

Response provided by the Danish Refugee Council to the Public Consultation by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the planned 'The Danish Migration Management and Return, Readmission og Reintegration Programme (DMRP) 2024-2029'.

DRC is grateful for the opportunity to provide input to the draft programme document in this public consultation and have the following comments:

We acknowledge the significant value of strengthening capacity in country of origin and contributing to improved structures with a focus on duty bearers, i.e., the relevant authorities. However, we recommend that this programme enhances its focus on the inclusion of local civil society actors, whose efforts often provide the concrete services necessary for successful reintegration. Based on DRC's extensive experience with return counselling in Denmark and with partnerships with 30+ national actors on reintegration in countries of origin, it is – in many countries – civil society, rather than the authorities, that are responsible for the concrete reintegration activities and have the experience and expertise to deliver quality and sustainable reintegration support. Furthermore, in many countries civil society actors are considered more trustworthy compared to the authorities in the perspective of the returnees. A stronger more targeted inclusion of local NGOs and civil society actors would, in DRC's experience, enhance the likelihood of success and quality of the intervention.

We overall recommend enhancing the activity linkages between duty bearers and civil society actors to ensure a stronger involvement of local NGOs and civil society actors in policy creation and reintegration practice in the proposed programme.

Concretely, we recommend including Indicative activities, in particular under Outcome 2.2, that complement and widens the Indicative activity *"Provide technical and financial support to civil society organizations in the selected regions to strengthen direct assistance and protection of unaccompanied and separated children"* (p. 19) to also include civil society actors providing services for adult returnees.