



ANNUAL REPORT - 2021

DANISH HOUSE IN
PALESTINE

Report
August – December 2021
The Danish House in Palestine

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The present report is aligned to the strategy of The Danish House in Palestine August 2021 – December 2025¹ and it covers a period of five months.

The vision of The Danish House in Palestine

To strengthen the mutual understanding and appreciation between Danish and Palestinian cultures, as well as encourage values of diverse, open, and tolerant societies.

Development Objective 2021 - 2025

A cultural and creative sector that provides courageous and quality learning opportunities for young girls and boys, women and men, and produces daring artistic expressions, thereby contributing to increased cultural diversity, pluralism and freedom of expression in Palestine.

The Six Outcomes²

Outcome 1		An increasing number of Palestinians and Danes are engaged in and actively supporting the programmes of the Danish House and its partners	
Outcome indicator		% increase in people engaged and actively supporting the programmes and partners of the Danish House	
Baseline	Year	2020/ 19	12.300 are engaged/ actively supporting the work of the Danish House and Palestinian partners
Target	Year	2025	26.000 are engaged/ actively supporting the work of the Danish House and Palestinian partners

Outcome 2		The resilience of girls, and boys, young women and men strengthened in vulnerable communities targeted by the Danish House and its partners	
Outcome indicator		% increase in young girls, and boys, women and men in Danish House and partner target communities who have been empowered (strengthened their network and social capital) through the programs of the Danish House and partners and feel able to take the lead in diverse art and cultural initiatives at community and national level. [To be assessed through Most Significant Change]	
Baseline	Year	2020	0
Target	Year	2025	75% increase of young girls and boys, women and men in our target communities who state that their network and social capital (resilience) has been strengthened, and feel able to take lead in diverse art and cultural initiatives at community and national level

¹ The strategy of The Danish House in Palestine 2021 – 2025 is available on our website <https://dhip.ps>

² Project Document 2021-2025, Agreement with The Danish Representation in Ramallah.

Outcome 3		Educational opportunities for selected young Palestinians in the creative film and design industries enhanced	
Outcome indicator		% increase in number of young Palestinians able to use their enhanced skills and capacities to generate a livelihood	
Baseline	Year	2020	No young Palestinians trained in the creative film and design industries (through the Danish House initiative – not yet started)
Target	Year	2025	10 % increase in the number of “graduates” earning a livelihood from the creative industry in Palestine i.e. design, food, film

Outcome 4		The range of artistic expressions amongst Danish House and partner supported artists which address, unfold and challenge the world we live in, our collective memory and roots of identity expanded	
Outcome indicator		Dogmas and steadfast perceptions of identity, culture, land, heritage, shared history and future, challenged and new narratives developed reflecting cultural diversity and pluralism	
Baseline	Year	2020	Limited artistic expressions, which address, unfold and challenge the world we live in, our collective memory and roots of identity
Target	Year	2025	At least 23 works of art works and cultural encounters followed by critics, debate, media coverage in Denmark and Palestine

Outcome 5		Palestinian civil society organizations working with art and culture further strengthened to contribute to freedom of expression and cultural life in Palestine.	
Outcome indicator		The capacities of the strategic partners of the Danish House to provide quality art and culture programs further developed [assessed through organisational assessment]	
Baseline	Year	2020	[baseline to be established at start up]
Target	Year	2025	All four strategic partners delivering effectively according to their mandates relating to freedom of expression and cultural life

Outcome 6		The Danish House in Palestine has transitioned into an NGO with a more solid and diverse funding base	
Outcome indicator		Sources and diversity of funding	
Baseline	Year	2020	90% of the funding of the Danish House is from The Danish Representation in Ramallah
Target	Year	2025	At least 50% of the funding of the Danish House is from other sources than The Danish Representation in Ramallah

Summary August – December 2021

- COVID-19 related travel restrictions continued to impact the activities during the reporting period. The podcast series 'Another Story' could not be initiated and was postponed to 2022 whereas the volunteer and residency programs, which have been on hold since March 2020 resumed for a few weeks in November, only to go on stand-by again in December and January (outcome 1).
- The major part of investments and collaboration with partners went as planned to two programs i.e. resilience of girls, and boys, young women and men with a focus on the children of Gaza (outcome 2) and educational opportunities for selected young Palestinians in the creative film industry (outcome 3).
- We initiated processes with the strategic partners to develop multi-year Memorandum of Understandings (outcome 5), we developed a comprehensive framework for our MEAL, initiated baseline studies and made a complete revision of our financial manual and standards (outcome 6).
- The deteriorating situation for the Palestinian civil society motivated the development of two projects focusing on rebuilding and expanding the civic space in the Occupied Territories of Palestine. The projects will be implemented in 2022 with funding from CISU. Both projects represent a stronger and more explicit position vis-a-vis civil society strengthening as compared to our usual approach (outcome 6).

PROGRAMME RESULTS

August – December 2021

Outcome 1

An increasing number of Palestinians and Danes are engaged in and actively supporting the programmes of the Danish House and its partners

Output 1.1 Diversity and local ownership of Danish House communication platforms enhanced

Output 1.1. indicator

% of all Danish House stories, images etc. are produced by Palestinian and Danish writers, graphic designers, filmmakers, photographers etc.

Output 1.1 targets	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	60%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Result	32%				

Output 1.1 activities

- During August-December 32 % of our stories, images, graphics etc that were produced by Palestinian and Danish young upcoming as well as professional writers, graphic designers, filmmakers, photographers and the communication teams of our partners.² We had 41 posts on social media, and we shared:

² January- July 2021, 23 posts were produced by Palestinians or Danes out of 71 posts, equal to 32.3%

- international days that cross-cut with our area of work such as the National Booklovers Day and Photography Day
 - content from our partners about the projects, which we support e.g. Corona Diaries and The Children of Gaza (Tamer), International Theatre Festival for children and young people (Al Harah), Cinema Days and the Next Generation (Filmlab)
 - events in Palestine and Denmark such as Arabian Nights (Copenhagen), movies about Palestine screened in Denmark, various cultural events taking place in Palestine - news about the war on Gaza from New York times and the Guardian
- In 2021, we worked on a short-animated cartoon movie about what happened in Gaza in May together with a team of young artists from Gaza (an illustrator, writer, animator). The video will be launched in 2022.
 - The 2020 Annual Report was designed by the Palestinian graphic designer Lubna 'Araj, published and distributed at the General Assembly meeting in Copenhagen September 2021. It is available on our webpage.³ Two newsletters were published and circulated to members and supporters in October and December respectively. The newsletters are available on our website.⁴ The opening rate is 45% for the English version and 48% for the Danish.
 - Late August and beginning of September, we took part in the film festival Arabian Nights (Copenhagen) coorganizing the night focusing on Palestine.

Progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of target and indicator is partial.⁵ The delivery has been relevant and we have contributed to the output and the outcome.²⁰ During this and the previous reporting period, the communication team has been based in Denmark and we have had an outgoing and an in-coming Public Engagement Manager. It is our assessment that the partial delivery towards the target can be attributed to these two factors. We are building up a reliable network of in particular young Palestinian professionals and our partners are delivering stories and images for our posts. We have reached to Danish young professionals and have planned a magazine project for 2022.

Output 1.2 The popular engagement opportunities of the Danish House further improved and marketed

Output 1.2	July - Aug 2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	target	result	target	result	target	result	target	result	target	result
volunteers	5	0	14		23		23		23	
education journey	20	19	40		60		60		60	
members	200	155	300		400		500		500	
donations ²¹	600	2.254	1.000		1.300		1.400		1.600	
newsletter subs.	600	597	700		800		900		1.000	
SOME followers ²²	12.800	13.489	14.000		15.500		17.000		18.700	

³ <https://dhip.ps/documents/>

⁴ <https://dhip.ps/newsletters/>

Output 1.2 activities

- During December we advertised at all our platforms i.e. newsletter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn for the opportunity to give a one-year membership for The Danish House as a Christmas present. The price for a one-year membership is 200 DKK. We got nine new members.
- We continued the fundraising campaign for the Children of Gaza at a slower pace and by telling stories about how children are benefitting from the project, which the donations have contributed to.⁶ The campaign was initiated in May in connection to the bombardment of Gaza and implemented together with our strategic partner Tamer.
- The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is overall on target with some variations. The delivery has been relevant and we have contributed to the output and the outcome. The variations include: No volunteers due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions; less members as compared to the target as the campaign was initiated late and with limited investments; considerably more donations and more followers compare to target due to effective fundraising campaign for the Children of Gaza.
- We are consciously aware that the Danish fundraising market is extremely competitive. We are a small player with very limited resources to invest in fundraising. We now have learnings from two very different fundraising campaigns. The COVID-19 initiated in 2020 and Gaza in 2021, where the last mentioned delivered far better than the first.

Outcome 2 The resilience of girls, and boys, young women and men strengthened in challenged communities targeted by the Danish House and its partners.

Output 2.1 Literature skills of young readers and writers in communities targeted by the Danish House and partners strengthened.

Output 2.1 indicators

- # additional children's books translated from/to Arabic/Danish, published and introduced to young readers in Palestine and Denmark
- # additional young talented creative writers and animators account for acquired competences
- # of libraries in hard-to-reach communities in Area C that have further strengthened their pedagogical methodologies (applicable from 2022)

Output 2.1 targets 2021

- 2 additional children's books translated from/to Arabic/Danish, published and introduced to young readers in Palestine and Denmark
- The creative capabilities and literature skills of children and young people in Gaza further strengthened⁷
- Conceptualisation and acquisition: Strengthening of 80 libraries in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/DanishHousePalestine/posts/6499255673448009>
<https://www.facebook.com/DanishHousePalestine/posts/6529407540432822>
<https://www.facebook.com/DanishHousePalestine/posts/6536501723056737>

⁷ Target added to reflect new project in Gaza.

Output 2.1 activities

- Earlier in 2021, the Danish children's book, Detective Tiger was translated to Arabic by Tamer Institute. The story is written and illustrated by a 9 years old Danish child. It is about a small tiger whose laptop explodes and his investigations to see what caused the laptop to explode. The book was launched and during November and December 2021, Tamer Institute conducted 12 reading sessions in libraries and schools on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- The Corona Diaries was part of our collaboration with Tamer Institute during January – July 2021. In August

2021 the book was published and launched. Corona Diaries is written by the Khaled Juma and illustrated by Haneen Nazzal. The book tackles the everyday quarantined adventures of a child during Corona and reflects sarcastic events different funny stories experiences by families during the lockdown. 40 librarians from the West bank (incl. Jerusalem) participated at the launching event in August. They shared their experiences of how children have interacted with and been inspired by the book in their own writings and diaries.

- As a part of the project, What Becomes of Eid? Diaries of the Children of the Sea 2021 implemented by Tamer Institute, 24 arts workshops with 500 children at 12 community libraries in Gaza Strip.²⁵ The art workshops focused on the positive mental health among young girls and boys. The workshops also focused on empowering the children to be able to deal with stress and loss through the use of innovative tools and different forms of creative expression. The workshops will result in an activity book based on activities used by librarians and the children drawings and writings will be published in a book. The project period is September 2021 to August 2022. We are co-funding the project with contributions from the Danish public and corporates i.e. the fundraising campaign implemented in connection to the bombings of Gaza.
- 1001 Dreams and a Window to the Sea implemented by Tamer Institute include a series of eight film workshops and three film productions. Five workshops were convened for 20 young women and men (14-20 years old) from the Gaza Strip. The workshops were about scenario development and where done by Mahmoud Abu Shamsieh. The workshops will continue and be followed by film productions. The films will be published on the digital platforms of Tamer to amplify the voices of Gazan youths as advocates for the right to live in peace and dignity. The project period is September 2021 to May 2022. We are co-funding the project with contributions from the Danish public and corporates i.e. the fundraising campaign implemented in connection to the bombings of Gaza.
- In 2021, we worked on the development of the project Strengthening of 80 libraries in West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip together with Tamer Institute. The project will promote the concept of 80 community libraries as *Third Places* – meeting the rights of every child to feel safe and enjoy child-friendly spaces for creative interaction and learning. The targeted libraries are distributed between West Bank including Area C, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Output 2.1 progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is on target with the exception of the last mentioned regarding grants acquisition. We are however contributing considerably to the delivery of the outcome with the increase in the project activities targeting the children of Gaza.

Output 2.2 Cultural capabilities for the most marginalised girls and boys, young women and men in challenged communities including in and around Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza strengthened

Output 2.2 indicators

- Reported increase in awareness on gender equality in the sample communities reached by the Danish House and its partners, incl. outreach festivals (assessed through pre – and post activity assessments)
- Assessed status cultural capability (assessed through most significant change)
- # young girls and boys, women and men enrolled as culture entrepreneur students
- # community-based flexible, safe, semi-out-door cultural spaces operational

Output 2.2 targets 2021

- Women, men, girls and boys in sample communities report increased awareness of gender equality through performing arts productions, including outreach festivals.⁸
- Grants acquisition: community-based flexible safe, semi-out-door spaces and culture entrepreneur education

Output 2.2 activities

- The Palestine International Festival for Child and Youth Theater took place during 15-22 October 2021. The festival is initiated and implemented by Al Harah – it is the only Palestinian Theater festival targeting children. The festival 2021 promoted the rights of persons with disabilities and emphasize the importance of inclusion in performing arts, and theater in particular. Al Harah Theater organized the Yalla Yalla Street Carnival as an opening event for the festival. 10 theater and dance troupes in both from Nazareth, Haifa, Jenin, Beit Jala, Bethlehem, Sabastia, Dheisheh Camp and Jerusalem took part and the festival reached 5.000 people and another 5.000 during the street carnival.
- We applied for Operation Days Work for the third time to raise funds for the project Young People's Right to Freedom of Expression in the West Bank. We were short-listed for the second time but did not succeed to win the final voting at the Grand Meeting in Copenhagen in November 2021.

Output 2.2 progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is partial and within the reporting period we have only to a limited extent been able to contribute to delivery of the outcome. This was expected as some of projects is only planned to start in 2022. Lack of funding is also a part of the explanation. We have however also responding to the changes in the context and to a grant opportunity.

Outcome 3 Educational opportunities for selected young Palestinians in the creative film and design industries enhanced

Output 3.1 Palestinian community of powerful, daring and independent filmmakers supported

Output 3.1 indicators

- # Cinema Days screenings reached communities in and around Area C
- # young girls and boys, women and men trained in living images and film-making
- # aspiring professional filmmakers offered capacity-building and access to quality equipment
- # of Palestinian independent film productions screened at international film festivals during the five years
 - # of international prizes and recognitions received by Palestinian filmmakers the last five years

⁸ Cultural capability activities planned start in 2022 given available funding.

Output 3.1 targets 2021

- 18 Cinema Days screenings reached communities in and around Area C
- At least 20 young girls and boys, women and men trained in living images and film-making
- At least 15 aspiring professional filmmakers offered capacity-building and access to quality equipment
- Conceptualisation and grants acquisition: Program targeting aspiring professional filmmakers

Output 3.1 activities

• The Palestine Cinema Days' took place in November, 2021. The program focused on stories about people from all over the world. Stories that strengthen the sense of belonging to the spirit of humanity and emphasize the centrality of culture. The program included 14 feature fiction movies, 7 feature-length documentaries, in addition to 6 short-films screened in cooperation with Clermont Ferrand International Film Festival. Some of the films were premiering for the first time in the Arab world. Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Malta, Bosnia, Serbia, France, UK, USA, Denmark and Sweden were represented with productions. The festival also included the Sunbird Award with 28 films competing for the three prizes and the publishing of the Palestine Cinema Days' Eighth Edition Magazine with 17 articles. Audiences in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Gaza, Haifa and Nazareth were reached.

Output 3.1 progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is partial and within the reporting period we have to some extent been able to contribute to delivery of the outcome. As compared to the action plan for the period we delivered as planned. However, the progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators within this reporting period of five month is limited. We delivered on one indicator i.e. Cinema Days as this is the focus of Filmlab during the autumn. Limited Cinema Days screenings reached communities in and around Area C due to COVID-19.

Outcome 4 The range of artistic expressions amongst Danish House and partner supported artists which address, unfold and challenge the world we live in, our collective memory and roots of identity expanded

Output 4.1 Joint productions and co-creation by artists and cultural practitioners supported and promoted

Output 4.1 indicators

- # curated works of art by artists from Palestine and Denmark
- # curated cultural encounter with poets and artists from Palestine and Denmark
- # curated cultural encounter, art work with artists from Palestine and Denmark

Output 4.1 target 2021

- Catalogue' of 21 scripts finalized and printed. Grant acquisition initiated.
- 1 curated works of art by artists from Palestine and Denmark

Output 4.1 activities and results 2021

• A 'catalogue' of 21 scripts, which unfold various themes e.g. Jerusalem, Area H2, shifting mountains, separation, universality, the spring, Silwan has been developed. It will be used for grant acquisition, creating curiosity and engaging artists. Each script represents an independent work of art. The project is coordinated by contemporary artist, Jan Danebod. During the reporting period, Danebod submitted a number of applications involving the project including e.g. the Danish Art Foundation,

Kickstart, and a residency. One of the scripts, Constant Ruin, was presented at Art Gallery, Hjemme igen in Aarhus, Denmark in September together with a booklet.⁹

- We had an open call for art residencies and during the reporting period, three Palestinian artists from different artistic backgrounds have used the Danish House as a studio for three months. They have worked with topics such as identity, memory, civic space and resilience. The artists were Natalie Najjar (Ramallah), working with art therapy and doodling; Motasim Siyam (Jerusalem) working with video art and animation, and Fuad Al Yamani originally from Yemen and working with murals and street art.

Output 4.1 progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is partial and within the reporting period we have to some degree contributed to delivery of the outcome. There has been delays because of COVID-19 travel restrictions and partly as resource persons contributing work for free or at low fees. The 21 scripts are based on research and the artist has spent time checking sources just as independent specialists have reviewed the scripts and provided feedback. Our approach confirms that the development of quality art is a long and dynamic process.

Outcome 5 Palestinian civil society organizations working with art and culture further strengthened to contribute to freedom of expression and cultural life in Palestine

Output 5.1 Organisational capacity of Danish House four strategic partners enhanced

Output 5.1 indicator

- Increase in organisational capacities (internal governance, fundraising, M&E etc.) of the strategic partners of the Danish House

Output 5.1 target 2021

- Organisational participatory assessments undertaken together with the strategic partners

Output 5.1 activities and results 2021

- Meetings have been convened with the four strategic partners, we have shared the new strategy 2021 – 2025 and Memorandum of Understandings covering year 2024-2025 have been signed. Annual action plans etc. will be developed and aligned to our results framework as relevant. Organisational participatory assessments will be a part of the actions plans for year 2022.

Output 5.1 progress, contribution and lessons learned

The progress towards the delivery of targets and indicators is limited and within the reporting period we have not been able to contribute to delivery of the outcome. At the same time, the securing the grant provides a good example of how we have adapted to an evolving context.

Outcome 6 The Danish House has transitioned into an NGO with a more solid and diverse funding base.

<https://www.hjemmeigen.dk>

Output 6.1 The Danish House has increased its cash and grant's income

⁹ <https://ms-my.facebook.com/Hjemxgalskabxkunst/posts/653527312701854/>

Output 6.1 indicators¹⁰

- increase in cash and grants income and

Output 6.1 activities and results 2021

- Outcome 6 reflects that financial sustainability is a core priority. To this effect we initiated processes, which together should contribute to financial sustainability of the organisation.
- In august 2021 a MEAL team was established and supported by an external consultant to ensure quality. MEAL workstreams have been developed for the entire lifespan of our strategy and results framework. The workstreams include monitoring of assumptions and re-assessment of identified risks, identification of indicators, data collection and data analysis. The workstreams have been developed as a set of defined processes on outcome level, which structure the MEAL activities throughout the period. The workstream of establishing a baseline for each outcome will be finalized in February 2022.
- The MEAL team also developed some data collection tools that will help establish baselines for outcomes 2, 3 and 5. The baselines were supposed to be established during 2021, but the data collection process was postponed to early 2022. Thus, baselines will be finalized early February after the data analysis process.

Output 6.1 progress, contribution and lessons learned

- A major difference is related to Outcome 2 and reflect the fundraising results for the Children of Gaza. A part of the funds has been disbursed to the partner organisation, Tamer Institute.

¹⁰ The results reflected in the table is 'income spent' during the period in question.

Summary of key risks and their management¹¹

Updated 24 January 2022

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response	Residual risk	Background to assessment
Civic space is further constrained (e.g. through prohibitions on freedom of expression, public events).	Certain	Significant	Daily monitoring of the situation e.g. traffic on social media; actions taken by the authorities; civil society. Regular risk assessments, communicate with partners/authorities before events, monitor media. Protection of staff, property, reputation. Adjust activities and reallocate funding linked to civic space. Stay relevant to the community.	Short term risks reduced through avoidance. Overall risks remain. Managing possible impacts. DHIP activities tailored to the situation.	Freedom of expression and the civil society space is under increased pressure from the occupying power, the PA and conservative religious leaders. Popular mobilisation in April/May led to increased violations of freedom of assembly and expression. The designation of six CSOs as terrorist organisations by the occupying power. PA crack down on anti-corruption protesters and continued violent oppression by PA security forces.
Overall deterioration in the security situation	Certain	Major	Design modalities (e.g. in choice of partners) to minimize necessity for DHIP presence/ mobility	Short term risks reduced through avoidance. Overall risks remain.	A wider outbreak of insecurity would lead to the evacuation of DHIP international staff and temporary closure. Security situation continues to deteriorate.

¹¹ Project Document 2021-2025, Agreement with The Danish Representation in Ramallah.

Reputation and credibility of DHIP suffers as a result of negative media (incl. social media) comments	Likely	Major	Prevention according to DHIP communications strategy. Monitor social media and media platforms. Perform risk assessments prior to DHIP posts. Regular engagement with press.	General risks will remain as it is difficult predict. However, risk responses will reduce its impact.	As a donor funded NGO working on cultural and human rights, DHIP is relatively exposed politically and has previously been subject to smear campaigns.
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