

SAMER ABO ALWAY

Director, DOP & Video Editor

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Director, Director of Photography, and Video Editor with 13+ years of experience in audiovisual production for UN agencies and humanitarian organizations. Since 2021, Communication Field Assistant with UN-Habitat in Syria, leading media teams and creating visual content for a national urban development portfolio. Holds a Diploma in Cinematography and Film/Video Directing from the Syrian International Academy. Skilled in videography, photography, video editing, and visual identity design.

CORE SKILLS

Technical: Videography, Photography, Video Editing, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Gimbal/Ronin Operation, WordPress, Directing

Professional: Deadline-Oriented, Communication Skills, Time Management and Organization, Accuracy and Attention to Detail, Creativity, Flexibility, Team Leadership

Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Advanced — Conversation and Writing)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communication Field Assistant — UN-Habitat, Syria Country Office

2021 – Present

- Lead media production for UN-Habitat's Syria programme, covering video, photography, mapping, and visual design.
- Create project communications and visibility materials for donor and partner audiences.
- Conduct field missions approximately four days per week to document project sites and activities.

Audio-Visual Officer — Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Headquarters

2017 – 2021

- Acted as focal point for communication and visibility with the UN, including media coordination for SARC-UN convoys.
- Coordinated with local authorities to obtain required filming and access approvals.
- Produced advertising materials and designed posters for print and digital distribution.
- Filmed, edited, and managed video content, including writing screenplays and storyboards prior to production.
- Managed social media accounts and created and ran campaigns around events and initiatives.
- Prepared visibility content for donors and filmed, collected, and delivered video materials for donor reporting.
- Connected and coordinated with local and international media outlets.
- Wrote and published success stories of beneficiaries on social media and the organization's website.
- Created visual identity materials for organizational projects.
- Trained and organized workshops for branch volunteers on media and communication skills.
- Assisted in developing department strategy, preparing the annual plan, and drafting the department budget.
- Set team goals and oversaw day-to-day team operations and performance across branches.
- Coordinated visits of Communications Department delegations.
- Reviewed and edited news content covering branch activities, events, and stories for the website.

Owner & Creative Director — 2.8 Studio

2013 – 2017

- Founded and managed an independent video and photography studio, building the company's visual identity.
- Coordinated client appointments and managed customer relationships.
- Filmed video for outdoor shoots and wedding parties.
- Delivered professional photography services for studio, outdoor, and event clients.
- Edited videos and photographs and managed the studio's social media presence.

Aid Coordinator — Church-affiliated relief program

2011 – 2012

- Managed procurement of aid supplies and materials.
- Identified individuals and families most in need of assistance.
- Coordinated distribution of humanitarian aid.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Diploma, Cinematography and Film/Video Directing — Syrian International Academy

2019 – 2021

Videography, Mass Communication / Media Studies — International Media School

2012 – 2015

Video Editing Training (Adobe After Effects) — Cairo, Egypt

Feb 2012 – Jun 2012

Training Course — Russian Cultural Council

2011

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

Information Security Awareness - Foundational (Certified) — United Nations — Online

2025

Preventing Fraud and Corruption at the United Nations — United Nations — Online

2023

United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities for Staff — United Nations — Online

2023

I Know Gender — United Nations — Online

2023

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by UN Personnel — United Nations — Online

2023

Preventing Sexual Harassment and Other Prohibited Conduct — United Nations — Online

2023

Ethics and Integrity at the United Nations — United Nations — Online

2023

BSAFE — Basic Security in the Field — United Nations — Online

2022