Danish Relief Group

Our Mission -
Turning Surplus into Opportunity

Connecting resources, organisations and people to create lasting opportunities for communities around the world.

Every year, businesses, schools, hospitals, municipalities and other institutions in Denmark replace furniture, equipment and other resources that still have considerable functional value.

At the same time, schools, healthcare facilities, sports clubs and community organisations in many parts of the world lack access to precisely these resources.

Danish Relief Group (DRG) exists to connect these two realities.

For more than 35 years, we have worked to connect organisations with surplus resources in Denmark with local partner organisations in 29 countries, primarily in Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East.

Our mission is simple: to turn surplus resources into opportunities for people and communities.

But our work goes beyond collecting and shipping donated equipment. We believe that lasting development is created through strong partnerships, local ownership and the ability to turn available resources into meaningful improvements in people's everyday lives.

Connecting Resources with Real Needs

Across Denmark, large amounts of functional equipment are replaced or become surplus to the requirements of businesses and institutions.

This includes school furniture, hospital beds, mobility aids, computers, bicycles, sports equipment, sewing machines, tools and many other useful resources.

Rather than allowing these items to go to waste, DRG works to extend their useful life by connecting them with organisations that have identified a genuine need.

We build bridges between:

- Businesses and institutions with surplus resources.
- Local organisations with documented needs.
- Volunteers who contribute time, skills and practical work.
- Companies and foundations that support international cooperation.
- Communities that turn available resources into new opportunities.

Our role is to make these connections work through long-term relationships, responsible resource management and practical cooperation.

A Circular Model – From Surplus to Local Development

Our approach is based on circular resource utilisation. Resources that are no longer needed in one setting can continue creating value in another.

We have developed a model that connects the entire process, from the original donation to local implementation and documented results.

1. Collection and resource recovery

We collaborate with Danish businesses, municipalities, schools, hospitals, sports clubs and private organisations to collect equipment that remains suitable for reuse.

2. Sorting, quality control and preparation

Our volunteers receive, assess, sort and prepare donated equipment at our central warehouse. Where appropriate, equipment can be repaired or refurbished to extend its useful life.

3. Matching resources with local needs

Our international partner organisations identify their priorities and communicate the equipment and resources needed to support their activities.

This ensures that donations are connected to actual needs rather than simply distributing whatever happens to be available.

4. Storage and transportation

Our warehouse functions as a central resource hub, where donations are organised and combined into shipments. Containers and other transport solutions connect available resources in Denmark with our international partners.

5. Local implementation

Local partner organisations distribute and use the resources in schools, healthcare facilities, sports clubs, community organisations and local businesses.

6. Documentation and continued development

Our partners provide photographs, stories and information about how the resources are used. This documentation helps us understand the results, strengthen existing partnerships and develop new opportunities.

The process creates a continuous cycle: successful projects build trust, demonstrate results and create the foundation for further cooperation and new resources.

Partnerships Before Assistance – Local Ownership Matters

We believe that sustainable development cannot simply be delivered from one country to another.

Development happens locally, through people and organisations that understand their communities, identify their own priorities and take responsibility for implementing solutions.

That is why DRG works according to an organisation-to-organisation principle.

We do not develop projects on behalf of local communities. We work with local organisations that lead the process.

Our partners identify needs, prioritise resources and manage local activities. DRG supports their work by connecting them with equipment, logistics, volunteers, knowledge and international networks.

This approach is based on trust, mutual respect and long-term cooperation.

It also means that the value of a donation is not determined by the equipment itself, but by what local organisations can achieve with it.

A school desk becomes a place for learning.

A pair of glasses gives a child a better opportunity to participate in education.

A sewing machine can help establish a small business.

A bicycle can provide access to education or employment.

A hospital bed can improve the conditions for patient care.

The real value is created when resources become opportunities.

Supporting Education, Health and Stronger Communities

DRG works with local partners across several areas of community development.

Our activities are organised around five strategic programmes:

Education

We support schools and educational institutions through donations of school furniture, computers, teaching equipment and other resources that help create better learning environments.

Community Health

We help improve local healthcare facilities through donations of hospital beds, wheelchairs, mobility aids, medical equipment and other essential resources.

Vision Support

We support initiatives that improve access to glasses and vision aids, helping people participate more fully in education, employment and everyday life.

Entrepreneurship

We support local economic development by providing production equipment, tools, sewing machines and other resources that can help small businesses, cooperatives and local entrepreneurs develop their activities.

Sports and Community Development

We provide sports equipment, clothing and facilities that help strengthen community participation, physical activity and opportunities for children and young people.

Across all these programmes, our focus is on connecting available resources with local initiatives that can create meaningful and lasting results.

Volunteers – The Foundation of Our Work

DRG is built on voluntary engagement.

Our organisation has developed through the commitment of people who contribute their time, experience and practical skills to make international cooperation possible.

Our volunteers play an essential role in collecting equipment, sorting donations, checking quality, preparing shipments and managing warehouse activities.

Our central warehouse is more than a storage facility. It is the operational connection between Danish donors and international partner organisations.

We believe that professional development and stronger partnerships should build on this voluntary foundation, not replace it.

International Partnerships – Creating Greater Impact Together

No single organisation can create lasting development alone.

Our work depends on cooperation between volunteers, businesses, institutions, foundations and local organisations.

Through international partnerships, we connect different resources and competencies around shared objectives.

Our long-standing relationships across 29 countries provide a foundation for cooperation, while new partnerships create opportunities to reach more communities and develop additional programmes.

The ambition is to strengthen local initiatives through a coordinated approach combining resource recovery, logistics, local implementation and capacity building.

We want to create partnerships where local organisations have the resources, relationships and capabilities to develop their own projects and strengthen the communities they serve.

More Than Transportation – Creating Measurable Social Value

For DRG, success is not simply measured by the number of containers shipped.

Transportation is an important tool, but it is not the ultimate objective.

What matters is what happens when resources reach their destination.

We therefore want to document our work through concrete results, photographs, local stories and continued dialogue with our partners.

We look at how resources contribute to:

- Better educational opportunities.
- Improved healthcare facilities.
- Greater access to assistive equipment.
- Stronger local businesses and entrepreneurship.
- Increased participation in sports and community activities.
- Stronger local organisations and civil society.
- More responsible and sustainable use of resources.

This allows us to move beyond counting activities and focus on the opportunities created for people and communities.

Our Vision – Connecting People, Resources and Opportunities

Danish Relief Group wants to develop an international network of partnerships where surplus resources become a foundation for education, health, entrepreneurship and stronger communities.

We want to make it easier for businesses and institutions to contribute resources, for volunteers to participate in meaningful work, and for local organisations to access the equipment and support they need.

Our ambition is to build a stronger and more sustainable model of international cooperation, based on circular resource utilisation, local ownership and long-term partnerships.

We believe that valuable resources should not go to waste when they can create new opportunities elsewhere.

And we believe that the best results are achieved when organisations work together and communities take the lead in their own development.

Turning Surplus into Opportunity is more than our mission. It is the principle that connects everything we do.

Danish Relief Group is basically connecting resources, organisations and people to create long lasting opportunities.

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