



WEST BANK AND GAZA MISSION

FACT SHEET: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM



U.S. Government staff participate in a basketball game with CMM recipients. Photo: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

“That’s why we can’t give up, because of young Palestinians and young Israelis who deserve a better future than one that is defined by conflict.”

President Barack Obama
Ramallah, West Bank, March 2013

Overview

USAID West Bank and Gaza (WBG) Mission and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv are investing in Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants. These grants bring together Israelis and Palestinians to work on issues of common concern and promote peaceful coexistence. The CMM Program is part of a worldwide effort to bring together individuals of different backgrounds from areas of conflicts in people to people reconciliation activities. These activities provide opportunities to address issues, reconcile differences, and promote greater understanding and mutual trust by working on common goals such as economic development, environment, health, education, sports, music, and information technology. Since the program’s start, USAID WBG and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv have invested in 99 CMM grants.

Goals

- Bring people together to work on issues of common concern and promote peaceful coexistence
- Provide opportunities to address issues, reconcile differences, and promote greater understanding

Activities

GRANTS MANAGED BY U.S. EMBASSY TEL AVIV

The Rosh Pina Mainstreaming Network (9/2014-3/2016: \$86,926): The "Kaleidoscope Early Childhood Professional Collaboration Initiative" project provides training to 128 early childhood instructors of different religious backgrounds from the city of Akko. This training focuses on minimizing aggressive behaviors and bullying, and involves encounters between diverse kindergarten classes.

The Association for Community Development Acre (9/2014-3/2016: \$87,190): The "Women as Change Agents in Community Mediation" project provides training and guidance in conflict resolution and mediation to women in Akko who are building community networks and leading local social initiatives.

Citizen Accord Forum (9/2015-9/2016: \$100,000): The "Ultra-Orthodox and Arabs Work Together to Create a Shared Civic Agenda" project brings together 45 leaders to work on a shared civic agenda and implement activities related to social issues of common concern in their communities.

The Israel Women's Network (9/2015-9/2016: \$99,779): The "Moms @Work" project brings together 100 women of different religious backgrounds to work on strengthening women's inclusion in Israeli society. The project promotes mutual understanding as well as enhancing women rights and gender equality to promote their economic advancement.

SHIN: The Israeli Movement for the Equal Representation of Women (9/2015-9/2017: \$99,994): The "Young Women's Parliament" project brings together 150 high school female students of different religious background from ten communities to work on issues of common concern, build bridges, learn advocacy skills, and improve leadership skills enabling the participants to work on conflict resolution issues.

GRANTS MANAGED BY USAID WBG

Hagar - Jewish-Arab Education for Equality (8/2013-2/2016: \$615,350): The "Education for All: Expanding Integrated Education in Israel's Negev" project expands its already established bi-lingual integrated school in Beer Sheva to reach additional Negev residents and students. This project brings together about 800 individuals of different backgrounds to learn each other's language and culture to promote greater understanding, tolerance, and respect in the school.

Mercy Corps (9/2014-6/2016: \$1,194,172): The Mercy Corps project uses Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a catalyst to provide Israelis and Palestinians with opportunities and incentives to work together. This project provides digital and social media training for 1,200 youth and 30 internships.

Beit Issie Shapiro (8/2013-8/2016: \$1,015,171): The "Creating the Ability to Connect" project brings together health professionals, caregivers, social workers, families, and youth from Ra'anana and Kalansawa to 450 gatherings, social activities, and professional exchange sessions to ensure that children with disabilities receive the best services possible while promoting mutual trust and understanding.

Near East Foundation (8/2013-8/2016: \$1,200,000): [Sub-Award: Peres Center for Peace and the Palestinian Center for Agricultural Research and Development]: The "Youth Agribusiness Partnership" project provides eight joint one-week training sessions on micro-enterprise agribusiness development to generate jobs and income, promote technical upgrades, and increase access to markets. This project works with 17 Palestinian and Israeli farming communities including Tubas, Aqqaba, Tayasser, Jeftlik, Fasayel, Aqrabneyeh, Albathan, Nasareyeh, Zbaidat, Marj Naejeh, Fara'a, and Jericho in the West Bank; Iksal, Kibbutz Neve Eitan, Kibbutz Gevaa, Kibbutz Ginosar, and Kibbutz Sde Eliahu in Israel.

Save A Child's Heart (SACH) (9/2013-9/2016: \$1,000,000): This organization was founded by the late Dr. Amram (Ami) Cohen, an American cardiac surgeon who first began to operate on indigent children on a volunteer basis. "The Heart of the Matter" project increases the knowledge and expertise of five Palestinian health care personnel in pediatric cardiac care through a three-year training program at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon. This project builds strong professional bonds between Israeli and Palestinian medical staff and aims to reduce conflicts.

Kids Creating Peace (9/2014-9/2016: \$611,284): [Sub-Award: Palestinian Youth Dialogue Center]: The “Wings of Peace” project cultivates 150 Israelis and Palestinians (ages 13-18) to design, initiate, and carry out creative peace and educational activities in their schools, youth organizations, and community centers and could reach out to 1,400 peers.

The Kaizen Company (9/2014-9/2016: \$1,100,000): [Sub-Awards: Presentense; Jerusalem, Israel Pyxera]: This project connects 120 Israeli and Palestinian entrepreneurs (ages 22-35) to form businesses together, and supports those businesses to become successful. The aim is to establish a model for ongoing, sustainable cooperation. Working closely on entrepreneurial projects will both reduce social distance, and diminish negative perception.

Sikkuy - The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2013-9/2016: \$898,898): [Sub-Award: MEDII]: The “Opening Hearts and Homes: Tourism for Equality and Shared Society between the Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel (TESS)” project develops tourism programs to increase visitors to locations such as Wadi Ara, Umm al Fahem, and the neighboring Menashe regional council. This project increases economic development while raising awareness and understanding of both cultures through training and capacity building of tour operators.

Morashtenu (9/2015-1/2017: \$100,000): The “Utilizing Media for Change” project brings together Russian-speaking Israeli media and the Palestinian media, including Russian-speaking Palestinians, to develop joint working groups on areas of common interest. This project reaches out primarily, but not exclusively, to Russian-speaking Israelis.

Parents Circle-Families Forum (9/2014-3/2017: \$990,308): [Sub-Award: Generation for Peace]: The “Narratives for Change” project focuses on bringing the “Parallel Narrative Experience” methodology to new target groups and building the capacity of more than 180 participants. Through 120 events including training sessions and dialogue encounters, the project aims for a gradual humanization of each other to allow change in attitudes between Israelis and Palestinians by breaking down the psychological barriers between the two groups and by providing a platform to communicate.

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) (9/2015-3/2017: \$899,909): The “Regional Cooperative Health Initiative” project increases cooperation among public health officials and technicians on common health concerns for Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian societies on biosafety and biosecurity that places all three populations at risk from an accidental or intentional hazardous biological outbreak.

Kids4Peace (9/2015-5/2017: \$100,000): The “Peace Builders Forum” project connects Palestinian and Israeli youth via common projects in media, tourism, community outreach, and training youth to effectively communicate historical and contemporary narratives.

Creativity For Peace (9/2015-5/2017: \$99,850): The “Women Building a Politics of Peace” project encourages more equitable participation of women in both Palestinian and Israeli political life, in particular women who focus on cooperation as it relates to humanitarian needs.

Appleseeds Academy (8/2014-8/2017: 872,024): [Sub-Award: Cisco Systems, Inc.]: The “Net @ Community Connectors” project provides Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training to 140 youth from mixed cities within Israel where each participant will receive 640 hours of ICT and leadership training.

Near East Foundation (9/2014-9/2017: \$1,199,576): [Sub-Award: Palestinian Center for Agricultural Research and Development and Peres Center for Peace]: The “Olive Oil without Borders” project continues to strengthen linkages between Israeli and Palestinian olive industry leaders and expand the already established project to new communities and regions. This project works with 1,500 olive farmers in 54 communities in the West Bank and Israel (42 Palestinian and

16 Israeli) to enhance economic cooperation between farmers, mill owners, and distributors through cross-border training, work-shops, and joint business initiatives.

The Peres Center for Peace (9/2014-9/2017: \$1,100,000): [Sub-Award: Organization for the Advancement of Women's Sport in Kiryat Gat and Palestine Center for Conflict Resolution and the Development of Youth Capabilities]: The “Twinned Peace Sport Schools Program” project is a cross-border people-to-people peacebuilding project that enables 240 Palestinian and Israeli girls to meet and play soccer and learn about each other's culture.

Tsofen (9/2014-9/2017: \$1,100,000): This project integrates 350 Israeli Arab citizens in Israeli technology companies and establish three to four regional high tech center hubs promoting increased employment and equality of women in high tech industries.

Palestinian Peace Coalition (PPC) (9/2015-9/2017: \$700,000): The “Enriching the Dialogue for Peace” project brings together key Palestinian and Israeli opinion leaders and promotes mutual trust. This project's activities include leadership training for young key opinion leaders, specifically women.

Peace Players International (9/2015-9/2017: \$1,000,000): The “Peace Players Basketball Club” project utilizes sports to bridge divides between Palestinians and Israelis. This project trains youth with leadership and social entrepreneurship skills.

Ein Dor Museum (9/2015-9/2017: \$700,000): The “How Do You Spell VIOLENCE in Hebrew and Arabic” project fosters leadership and joint work among 150 Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab youth from six schools in the Galilee that will in turn, reach over 2,000 young students in their schools, in a joint campaign to combat violence, intolerance, and incitement in schools and communities throughout the Galilee.

Middle East Entrepreneurs for Tomorrow (MEET) (9/2015-9/2017: \$850,454): The “Training Entrepreneurs for Excellence at MEET” project engages 70-80 excelling Israeli and Palestinian youth between the ages 15-18 in an advanced technology, entrepreneurship, and leadership training. This project also works on establishing networks of mutual trust, understanding, respect, and teamwork.

Peres Center for Peace (9/2015-3/2018: \$1,100,000): The “B2B” project works with 40 companies to encourage cross-border business cooperation, increase the trade capacities of the Palestinian food industry, and promote a more trade-enabling environment based on mutual benefit, awareness, and trust.

Catholic Relief Services (9/2015-3/2018: \$1,000,000): The “Together for Pediatric Palliative Care” project brings together medical professionals from the West Bank, Israel, and Jordan to work together on the shared goal of establishing pediatric palliative care programs to support the dignity and wellbeing of terminally ill children and their families. This project seeks to build bridges and assist children suffering from cancer by supporting a home based care program linked with the Beit Jala Hospital.

Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel (9/2015-9/2018: \$1,197,226): The “Widening the Circle: From Bilingual Arab-Jewish Schools to Civic Inclusion” project establishes the seventh Hand in Hand bilingual school and implements community activities in all seven schools to increase social bonds and address social issues in Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (9/2015-9/2018: \$952,788): The “Off-Grid Food Energy and Water Solutions (OFEW-Solutions)” project implements off-grid food, energy, and water solutions (grey-water recycling and biogas systems) for mitigating environmental conflicts between Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

For More Information

- Visit our websites: <http://www.usaid.gov/west-bank-and-gaza>; Israel.usembassy.gov
- Connect with us on social media: USAID West Bank/Gaza and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv on Facebook; @usaidwbg and @usembassyta on Twitter; usaidwbg and usembassytelaviv on Instagram
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