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AN EVENTFUL YEAR

2017 was another busy year in and around the Danish House – with projects on everything from boxing, theatre and journalism to film, circus and children's literature. In addition, 49 volunteers arrived from Denmark to work for Palestinian organizations.

The Danish House is more relevant and visible than ever, thanks to our team and director Lone Bildsøe Lassen, whom I succeeded on January 1, 2018. We are a small, but important organization, highly valued by partners for facilitating equal and mutually beneficial collaborations between Palestinians and Danes.

In 2017, we broadened our activities to include sports, an area with great potential to bring people together. In August, a group from Vollsmose Boxing travelled to Ramallah to participate in training sessions hosted by El-Barrio, a local boxing club. In 2018, the roles are reversed when the Palestinians visit Denmark.

Another first was a collaboration with Danish theatre Opgang2. This brought an award-winning Danish play to Palestine, in Arabic translation, thereby exposing children and youth to theatre specifically targeted to their age group. This too continues in 2018, with a new West Bank tour of the play.

Throughout 2017, we made great efforts to reach out to audiences outside Ramallah. For example, the Danish circus group Cirkus Tværs performed in Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem and refugees camps in the West Bank, while our Photo Marathon project included participants in Gaza.

On a personal note, I would like to give many thanks to friends and partners of the Danish House, from whom I have received a very warm welcome in Palestine. I am thrilled to be here and look very much forward to continuing our important work together.

Best wishes

Troels Dalgaard

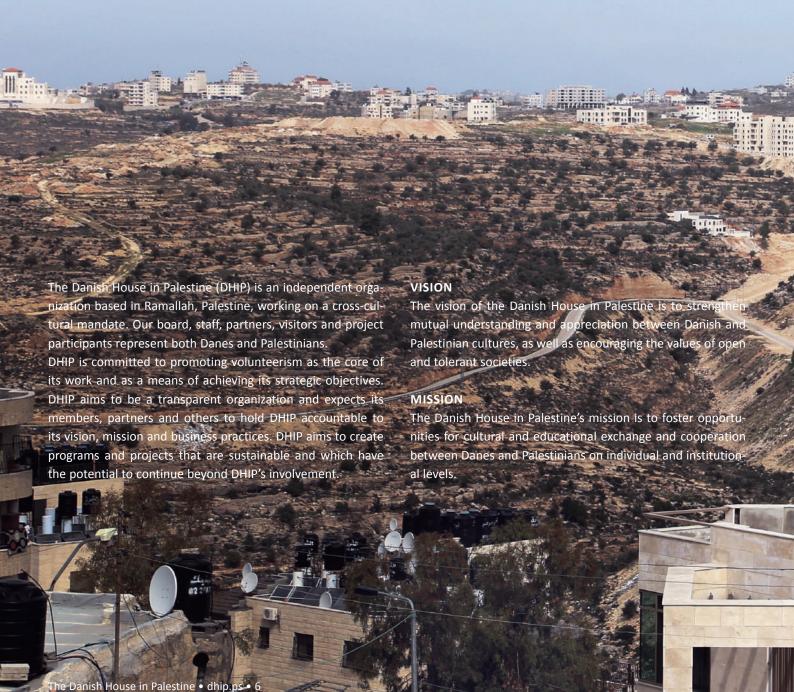
Director, The Danish House in Palestine



Troels Dalgaard, Director, The Danish House in Palestine. Photo: Majdi Hadid

We are a small, but important organization, highly valued by partners for facilitating equal and mutually beneficial collaborations between Palestinians and Danes.









PROJECTS 2017



BOXING EXCHANGE



In 2017, we entered the arena of sports, an area with a strong potential to contribute to mutual understanding and appreciation between cultures.

We initiated a project about boxing, which is a popular sport in both Palestine and Denmark.

The project develops Danish-Palestinian cooperation in the area of sport by bringing together Palestinian and Danish boxing trainers and young boxers. Furthermore, the project adds a further international dimension to the ongoing efforts to build up a boxing community in Palestine.

In August, a group of two young boxers and three boxing trainers from Vollsmose Boxing in Denmark came to Palestine for one week. Here, they carried out training sessions with 17 boxers and three trainers at El-Barrio, a boxing club in Ramallah.

During the training sessions, the two clubs learned from each other's training methods and boxing techniques. The week ended with a public boxing event in the Park of Independence in Al-Bireh, with the participation of boxers from both clubs.

El-Barrio and Vollsmose Boxing apply a similar approach to boxing, combing high ambitions in the ring with an eye for boxing as a vehicle for making positive change in young people's lives.

The project continues in 2018 with a new exchange between El-Barrio and Vollsmose Boxing, this time in Denmark. The long-term aim is to establish a permanent collaboration between the two clubs.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

This year, we published two children's books – one in Arabic and one in Danish.

The publications form part of our Children's Literature project, which began in 2016 with storytelling activities for Palestinian children and a four-day workshop for Palestinian writers and illustrators of children's books.

The project aims to publish books that provide Palestinian and Danish children with insight into each other's cultures. Another aim is to develop Palestinian-Danish cooperation by facilitating dialogue and exchange between Palestinian and Danish institutions who work with children's literature.

The first publication was an Arabic translation of *Silly Lilly* [in Danish: *Dumme Lili*], a Danish picture book for children. The book was distributed to libraries across the West Bank and Gaza.

Dumme Lili is a beautiful and warm-hearted story about how you feel inside when you treat other people – and yourself – in a silly manner.

The book, by author Mette Vedsø and illustrator Stine Illum, was originally published in Danish by Jensen & Dalgaard. We published the Arabic-language edition in collaboration with the Tamer Institute for Community Education, who also hosted a reception in Ramallah on the occasion of the book launch.

The second publication of the year was a Danish translation of Diaries of an Elementary Student [in Arabic: مذكرات تلميذ ابتدائية] a Palestinian picture book for children by author Khaled Jomaa and illustrator Abdullah Qawariq. This was also a collaboration with Jensen & Dalgaard and the Tamer Institute.

The book has the form of a diary where a young Palestinian boy describes his everyday life in Palestine and his experiences under occupation.

The project also includes the publication of an Arabic translation of a Danish graphic novel, *Zenobia*, by author Morten Dürr and illustrator Lars Horneman. The Arabic version is scheduled for publication in 2018.



DAYS OF CINEMA



Again this year, we supported Palestine's big annual film event, Days of Cinema, on its fourth edition. The festival is organized by Filmlab: Palestine and aims to place Palestine on the map of the international film industry.

During the festival, 77 Palestinian and international films were screened, including 23 short films for kids. The films reached audiences in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nablus and Gaza.

The festival program comprised of a string of initiatives, including a new three-day industry networking platform, Palestine Film Meetings, with participation of international guests as well as Palestinian professionals and film students.

As part of the festival, the Danish House hosted a screening of short films by Palestinian and Danish documentary filmmakers. The films are an outcome of "Empowering Storytellers", a film production camp in Palestine for directors, producers and editors under the age of 35 from Palestine and Denmark.

Another contribution from our side was inviting a reporter from leading Danish film magazine Ekko to cover the Days of Cinema 2017 edition. This resulted in eight articles, covering many aspects of the festival and filmmaking in Palestine.





ORAL HISTORY

Our Oral History project peaked in the second half of 2017 with an exhibition, a documentary film, two book publications and a theatre play, all aimed at documenting and bringing to life Palestinian oral history. The theme throughout was displacement.

We entered the field of oral history in 2014 due to a need for support in this field.

In August 2017, in partnership with Palestinian research institution Al-Rowat, we opened a new 11-day interactive exhibition on Palestinian displacement at the Mahmoud Darwish Museum in Ramallah. The exhibition, *Speak Oh Bird*, was based on oral testimonies from Palestinians who experienced the displacement of 1948, gathered by Al-Rowat. A key part of the exhibition was a documentary film featuring interviews with displaced Palestinians.

The Speak Oh Bird exhibition also included launches of two

new books on Palestinian displacement, *Living Memories and Mirrors of Memory*. The books are compiled and edited by Dr. Faiha Abdulhadi and published in Arabic and English by Al-Rowat and the Danish House.

Living Memories also provided inspiration for a theatre play, Meremiah, about two Palestinians who dream of returning to the homes they were expelled from in 1948. The play premiered in Bethlehem in November and was later performed in Birzeit and Ramallah.

Meramieh is directed by Mirna Sakhleh and performed by Faten Khoury and Nicola Zreineh. The play is produced by Marina Barham, Al-Harah Theater, in partnership with the Danish House.

In 2018, we hope to bring the *Speak Oh Bird* exhibition to audiences in Denmark.

PHOTO MARATHON IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUS

The Palestine Photo Marathon, a one-day photo competition for amateurs and professionals, is among the longest running Danish House projects, organized every year since 2012.

This year, the project took a new turn: We merged the photo marathon concept with the "Social Media Bus" – a project by Palestinian NGO Taghyeer, that brings together journalists and social media activists on bus trips to highlight Palestine heritage.

On May 1st, four buses full with a total of 151 Palestinian bloggers, journalists, photographers and social media activists took off from Jerusalem, Ramallah, Gaza and Bethlehem. Throughout the day, the groups visited sites across Palestine to take pictures, shoot video and gather information about his-

tory, geography and livelihood. The aim was to show another side of Palestine and the daily life of Palestinians.

In December, we published a book with photos from all four buses. The publication was marked by a small reception at the Danish House. The evening included speeches by Saed Karazon, CEO of Taghyeer, and Juman Qunais, head of the Media Department at Birzeit University.

In 2018, the Photo Marathon will take place in Cairo, Copenhagen and Ramallah, in collaboration with the Danish Egyptian Dialogue Institute (DEDI) and International Media Support (IMS). The aim of this expansion is to ensure further intercultural dialogue and cooperation.



THEATRE FOR YOUTH





This year, in a collaboration with Danish theatre Opgang2, we decided to bring a Danish theatre play for youth to Palestine. The play, entitled *4 EVER*, won the prestigious Danish Reumert prize as the best performance for children and youth in 2014.

In October and November, 4 EVER hit the stage eight times in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Beit Jala and Birzeit.

The play is about four young men whose fates were sealed on a winter day when, as young boys, they challenged death. The central themes are friendship, loyalty and life choices.

4 EVER was performed in Arabic by Danish-Palestinian actor Chadi Abdul-Karim. He had previously performed the original Danish-language version of the play.

4 EVER is written and directed by Pia Marcussen. The play was translated into Arabic by Maher Khatib and further adapted by Nicola Zreineh and Chadi Abdul-Karim. Music for the Arabic version was provided by Kanaan Ghoul.

The project forms part of our work to promote freedom of speech on the cultural scene in Palestine. At the same time, the project facilitated cultural encounters by bringing together Palestinian and Danish artists who worked jointly on the Arabic version of the play.

In 2018, we will initiate the second phase of the project: A new tour of the West Bank with performances for children and youth.

OTHER PROJECTS

In addition to the projects covered on the previous pages, we also carried out the following in 2017:

CIRCUS EXCHANGE

In October, Danish circus group Cirkus Tværs came to Palestine for one week. The group consisted of eight circus artists and two supervisors. They performed circus for children and young people in Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem, the village of al-Zawyeh and the refugee camps Far'a and Jalazone. The visit was a collaboration with The Palestinian Circus School.

CULTURAL REPORTING AND CRITICISM

In December, in cooperation with the Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN), we organized a five-day training in cultural reporting and criticism for 10 Palestinian journalists, including four from Gaza who participated via Skype. The training was conducted by Danish journalist Claus Vittus, with interventions from PPAN members. The aim was to improve the quality of cultural reporting in Palestine.

FARMING AND RECYCLING

In the fall, we kicked off a new project focusing on farming and recycling. We started with a four-day farming camp with 10 participants and two trainers at Mashjar Juthour, an eco-park near Ramallah. This was followed by a one-day event with five participants in central Ramallah, where participants rehabilitated an empty piece of land.

FILM AND MEDIA LITERACY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In 2017, together with Filmlab: Palestine and the Danish Film Institute, we started a project aimed at increasing film literacy among children and young people in Palestine. Activities included a three-day training course for eight Palestinian film trainers. These trainers later trained staff from Palestinian organizations who screened films for children and young people on a regular basis.



EVENTS

Throughout the year, we hosted and co-hosted a broad range of events in and outside the Danish House. Highlights included the Palestinian premiere of a new film by director Mahdi Fleifel, a couch talk on Palestinian oral history and a concert with percussionist Simona Abdallah and oud player Wissam Murad. In addition, we organized 12 film screenings in marginalized areas across the West Bank.

JANUARY 14: CONCERTS - WORLD STARS

We kicked off the year with two concerts by Danish band World Stars at The Palestinian Circus School in Birzeit. World Stars is an amusing and poetic trio influenced by contemporary circus. The group conveys its music on alternative instruments, such as a saw, coffee pots and bicycle pumps, combined with classic music instruments.

JANUARY 18: FILM SCREENING - THE FEELING OF PALESTINE

The Feeling of Palestine is young director Rikke Ruby's story of her first visit to Palestine, in 2012. This experience, and her meeting with Palestinian girl Rana, had a life-changing impact on her. We screened the 32-minute documentary film, followed by a Q&A session with the director via Skype.

MARCH 22: COUCH TALK - MEMORIES OF PALESTINE

Taking inspiration from our Oral History project, we hosted a couch talk on Palestinian oral history, focusing mainly on

the displacement of 1948. The panel included writer and researcher Dr. Faiha Abdulhadi, field researcher Asma Kilani and Fatmeh Karajeh, a Palestinian who shared memories of her displacement in 1948.

APRIL 15 TO 20: FILM SCREENINGS - NABLUS FESTIVAL

In partnership with Project Hope, we organized a Danish film program under the auspices of the annual Nablus Festival. The program included feature films by renowned Danish directors Bille August and Tobias Lindholm, as well as three children's films.

JULY 13: CONCERT AND ARTIST TALK - SAALEEK AND CHADI ABDUL-KARIM

At the height of the summer, we hosted a night of rap music, starting with the Palestinian premiere of a new music video featuring Palestinian rap crew Saaleek and Palestinian-Danish artist Chadi Abdul-Karim, directed by Chadi Abdul-Karim and Mike Spooner. This was followed by a Q&A session and a concert with Saaleek.



JULY 18: FILM SCREENING - GOODBYE BAFANA

On the occasion of Nelson Mandela International Day 2017, we screened *Goodbye Bafana* by Oscar-winning Danish director Bille August. The films tells the true story of a white South African racist whose life was profoundly altered by the black prisoner he guarded for 20 years. The prisoner's name was Nelson Mandela.

JULY 26: CONCERT – PETER SULSKI

Violinist Peter Sulski performed a J.S. Bach repertoire for viola at the Danish House. Sulski has performed in over 30 countries, including several times in Palestine. He also teaches violin, viola and chamber music in the United States. The concert was organized by Al-Kamandjâti music school.

SEPTEMBER 18: CONCERT – SIMONA ABDALLAH AND WISSAM MURAD

At the Danish House, we hosted a live concert with Palestinian-Danish percussionist Simona Abdallah, who performed a unique fusion of live darbuka and electronic music. Abdallah was accompanied on the stage by Palestinian oud player Wissam Murad.

SEPTEMBER 25: FILM SCREENING - PALESTINE PHOTO FESTIVAL

As part of a new festival, Palestine Photo Festival, we hosted a screening of the documentary film *Beirut Photographer*, followed by a Q&A with director Mariam Shahin. The film's protagonist, George Azar, photographed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. In the film, he returns to Beirut 30 years later to retrace his steps.

NOVEMBER 21: FILM SCREENINGS - MAHDI FLEIFEL NIGHT

We hosted the Palestinian premiere of Palestinian-Danish director Mahdi Fleifel's short film *A Drowning Man*, which premiered at Cannes Film Festival in May. We also screened two of Fleifel's previous works, *A Man Returned* and *Xenos*. In the films, life as a refugee is a recurring theme. The event began with an introduction by Prami Larsen, manager of Film Workshop / Copenhagen.

DECEMBER 18: COUCH TALK - ORGANIC FARMING

At the Danish House, we organized a couch talk on organic farming in Palestine, prompted by our ongoing farming and recycling project. The panellists were Saed Dagher, agronomist and consultant, and Jamil Harb, professor of plant biology at Birzeit University. Both speakers shared their views of organic farming, followed by a Q&A with the audience.



DECEMBER 19: FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR DANISH HOUSE DIRECTOR

Shortly before Christmas, Danish House director Lone Bildsøe Lassen returned to Denmark after nearly three years in Palestine, making her the longest-serving director since the establishment of the Danish House in Palestine in 2010. We hosted a farewell reception in our offices, attended by friends and partners of the Danish House. The event included speeches focusing on the passing of 2017 – a year where the Danish House put great emphasis on further developing partnerships with Palestinian organizations and became even more visible on the cultural scene in Palestine.

JULY TO DECEMBER: OUTREACH SCREENINGS ACROSS THE WEST BANK

In partnership with Filmlab:Palestine, we screened a total of 12 films across the West Bank, with the aim of promoting cinema culture in marginalized areas. The screenings took place at the Freedom Theatre in Jenin, the Yafa Cultural Center in Nablus and Kobar Development Association in Kobar, a village near Ramallah. The majority of the films were Danish children's films, dubbed in Arabic. Some of the screenings were followed by a dialogue with the audiences about the films, facilitated by Filmlab.

VISITORS



VOLUNTEERS





Our volunteer program continues to play a vital role in the vision of the Danish House of strengthening mutual understanding and appreciation between Palestine and Denmark. Volunteers contribute at their work placements and at the same time gain increased knowledge about Palestine, which they can share with family and friends upon return to Denmark.

In 2017, we facilitated stays in Palestine for 49 volunteers from Denmark, 15 more than the year before.

Of the volunteers we received, 42 came through a long-running partnership with Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke - ActionAid Denmark. We also received one volunteer through a partnership with University College Capital in Denmark.

The volunteers had an average age of 24, stayed for 4 to 12 weeks and worked for local organizations.

The majority of volunteers worked in the areas of children & youth (14), health (13) and human rights (13). We also received five volunteers who worked in the area of media & journalism and four in the area of rehabilitation.

AUDIENCES



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE	
Book launch reception for Arabic translation of Silly Lilly	40
DAYS OF CINEMA	
Screenings of 77 Palestinian and international films	5,000
ORAL HISTORY	
 11-day exhibition at Mahmoud Darwish Museum in Ramallah 	1,000
Four performances of theatre play Meremiah	383
PHOTO MARATHON IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUS	
Book launch reception at the Danish House	23
Book faultel reception at the Danish House	
THEATRE FOR YOUTH	
Eight performances in the West Bank	336
CIRCUS EXCHANGE	
Six performances in the West Bank	1,500
FILM AND MEDIA LITERACY FOR CHILDREN AND YOU	JTH
Film education activities in the West Bank	60
DESIGN IN CONTEXT**	
	120
Two-day exhibition in Copenhagen	120
MERGING MUSIC**	
MERGING MUSIC** • Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem	250
	250
Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem EVENTS	250
Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem	250 833
Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem EVENTS	
 Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem EVENTS 12 events in and outside the Danish House 12 outreach screenings in the West Bank 	833
 Concerts in Nablus and Jerusalem EVENTS 12 events in and outside the Danish House 	833

BOXING EXCHANGE

TOTAL 10,882

Figures are based on qualified estimates

COMMUNICATION AND PRESS



The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP)

@DanishHousePalestine

Startside

Opslag

Billeder

Om

Begivenheder

Videoer

Fællesskab

The Danish House in Palestine • dhip.ps • 32



Opret et opslag

Skriv noget på denne side ...

Throughout the year, we reached out to target groups in Palestine and Denmark on a wide array of platforms. We also worked closely with the press in both countries.

COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

We spread the word about Danish House activities by communicating on a broad range of digital platforms.

Facebook continued to play a vital role as it provides a valuable platform for reaching audiences in both Palestine and Denmark through the same channel. Our posts prompted a high level of interaction, and the number of page *likes* rose by 23% over the year – reaching 6,131 on December 30, 2017.

We also put out our newsletter five times throughout the year and maintained our website in its three language-versions. On Twitter, the director of the Danish House posted regularly. In the fall, we added Instagram to our portfolio of social media platforms. In the second half of the year, we paid special attention to video production and published 24 videos on a wide variety of topics. We will maintain this focus in 2018.



Send besked

Se alle

Organisation i Ramallah

Aben nu

Fællesskab

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Vollsmoseboksere indtager **Palæstina**



El-Barrio træner begge køn og i alle aldre.

Bokseklubben Vollsmose Boxing vil etablere et permanent samarbejde med en bokseklub på Vestbredden

AF JEPPE LYKKE HANSEN

En gruppe bestående af to unge boksere og tre trænere fra Vollsmose Boxing tager på søndag til Ramallah på Vestbredden (b) 02. aug 2017 kl. 13:02

→ Odense

→ Sport

DEL ARTIKLEN











MEDIA EXPOSURE

Press coverage in 2017 included many leading media outlets in both Palestine and Denmark. Throughout the year, we received 112 press mentions of the Danish House and our activities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Boxing Exchange

One of the project aims was to increase the visibility of boxing in Palestine. We therefore focused on reaching out to the Palestinian media, which prompted 10 mentions, including in Palestine TV and WAFA. The project was also covered by Danish local TV station TV 2/Fyn and other Danish media.

Children's Literature

The two book publications within this project – one in Arabic and one in Danish - resulted in media coverage in both countries. Most notably, Danish daily Politiken and Palestinian news agency Ma'an both published positive reviews.

Oral History

The Oral History project became our most heavily media covered project of the year with 36 mentions, most of them relating to our exhibition on Palestinian displacement, held in Ramallah in August. The coverage came from Palestinian and regional outlets, including Al-Jazeera and Reuters.

Theatre for Youth

Our tour of the theatre play 4 EVER was one of several projects to draw media coverage in both Denmark and Palestine. In Denmark, coverage included leading local newspaper JP Aarhus, while Palestinian coverage included Ajyal Radio Network (ARN).

PARTNERS, BOARD AND STAFF





PARTNERS

<u>Palestine</u>

Al Kamandjâti

Al Rowat for Studies & Research

Al-Harah Theater

Ashtar for Theatre Productions & Training

Assirk Assaghir

Diyar Theatre

El-Barrio

Filmlab: Palestine

Iprint

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center

Kobar Development Association

Mashjar Juthour

Palestine Photo Festival

Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN)

Project Hope/Nablus Festival

Taghyeer for Social Media

Tamer Institute for Community Education

The Freedom Theatre

The Palestinian Circus School

Yafa Cultural Center

Denmark

Aarhus Film Workshop

Cirkus Tværs

Film Workshop / Copenhagen

International Media Support (IMS)

Jensen & Dalgaard

MS ActionAid Denmark

NASIM

Opgang2 Turnéteater

The Danish Arts Council

The Danish Film Institute (DFI)

Vollsmose Boxing

University College Capital (UCC)

BOARD

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Yara Odeh, Board Member
Sam Bahour, Alternate Member



STAFF

Lone Bildsøe Lassen, Director (until December 2017)
Abeer Habash, Admin Officer
Ayah Ghabin, Project Intern (August 2017 to January 2018)
Dima Nashashibi, HR/Admin Manager & Volunteer Program
Supervisor
Doha Jabr, Program Officer
Edda Maria von Wildenradt, Communication and Project

Troels Dalgaard, Director (from January 2018)

Intern (August 2017 to January 2018)

Kristel Lindegaard, Project Intern (February to July 2017)
Mads Mariegaard, Communication Manager
Mille Gross Christiansen, Communication and Project Intern
(February to July 2017)
Mohammad Awar, Internal Auditor
Naela Awad, Housekeeper
Niveen Shaheen, Finance Officer
Sahar Soufan, Program Officer



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2017

INCOME	DKK
Projects grant (unspent 2016)	269,073
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	3,600,000
MS ActionAid Denmark	328,807
Danish Film Institute (DFI)	78,880
Danish Centre for Culture and Development (CKU) admin.	74,809
International Media Support (IMS)	27,311
Total project grants	4,378,880
Unrestricted grants/income	
DHIP programs and activities	97,209
Accommodation	21,147
Total unrestricted	118,356
Total available income	4,497,236
EXPENSES	DKK
Projects/activities	3,871,966
Rent and operating costs	188,118
Administration	125,692
(Gain) Loss on currency differential	(8,932)
Depreciation	92,925
Total expenses	4,269,769





