

# FRAMEWORK PROGRAM BETWEEN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MUNICIPALITY OF AARHUS (2023-2026)

**Overall objective:** Strengthen framework conditions and institutional capacity of partner authorities to promote climate adaptation and resilience in cities through comprehensive urban water management by building on Danish expertise and solutions with a focus on water related challenges.

- The framework program underpins an agreement that gives the Municipality of Aarhus the responsibility for developing and managing projects in Ghana, India, South Africa over a 4-year period, based on an overall objective, outcomes, budget, and governance and management structures.
- Total grand of DKK 56 million (3 projects, 4 years)
- Long-term partnership between Aarhus Municipality and their counterparts based on an identified priority challenge and commitment to solving this challenge in urban areas.
- The partners cities/state are the local project owners and responsible for implementation.
- Embassy of Denmark provides development assistance and support
- Sustainable Danish water management solutions, including holistic planning, horizontal partnership cooperation, technical knowhow, technology pilots and best practice frameworks and operational standards from Aarhus
- Potential large-scale infrastructure investments as an add-on to the technical collaboration
- Introducing visiting partners and associates to Danish private sector sustainable solutions.
- Potential onboarding of experienced, less experienced and innovative Danish companies in pilot projects.
- Contributing to sustainable framework conditions, including strategy, policy and regulation in partner countries.
- Supporting the triple-helix model: cooperation between public, private and research institutions.
- Support strong bilateral relations and green diplomacy

## City of Aarhus and Aarhus Vand A/S - core competencies in the projects:

- a. Inclusive holistic planning of water resources and climate adaptation at municipal level
- b. Protection and management of municipal water resources
- c. Enhanced municipal water resource efficiency including distribution systems and reduction of non-revenue water
- d. Municipal wastewater management including sewage planning, waste to energy and sustainable sludge management
- e. River rejuvenation and blue-green solutions in city planning
- f. Cross-cutting public-private partnership approach, and citizen and stakeholder engagement
- g. A SSC composed of both regulator and operator functions

■ Working with SDG goals

**Clean Water and Sanitation (6)**  
**Sustainable cities and communities (11)**  
**Climate action (13)**  
**No poverty (1)**  
and **Good health and well-being (3)**



■ The 3 outcomes:

1. **Outcome 1:** Strengthened partner country capacity to develop, implement and enforce conducive framework conditions for green transition and selected development priorities, e.g. guidelines, policies, strategies etc.
2. **Outcome 2:** Increased ambition for climate, green transition and sustainable development through strong bilateral relations and green diplomacy
3. **Outcome 3:** Enhanced engagement of Danish private sector in identifying sustainable development solutions and opportunities for the promotion of green financial investments

**Working with poverty, gender and human rights based approach (HBRA)**

Poverty is exacerbated by poor water management- the poor generally live in settlements that are informal and/or situated in poorly served and flood prone areas, often in close proximity to open drains and untreated wastewater – improved water management can contribute to poverty reduction:

- Enhanced livelihood security – water is a key input to various livelihood activities and a prerequisite for the health and productivity of ecosystems,
- Reduced health risks e.g. water-borne diseases
- Reduced vulnerability e.g. from floods and droughts
- Pro-poor economic growth e.g by providing access to affordable water infrastructure
- Gender equity
- By mainstreaming the human rights based approach (HRBA) through focusing on the rights holders and their perspective and needs as well as those of the duty bearers

By addressing causes of poor service delivery, the project will target those longer and shorter term interventions that provide better conditions for the poor.

