courses.</p> <p>KAMP mock-up version for climate planning developed with ABHT, Septima and DEPA and handed over to ABHT for further development.</p> <p>Programme Indicator 1 – 100% achieved.</p>							
Programme outcome 2	<p>(More active and effective bilateral technical and diplomatic engagement in support of the green transition and water resources, water supply, and wastewater management.)</p> <p>The SSC Programme has played an important role in enhancing the bilateral relations between Denmark and Morocco during 2024. Several study visits have been made to Denmark and missions to Morocco were undertaken during the year. A very close and constructive collaboration has been established between Danish and Moroccan institutions. The SSC cooperation has also resulted in other spin-off activities that enhances the bilateral relation, i.e. trade cooperation, participation in international events, DFC research projects and other activities. Achieving this outcome is well underway.</p> <p>Collaboration established between VCS Denmark and ONEE. Support to develop research cooperation on water resources between Copenhagen University (KU) and the university UM6P has been provided.</p> <p>Programme Indicator 2: 100 % achieved</p>							

Programme outcome 3	<p>(Enhanced exposure of the Danish private sector's sustainable development solutions and green financial investments in partner markets where they can contribute importantly to tackling challenges in circular economy, water, pollution control, environmental management and biodiversity.)</p> <p>Collaboration has been established with the Trade Section at the Embassy in Rabat, and the Sector Counsellor collaborates closely with the Trade Council. The SSC financed 3 Moroccan partners to participate in the Trade Council MENA-visit to Denmark on wastewater, 24-27 September 2024.</p> <p>The most impressive result so far in bridging and involving private sector has been a commercial contract on geophysical mapping and hydrological modelling made by ABHT with the companies RESING, SKYTEM Surveys and NIRAS. As a direct result of the SSC cooperation with ABHT, these companies have won an international contract financed by ABHT. This activity is a clear and concrete case that SSC cooperation can directly result in private sector engagement.</p> <p>There are significant potential for further involvement of Danish private sector in the SSC cooperation with Morocco, and private companies are involved in visits to Denmark and activities in Morocco. Every visit to Denmark has included visits to private companies, and Danish companies are being involved in the SSC Project in Morocco during 2024.</p> <p>Achieving this outcome is well underway.</p> <p>International tender, financed by ABHT, has been won by consortium consisting of RESING, SKYTEM Surveys and NIRAS for geophysical mapping and hydrological mapping in Tensift basin.</p> <p>Programme Indicator 3: 100 % achieved</p>
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Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>Morocco is among the most water stressed countries in the World. The country experiences economic growth, population growth, rapid agricultural development with larger and more commercial farms and urbanisation. At the same time the country is severely impacted by climate change, and has experienced serious droughts during the past five years and increased flash flooding in recent decades. King Mohammed VI and the Government of Morocco are well aware of the challenges in addressing climate changes and ensuring safe water to the population, agriculture and industry. At the opening of the Parliament in autumn 2024, King Mohammed VI mentioned the national priorities and development plans, and water resources development management was among the top priorities. Morocco has an ambitious 30 years long-term strategy, PNAEPI 2020-2050, for the water sector, and the present 7-year national water sector development plan, PNE, has an objective that includes a number of key action intervention areas, i.e. i) enhanced water sector governance, ii) stronger economic sustainability, iii) water efficiency and iv) integration of non-conventional water resources.</p> <p>The total budget of the sector plan, PNE 2020-2027, is app. 14 Billion Euros. Morocco invests more than 2 Billion Euro every year in the water sector. Investments might even be higher than laid out in the long-term strategy.</p> <p>Morocco has a high coverage of drinking water provision in both urban and rural areas, and the coverage of waste water treatment is rapidly improving with more cities and rural areas being covered.</p> <p>The Government of Morocco is investing heavily in infrastructure development to ensure a reliable and consistent water supply for drinking and irrigation throughout the year. Large investments are made in construction of dams and reservoirs capturing surface water, and construction of large transmission lines from North to South between large cities. Many of the bulk transmission lines go across two or more water basins within Morocco. Dam reservoirs are experiencing declining water levels and increased sedimentation/siltation, and hence lowering of utilised reservoir capacity. Sometimes the storage drop as low as 5 % of the potential water storage.</p> <p>Large and advanced desalination plants at sites along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts are being planned and under construction. The desalination plants will be among the largest and most advanced in the World. Also process water and water for PtX and green hydrogen production is</p>



	<p>becoming a more and more issue in Morocco. National consulting companies and contractors together with international firms play an important role in realising the ambitious water sector plans in Morocco.</p> <p>Morocco experiences rapid growth in agriculture, and many companies and farmers are investing in the sector. Public investments in large irrigation schemes and drip irrigation are also huge. Agriculture accounts for up to 90% of the total water use in Morocco, and the remaining 10% goes to drinking water and industry. The declining precipitation, slower recharge of groundwater resources and increasing abstraction of groundwater have created serious problems with depleting groundwater reservoirs and rapidly declining water tables. In many areas of the country, the water table is decreasing with alarming rates of 1-5 meters per year. Every year farmers, industries and water works are drilling deeper and deeper to utilise groundwater resources.</p> <p>The Government of Morocco has declared groundwater as a strategic resource with special importance for ensuring water safety and drinking water supply during longer drought periods.</p> <p>Morocco is, besides of drought, also experiencing flash floods and flooding in different areas that experience rapid bursts and heavy run-off from mountainous areas into plains.</p> <p>Building resilient flood warning systems is a high priority of the Government, and a national flood forecasting system, 'Vigirisque', has been established for four pilot sites by DGH, with plans for further development and national coverage in the coming years. The national flood forecasting centre works closely with regional offices and the national emergency response institutions, including by leading daily virtual status and planning meetings between institutions.</p> <p>The Government wishes to work further with adapting to flash flooding by enhancing planning capacity and improving decision-support systems. Some projects that enhance adaptive capacity of river systems have been implemented in appointed risk sites and there is some focus on identifying multiple benefits, including for recreation and biodiversity.</p> <p>The Ministry of Equipment and Water, (DGH, which is the national lead partner for the SSC water cooperation, is well aware of the national and regional challenges of securing water resources in the country, including securing a more sustainable and balanced management of the scarce and depleted groundwater resources. Many illegal boreholes for irrigation are in operation and continues to be established. The 10 regional water resources offices (ABHs) are responsible for managing the water resources and overseeing the overall utilisation of water. They are also authorised with the mandate to register and approve groundwater boreholes for abstraction. Each ABH has a few (2) water police officers, however, the basins are large and the task of effective enforcement of groundwater regulation is difficult. At present, DGH is working on developing a more comprehensive and detailed groundwater mapping and atlas of the national groundwater resources, and drafting of regulation of abstraction and drilling has been initiated.</p> <p>Morocco has an important geopolitical role in enhancing relations and cooperation between Africa and Europe, also within the water sector. High priority is also given towards higher and vocational education and training in water resources, water supply, waste water management and other areas. Water institutions in Morocco also train civil servants and staffs from other African countries. Planning and construction of a new water education institution in Fez is also under way. Several universities in Morocco have water research institutes.</p> <p>Reforms of the water sector in Morocco are underway with plans of merging water supply institutions (ONEE, Regies) and creating three large companies with concession agreements covering water supply, waste water treatment and electricity. The reforms will impact the national water supply company ONEE.</p>
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10.000.000	1.644.711	3.600.000	2.733.735	4.378.447	5.621.553



Project title	SSC South Africa - Water		
Country	South Africa		
Phase	III	Phase duration (from-to)	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) <i>(Put X)</i>			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) <i>(Put X)</i>			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) <i>(Put X)</i>		
	x			x			x	
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: <i>‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’</i>								Number
								8
Programme Output 1 indicator (target: 100%) <i>Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’</i>								Procent
								70
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: <i>Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’</i>								Number
								1
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) <i>Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan</i>								Procent
								80
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: <i>Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project</i>								Number
								1
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) <i>Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’</i>								Procent
								80
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development)	<p>The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) actively disseminated the No Drop guidelines developed by the project both internally and externally as part of the implementation of the No Drop Programme. Internally, DWS incorporated the No Drop Programme into its strategic planning, as outlined in the <b>**Annual Performance Plan for 2024-2025 to 2026-2027**</b>, which emphasizes water conservation and demand management in alignment with the program's objectives. Key members of the SSC water services track team invested significant time and effort in conducting workshops across several South African regions to disseminate the No Drop guidelines and engage regional DWS staff in its implementation at municipal level.</p> <p>The <i>“Water Efficiency in Industry” track</i> carried out a series of workshops to promote and optimize tools developed to assist industries in implementing water use efficiency practices. Gathering representatives from nearly 100 South African companies, these workshops were held in early July in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng Provinces on. The workshops focused on:</p> <p>a) Showcasing the metering and monitoring guidelines and tools developed through the SSC, along with water conservation and water demand management strategies in the South African industrial context, b) Arguing the case of smart metering in industry production lines through a compelling business case built on a phase II demonstration project in a dairy processing company, c) Recruiting industries willing to test the Excel-based water balance tool over several months to optimize its functionality.</p> <p>In 2024, the groundwater track focused on capacity development through numerous capacity development activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Preparing for and contributing to external workshops where the five groundwater guidelines developed in the project were presented to internal and external stakeholders. Discussions included how these guidelines could be incorporated into national regulations, based on insights gained from workshops held in March 2024.</li><li>- Testing the groundwater guideline for delineating protection zones, using the Dinokana area as an example.</li><li>- Testing the south African Groundwater Mapping and Assessment Approach SAGMAA concept for groundwater mapping.</li><li>- Conducting activities related to the development of a borehole driller training program and a model for mandatory accreditation of borehole drillers.</li></ul>							

	<p>Significant efforts were also dedicated to supporting the ongoing reform of the water sector. This included organizing a high-level knowledge exchange mission to Denmark with the DWS reform task team, which also included representatives from the Water Regulatory Commission. The mission aimed to share insights on the structure of Denmark's drinking water sector, implemented reforms, and to establish connections with key sector actors. These interactions were intended to contribute to the ongoing drinking water reform process aimed at a much needed professionalization and capacity/competency development of utilities and water service providers in South Africa.</p> <p>As Phase 3 of the SSC cooperation is likely to be the final phase, it is crucial to ensure the anchoring and implementation of knowledge and tools developed throughout the project, with a special focus on tangible results. To enhance monitoring of project progress and impact with respect to capacity building for national implementation of tools and guidelines developed in the three phases of the SSC cooperation a model for "implementation one pagers" was prepared by the project management team. An implementation one-pager has been filled in by the national track teams for each tool developed. The documents establish responsibility and timeframe for implementation of each tool through information about ownership of the tool, its purpose, who will implement the tool, its target groups, how stakeholders can get access, if training has been / will be provided, and what considerations have been made on its long-term use and update.</p> <p>Research and Innovation (R&amp;I) is an important part of capacity development, often requiring funding. As part of the SSC project R&amp;I component, a leaflet was designed to provide an overview of research and innovation funding opportunities available to researchers and innovators who wish to develop joint South African-Danish proposals. One of the focus areas for this final phase of the sector collaboration is to strengthen the connection between the research work conducted by Danish and South African partners and the work of the SSC. To that end, this leaflet was compiled to summarize funding possibilities that support research collaboration between the two countries.</p> <p>Another key R&amp;I activity in 2024 was the SSC's contribution to South African participation in DTU Skylab's "Next Generation Digital Action", a challenge for young academics and entrepreneurs in cooperation with the WRC and SALGA. This included preparing a follow-up training for Next Generation alumni and planning a physical pilot course in South Africa on applying learning for DFC alumni in water-related fields.</p> <p>DTU Skylab's Next Generation program aligns with South Africa's water sector strategy by advancing innovation, sustainability, and skills development. Its focus on research, industry collaboration, and digital transformation supports key priorities like smart water technologies, sustainable resource management, and workforce readiness. Global partnerships and lifelong learning initiatives address skills gaps and foster expertise in areas such as climate resilience, energy-efficient systems, and modern water infrastructure. This approach directly supports South Africa's vision for a sustainable and inclusive water sector.</p> <p>R&amp;I efforts also included preparing a physical pilot course in South Africa on applying learning for DFC alumni.</p>
<p>Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation)</p>	<p>On 21 March a meeting was held as a follow-up to the 19 February 2024 discussion with then Minister Mchunu. The follow-up meeting focused on DWS's priorities for DK support to the National Water Partnership Office (NWPO) and water reform efforts. The conversation highlighted two key factors influencing the refocus of the water reform agenda: the significant impact of failing municipal service delivery on the water value chain and the alarming decline in water services, as documented by the Drop Reports published in December 2023.</p> <p>The primary emphasis of the water reform is to transition to a more professional utility model, which involves a clear separation of functions between municipal authorities and water service providers. A key component of this is the introduction of mandatory contracts between Water Services Authorities (WSA) and approved Water Service Providers (WSP), with a framework that requires licensing to ensure WSPs meet minimum competency standards. Additionally, the reform suggests a differentiated licensing system based on the type and size of municipalities. The National Water and Sanitation Program Office (NWPO) is focusing on metros and adopting a performance-based management contract model to avert a collapse in water services, working closely with the National Treasury on this initiative. For Danish support, DWS/DG Phillips suggested that the RDE and DEPA should be involved in the</p>

	<p>water reform reference group to provide feedback on revisions. DG Phillips further suggested to explore whether Denmark could assist in integrating the licensing system into South Africa's existing Integrated Regulatory Information System (IRIS), potentially developing an app solution for better data access. Furthermore, support was requested from the NWPO, including high-impact guidance and consultancy, particularly in setting up a procurement system that would facilitate the effective implementation of performance-based management contracts for municipalities.</p> <p>Another highlight in the bilateral relations was a visit to Denmark by Deputy Minister Mahlobo in August 2024. The visit focused on water sector reform and included fruitful meetings with Minister for Environment and the Deputy State Secretary for Development Cooperation in combination with site visits. Further engagements and bilateral activities are described as part of the project progress report.</p> <p>As part of a mission of the Research and Innovation track team, the memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science and the South African Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) was officially renewed and signed by both parties.</p>
Programme outcome 3 (private sector)	<p>Building on i) lessons learned in the county, ii) the presence in South Africa of strong Danish water companies, and iii) the fact that Denmark since 2024 is engaged in three water related SSC projects in South Africa (national water and urban water with Pretoria and Johannesburg respectively) a model for systematic collaboration between SSC projects and Trade Council has been developed. In close collaboration with the Danish companies, a South Africa "Water Tech Group" was established in 2024 with AVK, Danfoss, Grundfos, Kamstrup, Niras, and EcoBeta.</p> <p>Through a systematic approach and close local TC/SSC collaboration, the main purpose is to ensure that the Danish companies actively benefit from the SSC platforms and networks with the embassy assisting to tie together these platforms and networks with the enhanced IFU/DSIF engagement in South Africa and TC funding opportunities as needed. Based on suggestions from the companies, the Water Tech Group focuses on three concepts: a) demonstration projects where the ongoing SSC technical support contributes to the success and potential scaling of the demonstration; b) consortia projects with Danish companies collectively providing larger scale technical solutions (e.g. NRW projects, WWTP refurbishments,...), and c) a holistic approach to technical capacity development through a "Danish learning academy approach" under development in close collaboration with the relevant Danish companies. The SSC Investment Advisor based at the embassy is closely involved in b).</p> <p>As public procurement is a lengthy process, TC has built up a commercial track with South African private companies with TC engaging in water (/energy) audits with the intention to facilitate that competitive solutions are delivered by Danish companies. This commercial track builds on the above-mentioned work of the Water Efficiency in Industry track and TCs participation in the three workshops held in July 2024 (see 2<sup>nd</sup> para under Outcome 1 above). It is expected that the consortium approach will be tested in this track to ensure that the companies are ready to deliver when the larger public projects reach procurement stage.</p>

Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>South Africa held general elections in 2024. For the first time in the post-apartheid era, the ANC did not obtain the majority and the country held its breath for a moment. South Africa's political parties, and not least the ANC, demonstrated outstanding political maturity and formed a multiparty government – the Government of National Unity – spanning across more than ten political parties but excluding the extreme left parties. President Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second mandate and the post-election period has been marked by stability and determination.</p> <p>Minister Mchunu moved from the Department of Water and Sanitation to the Department of Police leaving Water and Sanitation to appointed Minister Majodina, former ANC parliamentary Chief Whip. Minister Majodina has opted for continuity and pursues the reform agenda in tandem with the strong Director General Phillip and her two Deputy Ministers.</p> <p>The reform agenda has gained traction on the backdrop of seriously declining municipal water services as evidenced by the Drop Programme reports launched late 2023. Unsafe drinking</p>

	<p>water rose from 5% in 2014 to 46% in 2023. Wastewater treatment failures contribute to pollution and health risks. Non-revenue water losses have surged to 47%. Former Minister Senzo Mchunu cited weak billing systems and inadequate maintenance as primary causes. Annually, municipalities lose 1.66 billion cubic meters of water, worth R9.90 billion. By May 2024, 57% of water infrastructure required urgent refurbishment. As of June 2024, municipalities owed R22.36 billion to water boards, a 151% increase from 2019.</p> <p>To water reform focuses on amendments to the National Water Act and the National Water Services Act. Key reform elements include separating municipal water authority and service provider roles, introducing a compulsory municipal licensing system, and establishing an independent economic water regulator. Denmark is closely involved in the reform work through the SSC programme with a steep increase in the level of activities in 2024, including an invitation to participate in a Water Reform reference group led by Director General Phillips. The reforms are expected to be approved in 2025.</p>
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Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Revised budget for 2024 approved in September 24	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
12.5 mil DKK	2.15 mil DKK	3.62 mil DKK	3.8 mil DKK	5.95 mil DKK	6.55 mil DKK

Project title	Circular Economy and Waste Management		
Country	Thailand		
Phase	Phase 1	Phase duration (from-to)	1 May 2024- 30 April 2027

Off track	Partly on track	On track	
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes			
Overall assessment of progress			
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) (Put X)	Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) (Put X)		Programme outcome 3 (private sector) (Put X)
X		X	X
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: 'Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project' [texts from the Framework Agreement]			Number
			5
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) 'Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected'			Procent
			75
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: 'Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project'			Number
			30
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) 'Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan'			Procent
			100
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: 'Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project'			Number
			2
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) 'Progress on embassies' and projects' annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector's engagement'			Procent
			100
Short narrative description			
Programme outcome 1	<p>The formal signing of the project document was delayed due to inter-ministerial procedures in Thailand and was mutually signed in December 2024. Despite that, the co-operation related to three out of the four outputs (A1, B1 and B2) were progressing well in 2024. This includes for example a study visit for Thai partners to Denmark, Germany and Belgium/EU in October 2024.</p> <p>The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Team are established.</p> <p>The fourth output (A.2), about regional knowledge provision, structuring and communication, is still in process of taking off. The key partner for this track is the Bangkok-based ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue, which is in process of changing its legal status from being part of the Mahidol University to become an independent Foundation. It is expected that by 1 April 2025 the Centre should be fully operational.</p> <p>However, a range of additional support activities with ASEAN and output A.2 focus, such as harmonization with the Danish led CE Team Europe Initiative, better cooperation on CE among the Danish Embassies in the ASEAN region and support for the ASEAN Circular Economy Forum, were carried out.</p>		
Programme outcome 2	<p>The SSC was highly instrumental for the embassy's work in 2024 to strengthen Denmark's bilateral relations. Because of the SSC, Denmark can take lead in a circular Economy network in Bangkok with around 25 embassies and international institutions. Denmark can also take lead in a joint embassy effort to support Bangkok's environment priorities (including waste management), as well as other related networks on climate policy, agriculture and biodiversity. It has opened up for Denmark being invited several times to the Thai Parliament to give expert input on various environment issues such as waste management and extended Producer Responsibility, and Denmark is often being invited to both private sector and government events as a speaker on environment issues, covering a wide range of issues such as eco-design, EU Green Deal, textile waste management, digitalisation for environment and more. Since the SSC empowers Denmark having a person full time on waste management/environment, Denmark is looked to as a leader and a natural partner to involve.</p>		
Programme outcome 3	<p>The SSC cooperation has proved to be a very good tool for engaging Danish companies. In 2024, the embassy's TC unit concluded agreements for TC engagement with Combineer-ing and cBrain and were in contact with MJ Recycling, Henning Larsen/Gehl Architects, Rambøll and Novo Nordisk about involvement in SSC inspired activities.</p>		

	As part of the SSC project, cBrain was hired to make prototypes on EPR packaging data management. This was used by TC to create parallel business promotion programmes for cBrain in 2025.
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Context of country and sector	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	<p>Based on the level of parliamentary and media interest, the issue of better waste management and transformation towards a circular economy in Thailand is growing. The parliament has arranged several hearings in the field, and Bangkok based media are frequently reporting on issues and progress. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Environment Division and its governor pay a great interest in improving waste management in the capital. Waste sorting is being promoted in order to better recirculate the various waste fractions; investment in collection facilities and waste infrastructure is on the rise, and a rise in the general collection fee for households and businesses has been announced to be effective during 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior has revised the legislation on waste management fees. This will increase the fees to be paid by households to the local authorities and will drive better waste sorting at the household level to keep household costs down. These new fees will enter into force in Q3 of 2025 and are already known, creating a higher willingness to improve waste sorting. This will likely create an even more supportive environment for the implementation of the SSC output B1 and B2 on waste sorting in Bangkok and generally in Thailand.</p> <p>In the more than 7,000 municipalities of Thailand, the Department of Local Administration under the Ministry of Interior – together with the municipal administrations – is in process of establishing a number of locally embedded waste banks all over the country. The waste banks serve as an instrument to promote waste sorting and better recycling by setting up collective economic incentives.</p> <p>The Pollution Control Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in consultation of the private sector and universities and with the assistance of the German GIZ, is preparing two legislations on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on packaging and on e-waste, respectively. The private sector is mainly participating in the process by the Federation of Thai Industries, FTI.</p> <p>At the political level, during 2024, the largest party in Parliament was banned, the prime minister was forced to resign, and the consequent restructuring caused some delay in the legislative processes. However, the plan is that, in the beginning of 2026, the Cabinet of the Government should finalise the draft laws on EPR on packaging and e-waste and submit them to the Parliament. The plan is still for these legislations to enter into force in 2027.</p>

Budget and spending (DKK)					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
10,000,000 MDK	0	1,115,000 DKK	2,090,000 DKK	2,090,000 DKK	7,910,000 MDKK



Project title	Green Recovery and Transition on Water and Environment		
Country	Ukraine		
Phase	Inception	Phase duration (from-to)	2024-2025 (18 months)

Off track	Partly on track	On track						
Project progress toward the three PROGRAMME outcomes								
Overall assessment of progress								
Programme outcome 1 (capacity development) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 2 (bilateral cooperation) <div>(Put X)</div>			Programme outcome 3 (private sector) <div>(Put X)</div>		
		x			x			x
Programme Outcome 1 indicator: ‘Number of improved regulatory and institutional systems supported by the Project’ [texts from the Framework Agreement]								Number
								0
Programme Output 1 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Project plans on development of legislative frameworks and capacities of partner authorities are delivered as expected’								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 2 indicator: ‘Number of Danish bilateral partners successfully use knowledge or networks linked to Project’								Number
								0
Programme Output 2 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Embassy and project initiative, which relate to improving bilateral relations and green diplomacy are delivered according to plan								Procent
								100
Programme Outcome 3 indicator: ‘Number of additional initiatives by Danish business organisations or firms to provide green solutions or investments being associated with initiatives under the Project								Number
								0
Programme Output 3 indicator: (target: 100%) ‘Progress on embassies’ and projects’ annual work plan linked to promoting the private sector’s engagement’								Procent
								100
Short narrative description								
Programme outcome 1	The inception phase has to some degree contributed to capacity development – however more with regards to knowledge about Danish expertise and how to translate it to the Ukrainian context							
Programme outcome 2	The inception phase has to some degree contributed to enhancing bilateral relations through meetings with central Ukrainian ministries, agencies and civil society organizations specialized in the water sector.							
Programme outcome 3	The inception phase process has to some degree contributed to promoting Danish technology solutions and companies – which in particular will be advanced through the upcoming early action delegation visit on non-revenue water.							

<b>Context of country and sector</b>	
Key developments in country and sector contexts	Over the last six months, the context in Ukraine has shifted dramatically, weaving together threads of resilience, adaptation, and external dynamics. As the conflict deepens, Ukraine finds itself balancing immediate challenges with long-term survival strategies. Simultaneously, there is a quiet yet determined effort to rebuild—to seek growth in spite of adversity. Local and international collaboration breathes hope into reconstruction projects. These efforts underscore the nation's spirit, where every challenge met is also an opportunity for renewal. In the sector context it is worth noting the adaptation of draft law No. 6013 in 2025 sets in motion the process of corporatizing of state and municipal water utilities into modern corporate structures, such as limited liability companies is also considered as one of the structural cornerstones in a continued sector reform.

<b>Budget and spending (DKK)</b>					
Approved budget total	Realised spending before 2024	Approved budget 2024	Realised spending 2024	Realised spending total	Remaining budget
2.000.000 DKK		1.000.000 DKK	531.712 DKK	531.712 DKK	1.468.288