CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

USAID West Bank/Gaza and the U.S. Embassy in Israel jointly invest in Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants, which support Israelis and Palestinians, as well as Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, working on issues of common concern. The CMM program is part of a worldwide effort to bring together individuals of different backgrounds from areas of conflict 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 in 2004, USAID and the U.S. Embassy have invested in 136 CMM grants.

GRANTS MANAGED BY USAID

The Abraham Fund Initiatives (2018-2022; $986,000): The Shared Learning project bridges the cultural divide between 40 pairs of Jewish and Arab schools through language exchange studies. The project will provide joint learning opportunities for 200 Jewish and Arab educators and over 2,000 students, promoting positive and constructive interactions and demonstrating that cooperation leads to greater trust and understanding.

Akko Center for Arts and Technology (2018-2021; $1,322,000): The Full STEAM Ahead project engages over 900 Jewish and Arab youth from underserved communities in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math activities to build their skills and knowledge to better compete in a 21st-century job market. By working together in a bicultural and bilingual environment to create and innovate, students will develop an inclusive view of one another and strengthen Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Ein Dor Museum for Archaeology (2018-2022; $1,550,000): The Youth Against Racism project advances peacebuilding among 400 Arab and Jewish youth in the Galilee area by developing their filmmaking skills to tackle the racism and violence that affect their daily lives. By telling their stories through the lens of a camera, youth will use film as a medium to facilitate dialogue in their communities and spark change among their peers and families.

Hand in Hand (2018-2022; $1,800,000): The Mainstreaming Shared Society project will build upon Hand in Hand’s growing network of Jewish-Arab bilingual schools in Israel by establishing three new integrated schools to benefit 2,500 students. The project will support local communities to establish and/or expand a constituency of Arab and Jewish families committed to building a viable, growing, and resilient shared society in Israel.
**Tsofen High Technology Centers (2018-2022; $1,800,000):** The Tech Bridges project harnesses common interests among Jewish and Arab individuals to drive changes in perceptions and attitudes that stymie reconciliation and peacebuilding. The project will mentor over 6,000 Arab and Jewish Israeli professionals and establish 18 Israeli startups in predominantly Arab cities. By creating an increasingly integrated hi-tech industry in Israel, Tech Bridges will foster greater mutual understanding between Jewish and Arab citizens that inspire a more inclusive economy and shared future.

**American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (2017-2020; $1,000,000):** A Community of Equals aims to overcome stereotypes in Israel and the West Bank by advocating for people with disabilities. The project works with over 400 religious leaders, students, and researchers engaged in disability studies, as well as people with disabilities, in activities aimed at raising awareness and advancing disability rights.

**Appleseeds Academy (2017-2020; $1,072,000):** The Net@IT project provides information and communications technology (ICT) training to 240 youth from mixed cities within Israel. Participants will receive 640 hours of joint ICT and leadership training to promote greater understanding and cooperation between Jewish and Arab youth.

**Middle East Entrepreneurs for Tomorrow (2017-2020; $1,000,000):** The Training Entrepreneurs for Excellence at MEET (TEEM2) project provides training for 380 excelling Israeli and Palestinian youth between the ages of 15-17 in advanced technology, entrepreneurship, and leadership. This project also works on establishing networks of mutual trust, understanding, respect, and teamwork.

**Near East Foundation (2017-2020; $1,200,000):** The Exchange for Progress project supports and advances conflict mitigation and reconciliation and achieves greater understanding and mutual trust among 2,200 Palestinian and Israeli farmers, agronomists, industry leaders, and government officials through cross-border agricultural cooperation in the Israeli and Palestinian date, dairy, vegetable, and herb value chains.

**Neve Shalom-Wahat Al Salam (2017-2020; $1,000,000):** The Building Peace and Resilience project targets 120 Israelis and Palestinians working in the mental health field. The individuals engage in a dialogue and training program that provides participants with significant opportunities to learn about one another and to build a foundation for reconciliation and professional cooperation.

**Palestinian Shippers Council (2017-2020; $800,000):** The Together for Better Trade project aims to create a platform for Israeli and Palestinian traders to develop professional relationships and contribute to stronger cross-border trade relations. The project targets 45 small and medium sized Palestinian enterprises from the furniture, textile, and food sectors. Palestinian firms are matched with 120 Israeli firms to share information and advance business interests.

**Parents Circle-Families Forum (2017-2020; $1,165,000):** The Cultivating a Culture of Non-Violence project focuses on bringing together over 180 participants from families on both sides of the conflict for training sessions and dialogue encounters to foster changes in attitudes between Israelis and Palestinians by providing a constructive platform for communication and coaching on project development.

**PeacePlayers International (2017-2019; $1,200,000):** The Champions for Peace project utilizes basketball to develop trust and cooperation with over 640 Palestinian and Israeli young people, community leaders, and citizens. The project works to translate grassroots support for cooperation into socio-political change for a just and lasting peace.

**Dead Sea and Arava Science Center (2016-2019; $1,000,000):** The goal of the Water Matters project is to promote cooperation on water management and economic development in the Red Sea-Dead Sea basin for sustainable, improved livelihoods and the reduction of conflict among 230 Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians.

**Eco-Peace Middle East for Environmental Development (2016-2020; $1,200,000):** The Good Water Neighbors project empowers more than 1,100 Palestinian, Israeli, and Jordanian local leaders, youth and adult
residents, particularly women and girls, to advocate for cross-border cooperation and solutions in 11 watershed areas by helping them facilitate the implementation of water, sanitation, and other solutions to solve existing environmental problems.

**El Hawakeer (2016-2019; $712,344):** The *Almond Agriculture* project helps 120 Israeli and Palestinian almond farmers develop and apply research on irrigation and plant protection to increase productivity.

**Hope Flowers Foundation for Education Development (2016-2019; $1,000,000):** The *Peace Building via Civil Society Cooperation* project uses the shared issue of children with disabilities to promote positive changes in perceptions between 700 Palestinians and Israelis and helps them build personal and professional partnerships.

**Kids4Peace (2016-2019; $800,000):** The *Interfaith Jerusalem* project connects more than 1,000 youth and parents from East and West Jerusalem and neighboring West Bank communities for activities that foster civic involvement, celebrate the religious diversity of Jerusalem, and encourage key populations to support a pro-peace agenda.

**Moona – A Space for Change (2016-2019; $700,000):** With the aim to diminish the social and cultural divide between Arab and Jewish youth, the *Co-Lab* project provides a meaningful opportunity for over 500 youth in Israel’s Central Galilee region to interact over a shared interest in robotics and quadcopters.

**Near East Foundation (2016-2019; $1,200,000):** The *Olive Oil Without Borders III* project aims to develop relationships of trust, mutual understanding, and economic cooperation among Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians. The project targets 1,000 olive producers, mill operators, and olive oil distributors in 37 communities in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan to expand economic cooperation, build working relationships between business and policy leaders, and develop 30 women-owned businesses through cross-border collaboration between women’s cooperatives.

**Palestinian Wastewater Engineers Group (2016-2019; $900,000):** The *Green Technologies in Cooperative Date Farming* project engages over 520 Israeli and Palestinian date farmers to promote renewable energy and improve water access and availability through wastewater recycling and solar groundwater pumping. The project builds the capacity of an additional 30 farmers to enhance production in the date sector and provides educational exchanges for 45 Israeli and Palestinian students on the use and benefits of solar energy for agriculture in the Jordan and Arava Valley.

**Unistream (2016-2019; $900,000):** The *Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today* project brings together 400 Israeli Muslim and Christian Arabs, Jews, Druze, and Bedouin teenagers to work towards developing, establishing and managing their own fully functioning startup companies and business ventures while increasing cooperation and mutual understanding.

**GRANTS MANAGED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY**

**Itach Maaki Women Lawyers for Social Justice; Sub-partner: Adva Center (2018-2020; $118,830):** The *Shared Spaces: Fostering Women’s Activism Toward Creation of Urban Spaces* project will engage 40 Arab and Jewish women from bordering and mixed neighborhoods in Haifa and Acre to partner together in the creation of shared spaces for Arab and Jewish residents in their respective cities.

**Kayan Feminist Organization; Sub-partner: Haifa Rape Crisis Center (2018-2019; $118,926):** The *Uniting to End Sexual Harassment* project is a joint initiative that harnesses the collective effort of Arab and Jewish women to end workplace sexual harassment. The project will work with over 100 motivated women to develop a sense of solidarity, establish greater mutual understanding, and leverage their cooperation toward the common goal of eliminating violence against women.

**Merchavim Institute (2018-2020; $140,000):** The *Arab Teacher Integration in Jewish Schools* program is a joint initiative with the Israeli Ministry of Education to place 500 Arab Israeli teachers in Jewish schools to teach core
subjects in English, math, and science. The program will provide opportunities for Jewish students and educators to have meaningful engagements with Arab citizens.

**A New Dawn in the Negev; Sub-partner: Ossim Shalom-Social Workers for Peace and Welfare (2018-2020; $99,300):** Building on the importance of direct interaction between neighboring Jewish and Bedouin communities in the Negev, the Building a Shared Society Between Jews and Bedouins in the Negev project seeks to develop practical and strategic mechanisms to build shared societies and promote mutually beneficial cooperative work and conflict resolution based on shared experiences between Israeli Jews and Bedouins living in six locations in the Negev desert region.

**Education for Excellence (2017-2019; $100,000):** The Lod’s Educational Campus for Excellence for Jewish and Arab Students project aims to build coexistence around common interests and shared experiences of young Jewish and Arab Israelis in the central Israeli city of Lod. The project engages about 220 Jewish and Arab grade school students and 330 women, many of whom are mothers of the students, as well as 80 university students, who will serve as instructors and role models. The participants will volunteer in community projects and experience historical site visits together.

**The Rosh Pina Mainstreaming Network (2017-2019; $100,000):** The Our Story project aims to empower Arab and Jewish women, mainly mothers and teachers, to be leaders in community service and social entrepreneurship. The women share narratives and participate in reading and storytelling workshops with their children, increasing both literacy and tolerance of the next generation.

**Yod Bet B’Heshvan (2017-2019; $69,908):** The Educators for a Shared Society in Israel project engages Israeli Arab and religious Jewish teachers in dialogue and training for mitigating conflict. Participants work on inter-group contact aiming to counteract prejudices and promote mutual cooperation.

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