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## **Conflict Management and Mitigation Program Fact Sheet**

### **Program Overview**

Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants are part of a congressionally mandated effort to support people-to-people reconciliation activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of conflict to address the root causes of tension and instability. Since the program's inception in 2004, USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv have supported 55 Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Below is a list of the current CMM awards that are being implemented by U.S., Israeli and Palestinian organizations.

### **Goals**

- Promote peaceful coexistence among Israelis and Palestinians.
- Improve mutual understanding and dialogue on issues of common concern.

### **Programs managed by U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv**

1. The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) (9/2009-9/2013; \$1,061,550): The Abraham Fund Initiatives is an Israeli organization that has been working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The "Arab Society – Police Relations" grant covers three major areas: Policy Change – working with senior-level police, together with local officials and national government ministers, to encourage community policing by Israel's national police. Police Training and Practice – introducing democracy, human rights and knowledge of the Arab community into police training. The concept of policing within the community will be integrated into police policy. This will involve learning from models around the world about best practices that integrate policing and community involvement. Community Empowerment and Reconciliation – facilitated seminars with Arab community leadership, local representatives and police station staff, building local capacity to work with the police to solve community problems.
2. The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) (9/2010-9/2013; \$999,715): The Abraham Fund Initiatives is an Israeli organization that has been working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The "Language as a Cultural Bridge" program organizes encounters between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish fifth-and-sixth graders who participate in language and cultural classes. The Israeli-Arab students participate in Jewish cultural seminars and Hebrew language classes, and the Israeli-Jewish students participate in Arab cultural seminars and courses in spoken and literary Arabic. Both groups come together in ongoing encounters for the students, parents and teachers throughout their two-year participation. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, having approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers. The Jewish Agency is also a sponsor of this initiative. Approximately 1,600 students participate in the activities funded under this grant.
3. Center for Educational Technology (CET) (9/2010-9/2013; \$559,000): CET is an Israeli NGO dedicated to the advancement of education. The "Shared Life: Learning Together for Mutual Understanding" program develops a bilingual website to build bridges among Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish high school students. The activity-rich website includes an eight-episode television series and classroom activities to reinforce the coexistence theme. Approximately 150 teachers throughout Israel receive training in using the website to teach civics education to approximately 2,000 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students. These students interact

with each other and with their teachers through the website and participate in two face-to-face meetings during their participation in the program. The website is expected to reach a further 18,000 students through a robust advertising campaign. The Ministry of Education is a partner in this program and is providing enrichment hours for the participating teachers.

4. Merchavim (9/2010-9/2013; \$750,000): Merchavim is an Israeli organization that works to equip young Israelis of all backgrounds to build a shared future by learning about their fellow citizens and appreciating the diversity of Israeli society. The “Shared Citizenship on Sesame Street” program develops teacher training materials featuring characters on the Israeli version of Sesame Street (“Rechov Sumsum”) to teach the concept of shared citizenship. Approximately 1,200 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish kindergarten teachers receive training in using these course materials, and 36,000 of their kindergarten students participate directly in related classroom activities. Video content relating to the program will also be showcased nationally on the leading Israeli children’s television channel (“Hop!”), which carries Rechov Sumsum. Sesame Street’s global content directors in New York vet all content developed for this program. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers.
5. Arab-Jewish Community Center (2/2012–7/2013, \$100,000): The Center, located in the heart of multi-cultural Jaffa, acts as a unique gathering point in Israel for Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The “Class Exchange” Program brings separate Jaffa youth communities together during the school year for artistic meetings and dialogue. Over 1,200 11-13 year olds are participating in the program led by experienced facilitators (ten class pairings of 60 Israeli-Jewish youth and 60 Israeli-Arab youth). There will be 14 professionally facilitated meetings during the first school year, and 45 during the second year; half the meetings will be at the Arab-Jewish Community Center and half held at the schools themselves.

#### **Programs managed by USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission**

1. American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat Al Salam (AFNSWAS) (06/2010-06/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: School for Peace \$557,818 and Tawasol \$362,182: AFNSWAS is a U.S. NGO that supports a genuine and durable peace between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish citizens, and between Palestinians and Israelis, through dialogue, cooperation and education. AFNSWAS’s project “Creating Change Agents: Palestinian and Israeli Professionals in Dialogue and Action” provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security and identity.
2. Peace Players International (PPI) (07/2011-06/2013; \$877,493): Since 2001 PPI, a U.S.-based organization, has used the game of basketball to bridge divides, change perceptions and develop young leaders. PPI’s project “Support for Peace Players International – Middle East: Cross-Border Activities” engages nearly 1,000 Palestinian and Israeli children per year to participate in Twinned Basketball Clubs.
3. Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) (09/2010-09/2013; \$1,200,000): Sub-awards: Water and Environmental Development Organization, \$461,650: FoEME is an Israeli organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists. FoEME’s main objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect shared environmental heritage. The “Good Water Neighbors” advances youth involvement in cross-border cooperation in selected communities through adding themes of water and peace into the curriculum of teacher training programs. In addition, the program empowers the participating local municipalities (eleven Palestinian and nine Israeli communities) to promote cross border cooperation and solve cross border water and sanitation problems.
4. Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) (02/2012-01/2014; \$1,000,000): IPCRI is a leading Israeli organization in the field of peace education working with educators and youth. The project “Jewish and Arab Israeli Youth Defining Shared Citizenship Through Collaborative Community Programs” targets youth living together in mixed cities in Israel, and aims to redefine the nature and quality of their citizenship, promoting shared citizenship and responsibilities.

5. Hand in Hand (03/2012-02/2015; \$1,080,000): Hand in Hand, Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, is an Israeli organization building peace, coexistence and equality through a network of integrated, bilingual schools for Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab children. The project “Shared Community/School Integration” seeks to establish eight Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab shared communities; five of these will be built around existing integrated schools, and an additional three in regions without existing schools.
6. Citizens’ Accord Forum (09/2011-09/2014; \$612,414): The Citizens' Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel (CAF) is an Israeli organization established with the vision of building a just and equal relationship of accord and stability among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The project “Youth Parliaments of the Mixed Towns of Israel” aims to create youth parliaments in Israeli cities with large Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish populations to encourage moderated discussions, dialogue and outreach.
7. Givat Haviva (9/2011-9/2013; \$874,144): Sub-award: Keshev- \$403,873: The Givat Haviva Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and equality between divided groups in Israel as the foundation for building a shared future and shared society. The project “Communicating Peace” aims to improve critical media consumption skills of professionals, educators and youth. The program approach focuses on media monitoring, curriculum development, training on critical media and in-depth dialogue between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish youth.
8. Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF) (1/2012 – 1/2014; \$1,000,000): ECF is an Israeli organization that aims to maintain and support Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli cooperation in the political, economic and civil society spheres. The “Promoting Neighborly Relations” program aims to promote economic cooperation and policy changes in tourism, trade and infrastructure planning in the northern Palestinian and Israeli regions of Jenin, Gilboa and Haifa. The program will benefit the thousands of citizens living in this northern region by widening economic opportunities for tourism entrepreneurs, farmers and small industrialists.
9. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (09/2011-12/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: Reut Sadaka-\$600,876: The “Gemini” project implemented by CRS in partnership with Sadaka Reut, a youth partnership organization, focuses on bringing together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish youth aged 18 to 25 for an extended period of dialogue, skill-building, mentoring and activism.
10. The Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace (9/2011- 9/2014; \$1,193,002): Sub-award: Center for Democracy and Community Development - \$407,148: The Adam Institute, an Israeli NGO, works with civil society organizations to enhance their commitment to non-violence and build their capacities to better serve their constituencies. The “Return to the Public Sphere” project conducts a series of workshops for a total of 200 young Israeli and Palestinian civil society leaders aged 21 to 35 to build capacity for effective, democratic and peace-oriented leadership on both sides.
11. Ben-Gurion University (9/2011-9/2014; \$760,160): Sub-award: Center for Applied Research in Education - \$120,750: Ben-Gurion University has a program that works with educators in Israel and the West Bank dealing with victims of political violence. The “Human Service Professionals and Educators in Israel and Palestine: Building Knowledge and Peace” project aims to identify, implement and evaluate the most promising, culturally appropriate models of intervention to be used with children, families and communities coping with trauma and bereavement associated with the ongoing conflict. The project will form and train a cadre of 15 Israeli-Jewish, 5 Israeli-Arab, and 20 Palestinian human service providers, primarily mental health practitioners and educators who specialize in conflict mitigation. The 40 participants will lead four workshops for 200 Israeli and Palestinian professionals.
12. Near East Foundation (NEF) (9/2011-9/2014; \$1,209,502): NEF is a U.S. organization based in Nablus working to build relationships and cooperation amongst Israeli and Palestinian olive producers in six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The “Olive Oil without Borders” project will provide economic and social impact through increased income profitability and cross-border trade, higher levels of

trust, and increased cooperation to stimulate cross-border economic cooperation.

13. Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2011-12/2014; \$1,061,275): Sikkuy is an Israeli NGO engaging Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab local officials and civil society leaders to produce joint frameworks for increased economic opportunity. The “Equality Zones: Jewish-Arab Regional Forums for Cooperation” project promotes inclusion of Arab municipalities in statutory government frameworks, develops small business opportunities, and increases employment for Arab women.
14. Mercy Corps: (9/2011-6/2013; \$1,190,000): Sub-award: Peres Center for Peace - \$40,000: Mercy Corps is a U.S organization that has implemented more than 95 peace-building programs in over 30 countries. This project brings Palestinian and Israeli youth and companies together around a shared interest in information and communication technology (ICT). The “Impact through Technology” project aims to promote peace activism through the enhanced use of social media and economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in the ICT sector. Palestinian youth will be trained in digital literacy, critical thinking, problem solving and collaborative work methods through Intel Learn training courses.
15. The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies – AIES (05/2012-04/2015; \$561,438): Sub-awards: House of Water and Environment - \$159,525: The Arava Institute is an Israeli organization that generates capacity for conciliation and cooperation in the Middle East, transcending political boundaries in order to achieve environmental change. The project “Mitigating Trans-boundary Waste-Water Conflicts” aims to help reduce and prevent further wastewater conflicts and disputes between Israel and the West Bank. AIES works with Palestinian and Israeli master level students, 30 Palestinian and Israeli high-school students, technicians and decision makers including mayors, city council members, local authorities and other government officials from both sides to engage Palestinians and Israelis on the shared interest of environmental protection through wastewater treatment.
16. Parents Circle Family Forum (PCFF) (09/2011-09/2013; \$800,000): PCFF is an organization made up of approximately 600 families who engage in peace-building efforts following the loss of their loved ones due to the conflict. The “Where Parallel Lines Meet” project aims at mitigating conflict among more than 1,000 youth and hundreds of adults through the use of the personal narrative experience methodology. The program targets women in particular to strengthen their role in conflict mitigation processes.
17. Education and Society Enterprises Ltd/Mifalot (02/2012-06/2015; \$900,000): Mifalot is an Israeli organization that uses sports to bring together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish children and at-risk youth. “United Soccer for Peace” uses soccer to teach marginalized youth values, leadership and conflict mitigation skills.
18. Peres Center for Peace (09/2011-09/2013; \$1,094,708); Sub-awards: Organization for the Advancement of Women Sports in Kiryat Gat- \$83,459: The Peres Center for Peace is an Israeli organization that seeks to build relationships of trust and co-existence between Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, and Palestinians through sports, health and education initiatives. The Peres Center is implementing a project entitled “Twinned Peace Sport Schools.” The project seeks to enable Israeli and Palestinian girls aged 6 to 14 to transcend the barriers of hostility and internalize the concepts of teamwork, fair play and mutual respect through healthy and enjoyable activities and cross-border encounters. The project seeks to maximize impact and sustain results by engaging participants’ families and communities, ensuring participation of women and girls, cultivating young leaders on both sides, and promoting long-term, cooperative relationships. The project aims to provide 320 children and youth from four underprivileged communities from the West Bank and southern Israel, with athletic training, peace and inter-language education, and joint sports and social events. Training will also be provided to Israeli and Palestinian adult coaches and peace education facilitators.

19. Seeds of Peace (8/2012-2/2015; \$1,150,966): Seeds of Peace is a U.S. organization that aims to empower young people from regions of conflict with the leadership skills and interpersonal networks necessary to advance reconciliation and coexistence. The “On Common Ground” project is designed to provide Palestinian and Israeli youth between the ages of 14 and 32, as well as local educators, with experiences, opportunities, skill sets and resources needed to find common ground on the core issues within and between their societies that are perpetuating conflict and preventing peace. “On Common Ground” has three primary components: A) Community and Cross Border Dialogues; B) Building Capacities for Peace; C) Needed Leaders. Activities focus on the unique role women play in peace-building, capacity building workshops for educators, summer camps for youth in the West Bank and Gaza, and a set of resources for teachers.