

The Danish House in Palestine  
ANNUAL REPORT  
January – December 2023



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The present report plan is aligned to the strategy of The Danish House in Palestine 2021 – 2025<sup>1</sup> and the document “The way forward- post 2025”<sup>2</sup>. The report covers the period from January – December 2023. In this report we report on targets, achievements and lessons learned.

### *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.

### *The Development Objective*

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 Four Outcomes<sup>3</sup>*

<b>Outcome 1</b>		<b>An increasing number of Palestinians and Danes are engaged in and actively supporting the programmes of the Danish House and its partners</b>	
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	2023	18.000 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

<b>Outcome 2</b>		<b>The resilience of girls, and boys, young women and men strengthened in vulnerable communities targeted by the Danish House and its partners</b>	
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.	
Baseline	Year	2020	0

<sup>1</sup> Effective 1 August 2021 – December 2025

<sup>2</sup> The way forward- post 2025 dates 17 July 2022- Approved by DRO

<sup>3</sup> Updated Result Framework 2023- 2025

Target	Year	2023	30% 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
Target	Year	2025	75% 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

<b>Outcome 3</b>		<b>Palestinian civil society organizations working with art and culture further strengthened to contribute to freedom of expression and cultural life in Palestine.</b>	
Outcome indicator		The capacities of the strategic partners of the Danish House to provide quality art and culture programs further developed	
Baseline	Year	2020	[baseline to be established at start up]
Target	Year	2023	Strategic partners have better collaborations and well-defined programs contribute to freedom of expression and cultural life in Palestine.
Target	Year	2025	All strategic partners delivering effectively according to their mandates relating to freedom of expression and cultural life

<b>Outcome 4</b>		<b>The Danish House in Palestine has transitioned into an NGO with a more solid and diverse funding base</b>	
Outcome indicator		Sources and diversity of funding	
Baseline	Year	2020	98% of the funding of the Danish House is from The Danish Representation in Ramallah
Target	Year	2023	At least 15% of the funding of the Danish House is from other sources than The Danish Representation in Ramallah
Target	Year	2025	At least 30% of the funding of the Danish House is from other sources than The Danish Representation in Ramallah Bridging/ Shifting towards CISU fund

### ***The situation***

In 2023, the situation took a devastating toll on the lives of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

We have certainly noticed the deterioration of the situation over the past weeks and months in the occupied Palestinian territories. Beyond the alarming statistics reflecting the highest numbers of killings and settler attacks since the UN started registration, there is an increasingly unbearable reality for Palestinians in general, particularly for youth and women.

In the face of these challenges, the Danish House remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting projects that empower young Palestinians to advocate for their rights. We recognize the importance of nurturing hope among children, as well as amplifying the voices of Palestinian artists and young advocates who tirelessly strive for justice and peace.

Once again, our ability as a civil society organization to comprehend the situation, anticipate future developments, and make timely, necessary adjustments in close collaboration with our partners will determine our continued legitimacy vis-à-vis the children, young people, and the civil society of Palestine.

### ***Major Highlights in 2023:***

- **Palestinian Livelihoods Impacted:** The policies and practices of the occupying power have significantly affected the livelihoods of Palestinians in the West Bank, including land grabbing, movement restrictions, work permits, property demolitions, and evictions. State-backed settler violence has further contributed to the devastation of Palestinian livelihoods. Daily raids in main cities, roads, and once-considered secure villages are now a common occurrence in the Occupied West Bank.
- **Human Toll in Gaza:** As of December 30th, more than 21,672 Palestinians have been killed, and over 56,165 have been injured in Gaza (OCHA 30/12). However, the actual figures are likely higher due to the lack of updates following the collapse of services and communications in northern Gaza hospitals. Gaza has become a constant target, with hospitals, schools, residential buildings, mosques, bakeries, and vital infrastructure facing relentless attacks. The situation has displaced 1.7 million Palestinians since October 7th, leading to severe human insecurities, depriving them of personal, community, food, health, and economic security.
- **Blockade Challenges in Gaza:** The unlawful blockade of Gaza has resulted in "catastrophic cuts to water, fuel, and electricity" (Human Rights Watch). Limited deliveries of essential supplies have exacerbated food and health insecurities. Palestinians endure lengthy queues of over six hours for basic necessities like bread and water. This aggravates the existing human insecurities that Gaza's population faced before October 7th. In January 2023, OCHA reported that 1.3 million people were in need. Additionally, the Palestinian Ministry of Health recorded 527 Palestinian deaths in the West Bank.
- **Children at Personal Risk:** Among the vulnerable groups, children face significant personal risks. The bombardment of schools, hospitals, and residential areas poses a direct threat to their safety. Since October 7th, more children have been killed in Gaza than in all other zones of war and violent conflict since 2019 (Save the Children). Children are particularly susceptible to health and food insecurities as well as the blockade's impact on essential supplies to Gaza.

The plight of children under the ongoing crisis is of paramount concern, emphasizing the urgent need for intervention and support to safeguard their well-being.

### *Summary January – December 2023*

- **Responsive and Active Engagement (Outcome 1):**
  - Successfully attracted more volunteers, visitors, and conducted educational visits from Denmark to Palestine.
  - Swift response to the war on Gaza in October 2023, initiating a campaign that gathered over 1 million DKK to support children's psychosocial well-being through expressive arts.
- **Anne Sofie Allermann's Visit (Outcome 2):**
  - We hosted the Danish writer Anne Sofie Allermann, who is celebrated for her literary contributions in Denmark. Anne Sofie's connection with DHIP began with the translation of her children's book, 'Time,' from Danish to Arabic last year. This literary endeavor laid the foundation for a meaningful collaboration, setting the stage for Anne Sofie's immersive visit during the Palestine International Book Fair in September.
  - Anne Sofie's visit included three enriching workshops for children in Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah. The workshops delved into the pages of 'Time,' encouraging young minds to embark on a fascinating journey through the concept of time. Interactive activities, including the creation of a time machine, exploring scents, and thought-provoking discussions, enriched the children's understanding and fostered a love for literature.
  - Anne Sofie Allermann's visit not only showcased the magic of her storytelling but also reinforced the power of literature to connect cultures and inspire young minds. The translated version of 'Time' served as a bridge between languages, fostering a shared appreciation for the beauty of words and ideas.





- **Community Grassroots Expansion and Investment (outcome 2):**
  - Strengthened resilience in challenged communities, particularly focusing on creating safe and creative spaces for girls, boys, young women, and men.
  - Filmlab's Next Generation program targeted children and youth, hosting film screenings, workshops, and an online platform, Waqtona, which had 87,980 visits in 2023.
  - The 10th edition of Palestine Cinema Days marked a significant milestone, despite challenges in the political situation. The festival successfully illuminated screens globally, showcasing Palestinian cinema to the world.





- **Civic Space Rebuilding Projects (outcome 3):**
  - Implemented two projects focusing on rebuilding and expanding the civic space in the Occupied Territories of Palestine, taking a stronger stance compared to the usual approach (CISU).
- **In-House Activities:**
  - Successfully activated the office space as a cultural hub.
  - In-House Activities included expressive arts workshops, art exhibitions, study trips, and collaborations with international artists. Notable activities involved the participation of Danish volunteers and artists fostering cultural exchange and partnerships.





- **Grant Acquisition Efforts (outcome 4):**

- **Erik Foundation:** Applied for 320,488 DKK to fund expressive arts programs in Jenin, Balata, Amari, Al Maghazi, and Al Shaboura Refugee camps.
- **CISU (Small Interventions):** Applied for 142,068.80 DKK to translate Yahya Hassan's work into Arabic and bring it to Palestinian readers (translation + activities around the translated work).
- **Agency for Culture and Palaces:** Applied for a grant of 30,000 DKK for the translation of Yahya Hassan's work in collaboration with Khalil Al Sakakini.
- **CISU Engagement Pool:** Applied for a grant of 199, 502 DKK to send the exhibition "What becomes of Eid" to Denmark.
- **Operations Day Work (Media Literacy and Youth's Voice):** Applied for Operations Day Work, focusing on media literacy and empowering the youth's voice, for 2 million DKK. The project has been shortlisted, and the youth will vote for the shortlisted projects next year.
- **CISU (Danish Emergency Relief Fund DERF):** Managed to alert CISU, which allocated up to DKK 7 million for Gaza. We applied for 999.314 DKK for humanitarian support, including winter jackets, blankets, and more for kids in Gaza.
- **Memberships:** Managed to double the number of our members in Denmark (through reepay).

## BIANNUAL PROGRAMME RESULTS

January - December 2023

### 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 – indicators and targets 2023**

% of all Danish House stories, images, etc created in cooperation with external Palestinian and Danish writers, graphic designers, filmmakers, photographers etc

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	60%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Result	32%	80.45%	82.46%		

## Output 1.1 activities January – December 2023

### *Our Social Media*

Throughout the period of January-December 2023, we significantly enhanced the diversity and local ownership of our communication platforms, with 80.45% of our stories, images, graphics, and more crafted collaboratively with external Palestinian and Danish contributors. Among the 154 posts shared on social media during this time, several highlights include:

- Insights from our interns, study trips visitors and volunteers, providing reflections on their experiences in Palestine.
- Engaging content from our partners showcasing project milestones, achievements, publications, and announcements.
- Visual portraits featuring Palestinians working in the cultural and artistic spheres.
- Portraits aimed at involving Danes in the daily lives of young Palestinians.
- Compelling stories and videos authored and narrated by the children sharing their personal thoughts and dreams.

Of the 154 posts published, 127 were the result of collaborations with external Palestinian and Danish writers, graphic designers, filmmakers, and photographers.

Our strategic use of social media platforms continues to break down borders, fostering cross-cultural understanding and awareness among both Palestinian and Danish followers. Our content planning revolves around important international days, emphasizing core values, and includes narratives about unique and inspirational young Palestinian artists. Additionally, we share relevant activities and events in Palestine and Denmark to maintain an ongoing dialogue.

### *Podcast – Another Story*

In October 2023, our CISU-funded project, "Another Story," took an exciting turn when Danish-Afghan journalist Nagieb Khaja arrived in Ramallah to lead a podcast series focused on Palestine. The mission was to shed light on the Palestinian experience often overlooked by Danish media, with a particular emphasis on daily life in the West Bank. Nagieb conducted insightful interviews with our partners, various artists, and cultural practitioners, offering a deeper understanding of the impact of daily occupation on culture. The first podcast episode launched on Zetland received positive feedback, and four more episodes are scheduled for release in 2024.

### *Operation Dayswork (Operation Dagsværk)*

We applied for Operations Dayswork, our project focuses on a youth-focused empowerment project in Palestine (2 Million DKK grant). Successfully our project reached the shortlist. This recognition underscores the potential impact and significance of our initiative, which aims to address the challenges faced by Palestinian youth in the OPT. In collaboration with the Tamer Institute for Community Education, the project focuses on organizing youth groups in the West Bank and Gaza, fostering a movement of democratic activism. The initiative also involves extensive advocacy work and presentations in Denmark, providing insights into our work and the broader

Palestinian context. These efforts will be prominently featured on our social media platforms, aligning with Operation Dagsværk's commitment to youth empowerment.

### ***Co-organizing Palestinian events in the Copenhagen***

Working closely with our Palestinian partners, we are actively engaged in co-organizing events in Copenhagen to highlight Palestinian culture and narratives. These events include film screenings featuring carefully curated documentaries obtained from our partner Filmlab, offering Danish audiences a unique perspective on Palestine. Following each screening, we facilitated discussions between experts, fostering a space for dialogue and nuanced understanding. Our outreach efforts extend to educational institutions such as folk schools and universities, where we have planned a comprehensive plan for presentations aimed at promoting our ongoing work and encouraging youth participation. These presentations seek to inspire and motivate young individuals to consider becoming future volunteers and interns. By engaging diverse audiences through film screenings and educational presentations, our aim is to amplify awareness, facilitate meaningful conversations, and cultivate a community of informed individuals invested in our vision.

Additionally, the Danish House hosted Tamer Institute for Community Education's General Director, Renad Qubbaj, from 2-5 October 2023 in Denmark for several advocacy activities. She met with the Board of Directors of the Danish House, and she also conducted a workshop under the title "Children of Palestine: Resilience, Trauma and Hope" at Copenhagen University where she presented Tamer Institute's work under occupation spreading knowledge and advocating for Tamer's work with children, youth and groups who work with them to the international community in Denmark.





### ***Fundraising and membership Campaigns***

Amid the Israeli aggression on Gaza that started in October, we launched a proactive campaign aimed at garnering donations and support for the psychosocial well-being of children through the medium of expressive arts. In this initiative, we harnessed the power of texts, illustrations, and videos crafted by the resilient children of Gaza, using their creations to convey the profound impact of the occupation on their lives. The funds raised through this campaign will be dedicated to organizing psychosocial support workshops tailored for children aged 6 to 14. These workshops were strategically designed to address the specific needs of children grappling with trauma, depression, and anxiety. Through these workshops, we would like to create a nurturing environment that facilitated healing and provided a platform for self-expression, enabling the children to navigate and cope with the emotional challenges imposed by the war.

By incorporating the creative expressions of Gaza's children, our campaign not only sought financial contributions but also aimed to raise awareness about the critical importance of addressing the psychosocial well-being of young children experiencing the war. Through these collective efforts, we aspire to make a meaningful impact on the lives of these resilient young minds, providing them with opportunities for healing and hope amid challenging circumstances.

### **Output 1.1 Progress, Contribution, and Lessons Learned:**

In the current year, Output 1.1 witnessed substantial progress in enhancing the diversity and local ownership of Danish House communication platforms. Exceeding the targeted 80%, our collaborative content creation efforts reached an impressive rate of 82.46% in 2023. We not only expanded our reach beyond the usual target groups but also provided safe and inspiring spaces for Palestinian children and young people to document and share their stories of everyday life, sorrows, hope, and dreams. This inclusivity has not only enriched our content but has also facilitated a more profound connection with diverse audiences.

Initiatives such as the "Another Story" podcast series led by Nagieb Khaja and the shortlisting of our youth-focused empowerment project from Operation Dagsværk underscore the impactful nature of our endeavors. These initiatives positioned our organization as relevant within the broader context of youth empowerment and cultural exchange.

Our response to the humanitarian crisis during the war showed our ability to act quickly and meaningfully. Utilizing texts, illustrations, and videos produced by Gaza children, the campaign not only raised funds but also provided a powerful channel for these children to express their experiences. These outcomes, along with the lessons learned, will inform future strategies, ensuring ongoing adaptability and effectiveness in achieving our organizational goals.

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

## Output 1.2 indicators and targets 2023

	July – Dec 2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	target	result	target	result	target	result	target	result	target	result
Danes joined our volunteer program	5	0	14	4	4	7	8		10	
Danish Student/Journalist took part in an educational journey to the West Bank	20	19	40	150	60	69	80		100	
Danes are members	200	155	300	200	350	304	400		500	
Danes gave a donation	600	2.254	1.000	562	500	984	500		500	
individuals have signed up to our newsletter	600	597	700	709	800	809	900		1.000	
individuals follow us on social media	12.800	13.489	14.000	15.288	17.000	17.300	19.000		20.000	

## Output 1.2 activities January – December 2023

### 1. Danes Joined Volunteer Program:

Successfully surpassing the target, we welcomed 7 dedicated individuals into our volunteer program. These new members actively contributed to our mission and engagement initiatives. Our new volunteer program, is now aligned with our development objective of supporting a cultural and creative sector. Strategic partnerships with organizations like Sharek and YWCA facilitated the stay of the 7 volunteers. The detailed list of volunteers and the organizations they joined is provided below.

#### Volunteers:

- Bjarne v.H.Solberg Holtermann volunteered at Al Harah Theater.
- Nermin Hachach volunteered at Tamer Institute for Community Education.
- Svea Blem volunteered at the Circus School.

- Karoline Ledertoug volunteered at YWCA.
- Ursula Pelle volunteered at Sharek.
- Troels Olesen volunteered at Sharek.
- Laura Welender volunteered at Sharek.



## ***2. Danish Student/Journalist Educational Journeys:***

Exceeding our target, a total of 69 Danish students and journalists participated in educational journeys to the West Bank. This engagement facilitated a deeper understanding of the Palestinian



context and cultural dynamics. We hosted 69 guests for briefings and in-depth educational visits, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and aspirations of the Palestinian people. The guest came from the Danish Union of Journalists, Silkeborg Folk High School, Rødning Folk High School, and Krogerup Folk High School.



### ***3. Danes as Members:***

While falling slightly short of our initial target, we successfully enrolled 304 Danes as members. This achievement is particularly noteworthy given the context of our membership in 2022, which was 200 members. The substantial increase by 100 members reflect the effort we made in every opportunity to expand our membership base. End of 2023 we launched of a membership campaign with the ambitious goal of reaching 15,000 members. While this objective may seem optimistic and could take a few years to achieve, we are committed to continuing this campaign and persisting until we meet our target.

### ***4. Danes Giving Donations:***

984 Danes generously contributed to our cause, demonstrating strong support for addressing social injustices in Palestine. This remarkable response highlights the effectiveness of our fundraising activities and the resonance of our mission with our supporters. It's important to note that our success in fundraising was particularly significant in the context of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Historically, we have observed an increased response to fundraising efforts during times of war or tragedy. The urgency of the situation in Gaza, compounded by the persistent challenges faced by its residents, played an important role in mobilizing support.

### 5. Newsletter Sign-ups:

We successfully garnered 809 new subscribers to our newsletter, expanding our reach and ensuring a wider dissemination of information about our projects, events, and cultural initiatives. The redesigned newsletters, aimed at engaging the reader in Palestine and the work of the Danish House, have resulted in increased clicks and interactions.

### 6. Social Media Followers:

Exceeding our target, our social media platforms now boast a following of 17,300 individuals. This heightened engagement ensures that our messages and initiatives reach a broader audience. Collaborative efforts with partners, children, and young people have produced diverse content and stories, enriching our online presence which is the reason behind this success.

#### Audience



#### Facebook followers ⓘ

10,878

#### Instagram followers ⓘ

6,398

### Output 1.2 Progress, Contribution, and Lessons Learned:

Reflecting on 2023, Output 1.2 emerges as a story of growth. Our volunteer program achieved remarkable success, surpassing targets and fostering cultural exchange through new partnerships with Sharek and YWCA. The educational journeys of Danish participants played an important role in deepening understanding, connecting hearts to the Palestinian narrative.

Despite our membership numbers falling slightly short, the doubling from 2022 mirrors a collective response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. In our fundraising efforts, 984 Danes showcased not only financial support but a shared commitment, resonating particularly amid the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

Surpassing social media targets (17,300 followers) amplifies diverse voices and signifies a community engaged and connected. The lessons learned revolve around the power of adaptability and resilience. These principles, evident in our achievements, will guide us towards a future shaped not merely by numerical targets but by a shared spirit and vision.

### 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 Cultural and creative capabilities for the most marginalized girls and boys, young women and men in vulnerable communities including in and around Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza strengthened.*

#### **Output 2.1 indicators**

- # Girls and boys, young women and men participating in expressive arts activities
- Reported increase in cultural and creative capabilities in the sample communities reached by the Danish House and its partners, incl. outreach festivals

#### **Output 2.1 targets 2023**

- 20% increase in the number of Girls and boys, young women and men participating in expressive arts activities
- Women, men, girls and boys in sample communities report increase in cultural and creative capabilities

#### **Output 2.1 activities January – December 2023**

***Reading and creative sessions using quality children's books including translated Danish children's books as well as other media at the community centers.***

With our partner, Tamer Institute for Community Education, we supported workshops with children and young people inside community centers. Activities focused on literature and guided children to reflect on the stories in relation to their own experiences. These activities primarily targeted the ability of children to learn through experience, expression, and reflection. All activities were age-appropriate and sensitive to gender issues; thus, girls and boys participated in separate activities tailored to their specific contextual challenges.

We executed approximately **260 psychosocial support (PSS) activities** through expressive arts, engaging **5,000 children in 2023 (3898 F, 1102 M)**. The library activities provided a safe space for children to participate in various activities, enabling them to acquire essential life skills. The libraries utilized publications from the Institute and expressive arts tools, encompassing storytelling, discussion activities, animation, PSS, expressive drawing activities, theater, and drama activities. Librarians incorporated their training knowledge and skills in activities with children at the targeted community libraries. Participation extended to include joint activities for both parents and children. They engaged in reading and discussing stories together, followed by collaborative artistic activities, aiming to reinforce effective communication skills in an interactive manner. Additionally, translated Danish stories were incorporated into children's activities.





We also took part of the national reading campaign activities which were conducted in various outdoor locations. The campaign included activities such as the Memory Game related to how children perceive time. Inspired by the details, the children collectively designed memory cards using fabric material, featuring elements from the artworks that may hold personal meanings for the participating children (e.g., ice cream, candies, stuffed dolls, etc.). The game was either taken with the children, or kept in the community library. The children also drew what time means to them, such as an old clock that reminds them of their fathers and grandfathers, a phone, the sun, counting on their fingers, and seeing time in the growth of trees. They expressed how their understanding of time has expanded from counting to ten and saying "mama" and "baba" to being

able to speak full sentences. We also participated in the Read to Me Baba campaign, which aimed to strengthen the social fabric and improve the well-being and knowledge of children through PSS and expressive arts activities within communities, engaging **2,624 children (858 M, 1766 F) and 73 parents (53 F, 20 M) in 84 activities.**

The book “What Becomes of Eid?” including Gazan children's memoirs about the 2021 war on the Gaza Strip, which Tamer Institute published was highlighted, discussed and reflected in expressive arts through all activities. The children read the book, discussed it and then created art shapes and characters from the stories presented, and wrote stories about the characters from the reality that Gaza's children are experiencing as well as the dreams of the children in Gaza.



Similarly, the book “Laila Leaves the House” published by Tamer after the 2014 war on Gaza was highlighted. Discussions took place on the reasons why Laila is leaving her house and how can the children give her hope. The activity that followed used expressive arts to create a happy Laila with her doll and her dreams.

One of the **highlights** was the visit of Danish Author Anne Sofie, who came from Denmark to

conduct sessions with children and activities about the Story Book “Time”, which was translated to Arabic last year. During Anne Sofie's visit to Palestine at the International Book Fair in September 2023, three workshops were held for children in Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah, engaging a total of **76 children (43 F, 33 M).**

Anne Sofie explored the concept of time—how time passes, how we measure it, and whether time is fast or slow—constructing a time-traveling machine and discussing our journey through time. Children considered if they preferred traveling forward or backward, talked about the year they would like to travel to and why, and discussed what they hoped to experience in their time travel. They also considered who they would invite on this temporal journey, contemplating the



excitement of leaping 1000 years into the future or past to see how the world looks in both scenarios. The author posed these questions to children to encourage them to think about time and its concept. She defined it technically by bringing an hourglass, a regular clock, and an earth globe, explaining how the Earth rotates to produce 24 hours and orbits the sun to complete a year with its seasons. Then, a simple exercise was conducted to make children feel time by creating a circle and running slowly and then faster with the music, allowing them to sense the passage of time. Afterward, a time machine was used to take them to the past through inhaling scents like cardamom, cinnamon, and rose. Children were able to recall specific memories associated with each scent, such as winter and Sahlab with the smell of cinnamon and spring with the scent of roses.

Next, a time machine was introduced that made the children feel time through an exercise resembling a black hole. A chain was formed by participants in the shape of a hole, with a set time to start the exercise. Running to continue the chain and checking how much time had passed allowed them to experience the flow of time. Finally, the author presented a time machine that takes them to the future. Each person was given a stone with a hole and asked to make a wish, contemplating their future, which is a Danish tradition.



***Film screenings and film literacy sessions at the community centres.***

Partnering with Film Lab Palestine, we organized film screenings at community centers utilizing the Waqtona screening platform, offering free access to quality films for children and young people. The online platform caters to 6-15-year-olds in Palestine, providing diverse film programs with quality content films dubbed into Arabic. Notably, Season 8, released in April, featured 13 films, including 2 features and 11 shorts, with 4 translated into sign language and 5 dubbed into Arabic. Season 9, prepared for release in October, comprised **14 films, 3 features, and 11 shorts, with 2 dubbed into Arabic. Waqtona received 87,930 visits in 2023.**

**- Palestine Cinema Days:**

Since 2014, Palestine Cinema Days has gained international recognition, becoming a significant event in the Palestinian film and cultural industry. This annual festival celebrates a diverse selection of regional and international films, offering screenings, competitions, workshops, networking, and pitching events. The 10th edition, a milestone in the festival's history, aimed to celebrate achievements by opening submissions to regional and international filmmakers. Unfortunately, due to a worsening political situation, the festival had to pause its activities. However, six films were screened in **171 venues across 41 countries, showcasing Palestinian cinema globally.**





#### - Next Generation Program:

The Next Generation program, targeting children and youth aged 6 to 15 years, focuses on promoting cinema culture and increasing film literacy. Filmlab's innovative curriculum aims to foster film literacy by providing child- and youth-friendly learning experiences.

#### Film Screenings:

- Daily screenings at the Ottoman Court from January 11th to February 8th.
- Screenings during the Nowwar Nissan Festival on April 28th.
- Seven screenings at Saryyet Ramallah (June 22nd, 26th, July 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 25th).
- Two screenings during Birzeit Heritage Week on July 14th and 15th.
- Two screenings at Yabous Cultural Center/Jerusalem on July 11th and 12th.
- Four screenings during the Palestine International Book Fair (September 15th – 18th).
- One open-air screening at Rosary school, Ramallah, on September 24th.
- One open-air screening at Jenin Refugee camp on August 2nd, after the Israeli invasion of the camp.
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#### Filmmaking Workshops:

- Mash-up table workshop during the Nowwar Nissan Festival, Ramallah, on May 3rd.
- One filmmaking workshop (3 days each) in Sareyyat Ramallah (July 2nd-4th).
- One workshop at AlElieh for Science Environment and Art, Beit Hanina, on August 25th and 26th.
- One workshop at Rommana, Wadi Sammen, Hebron, on August 13th-15th.
- One workshop at The Cultural Forum Center, Beit Anan, on September 7th and 9th.
- One workshop at Dalal for Culture and Arts Association, Bethlehem, on September 14th and 15th.
- One workshop at Alawda Center, Tulkarm Refugee camp, on September 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>.

The total reach for all these activities is **2074 children participating (1383 F, 691 M)**.

#### ***Performing arts – interactive theater, social circus, music etc at community centers.***

collaboration with our partners, the Circus School and Al Harah Theatre, we brought captivating performances to community centers, featuring interactive theater, social circus, music, and more. Workshops focused on inclusive skills, raising awareness about children's rights, including the right to education, and responsible internet and social media use. Community centers also participated in festivals organized by our partners.

Al Harah Theatre presented an interactive children's show titled "New Idea," tailored for ages 6-10. Addressing themes like personal hygiene, the environment, future dreams, and acceptance of others, the show encouraged children to express themselves. It tackled issues of rejection of children with disabilities in a fun and engaging manner, incorporating music, dance, and movement. Unfortunately, due to end-of-year movement restrictions in 2023, two performances were not completed.

Targeting children aged 7-10 and facilitators at community centers, we reached **870 children (550 F, 320 M)** in three different centers (Thallageh in Beit Awwa, Azza Refugee Camp, & Al Fawwar Refugee Camp). This initiative aimed to develop partnerships with these centers, fostering resilience and appreciation for theater among children.

Al Harah Theatre also organized the Palestine International Festival for Children and Youth, undertaking preparations from January to the first week of October. However, due to the war in Gaza starting in October, the festival had to be postponed to 2024, awaiting a more conducive situation in Palestine.

The Circus School staged 27 circus shows and presentations in diverse locations, spanning city centers, villages, marginalized areas, and schools. This reached a total of **5,865 audiences, comprising 3,800 M, 2,065 F).**

These shows provided unique recreational opportunities, contributing positively to the lives of people, children, and families. The resonance of these performances, as evidenced by audience feedback, emphasized the enjoyment experienced, exposure to diverse art forms, the happiness of children, and the need for such enriching activities.



### **Output 2.1 Progress, contribution and lessons learned**

Our commitment to supporting grassroots and community center workers remained steadfast. The fragility of the context strengthened our resolve to build a popular foundation for community centers. Activities aimed at enhancing the resilience of children and young people through art, culture, and creativity have proven effective. Furthermore, community center workers received training to develop their pedagogic and creative capacities.

In summary, despite challenges and contextual complexities, our holistic approach to promoting literacy, cinema culture, and performing arts has demonstrated positive outcomes, contributing to the well-being and creative development of children and communities in Palestine.

### ***Output 2.2 The pedagogic and creative capacities of the community centre workers and librarians the community centres and libraries further strengthened.***

#### **Output 2.2 indicators**

- # of community centres in hard-to-reach communities in Area C that have further strengthened their pedagogical methodologies.
- Reported increase in pedagogic and creative capacities of the community centre workers and librarians the community centres.

#### **Output targets 2023**

- Grants acquisition: Strengthening of community centers in hard-to-reach communities in Area C
- 20 community centres in hard-to-reach communities in Area C that have further strengthened their pedagogical methodologies
- 25% of selected libraries from hard-to-reach communities in Area C have developed pedagogical methodologies

#### **Output 2.2 activities January –December 2023**

**Grant Acquisition:** In the pursuit of enhancing community centers in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, the Danish House, in collaboration with Tamer Institute, engaged in project development for grant acquisition. The project aimed to position community centers as "Third Places," fostering the rights of every child to feel safe and enjoy child-friendly spaces for creative interaction and learning. An application was submitted to the Erik Thunes Foundation: Expressive Arts Program, seeking an amount of 320,488 DKK. The status of the application is "Approval received/Conditional," pending the foundation's review of the country's status.

**Training for Community Center Workers:** The Danish House, along with partners, initiated training sessions to empower community center workers in facilitating creative educational learning programs. The training covered the use of expressive arts to raise awareness about children's rights, the right to education, and the impact of violence. Additionally, workers developed capacities on planning and activating their centers, focusing on inclusive pedagogical skills. The

participants devised criteria for making their centers more inclusive and accessible, ensuring engagement of visitors from diverse backgrounds.

**Network Meetings:** Recognizing the importance of mutual support and the exchange of experiences, the Danish House, in collaboration with Tamer Institute, facilitated regular networking activities among community center workers. These activities aimed at promoting successful practices, fostering cultural activities within centers, and ensuring the sustainability of their roles. The emphasis on networking aimed to share experiences and encourage a supportive community among different centers.

**Training Sessions for Librarians:** Throughout 2023, 15 training sessions were conducted with librarians, targeting capacity building within the ten project-focused libraries and neighboring libraries. These sessions covered four main topics:

1. **Capacity Building on the Art of Storytelling:**
  - Storytelling techniques, story selection, book discussions, and practical training.
  - Regional sessions in North, South, Central West Bank, and Gaza.
  - A total of **82 participants (75 females, 7 males)** attended these sessions throughout the year.
2. **Capacity Building on Visual Reading:**
  - Focus on visual arts and reading, analyzing drawings and images in children's stories.
  - Addressed connections to the exhibition "What Becomes of Eid?"
  - Attended by **23 librarians (1 male, 22 females)** in a one-day training session for all locations.
3. **Capacity Building on Animation:**
  - Conducted in Gaza to enhance librarians' skills in building animation videos.
  - Practical training on animation video production using simple items found in libraries.
  - A total of **25 librarians (22 females, 3 males)** attended the two-day training session.
4. **Capacity Building on Psychological Support to Children During Crisis:**
  - Workshop addressing the psychological dimension of working with children during crises.
  - Virtual session conducted in the West Bank amid ongoing war and invasions.
  - Attended by **48 librarians (46 females, 2 males) over 4 training days.**

**Knowledge Exchange and Community Engagement:** Eight knowledge exchange meetings were held between community libraries, focusing on sharing practices and executing activities. The virtual central meeting with the Resource Center discussed exemplary practices, with librarians presenting innovative approaches.



**Community Engagement and Networking:** Community Engagement involved training to empower community center workers and librarians in mobilizing parents, caregivers, and community members. The formation of Library Friends Committees played an important role, ensuring representation and collaborative support for libraries. Eight Library Friends' committees, comprising **120 members (87 females, 33 males)**, participated in community engagement and networking training sessions.



### **Output 2.2 Progress, contribution and lessons learned**

In 2023, the Danish House, in collaboration with Tamer Institute, made significant strides in their mission to strengthen community centers across challenging contexts. Grant acquisition efforts, particularly the approval from the Erik Thunes Foundation, signify progress in enhancing community spaces. Training sessions empowered community center workers, emphasizing creative education and inclusive pedagogical skills. Regular networking activities among community center workers and librarians fostered a supportive community, sharing successful practices and promoting cultural activities. The lessons learned underscored the importance of flexibility in adapting to dynamic situations, the resilience of communities amid challenges, and the need for inclusive practices in community engagement.

The progress made aligns with the 2023 targets, contributing to the strengthening of community centers in hard-to-reach areas. The establishment of Library Friends Committees and networking initiatives reflects a commitment to engaging communities and negotiating with local authorities. The journey of 2023 provided valuable lessons that will guide us in creating child-friendly spaces for learning and interaction.

### **Outcome 3**

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

**Output 3.1 The collaboration between and the organisational capacities of Palestinian civil society organisations enhanced**

#### **Output indicator 2023**

Increase in the collaboration and the organisational capacities (internal governance, fundraising, M&E etc.) between the civil society partners supported by the Danish House

#### **Output 3.1 target 2023**

- 100% achievement against agreed annual milestones for organisational development

#### **Output 3.1 activities January –December 2023**

Financial support and capacity-building sessions were extended to Khazaaen and Khalil al Sakaini Center, ensuring a strong foundation in financial management. The engagement with Al Harah Theatre prioritized programmatic strengthening, with expertise brought in from Denmark to support their initiatives. This tailored approach aimed at addressing the unique needs of each organization, acknowledging the diverse nature of their contributions to freedom of expression and cultural life in Palestine.

### **Output 3.1 Progress, contribution and lessons learned**

The results of organizational assessments became integral to the ongoing dialogue, shaping joint action plans for continuous improvement. The process fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges and strengths within Palestinian civil society organizations. Lessons learned from this collaborative journey emphasize the importance of flexibility in support approaches and the need for sustained dialogue to foster meaningful and impactful partnerships.

## Output 3.2 Young talented Palestinian artists and cultural practitioners' abilities to advocate for freedom of expression and cultural life is strengthened

### Output indicator 2023

- # of Young talented Palestinian artists and cultural practitioners' participating in workshops
- Productions/documentations of civic space violations/ art work/ testimonies

### Output 3.1 target 2023

- 20% increase in the number of young talented Palestinian artists and cultural practitioners' participating in workshops
- 20 productions/documentations of civic space violations/ art work/ testimonies

### Output 3.1 activities January –December 2023

#### *Training and development program for young artists and cultural practitioners.*

The Danish House implemented a project with Khalil al Sakakini Center. The project aims to strengthen the resilience and voices of young Palestinian women and men living in the Occupied Territories of Palestine and hereby contribute to rebuilding and expansion of the civic space in the Occupied Territories of Palestine (supported by CISU). Within this project an intensive learning and inspirational program, involving 20 young people took place, which enhanced their capacities to resist from the complex and fragile conflict situation. This was done through facilitating an intensive dialogues and exchanges among self-organized artistic groups, and cultural practitioners. The discussions focused on expression through arts and the freedom of political expression. These discussions included an exchange of experiences during the Palestinian Cultural Sector's attacks recently, leading to analysis of the challenges faced. The whole purpose was to collectively address the context and respond to all of these attacks. These dialogues delved into the freedom of artistic expression. The participants engaged in fruitful discussions, sharing their experiences during the attacks on the Palestinian Cultural Sector, leading to a deeper understanding of the challenges they face. The dialogues not only addressed the planned topics but also sparked a need to discuss mental health in the arts sector. As a positive result, three intensive workshops were developed in collaboration with Dr. Zeina Amro to address this need. The unforeseen positive result led to the creation of an initial guide for mental health policies in the fields of culture and arts. To follow up on this, ongoing collaboration and periodic meetings among participants are planned to continuously develop the guide.

within this project we managed to expose the public in the occupied West Bank to narratives about civic space, reaching a significant number of audiences and viewers (+17,000 individuals). The engagement and participation of the viewers were notable, as seen in the positive critics and reviews collected during the project. Also, the impact of the project extended beyond the physical audience, as social media engagement revealed that a higher percentage of stories, images, and content were shared by key Palestinian artists. The engagement on social media significantly increased, with more people actively supporting the Khalil Al Sakakini and the Danish House.







The Danish House implemented a project with Khazaaen Social Archieved based in Jerusalem. The project focus on reclaiming civic space. the project has effectively empowered 15 young activists through intensive training in social archiving, equipping them with valuable skills in documenting violations, building archives, and advocating for social justice. These young activists now actively contribute to Khazaaen's volunteer team. These young activists, of whom some are artists and cultural practitioners, have experienced resistance and oppression from the existing “governmental” systems. They have documented their own testimonies sharing their feelings, memories and what happened to them (getting into prison, beatings, being threatened), they have documented 15 scenes in total. 40 young artists and cultural practitioners were included in the implementation by sharing their testimonies and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. They documented their own testimonies, providing valuable insights into the challenges faced during the pandemic. Their input helped shape the narrative and brought attention to the impact of the pandemic on civic space actions. Regular consultations were held to ensure that their stories were accurately represented and that their voices were heard.

Moreover, 1002 ephemera materials documenting violations to Palestinian civic space have been preserved, digitized, and made accessible on Khazaaen's digital website. This growing societal archive has not only served as a resource for researchers and the general public but has also attracted general attention, with 13,450 people visiting Khazaaen's blog, performance on Facebook has reached 1188679 and 29288 interaction during the project period. While on Instagram we had 5482 engagements, 23046 reaches. The audience were informed and learned about the different stories covered by the project.

Khazaaen's active participation in seminars, symposiums, and virtual events underlines the success of Objective 2. These events have raised awareness among various audiences about the important role of archival activism in addressing social justice and human rights agendas. The dissemination of 15 testimonies from artists and activists facing resistance and oppression during the pandemic has further highlighted the challenges Palestinians face. The internal manual on social archiving which was produced in the project has become a valuable resource for Khazaaen's employees and volunteers, ensuring knowledge sharing and capacity building. In addition, over 250 university students and 1,219 school students have participated in workshops, learning about the importance of documentation and archiving, preserving their collective memory.



*Performing arts training and development programs for young talents e.g. social circus, theater, music*

In partnership with the circus school we conduct **Specialized technical circus training for 20 aspiring circus artists.** These intensive training sessions delve deep into the complexity of circus skills, honing the participants' abilities and nurturing their potential. Through these trainings, young talents are equipped with the expertise required to master the art of circus performance, ensuring a future generation of skilled performers who can captivate audiences worldwide. In the Artistic we had **"Sun" program** which aims to enhance the artistic and technical abilities of students aged 14 to



18, preparing them for professional circus careers from a young age. The program comprises 4-hour weekly training sessions. As well as the **“Artistic Preparatory”** program which is a technical and artistic program for +18 students. In this program Students train for 8 hours, twice a week. with the aim of preparing them to become professional circus artists.

In 2023, Sun program included 14 (10 Females, 4 Males) artists, and the Artistic preparatory program included 9 artists (3 Females, 6 Males), all students were engaged in regular weekly sessions and intensive workshops to develop their skills further. In addition, the circus artists were exposed to specialized circus training in the disciplines of: **Juggling, Acrobatic, Aerials, and balance.** And received intensive training on the topics of: **Artistic research, circus creation.** Through training days, participants of both programs received 108 comprehensive training during the year, to nurture their talents and pursue successful careers in the circus industry.



### ***Productions of young talented Palestinians made public (CISU)***

In collaboration with Khazaaen Social Archive and Khalil Al Sakakini, trained groups of young artists and cultural practitioners produced artistic materials and ephemera. These materials increased awareness and understanding of the right to freedom of expression. The collected material was presented on the social media platforms of the Danish House and partner organizations.

### **Output 3.2 Progress, contribution and lessons learned**

The intervention brought significant changes to the Palestinian artistic community by fostering intensive dialogues among Palestinian artistic groups and cultural practitioners. These dialogues addressed important issue of the freedom of artistic expression. Overall, the project successfully achieved its objectives by empowering young Palestinian individuals, fostering a deeper understanding of the right to freedom of expression, and engaging the public through narratives about civic space. The intervention's evaluation highlighted its overall success in achieving its objectives. The project effectively promoted dialogue, artistic expression, and mental health considerations within the arts sector.

### **Outcome 4**

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

### **Output 4.1**

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

### **Output 4.1 indicators**

- increase in cash and grants income

### **Output 4.1 targets 2023**

	2023		2024		2025	
	target	result	target	result	target	result
DK-MFA	3.000.000		3.000.000		3.000.000	
Cash	100.000		200.000		400.000	
Grants	500.000		700.000		1.000.000	
Total	3.600.000		3.900.000		4.400.000	