



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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**Front-page picture:** Credit: Ashraf Abu Shawish - From the Palestine Photo Marathon, Nablus

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Lone Bildsøe Lassen.

"At the Danish House, we see resilience and a can-do spirit among Palestinians unfolding around us every day. This inspires our activities."

- Lone Bildsøe Lassen, Director of the Danish House in Palestine

# - AND NEW VENTURES

At the Danish House, 2016 was a year of consolidation – a natural result of many changes begun the year before, where we raised the level of activities significantly and revised our strategies, procedures and workflows.

The year also marked new ventures: we facilitated translation of a Danish children's book into Arabic, and we invited circus artists from Denmark to perform at Palestine's first international circus festival, which drew huge crowds. Furthermore, we once again supported Palestine's big annual film event, Days of Cinema.

Another key event in 2016 resulted from a Danish government decision to close CKU, the Danish Centre for Culture and Development. The Danish House was asked to take over CKU's activities in Palestine and we readily accepted this opportunity to help reduce the consequences of the closure for CKU's partners in Palestine. At the same time, the take-over introduced the Danish House to new potential partners.

Looking to the political situation in Palestine, fortunately 2016 did not see violence on the scale that plagued the fall of 2015. The numbers, however, remained bleak. UNOCHA recorded 110 Palestinian deaths directly related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2016, 32 of whom were children.

According to UNOCHA, in 2016, Israeli authorities demolished or seized 1,093 Palestinian-owned homes and other structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing over 1,600 Palestinians, around half of them children. The demolitions affect the livelihoods of more than 7,000 others. These figures are nearly double those of 2015 and the highest since 2009, when the agency began systematic monitoring of demolitions.

As the occupation reaches 50 years in 2017, it can be difficult to find reasons to be optimistic. Yet, at the Danish House we see resilience and a can-do spirit among Palestinians unfolding around us every day. This inspires our activities, of which we have many prepared for 2017, ready to be realised with dedicated partners in both our countries.

Best wishes to everyone.

Lone Bildsøe Lassen Director of the Danish House in Palestine



# ABOUT US

The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP) is an independent organization based in Ramallah, Palestine, working on a cross cultural mandate. Our board, staff, partners, visitors and project participants represent both Danes and Palestinians.

DHIP is committed to promoting volunteerism as the core of its work and as a means of achieving its strategic objectives. DHIP aims to be a transparent organization and expects its members, partners and others to hold DHIP accountable to its vision, mission and business practices. DHIP aims to create programs and projects that are sustainable and which have the potential to continue beyond DHIP's involvement.

#### Vision

The vision of the Danish House in Palestine is to strengthen mutual understanding and appreciation between Danish and Palestinian cultures, as well as encouraging the values of open and tolerant societies.

### Mission

The Danish House in Palestine's mission is to foster opportunities for cultural and educational exchange and cooperation between Danes and Palestinians on individual and institutional levels.

### THE DANISH HOUSE IN PALESTINE

Ramallah Tahta (Old City)

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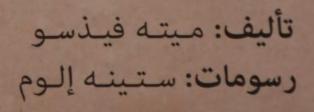
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Workshop during the Design in Context project.

# PROJECTS 2016



Cover of the Arabic translation of the Danish children's book 'Dumme Lili'.

# CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND ILLUSTRATION

By introducing Palestinian and Danish children to each other's literature, we aim to give them a better understanding of each other's cultures.

In 2016, we facilitated a dialogue between a Palestinian publisher, the Tamer Institute, and a Danish publisher, Jensen & Dalgaard. This led to the development of a Danish translation of a Palestinian children's book as well as an Arabic translation of a Danish children's book. Both are set to be published in 2017.

Furthermore, in October 2016, we organised a four-day workshop in Ramallah for Palestinian writers and illustrators of children's books. This too was a collaboration with Tamer Institute, who hosted the workshop, and Jensen & Dalgaard, who selected the workshop trainers: Danish writer Hanne Kvist and illustrator Søren Jessen.

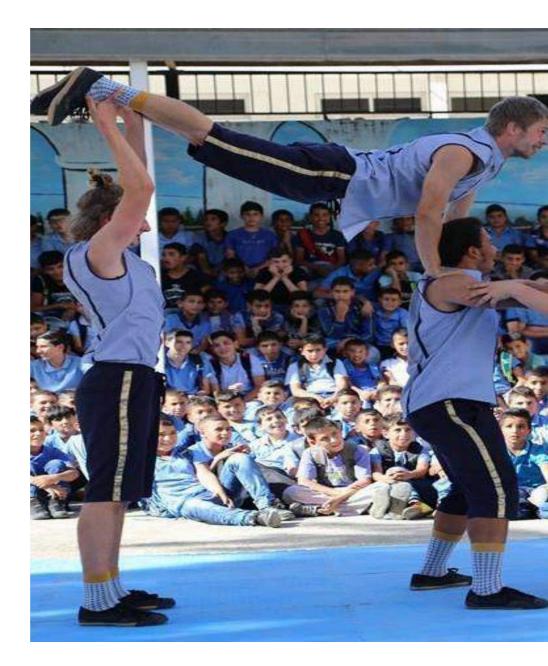
The project also included storytelling activities for more than 200 Palestinian children in the West Bank in July, in cooperation with the Palestine Writing Workshop.

# **CIRCUS EXCHANGE**

In October 2016, the Palestinian Circus School celebrated its 10-year anniversary by organizing a circus festival with local and international participants who performed circus shows, acts and workshops for approximately 25,000 people across the West Bank.

The Danish House invited eight circus artists from Cirkus Tværs, a Danish circus project based in Aarhus, to attend the festival, where they gave a series of performances. The aim was to strengthen the relationship between Cirkus Tværs and the Palestinian Circus School, while also encouraging the larger exchange of practices among circus artists.

We also funded a Danish-language podcast about the festival, produced by Danish journalist Lena Odgaard and published through our own communication platforms.







Sara Hasassna.

"The workshop has given me inspiration to use Palestinian patterns in a different way, which is more modern, but still Palestinian. What I've learned here I can use in my other work with embroidery."

- Sara Hasassna, participant, Design in Context

# DESIGN IN CONTEXT

Throughout the year, we continued our long-standing efforts to empower Palestinian designers and craftswomen creatively and economically.

In January we organised two exhibitions of products made by eight Palestinian craftswomen, in cooperation with Palestinian community foundation Dalia Association. The exhibitions were hosted by the Peace Centre in Bethlehem and the Mövenpick Hotel in Ramallah, forming the first step to help the women establish their own small businesses.

In February and December, the Danish House held five-day workshops for the same group of craftswomen in the West Bank village of al-Ubeidiya, taught by Danish textile designer Josefine Gilbert and fashion designer Tine Winther. The workshops aimed to enable the women to modernize their embroidery work and produce commercial products for the international market.

Some of the women's products are to be displayed and put up for sale at an exhibition in Copenhagen in Denmark in March 2017. The exhibition marks the completion of the Design in Context project.

# INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

In Palestine, the occupation creates limits for journalists in terms of fundamental security, protection of basic rights and general working conditions – not least in conducting investigative research.

At the same time, the need for high quality investigative journalism is evident, and there is an awakening of interest from educational institutions and local media outlets to facilitate this, providing a platform for addressing the issue.

In 2016, the Danish House launched an investigative journalism project for nine Palestinian journalism students who were selected by a jury based on story synopsis submitted. In the late summer, the students participated in a five-day workshop in Ramallah, taught by media trainer Saad Hattar of ARIJ, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism. The group also attended ARIJ's annual conference in Jordan in December.

Furthermore, the participants worked on their own independent investigative projects throughout the fall, coached by AP Jerusalem correspondent Mohammed Daraghmeh. The projects are to be published in 2017.

Workshop during the Investigative Journalism project.

"It was such a well organized and helpful workshop. It taught me how to pursue people I'm interviewing to give me the answers I am trying to find and ones that I didn't know existed. Afterwards, we learned how to focus on the most important part, when there are so many other bifurcations of the subject, to produce a well-written investigative report."

- Nadeen Alshaer, participant of the Investigative Journalism project

# ORAL HISTORY

Since 2012, Palestinian research institution Al-Rowat has been collecting oral testimonies from people who experienced the Palestinian displacements of 1948 and 1967. The aim is to preserve and document this critical aspect of Palestinian history and make it accessible for both Palestinians and internationals.

In 2016, Al-Rowat and the Danish House entered into a collaboration to produce a book in Arabic and English, based on Al-Rowat's research. The book, edited by acclaimed Palestinian writer Dr. Faiha Abdulhadi, will include testimonies from five Palestinians who lived through the 1948 displacement, also known as the Nakba, or the Catastrophe. Publication is scheduled for 2017.

Activities within our Oral History project also included a workshop in December 2016 where Palestinian researchers and theatre artists met for two days in the West Bank town of Beit Jala. Here, they discussed future opportunities for bringing Palestinian history to life through research, art and theatre.

"The book on displacement will help to make marginalized displaced Palestinian women and men visible. It will enable them to actively participate in rebuilding Palestinian archives and reproduce knowledge."

- Dr. Faiha Abdulhadi, writer



Participants in the Oral History project meet up in the town of Beit Jala.

# OTHER PROJECTS

In addition to the projects covered on the previous pages, 2016 also saw the continuation of three further Danish House projects:

### Journalist Exchange

For the second leg of our journalist exchange, eight Palestinians travelled to Denmark in the spring to produce stories for their respective media outlets, with help from Danish colleagues. The group also visited organisations in Denmark, including a network for Palestinian youths living in Denmark.

### **Palestine Photo Marathon**

On May 7th, we held our fifth annual photo marathon, a one-day event for amateur and professional photographers who compete through their interpretation of a number of predetermined themes. The competition took place in six cities in the West Bank and Gaza. The winning pictures were exhibited in Palestine and Denmark.

### **Merging Music**

Our music exchange, which began in 2014, continued in November 2016 where Palestinian and Danish music conservatory students met in Denmark. They played concerts together, undertook intensive rehearsals, recorded a CD and held workshops for pupils at elementary schools. They are to meet again in Palestine in 2017.

Concert during the Merging Music project.



Screening of 'The Wanted 18' at the Danish House.

# **EVENTS** AND ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2016, we hosted and co-hosted many events in and outside the Danish House, including 12 film screenings in marginalized areas across the West Bank. At our own venue in Ramallah, we hosted a variety of concerts and film screenings, a couch talk about circus as a social tool, an exhibition of previously unpublished pictures of Palestine refugees and a puppet theatre play by a group of up-and-coming Palestinian artists.

### FEBRUARY 18: Film screening – The Wanted 18

*The Wanted 18* recreates the true story of a group of people from the West Bank town of Beit Sahour who buy 18 cows and produce their own milk in response to the Israeli occupation. We screened the award-winning film at the Danish House, followed by a Q&A with one of its directors, Palestinian artist Amer Shomali.

### MARCH 6, 8 AND 9: Concerts – Haderslev Cathedral's Girls' Choir

The girls' choir from Haderslev Cathedral in Denmark performed at the Church of the Redeemer and at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem as well as in the Christmas Church in Bethlehem. They presented a mix of classical works for choir as well as 20th and 21st century pieces. The choir featured 35 singers.

### MARCH 28: Film screening – My Father from Haifa

At the Danish House, we screened the documentary *My Father from Haifa* by Omar Shargawi. The film is about the Danish-born director's father, a Palestinian, who as a child fled from Palestine with his family.

### APRIL 7: Lecture – Ghassan Abdullah

In cooperation with NASIM, a Danish network for students and others interested in the Middle East, we organized a lecture by acclaimed Palestinian political analyst Ghassan Abdullah. The lecture, held at the University of Copenhagen, focused on the political situation in Palestine.

### APRIL 10: Film screenings – Hush! and Dog in Heaven

At the UNRWA school in the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem, we screened two Danish animated short films for children: *Hush!* by Peter Hausner and *Dog in Heaven* by Jeanette Nørgaard.

### APRIL 14: Film screening – The Look of Silence

In cooperation with Film Lab Palestine, we screened the Danish produced documentary *The Look of Silence* by Joshua Oppenheimer at the Danish House. Through footage of perpetrators of the 1965 Indonesian genocide, the film explores a family of survivors who discovers the identities of their son's killers.

### **APRIL 21: Film screening – Empty Desert**

At the Danish House, we screened *Empty Desert*, a video documentary charting the struggle for recognition of a Bedouin village in the Negev desert. The screening was followed by a Q&A with one of the film's directors, Silvia Boarini.

### JUNE 18: Panel debate at Danish political festival

During Folkemødet, a popular annual political festival at the Danish island of Bornholm, the Danish House organised a panel debate focusing on Danish interests in Palestine. The panel included a member of the Danish parliament for the Red-Green Alliance, Christian Juhl, a member of the Danish parliament for the Conservative People's Party, Naser Khader, and national director of MS ActionAid Denmark, Vibeke Vinther. The moderator was Danish researcher Leila Stockmarr.

### JULY 14: Concert – Rjoub-Petersen Trio

A trio consisting of Palestinian viola player Hanin Jamal Rjoub, Palestinian violin player Mohammad Jamal Rjoub and Danish pianist Martin Nørgaard Petersen performed at The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Ramallah. They presented a mix of classical, contemporary and oriental pieces.

### AUGUST 4: Concert – Mazaj Ensemble

At the Danish House, we hosted a concert with Mazaj Ensemble, a Palestinian band established by a group of Jerusalemite youth in 2014. The band mixes Arabic and Western classical music and drives inspiration from the agony of Palestinian sufferings.

### SEPTEMBER 22 TO 24: Photo exhibition – Palestine refugees

On September 22, we hosted the opening of an exhibition of previously unpublished pictures from the archives of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestine refugees, in cooperation with UNRWA and the Representative Office of Denmark in Ramallah. The following two days, the exhibition was open for the public. UNRWA's archive consists of over 500,000 assets, many of which have been digitized with the support of the Danish government and others.

### OCTOBER 11: Couch talk – Social circus

During the 2016 Palestine Circus Festival, we hosted a couch talk about circus as a tool to improve socio-cultural conditions. The panelists were; director Shadi Zmorrod and student Hazar Al Azzeh of the Palestinian Circus School as well as director Søren Stockmar and student Mohammad Ali Saleh of Cirkus Tværs, a Danish circus project based in Aarhus.

### OCTOBER 16 TO 20: Film screenings – Days of Cinema

As part of the third edition of Palestine's big annual film event Days of Cinema, we hosted five screenings at the Danish House, including the documentary *Saken* by Palestinian director Sandra Madi.

### DECEMBER 8: Concert – Mahmoud Awad and band

At the Danish House, we hosted a concert with a group consisting of oud player Mahmoud Awad, vocalist Youmna Abu Hilal and Qunan player Jacob Hammodeh. The band performed acoustic versions of a wide collection of songs from the biggest artists in the Middle East.

### DECEMBER 18: Puppet theatre – Beit Byout

Our last event of the year saw a group of Palestinian artists perform a puppet theatre play, entitled *Beit Byout*. The story revolves around a 7-year-old boy with physical disabilities that prevent him from playing with other children. He therefore looks for solutions in books of Palestinian folklore stories.

### SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER: Film screenings across the West Bank

In the last months of 2016, we organized 12 film screenings across the West Bank in partnership with Film Lab Palestine. The aim of the screenings was to promote cinema culture in marginalized areas.

We held seven screenings in the Lajee Center in Aida Refugee Camp near Bethlehem, two screenings in the Yaffa Cultural Centre in Balata Refugee Camp near Nablus, two screenings at The Freedom Theatre in the Jenin Refugee Camp and one screening at the YAS Center in Hebron's Tel Rumeida neighbourhood.

The films screened were Canadian-Palestinian animated documentary *The Wanted 18*, Palestinian documentary *Roshmia* and Danish children's movies *The Tale of the Two Mozzies, Jelly T, Max Embarrasing, Otto is a Rhino* and *War and Peas.* 



Puppet theatre performance at the Danish House.

"It's been a great learning experience to come here and work out for myself what I think is important. For instance, I think it's important that the children are smiling and laughing, even more than teaching them the alphabet."

- Freja Orloff Mortensen, volunteer, Project Hope, Nablus

# VOLUNTEERS

In 2016, we welcomed 34 Danish volunteers to Palestine, including 18 through a wellestablished partnership with MS ActionAid Denmark.

The volunteers, many of them in their early 20s, came for 4 to 16 weeks and worked for local organizations within the areas of health, human rights, media & journalism, rehabilitation and children & youth.

In 2016, we received a high number of volunteers – 12 – within the area of health. The worked in organizations such as the An-Najah National University in Nablus and the UNRWA health centre in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp in Ramallah.

A long-standing Danish House venture, the volunteer program is essential to our vision of strengthening mutual understanding and appreciation between Palestine and Denmark, not least because volunteers return home with more knowledge about Palestinians issues and share experiences with friends and family.

#### **Group visits**

Again in 2016, we had the pleasure to welcome many groups to the Danish House for briefings and engaging conversations. The visitors include Palestinian and Danish students as well as groups of Danes with a general interest in Palestine and the broader Middle East.



Film screening at the Danish House.

# AUDIENCES

	Attendees*
Projects	
<u>Children's Literature and Illustration</u> Storytelling activities for children	215
Circus Exchange	
8 performances by Cirkus Tværs	4,020
Palestine Photo Marathon Photo Marathon event Exhibitions in 6 Palestinian cities Exhibitions in 3 Danish cities	75 380 1,520
Merging Music	
2 concerts in Denmark	60
Events and Activities	
12 film screenings in the West Bank	675
Other events and activities	870
Visitors to the Danish House	170
Total	7,985

\*Some figures are based on qualified estimates.

# COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

In 2016, we carried on our efforts to reach out to target audiences across Palestine and Denmark on a variety of platforms. We also continued working closely with the press in both countries.

### PRESS WORK AND EXPOSURE

Media exposure of Danish House activities in 2016 included features from a wide variety of leading media outlets in Palestine and Denmark.

### HIGHLIGHTS

### **UNRWA** exhibition

Our exhibition of previously unpublished pictures from the archives of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestine refugees, drew coverage from Palestinian media outlets Ma'an, SAFA, WAFA and Al-Ayyam. Coverage included statement by Lone Bildsøe Lassen, the Director of the Danish House.

### **Days of Cinema**

In October, we invited a reporter from leading Danish film magazine Ekko to cover Palestine's big annual film event, Days of Cinema. This prompted five long articles on various aspects of the festival and cinema culture in Palestine.

### **Children's literature**

The Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) covered a Danish House workshop for Palestinian writers and illustrators of children's literature held in Ramallah in October. For its daily afternoon radio programme, *P1 Eftermiddag*, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation interviewed one of the workshop trainers and a Danish publisher.

### **Volunteers in Nablus**

Two Danish volunteers in Palestine were featured in two well-known Danish local newspapers, Århus Stiftstidende and Randers Amtsavis, in January 2017. The volunteers worked with children in the West Bank city of Nablus in the fall of 2016 and were interviewed upon their return to Denmark.

#### CINEMA DAYS 20. OKT. 2016 | 15:51

### Filmpris opildner talenter i Palæstina

Foto | Simon Schwarz



Palæstinas filmfestival Cinema Days blev skudt i gang lørdag i Ramallah Cultural Palace. Palæstinas kulturminister Dr. Ehab Bessaiso (tredje tv.) var med på scenen ved åbningsceremonien.

Den palæstinensiske filmverden har fået sin egen pris, som i denne Share this uge uddeles for første gang ved den palæstinensiske filmfestival Cinema Days.

8• f 🗹

Af Simon Johansen

I Palæstina lever en sortnæbbet fugl under trange kår.

Med en højde på knap ti centimeter og en vægt som en fjerbold har fuglen det svært i det barske ørkenlandskab. Før svævede fuglen over frodige, skovfyldte områder, men med tiden forvandlede skovene sig til de betonjungler, der i dag udgør de palæstinensiske byer.

Den palæstinensiske solfugl, som fuglen kaldes, har derfor set sig nødsaget til at overleve i et miljø, den ikke har været vant til. Og ikke nok med det. En israelsk kampagne forsøgte for nylig at ændre sin identitet ved at omdøbe den til Den orange fugl.

På den måde har de hårdt prøvede palæstinensere meget tilfælles med fuglen, som de fleste lokale betragter som Palæstinas nationalfugl.

Article on Days of Cinema on the website of Danish film magazine Ekko.

cinema days

#### Ekko på Vestbredden



Simon Johansen skriver fra Cinema Days.

<u>Cinema Days</u> er en filmfestival på Vestbredden.



### The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP) @DanishHousePalestine

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About	
Likes	
Events	

🛍 Like 🏕 Share \cdots

The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP) shared their event.

6 December 2016 · C

Join us Thursday at the Danish House for a magnificent night of oriental music! Entrance is free. Please share.



Thurs 18:00 UTC+02 - The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP) - Ram ....

From the Danish House Facebook page.

8

### COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS AND OUTLETS

Throughout the year, the Danish House maintained a wide array of communication platforms and outlets.

We devoted special attention to Facebook, which allows us to reach and to interact with target audiences in both Palestine and Denmark. We posted frequently on a wide range of Danish House activities through Facebook. This prompted a high level of interaction, with some posts reaching more than 100 likes. The number of *page likes* rose by 33% over the year – reaching 4,956 on December 30, 2016.

We also maintained a website in three language-versions, put out a newsletter five times and added new photo albums regularly to our Flickr page. Furthermore, the Director of the Danish House posted frequently on Twitter.

The activities on our communication platforms and outlets built on efforts began in 2015, when we established a number of new platforms and outlets, while others were redesigned.

# PARTNERS, BOARD AND STAFF

### PARTNERS

#### **Palestinian partners**

AjyaL Radio Network (ARN) Al-Falastinia Satellite Channel Al-Quds Newspaper Al-Rowat for Studies & Research Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) Dalia Association Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Jerusalem Jabal An-Nar Club, Nablus Film Lab Palestine lprint Ma'an News Agency Palestine News Network (PNN) Palestine Writing Workshop (PWW) Palestinian Circus School PalVision, Jerusalem Radio 24 FM Palestine Radio Nisaa FM Tamer Institute for Community Education Visit Palestine, Bethlehem WAFA News Agency Youth Development Resource Center (YDRC), Hebron

### **Danish partners**

Cirkus Tværs International Media Support (IMS) Jensen & Dalgaard MS ActionAid Denmark The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus/Aalborg University College Capital (UCC)

### BOARD

Ulla Lundberg, Chair Bilal Al-Issa, Board Member Birgitte Rahbek, Board Member Ghassan Abdullah, Board Member Gry Krogager Lund, Board Member Jens Juul Petersen, Board Member Jens Thodberg Bertelsen, Board Member Nu'man Kanafani, Board Member Sam Bahour, Board Member Uffe Andreasen, Alternate Member

### **STAFF**

Lone Bildsøe Lassen, Director Abeer Habash, Admin Officer Anne Mønster, Admin Manager & Program Coordinator (until December 2016) Dima Nashashibi, HR & Admin Manager (from November 2016) Doha Jabr, Program Officer Frida Fredsgaard Lassen, Communication Officer (February to July 2016) Julie Sand Motzfeldt, Project Intern (February to July 2016) Louise Ranch Bohl, Project Intern (August 2016 to January 2017) Mads Mariegaard, Communication Manager (from August 2016) Mohammad Awar, Internal Auditor Naela Awad, Housekeeper Niveen Shaheen, Finance Officer Sahar Soufan, Program Officer Sandi El Taha, Communication Intern (August 2016 to January 2017) Villads Zahle, Communication Manager (until May 2016)



The Danish House staff, September 2016.

# **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2016**

INCOME	DKK
<b>Projects grant (unspent 2015)</b> Danish MoFA	<b>216,273</b> 4,000,000
MS - Action Aid	181,128
IMS Total project grants	93,009 <b>4,490,410</b>
Unrestricted grants/income DHIP programs and activities	127,148
Accommodation Total unrestricted	32,000 <b>159,148</b>
Total available income	4,649,558

EXPENSES	DKK
Projects/activities	3,939,955
Rent and operating costs	134,730
Administration	93,793
Loss on currency differential	46,659
Depreciation	78,230
Total expenses	4,293,367







### The Danish House in Palestine

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