



# **Twinned Peace Sports Schools (TPSS) for Girls *An Israel/West Bank Program***

## **Narrative Report**

Submitted to: USAID/West Bank and Gaza

AOTR: Rima Ghandour

Date: October 13, 2013

Contact Person: Ms. Miriam Jacobs

USAID Project Administrator

The Peres Center for Peace

132 Kedem Street

Jaffa, Israel 68066

Email: [m.jacobs@peres-center.org](mailto:m.jacobs@peres-center.org)

Phone: 972-3-568-0643

Mobile: 972-54-687-6495

Fax: 972-3-568-0657

Authorized Organizational Negotiator and Signatory:

Ido Sharir

Director General

The Peres Center for Peace

Email: [i.sharir@peres-center.org](mailto:i.sharir@peres-center.org)

Phone: 972-3-568-0680

Fax: 972-3-568-0604

[www.peres-center.org](http://www.peres-center.org)

## Contents

1. **Executive Summary of Program** \_\_\_\_\_ p.3
2. **Program Outputs** \_\_\_\_\_ p.4
3. **Program Achievements**  
First Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 5-12  
Second Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 12-18  
Third Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 18-23  
Fourth Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 23-25
4. **Program Challenges**  
First Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 26-27  
Second Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ pp. 27-28  
Third Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ p. 28  
Fourth Quarter \_\_\_\_\_ p. 28
5. **Overall Achievements and Challenges in FY13** \_\_\_\_\_ p. 29
6. **PMP Matrix** \_\_\_\_\_ pp.30-31
7. **Outline of Activities in FY14 First Quarter** \_\_\_\_\_ p.32
8. **Summary of Expenditures in FY13** \_\_\_\_\_ p.32

## **Executive Summary of Program**

According to the people-to-people approach to conflict mitigation, positive contact between members of antagonistic groups tends to undermine negative stereotypes they have of each other, thus improving inter-group relations by enabling people to perceive and deal with each other as individuals. When wisely planned and conducted, sport can be a powerfully effective platform for such contact.

The cross-border Twinned Peace Sport Schools (TPSS) project, which is being operated by the **Peres Center for Peace**, in conjunction with Israeli and Palestinian partners, brings together Israeli and Palestinian children, with the aim for them to transcend existing barriers of hostility and internalize the concepts of teamwork, fair play and mutual respect through healthy and enjoyable activity and interaction.

We seek to provide approximately **320 girls** aged 7-18, from underprivileged communities – from the West Bank and from southern Israel - with a multi-layered, holistic program that includes sport training, peace and inter-language education, and opportunities to collaborate with their counterparts on the ‘other side’ in people-to-people sporting and social events. By engaging the families of the young participants, impact should be multiplied well beyond the children themselves and beyond the program’s timeframe.

The program is based on a highly successful ongoing joint project run by the Peres Center and partner organizations. Attesting to its efficacy are past external evaluations, ongoing internal assessments, and its outstanding local and international reputation, including awards by international sports development organizations. **We seek to significantly widen its impact** by increasing the number of participants, especially girls and young women; facilitating greater interaction between Israeli and Palestinian families; cultivating young Palestinian and Israeli leadership; training Palestinian and Israeli adult coaches; and adding important new elements – significantly increasing the number of women, building professional capacity and cultivating long-term, cooperative relationships.

The time frame of the program is September 26, 2011 – September 25, 2013. Among its key features are: maximizing impact by targeting conservative and underprivileged communities, who are typically less receptive to conciliation and peace-building activities, on the one hand, and unable to provide children with high-quality extra-curricular activities, on the other; proactively recruiting girls and women and increasing their participation; a soundly designed methodology informed by numerous best practices and buttressed by a wealth of lessons learned in past experience in peace-building efforts in general, and sport programs in particular.

The Peres Center for Peace is passionately committed to conciliation between Palestinians and Israelis, and holds a deep conviction that the Twinned Peace Sport School program, as described herein, will make a highly effective contribution to the mitigation of the conflict by achieving long-term impact among significant numbers of people on both sides.

## Program Outputs

TPSS is pursuing its goals by selecting mainly females to participate in the program and by targeting the southern peripheral Israeli town of Kiryat Gat, the Yoav Regional Council and Yeruham as well as the Palestinian Authority villages of Yatta, A-Nuwameh, the Palestinian town of Jericho and Palestinian East Jerusalem. The program incorporates five components:

1) **Uni-national activities:** The focus is on imparting soccer skills to the young participants of each group of approx. 20 in a local setting, empowering them to develop their self-confidence as young women and preparing them to engage in joint activities with “the other”. It includes bi-weekly soccer training and an occasional cultural/social activity.

2) **Bi-national activities:** The core element of the program, which brings together Jewish Israeli and Palestinian groups to play soccer in mixed teams according to “fairplay”, to learn the language of “the other” and to play peace games together. In addition, joint cultural and social activities offer an opportunity to strengthen cross-border relationships. This element includes both isolated activities as well as residential soccer and coexistence camps.

3) **Young Leadership Track:** This offers some of the older and more committed young participants to experience additional encounters with “the other”, to engage in political and cultural dialogue and to further develop leadership skills. It includes meetings and residential seminars.

4) **Coaches’ Training:** This aims to develop the leadership, soccer coaching and peace education abilities of the young program participants’ coaches, with a particular emphasis of training and capacity building for Palestinian coaches. In addition, it offers Jewish Israeli and Palestinian coaches the opportunity to engage in political and cultural dialogue with “the other”. It includes meetings and residential seminars.

5) **Parents’ Encounters:** This is a forum for participants’ parents of each bi-national group to learn about the importance of their children’s involvement in such activities, to engage in political and cultural dialogue with “the other” and to reinforce their support of such projects.

## Program Achievements in FY13 First Quarter

The beginning of the 2012-13 academic year brought with it a second year of **uninational soccer training sessions** for girls from Yatta, Jericho, Kiryat Gat, Kfar Menachem, Sde Yoav and Yeruham, ages approx. 7-18. These girls had spent much of the 2011-12 academic year developing their soccer skills and consolidating their intra-group relationships and national group identities. This quarter, staff members sensed strengthened group identities and togetherness from the conversations and behavior observed. It is important to note that the majority of the girls who took part in the program last year have continued into the second year. Furthermore, this year, an additional six Palestinian soccer groups, each of approx. 20 girls, were inaugurated onto the program and commenced bi/tri-weekly uninational soccer training in Jericho, Zbedat, Nwameh, Beit Hanina and Abu Ghosh. External monitors from the local communities were introduced to the implementing partner coordinators and to the soccer coaches in order to prepare the latter two for a year of monitoring and evaluation. A planned visit to each group at the start of FY13 was followed by monthly surprise visits during which the monitors have been observing training and submitting feedback reports to the Peres Center, which touch on group dynamics, the content of the sessions and the behavior of the coaches. Such feedback has described warm ups, tactical drills that work on defense, shooting and stamina as well as small-group soccer games - the latter consistently the favorite part for the girls. Participants attend training dressed in identical sports gear and all the coaches make frequent use of the cones, bibs and other sports equipment provided thanks to USAID funding. Monitors have pointed out the coaches' efforts to refer to upcoming bi-national activities, which have usually been followed by intriguing questions. In general, the girls have been demonstrating their commitment to the program through their consistent attendance, active and attentive engagement throughout the sessions. It is clear that a large part of the commitment is thanks to the on-going motivation of the coaches, regardless of the make-up and challenges of their group and/or location. In some communities, parents came to watch one or two training sessions and were convinced of the professionalism and benefits of the program, thus developing trust in the Peres Center and its partners. In some cases, they were particularly pleased to see female coaches who they saw as positive role models for their daughters.

### Uninational Activities



Yatta – Outside space



Yeruham - Park



Beit Hanina – School courtyard



Kiryat Gat - stadium

The central sub-component of the TPSS program, intensive ***two-day bi-national soccer and coexistence camps***, was implemented during the Autumn-Winter months. Camps for three out of the four bi-national groups of approx. eighty girls each were operated during the first quarter, two residential at Kibbutz Galon and one, targeting the youngest age-group (7-11) non-residential including one day at Galon and one at the Peres Center in Jaffa. Each camp was tailored to suit the respective age-group, but all the camps were centered on soccer-related themes and shared central elements. “Icebreaking” games were used for an informal and fun opening of the camps. A formal introduction to the camp and the staff followed and then the girls were divided into three groups for a series of activities in rotation. The girls participated in bi-national soccer training, similar to their uninational training in content and led by Israeli and Palestinian coaches together. In addition, the new groups learned how to play “Fair Play” soccer and all girls experienced a bi-national “Fair Play” tournament, which encouraged teamwork across the conflict divide. Monitors observed that on the camps where girls took part in “Fair Play” prior to the more familiar and regular soccer training session, participants were more inclined to behave more considerately to “the other” in the subsequent sessions and to transfer the skills they learned to the regular soccer matches and other non-sporting activities. The non-residential “camp” for the younger girls incorporated the concept of “Fair Play” into their training session and it was tailored to the age-group.

Non-sporting activities included informal inter-language and inter-cultural sessions. On one hand, the girls participated in guided inter-group conversations about the religious and cultural similarities between Jewish Israelis, Palestinian Arabs, Muslims, Christians and Jews. On the other hand, they participated in exercises that encouraged their interaction and an improved, if still very basic, grasp of the language of “the other”. This included a card activity in which the girls had to match Hebrew and Arabic words in small bi-national groups as well as an activity in which the girls took it in turn to ask and answer questions with a girl of the other national group in the middle of the circle. Topics in the latter activity included head coverings, prayer and holidays, and there was an effort to incorporate the learning of soccer-related vocabulary. An additional cultural activity, which was led by our student staff members and which is entitled “Life through a ball”, aimed to develop the participants’ self-confidence as girls and to empower them to take a stronger leadership role at home, at school and in their respective social settings. The activity required that the girls familiarize themselves with numerous personal stories of female soccer players living in conflict zones across the globe. There were guided group discussions and presentations of their own personal stories and hopes as young female soccer players living within the regional conflict climate. The “camp” for the younger girls incorporated an art and craft activity. The girls were asked to create a piece of art as a group by passing partly drawn pictures around the circle for each girl to add their part, based on each one’s interpretation of what had been drawn up to that point and the associations made. A discussion followed addressing the various interpretations as well as the girls’ feelings regarding others’ contributions. Staff bravely confronted difficult identity issues that arose, for example, some Jewish girls feeling offended when a Palestinian girl crossed out the Israeli flag. In addition to the aforementioned activities, the camps incorporated some form of entertainment; a *darbouka* (drumming) workshop for the older girls and a bi-national clown performance for the younger girls.

**Darbouka Workshop, Binational Camp Group 3**



Each camp dedicated time for the girls to answer questionnaires prepared by *Machon Szold*, the selected TPSS qualitative evaluating organization. These questionnaires were designed to measure the programs' two outcome indicators, which concern the level of the girls' self-confidence and their perceptions of "the other". Similar questionnaires will be distributed after the 2013 summer camps (toward the end of the program) so that a comparison can be made. The results of the questionnaires, accompanied by a short analysis, are attached in a separate document. In addition to all the structured activities, the girls were given "free time" for bonding, during which many relaxed at the onsite swimming pool and others played more soccer with the coaches, who made an effort to bond with the girls, encourage their interaction, and earn their trust and respect. Moreover, the girls ate meals together in the kibbutz dining room, which gave them a further opportunity to spend time together outside of the structured activities. A decision was made to have the girls sleep in separate rooms so as not to force them to spend time in bi-national settings without a break and in order to ease them into the new and perhaps daunting environment. It was felt that uninational bedrooms would create the most positive and comfortable atmosphere on the camp and that it would prevent antagonism at this early stage in the program, especially due to the fact that the most the girls cannot speak the language of "the other". (Bi-national group one, consisting of girls who have already participated in joint activities in FY12 will take place in the next quarter.) Staff members did, however, observe some inter-group mingling in some of the girls' bedrooms, as girls shared snacks they had brought from home and listened to music together. In addition, some girls were noticed exchanging facebook details in their "free time". The bi-national group 2 "camp" for the youngest girls was not residential in accordance with both Israeli and Palestinian parents' demands. Consequently, the expectations for improved relations were set at a different level than the other camps.



**Binational Camp Group 2**



The closing session at each camp was a feedback session, at which the girls were asked to sum up their experience and comment on the activities, the location, the staff, facilities etc. One Palestinian girl commented that despite the language barrier her and her friends were able to establish a real connection to the Israeli girls. One Israeli girl echoed this feeling through her realization of an improvement in the inter-group relations from the start of the camp to its end. Many Palestinian girls spoke about how difficult they thought it would be prior to the camp and at its start and how that expectation was surpassed as they discovered how easily they can connect. Most the Israeli girls appeared more confident with regards their expectation to get on with “the other”. Their pre-conceived perceptions of “the other” improved as the camp progressed, as they spent more free time together and as their many shared interests were revealed. Most girls requested longer camps and more activities with the same group of girls from the other side. At the end of the non-residential “camp”, parents, who insisted on accompanying their daughters, gave feedback complimenting the staff for a wonderful experience that in their opinion had been professionally run and well-planned, with high quality educational content. Moreover, they noted the empathetic attitude and sensitivity of the coaches and staff to all girls, Palestinian and Israeli alike. Finally, they called attention to the quick and positive response staff gave to ad hoc needs and problems. Overall, it was clear to the Peres Center team and partners that the extra layer of staffing, i.e. the students, was an imperative element that improved quality and professionalism considerably.

**Binational Camp Group 4**



Toward the end of the FY13 first quarter and subsequent to the bi-national camps, two out of the four bi-national groups of approx. 80 girls participated in separate dance workshops in cooperation with *Machon Shalem* in Jerusalem within the framework of the **bi-national Cultural activities** agenda. This institute provides a platform for creative independent dancers in Jerusalem and focuses on multi-cultural groups and the integration of religious and communal groups into the broader urban community. The movement workshop utilized parts of the body to create rhythmic sounds and dances through stamping, tap, clapping for example. First, small groups of Israeli and Palestinian girls were selected to perform in front of the others. Staff members worked with the *Machon Shalem* staff to ensure that each group comprised of representatives from Israeli and Palestinian communities. Each group was assigned a particular sound and rhythm and then all groups were requested to perform simultaneously to create an impressive amalgamation of all the sounds and rhythms. Later, the girls



were divided into two groups and participated in a workshop for all. Everything was explained in Hebrew and Arabic but most of the workshop was simply copying the leader without the need to understand anything. We received very positive verbal feedback from the girls in both bi-national groups as well as from the monitors and from staff. The girls were observed to be engrossed in the activity throughout, jumped to volunteer and clapped loudly to show their appreciation of the performers. The girls commented that they appreciated dance because, like soccer, it is an international language. A Palestinian girl commented that it didn't matter the level of each individual and no one was made to feel embarrassed because it was set up in a way in which no one was exposed or so much in the public eye. Encouraging inter-group team work was observed throughout the workshop.



**Dance Workshop**  
**(Binational Cultural Activity)**  
**Group 3**



**Dance Wokshop (Binational Cultural Activity) Group 4**



The first quarter of FY13 also involved progress in other TPSS components, including in the **Young Leadership track (YLP)**, which will see a bi-national group of girls take part in a dialogue process focusing on female leadership in the community and its place within the context of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. In December, approx. 10 Israeli and 10 Palestinian girls, ages approx. 16-17, were provided with a structured **uninational preparation session** before meeting “the other”. The girls were given the time and space to vocalize their expectations of the program, of themselves and of “the other”. A decision was made not to permit monitors into the dialogue setting for reasons of confidentiality and to encourage the girls to be as open and honest as possible. The feedback from the professional facilitators revealed a strong sense of gratification from both Palestinian and Israeli girls for this preparation. Both groups of girls were intrigued to hear “the other” group’s perceptions of the people/national group they represent. Furthermore, both groups of girls feared political differences and arguments. They expressed a desire to maintain good inter-group relations and a strong bi-national group identity despite these potential setbacks. Both national groups of girls were motivated and ready to take responsibility for the process and their personal and group success. The Palestinian girls vocalized a fear of not understanding Hebrew and of the Israeli girls laughing at them based on their different image. The Palestinian girls also wanted to know if the Israeli girls were really interested in peace and why. Both groups have a clear and consolidated national identity, but the Palestinian girls revealed more explicitly their knowledge of the conflict, in particular referring to issues of human rights and persecution through providing various examples of the difficulties of their lifestyle. Finally, both groups of girls wanted to learn about leadership and hoped to make friends.



YLP  
Uninational Preparation



Following the **YLP** uninational preparation sessions, approx. 1-2 weeks later, the Israeli and Palestinian groups gathered together for a **two-day Bi-national seminar** at Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam. This first joint encounter had a double aim; the first was for each national group to get to know “the other” at personal, family and societal levels; the second was bi-national learning about female leadership as a basis for joint work within the scope of the program and beyond. The discussions during the first day focused on personal backgrounds, personal dreams/aspirations for the future and joint expectations and aims for the program. This culminated in the girls building and signing a group contract. Later in the day, the group played team-bonding games, reflecting subsequent to each game on the participants’ roles and what makes a leader. The facilitators commented that the inter-group connection was particularly strong for a group with a language barrier. They went as far as to say that it was the first time they had experienced such a quick bi-national group formation. The second day consisted of discussions and experiential learning. It addressed some key aspects of leadership, including (group) decision making, cooperation in bi-national leadership, the place of intervention and leadership in the context of conflict resolution. All their learning was put into the local conflict context and that of their personal and national realities. The facilitators commented that the girls reached a deep understanding of leadership and performed cooperatively in an impressive fashion. Furthermore, they demonstrated a

consistent readiness to listen and to explore various options and alternatives. This was particularly explicit when they spoke about the regional power relations; they listened to each other and respected “the other’s” narrative without being defensive, despite the divergence of opinions. The girls demonstrated strong verbal and analytical abilities and all seemed to take ownership of the process, each girl in her own unique way. The facilitators sensed that the participants gained much from the focus on their common denominator, their gender, through personal stories. This coupled with the bonding and trust-building process that they have begun will be significant in their upcoming political and cultural dialogue encounters.

YLP  
Binational Seminar



In December, after the recent round of violence/war between Israel and Gaza, the Peres Center made a decision to gather together all the Palestinian and Israeli coaches for a **bi-national coaches’ meeting**. This meeting was conducted with the express aims of processing the political and security situation, discussing how it made each one of them feel and thinking about how the violence affected the TPSS girls, both on a personal level and on a program level. Moreover, the aim was also to decide what action to take within the framework of the program, if any. All staff members agreed that this meeting, which took place at the Peres Center at Jaffa, was imperative for an honest acceptance of the external context. While both Palestinian and Israeli coaches expressed anger at the other’s leadership and in some cases in their own government’s leadership, there was a real sense that their blame had not trickled down to a civil society level. The coaches unanimously proposed continuing all TPSS activities. It was

communicated that the external situation should not, however, be ignored. Many suggested having a formal discussion with the girls at their next training session and some said that we should gather the parents to talk about it. All the coaches were given the opportunity to write down his/her thoughts, feelings and suggestions for action. It was decided that all comments would be brought to the next meeting between the Peres Center staff and its implementing partners for further review.

There are some other notable areas of progress during the FY13 first quarter. First, the continued cooperative efforts between the Peres Center and the Israeli implementing partner organization to **recruit parents** to the program. Methods involved presentations by Peres Center staff to parents in their local communities (the Yoav Regional Council), distribution of explanatory letters by the implementing partner and on-going persistent phone calls and face-to face conversations between our partner and the parents. Second, the **replacing of one of the** Palestinian, Jericho-based **coaches**, due to her consistent problematic non-committal behavior even after numerous warnings, guidance and conversations about how to improve. Third and finally, the fairly **frequent multi-partner meetings**, during which we processed activities, in particular the first round of camps, extracted lessons learned, discussed major unexpected challenges, planned future activities and advanced our trust-building process. At this point, we are still in the process of trying to create a sense of a complete shared ownership of the program. Challenges and problems caused temporary setbacks in our trust-building process, but the important progress is the on-going contact and dialogue and the motivation to continue.

### **Program Achievements in FY13 Second Quarter**

**Uninational soccer training sessions** for girls from Yatta, Jericho, a-Nwameh, East Jerusalem, Abu Ghosh, Kiryat Gat, Kfar Menachem, Sde Yoav and Yeruham from ages approximately between 7-18, continued throughout the second quarter. The girls had spent the first quarter strengthening their groups' identities and togetherness. This quarter, extent of progress in soccer skills and social progress has varied among the groups. For example, whilst both the Yatta and Ifchaan groups are now in their second year of the TPSS program, they have each developed very differently. Despite their age differences (ages ranging from approx. 11-14), the girls from Yatta are very bonded as a group, whereas the Ifchaan girls appear further behind in their formation and behavior as one group. There is no conclusive evidence as to the differing speeds of improvement in intra-group group dynamics, but from a perspective of familiarity with the program, staff and participants etc, one could argue that this has depended on several circumstantial, cultural and socio-economic factors, as well as the specific group soccer coaches. One can deduce from the monitors' observation reports that regardless of the extent of group progress and circumstances, most soccer coaches are always working hard to advance the groups' status quo. It is important to acknowledge compliments from parents attributed to particular coaches regarding their positive behavior and apparent attitude; it is evident that the longer-standing the coach in the TPSS program/ in Peres Center programs, the better role model he/she is for the young girls. Moreover, it is possible to trace a pattern of expansion of number and types of activities/drills implemented by coaches during the soccer training sessions from the start of FY13 and until the end of the second quarter. There appears to be a strong connection between this trend and the increased number of training seminars, bi-national bonding days etc in which the program's coaches participate as the program progresses.

As elaborated on in the FY13 first quarter report, after the first round of bi-national sport and coexistence camps, all four bi-national groups of approximately 80 girls participated in separate dance workshops, within the **bi-national Cultural activity** framework, in cooperation with *Machon Shalem* in Jerusalem. Two bi-national groups' workshops took place in January, and two previous to that. Feedback relating to the outcome of the two January workshops was unanimously positive. More specifically, it was clear that the girls found themselves in a socially inclusive environment throughout the workshops due to the nature of the dancing activities. Constructive criticism related only to room for improvements in logistics and recommendation of providing the workshop facilitators with more thorough preparation including information on the various backgrounds of the girls and the Peres Center's methods used to

overcome the language barrier between Palestinian and Israeli participants. With this preparation, the Peres Center staff could have ensured that the girls who were selected for dance demonstrations were from a mixture of communities.

**Dance Workshop**  
**(Bi-national Cultural Activity)**  
**Group 1, January 2013**



**Dance Workshop**  
**(Bi-national Cultural Activity)**  
**Group 2, January 2013**



During March, bi-national groups 2 and 3 took part in ***sport and cultural days*** in Kfar Menchem and Kiryat Gat respectively. The girls received different colored bracelets on arrival as a method of group assignment. Israeli and Palestinian coaches assigned to each group led icebreakers and various sports activities. This first round of activities included simple and fun races like the sack race, long jump and shot put. After a break, the second round of activities included fairplay soccer, soccer training with the national Israeli soccer player Sarit Shen'ar and inter-language learning games. In addition, this part of the day featured an inter-cultural activity led by Peres Center staff, which involved the participation of Israeli and Palestinian parents. The activity, a circle game, required each participant to roll a big die in turn. The faces of the die were labeled family, book, childhood, grown up, traditional food, holiday and whichever side the die landed for each person determined the subject/theme on which the she had to elaborate, relating to her personal experience/life/preferences. The final activity of the day was a performance by Ayal Horan who, impressively performs multiple headers using ball of all sizes and weights. Overall, observers noted excellent group dynamics within the bi-national groups throughout the sport and cultural days. The cultural activity was emphasized as a central bonding element that greatly improved the quality of the days and encouraged learning beyond sport. The girls benefited from the parents' input and most groups wanted to continue playing and learning about the "other" after the end of the designated time. It was seen an appropriate trigger to the upcoming bi-national summer camps.

### **Sport and Cultural Day, Group 2 March 2013**



### **Sport and Cultural Day, Group 3 March 2013**



The Second quarter of FY13 also involved progress in other TPSS components, including in the **Young Leadership track (YLP)**, which has seen a bi-national group of approximately 10 Israeli and 10 Palestinian girls, aged between 16-17, take part in a dialogue process focusing on female leadership in the community and its place within the context of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. Following a *two-day Bi-national seminar* at Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam in first quarter, on Feb. 28, the YL group participated in a **bi-national bonding day** at a climbing wall in Jerusalem. For most the girls, this was their first time rock climbing and many were nervous at the start. After professional instruction, they were split into bi-national pairs and began the climbing activity – one climbed and the other secured her from the ground with the safety ropes provided. As the activity progressed and they realized they were basically all in the same vulnerable position, they learned to rely on each other and became more comfortable as they overcame the physical challenge. At the end of the activity, one of the girls commented: “At the start I was scared to climb, but I trusted that my friend would ensure my safety and we simply couldn’t stop laughing until it was time to go home”. On March 8-9, we marked International women’s day by implementing a **bi-national seminar** near the Dead Sea. The seminar explored themes of leadership and coexistence, delving into questions of national identity and narratives. The professional facilitators, who have been accompanying the girls throughout their year-long dialogue process, commented that the specific order of activities and the proximity of them to each other throughout the year have contributed positively to the development of the girls’ friendships and comfort levels when together as a group. This in turn has assisted in a fast rate of perception change between the two national groups and a shared desire to learn more about the other and to pass on what they have learned to others in their local communities.

**YLP Bi-national Climbing Day, February 2013**



**YLP Bi-national Seminar, March 2013**



***Bi-national Coaches' Bonding Day*** was held on March 3rd where approximately 20 coaches received professional training with well-known Jordanian soccer coach (well-known in the Arab world) at Kiryat Gat stadium. They simulated the experience of what we offer young participants in component B bi-national activities for the girls such as peace games, Fairplay game of soccer and several smaller training exercises. The day was a great success. Everyone very much enjoyed, bonded and learned lots about being a coach in the TPSS/USAID program. According to one Israeli coach "The coaches' training in Kiryat Gat was partly carried out by a Jordanian Captain. Despite that Israelis tend to think that they invented soccer, I was happy to see that these feelings waned and everyone understood that we also have a lot to learn. In my subsequent soccer training for my group of girls, I taught what I had learned and it was very successful. I must thank the people who made this training day possible - it was a very informative day during which I also learned about myself. Thank you!"

**Bi-national Coaches' Bonding Day, March 2013**







There are some other notable areas of progress during the FY13 second quarter. First, continued cooperative efforts between the Peres Center and the Israeli implementing partner organization to **recruit parents** to the program were carried out. This was done through the presentations by Peres Center staff to parents in their local communities (the Yoav Regional Council), the distribution of explanatory letters by the implementing partner and on-going persistent phone calls and face-to face conversations between our partner and the parents.

A **Parents Bi-national encounter** took place on February 14. The Parents Circle Families Forum (PCFF), a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis which "promotes reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge" came to the Peres Center to introduce and screen a documentary entitled "Two-Sided Story" directed by Tor ben Mayor. The documentary follows a group of Jewish and Palestinian bereaved families members through which narratives and personal stories of the suffering of many individuals of both national identities are heard. After the screening, parents were then split into two bi-national groups (according to their daughters' bi-national soccer groups) for a facilitated discussion about the film. This discussion section was essential to helping both sides understand that neither of the groups are better off because of the conflict. In addition, the PCFF served as a good role model for the parents in showing that these bereaved families can put grudges aside to focus working towards peace. Furthermore, it provided a comfortable space for both sides to voice their opinions of the film – what annoyed them, what they disagreed/agreed with and what was emotional and difficult. As said by an Israeli parent: "There was quiet and people were talking, there was listening, not always answers and not always agreement but there was closeness. For a short while, it was possible to lower the lenses through which we see the conflict and to wear the lenses of our neighbors that are telling us a different story."

#### **Bi-national Parents Encounter, February 2013**





### **Program Achievements in FY13 Third Quarter**

***Uninational soccer training sessions*** for girls from Yatta, Jericho, a-Nwameh, East Jerusalem, Abu Ghosh, Kiryat Gat, Kfar Menachem, Sde Yoav and Yeruham, aged approximately 7-18, continued throughout the third quarter. During this quarter, the last few months of the academic year, the girls have proven to have achieved the aims set out for the Uni-national soccer training. Monitors have observed that the attendance of the girls has been consistent and that they are much more bonded than they were at the beginning. Even in the case of the challenging Ifchaan group (referred to in the previous narrative report), the girls have made much progress in building bonds with one another since the second quarter. These soccer trainings culminated in bi-national summer camps (detailed below) for which the girls were very excited.

The ***Bi-national sport and cultural days***, as elaborated on in the second quarter report, were as much of a success this quarter. All days were divided into three parts, each of which aimed to achieve a different goal. The first part comprised sport activities that encouraged inter-group bonding. Each group rotated from station to station and participated in a range of group and individual challenges such as the sack-race. Scoring was designated to group participants, which encouraged the girls to work together and collaborate as a team. The second part of the day was dedicated to *fairplay* soccer, throughout which an atmosphere of comfort and inclusion was observed in addition to the fun and competition. The last part of the day included inter-language and inter-cultural activities at which the girls were taught sport-related words of "the other's" language through informal games, and mingled with their friends' parents. The cultural activities worked particularly well with the girls as they were participative and enjoyed getting to know "the other". The presence of the parents enhanced the activities as it gave them an opportunity to see the activities their daughters were attending and encouraged them to further break down their personal prejudices and stereotypes about "the other".

#### **Group 4 Bi-national Sports and Cultural Day April 2013**



### Group 1 Bi-national Sport and Cultural Day April 2013



A **Youth Leadership Program (YLP) Bi-national Seminar**, held at the Renaissance School, East Jerusalem on April 12, catered for those Israeli and Palestinian participants who could not attend the Bi-national seminar held on March 8-9 during the previous quarter. This one-day seminar was a shortened version of the one held in March and was carried out to ensure that the girls who failed to attend the previous meeting (5 in total) did not fall behind in the program. Despite the shorter duration of the seminar, the girls were engaged and acquired new useful skills.

### YLP Bi-national Seminar April 2013



On April 25, a **preparation meeting** for the upcoming Mini World Cup was held for both the joint **coaches** and the - YLP group of girls. During this meeting, held in Kiryat Gat, the coaches and young leaders were briefed on their roles at the World Cup and were distributed the schedule of events. The girls were assigned leadership roles to enable them to apply the skills they have acquired thus far from

the YLP program to the field. Even in a simple meeting such as this, bonds between the Israeli and Palestinian coaches were forged as they learned and appreciated working together.

The highlight of the third quarter was the **Mini World Cup**, a tournament that brought together all 16 groups of girls (approximately 320) in this USAID program. During the tournament, the bi-national groups were divided into smaller groups of mixed Israeli and Palestinian girls where each group took on a country and competed against other "countries" for the title of Mini World Cup Champions. This tournament is unique and different from any other soccer game as it incorporates *fairplay* as one of its scoring components. Therefore, there were medals not just for the winners of the soccer competition but for the group of girls who demonstrated fair play in their performance and the girls who were most representative of *fairplay* in the tournament. This rewards not just the concept of winning but rather brings into perspective the importance of having good sportsmanship and ethics for the girls. Throughout the matches, ongoing simultaneous translation between Hebrew and Arabic were carried out. The day culminated in an elaborate medal ceremony to ensure that the Mini World Cup ended on a positive note.

### Mini World Cup May 2013



As part of the **end-of-year gatherings**, the girls were brought to the *UEFA Euro Under 21* soccer matches in Israel, according to their bi-national groups. The matches were a good platform for bonding between and within the groups as they cheered on their favorite teams during the games. Furthermore, the girls had dinner together which gave them additional opportunities for conversation and bonding. One bi-national group was fortunate enough to attend the final match of the UEFA Euro Cup. Beyond being a spectator at the games, some of the girls were designated an active role. Some of the girls were responsible for handing out the balls to the soccer players throughout the games and some of them were escorts for the professional players. Girls commented that they felt a great sense of pride in seeing their fellow group members up on the field. This common experience further united Israeli and Palestinian participants.

A **preparation day meeting** for upcoming summer camps was held for the YLP girls on June 17. The girls will be team leaders for the summer training camps and thus needed to be briefed on their roles and duties. The girls were given the schedule of events, briefed on the aims and goals of the camp and familiarized themselves with their roles and with their activities for the camps. The meeting gave the girls an additional opportunity to mingle and be comfortable working with a leader of the other national identity. It was also meaningful for them as it gave them a new avenue to practice what they have learnt from the Young Leaders' Program.

**2 summer camps** – One for bi-national group 2 (for girls approximately between the ages of 7-11) and one for bi-national group 4 (approx. 14-18 years old) - were conducted in the third quarter. Due to the age differences between the two groups, the activities, although in principle the same, differed to better cater to each category. The camp for bi-national group two, the younger girls, was non-residential over two days, whilst the older girls of group 4 slept over at the camp site one night. The camps were packed with fun, enriching activities to build further bonds and friendship between the girls. Day 1 began with a group building activity wherein the girls were split into groups (mixed Israeli-Palestinian) and made group flags and identities. This activity gave the girls the opportunity to interact and converse with one another. The day followed with more team bonding activities where external trainers were brought in to organize and carry out team building games. To overcome the language barriers between the girls, they attended language activities where they learnt about "the other's" language in an easy and fun way. The day ended with the girls producing self-portrait posters, which gave them a chance to reflect on the events of the year and how they have grown from them. The second day of the camp began with *fairplay* soccer. The girls were once again given the opportunity to play their much-loved sport. After the soccer match, the girls had a fun time in the pool playing games conducted by an external vendor. This was the highlight of both camps for the Israeli and Palestinian girls, who reported being able to bond and have fun. The day ended with a group discussion and reflection on the camp activities over the previous two days. The older girls were encouraged to explore how and to what extent the camp had made an impact on their attitudes and perceptions regarding the other and if and how their future behavior toward the other would change. The younger girls were encouraged to reflect using the media of art and informal games. The camp culminated in an awards ceremony during which the girls were awarded medals and thank-you gifts were distributed among staff and volunteers.

### **Summer Camp Bi-national Group 2**





### Summer Camp Bi-national Group 4



### Program Achievements in FY13 Fourth Quarter

The final quarter of FY13 and the school summer break marked the end of the academic year's **uninational activities** for all Israeli and Palestinian groups, which resumed in September for three Israeli and three Palestinian groups (and to be continued throughout the 3-month No Cost Extension period). In July, separate **two-day camps** were held for bi-national groups 1 (for ages approximately 7-14) and 3 (for ages approximately 11-14) at Kibbutz Ruhama, located in the Yoav regional Council. The structure and content of the camps were similar to those of the two previous camps in the third quarter. Both camps incorporated team bonding, cultural, inter-language and sport activities, in addition to soccer and *fairplay* in particular. Moreover, participants had free time to use the kibbutz swimming pool and to socialize. Many girls commented that their favorite activities were the ones whose foremost aim was to encourage bonding between Israeli and Palestinian campers. The more dominant girls helped to gel the group together and in general, the shyer girls seemed to develop more self-confidence as the camp progressed, with the help of the student support staff. From conversations with the participants, a trend of developed Israeli-Palestinian relationships was prevalent among the girls who attended both camps. Some of bi-national group 3 participants had previously exchanged internet contact details and it was clear that those who had been in touch since the winter camp had become closer to one another and felt more comfortable in each other's company. Bi-national group 1 participants, having seen each other frequently over the period of two years clearly felt comfortable spending time together despite the language barrier. Participants commented that they had definitely changed their perception of the "other" since first joining the Peres Center USAID program. They were more inclined to think of Israeli children as just like themselves, with similar interests. Being on camp with other girls expedited this process of developing stronger relationships and lessening their fear of the other as the commonalities due to same gender were easily and quickly recognizable.

### Bi-national Group 1 Summer Camp





**Bi-national Group 3 Summer Camp**



The *coaches' two-day bi-national concluding seminar* for the 2012-13 academic year took place on August 18-19 at the Ein Gedi Resort in the beautiful setting of desert mountains and the Dead Sea. Participants, staff and facilitators all gave very positive feedback regarding the choice of location for such a seminar. It was agreed that holding a bi-national seminar in this beautiful location with upgraded facilities compared to those provided throughout the program was a major contributor to the success of the seminar. Content was to incorporate mainly dialogue, much of which including heavy and difficult discussion topics, and therefore, by providing a lush setting with opportunities for leisure, enjoyment of nature and pampering was an element not to be underestimated.



The seminar for coaches was divided into sessions, most facilitated by the same professional facilitators that have accompanied the group of coaches throughout the program. Sessions included discussion of difficult and complex issues that arose throughout the year at bi-national and uninational activities for the girls soccer groups, as well as criticism offered by program participants during the program. The facilitators commented that the coaches were involved in the discussions, each actively contributing. Among subjects discussed was the commitment level of coaches in general, the desire to continue being involved in such a project, the personal risk some of the Palestinian coaches have been taking upon themselves by working on the TPSS program, and the coaches' own previously held stereotypes of the "other" at the start of the program. In addition, discussion included the contradiction between Palestinian coaches' participation in the program and their opposition to the Israeli army, a part of which were three of the Jewish Israeli coaches. Furthermore, coaches discussed the question of extent of change they were bringing about through implementing this program. Looking at special moments during the project, Coaches pointed in particular to examples where they observed Israeli and Palestinian girls cooperating. During the course of the seminar, evaluation led to a huge amount of constructive feedback that will help the staff to plan the continuation and upgrade of the program in the coming years. Coaches were unanimously grateful for the opportunity to engage in such open and honest dialogue with people who they planned to continue a working relationship with and possibly a relationship that will move beyond the parameters of the program.

**Bi-national Coaches' Seminar (August 2013)**



## Program Challenges in the FY13 First Quarter

The *recent round of violence/war between Israel and Gaza* presented a challenge to our program. On one hand, staff members have been aware of the possible deterioration of the security situation since the start of the project and beforehand. Indeed, this is the reality of the unresolved regional conflict and it is logical that grassroots peace-builders must demonstrate their understanding and consciousness of it. On the other hand, it is almost impossible to forecast the effect of such a deterioration of a peace-building program until very close to the time of activity implementation. Thus, this leaves us with very little time to act and with few options. The result this time was that we decided to cancel a number of un-national soccer training sessions and to defer some of the bi-national camps. Our decision was based on no real feasible alternative. Schools in the Israeli communities with whom we work were closed and there were official instructions in these areas for many days from the Home Front Command to not leave home/ to be ready to run to a shelter in the case of a siren. We worked with our Israeli implementing partner who succeeded in temporarily relocating the un-national training for the older girls to soccer grounds further north. The important action we took was organizing the post-violence processing session for the Israeli and Palestinian coaches. The violence was a test of the relations we built with and between our implementing partners on both sides of the divide. Thus, it is worthy to note that during the war, our Israeli staff members received calls and emails from our Palestinian partners, who expressed a genuine concern for our safety in Israel with the constant launching of rockets into Israeli space.

The Peres Center, its staff and partners have suffered on-going attacks and boycotts as a result of the *anti-normalization* campaign, as mentioned in previous narrative reports. This quarter, the context for a new threat was the Group 3 bi-national camp for girls from Kiryat Gat, Yeruham and Zbedat. When the group of approx. 40 girls from Zbedat reached the checkpoint to go into Israel, the coach received a call from his parents warning him of a threat from the village to him and his family. He was accused of betrayal to the Palestinian cause by “collaborating” with the Israeli Peres Center and was asked to turn the bus around and return the kids back home. They threatened that he would lose his and his family’s honor in the village and possibly his livelihood if he did not concur. The Palestinian fieldworker, together with the implementing partner responsible for Zbedat’s program participants, spent much of the day in negotiations with the local sport club and *hamula* figureheads until a group of girls were permitted to attend. The anti-normalization threat caused high levels of anxiety for the coach and his family, confusion for the girls traveling from Zbedat and significantly less attendance of girls at the bi-national camp. After the camp, photos of the camp on Facebook were accessed and posted on Palestinian websites. The charge was betrayal of their religion, culture and people’s history by *normalizing* with the enemy. The parents decided against involvement in bi-national activities and proposed continuing only uni-national training in Zbedat. Ultimately this resulted in withdrawing Zbedat from the program and a change of Palestinian community for binational group 3. During November, training began in Nwameh (a village adjacent to Jericho) and this community formally began its full participation in TPSS. Figureheads from the Nwameh sports club and recreation center had previously approached the Peres Center’s implementing partner in Jericho to request their involvement in the program. Until this point, the Jericho partner had selected Zbedat precisely because it was a more problematic village that thus would have been a greater success story if it had achieved sustained involvement. Due to time and other constraints within the TPSS framework, our implementing partner and the Peres Center decided that this would not be the time to continue negotiating in the hope of mending its relationship with Zbedat. However, one of the two coaches, who had not received a personal threat, was asked to remain in the program and to continue taking part in the bi-national coaches’ track. He has shown interest to do so and will continue as much as he feels able whilst preserving his own safety.

An additional challenge that further worsened the aforementioned Zbedat problem was the IDF’s refusal to issue the second Zbedat coach with an *entry permit to Israel* despite his previous entry on a few occasions for TPSS activities. The responsible Palestinian partner was only informed of this a few days before the camp and did not have time to get an entry permit for a replacement coach (requesting

entry permits takes approx. 10 working days). The fact that this coach could not join the girls led to some parents not agreeing to send their girls on the camp. They had built up a certain trust of and respect for this coach and without him accompanying their daughters, they feared their safety. There are many times when refusal to grant entry permits to Palestinian participants or staff has impacted negatively on the program. When this happens, options for response are limited, but it is only on rare occasions like the one above when the extent of negative impact is increased due to additional challenges impacting on the same specific group of people.

A constant challenge is the gap in the professional soccer and leadership level between most the Israeli and Palestinian coaches, which prevents the equal division of their roles at the bi-national camps. The Palestinian training seminar in September was a forward step. In addition, the continued involvement of the professional and well-known Jordanian coach in advancing the skills and confidence of the Palestinian coaches has been the selected method of tackling the challenge, much appreciated by the beneficiaries. Simultaneously, the coaches' dialogue process is developing a deeper awareness among the group of the strengths and weaknesses of all the coaches. It is also providing skills for successful bi-national leadership in the TPSS context.

There are a number of other *lesser and much more easily surmounted challenges* that the Peres Center, staff and partners have needed to combat during the first quarter. These include inadequate supply of sunhats, sun cream and water at all activity stations when outside, insufficient discipline of girls who are distracting others during structured activities, late arrival of certain groups to activities, insufficient signposts onsite, rubbish left in public areas by activity participants, some girls arriving inappropriately dressed and parents requesting their own attendance at the camps. Overall, despite these ad hoc challenges faced by the staff at each activity, lessons were learned through the constant opportunity for structured feedback. Every camp and activity has been an improvement on the last. Finally, it is important to note the resolution of a couple of problems mentioned in previous narrative reports. First, the problem of the mixed age-groups in Bi-national Group One was resolved simply by ensuring division by age into smaller groups for all activities. Second, the introduction of Hebrew and Arabic speaking trained students onto the camp staff team provided vital support for all activities and ensured equal bi-national leadership to counter the problem of insufficient manpower.

### **Program Challenges in FY13 Second Quarter**

With reference to previous narrative reports, **anti-normalization** activities have continued to pose as threats to our projects. During the coaches bonding day on March 3 when Jordanian coach, Walid Fatafta, was invited to train the Palestinian and Israeli soccer coaches, he faced great obstacles and was threatened by anti-normalization campaigners. Fortunately, he managed to overcome these obstacles in order to carry on with the training as planned. The Peres Center continues to minimize or avoid the impact of the activities of anti-normalization, such as in the case of Fatafta by maintaining as low a profile as possible. This encounter between Fatafta and the Palestinians and Israeli coaches was crucial to further deconstruct prejudices between the bi-national groups. This was the first time where it was possible for the Peres Center to bring in a non-Israeli soccer trainer for the bi-national coaches group and it made a strong impression on the Palestinian coaches to see their fellow Israeli coaches being trained by a Jordanian.

An additional challenge was the new army law requiring all Palestinians of the west bank over 16 years of age to personally apply and attain an *entry permit to Israel*. This process has hindered the number of 16 years and above attendees at our projects as the process for receiving of permits is tedious since it takes a day and is a great inconvenience to the Palestinians wishing to attend our programs. Furthermore, they may only receive an entry permit for a day and would have to reapply for entry for a following activity.

A constant challenge is the gap in the professional soccer and leadership level between most the Israeli and Palestinian coaches, which prevents the equal division of their roles at bi-national activities. The

Palestinian training seminar in September 2012 was a forward step. In addition, the continued involvement of the professional and well-known Jordanian coach in advancing the skills and confidence of the Palestinian coaches has been the selected method of tackling the challenge, much appreciated by the beneficiaries. Simultaneously, the coaches' dialogue process is developing a deeper awareness among the group of the strengths and weaknesses of all the coaches. It is also providing skills for successful bi-national leadership in the TPSS context.

### **Program Challenges in FY13 Third Quarter**

This quarter was critical in illustrating to the Peres Center Sport Department staff and partners the extent of progress made in terms of program participants' perception change. It was quarter during which new methods for the improvement of our programs for the coming years were further explored. Firstly, the camps showed the importance of reframing the length of the activities carried out throughout the year. The camps, being 2 days and 1 night, provided the girls time to simply bond and mingle. This has been concluded to have been more effective than the previously implemented afternoon bi-national activities (each 2 hours long), which were deemed too short a time for the girls to get to know and be comfortable with one another. Therefore, in the coming programs, we aim to refocus our activities so that longer, more time-intensive activities are carried out in addition to several, short ones. This will improve the quality of the interactions between the girls and encourage further friendship to flourish.

As seen in our previous narrative reports, the gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian coaches are still noticeable, though many improvements have been made through our trainings targeted at the Palestinian trainers. It has been observed that the coaches who attended training in September 2012 have undergone a shift in their attitudes towards one another and the other in general, which have helped to narrow the gaps between them and the Israelis. Unfortunately, anti-normalization sentiments and action has continued to affect our program, resulting in the loss of certain Palestinian coaches forced to resign under pressure, and the necessity of hiring replacement coaches. This is a contributing factor to the slow progress in improving the professional quality and abilities of the Palestinian trainers. It disrupts the flow of our programs as the new coaches have to be retrained in order to catch up to the level of the other coaches. However, in the coming years, we have through risk assessment planned programs and seminars to further increase dialogue and interactions between the coaches of both sides in order to create a support group on which each of the coaches can rely. In addition, and in order to combat the high changeover of coaches and to better performance, we have introduced the idea of bringing in Peace Education Consultants for regular mentoring. These consultants will be incorporated into the coaches' seminars and trainings to equip them with better skills to lead their groups. Furthermore, the Peres Center Sport Department has been working hard in cooperation with Palestinian partners to strengthen trust and ties.

### **Program Challenges in the Fourth Quarter**

Some of the constructive feedback from the bi-national summer camps pointed to instances of ***poor soccer coach behavior***. More specifically, some of the coaches were not consistently on time for activities and not active enough in disciplining disruptive participants. One reason cited for this problem is that not all the coaches attended all "training the trainers" seminars. Work needs to be done to develop a deeper commitment of the coaches to their own program track. In addition, one of the problems that has been exposed throughout the program and that was explicitly and implicitly fed back at the summer coaches' dialogue seminar, is the failure of subgrantee partners to pass over all information and clearly communicate expectations to soccer coaches prior to the program/when they sign program contracts and throughout its duration. An important lesson learned for the Peres Center Sport Department is that ***reliance on partners to convey all expectations to third-tier subawardees*** is not enough. The Peres Center is working with partners to put more orientation meetings in place for soccer coaches whereby Peres Center staff will be present and the partners will have the opportunity to learn more about how to convey important information through observation.

## **Overall Achievements and Challenges throughout the Program's Second Year**

The second program year saw the implementation of TPSS/USAID in its full capacity. This followed a hugely challenging first year, during which top-level bi-national partnerships were eroded, established and stabilized in the face of on-going threats brought about due to the anti-normalization campaign. Finally, **16 uninational groups**, of approx. 20 girls each (between the ages of 7 and 18), participated in at least twice weekly soccer training sessions in their local communities throughout the academic year. Their local soccer coaches prepared them through low-key discussions and informal games for encountering the "other". **Four bi-national groups of girls**, of approx. 60-80 girls each, participated in two-day winter and summer camps, a dance workshop and a sports and cultural day. In addition, all groups were given the opportunity to join together for a larger scale mini world cup tournament during the Spring, and attended under-21 Euro soccer games as their end-of-year gathering. A group of approx. 15 girls (aged 14-16) participated in a **youth leadership dialogue track**, which included 3 uninational and 4 bi-national activities/multiple-day seminars that addressed their female leadership in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Up to 20 **Israeli and Palestinian soccer coaches** (including the coaches of the 16 uninational girls' soccer groups) participated in 5 bi-national seminars/meetings/activities. Finally, 21 **parents** participated in a bi-national dialogue encounter and film screening, and some of these parents attended and participated in their daughters' bi-national sport and cultural days.

On-going challenges that were brought up at the final coaches' seminar included the **insufficient number of coaches' activities**. The Peres Center team has struggled to overcome the contradiction between the coaches' desire to have more opportunities to get to know one another and the practical limitations such as finding multiple times when they are all free. An additional challenge that has frustrated in particular the Palestinian coaches is **Israelis' lack of physical exposure to the West Bank**; the fact that bi-national activities must take place in Israel due to the legal restriction for Israelis to enter most Palestinian areas over the Green Line. A long discussion at the bi-national coaches' seminar addressed this issue. It was explained by coaches that implementing joint projects in the framework of which all bi-national activities are in Israel only serves to strengthen the anti-normalization movement and/or the views of its subscribers. The latter view such activities as institutionalizing the status quo of injustice. Suggestions were made for how to address the desire to introduce the West Bank to Israelis, including future coach seminars being held in Area C and encouraging coaches to visit one another outside of the TPSS program framework. Coaches were encouraged to work together to find creative solutions and make suggestions that would be acceptable to the whole group. It was understood after explanation by staff that at this point, it would not be appropriate and not possible to carry out any activities for the girls' soccer groups in the West Bank. Importantly, Palestinian coaches left with increased sense of comfort having been able to share their anger and frustration at this physical barrier with their Israeli co-workers and feeling supported in their quest for change. In general, recommendations received from facilitators included the readiness and necessity of moving forward with bi-national dialogue among the program's coaches to address the political reality and specific political issues of conflict. This more advanced step would generate a personal sense of empowerment among these key program participants and leaders.

The attempt to pilot a **track for participants' parents** was an on-going challenge. Whilst Palestinian parents were keen to cross the border and attend activities in Israel, recruitment of Israeli parent representatives from each local community proved to be a stumbling block to the success of this component. The Peres Center team worked together with its Israeli partner organization to develop increased interest through phone conversations, visits to communities and presentations with limited success. Accomplishing one well-attended event half way through the year created a starting point, and it was concluded that there would be a place for developing further commitment in subsequent years for certain Israeli communities. Other Israeli communities are currently facing many internal and uninational challenges which makes it that much more difficult to impose external challenges at this time. More thinking and brainstorming needs to take place before additional activities within this realm will be planned.

**PMP Matrix: PE Name (PE Code 1.6.2.): Peace and Reconciliation Processes**

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Indicator Result Type	Indicator Format	PMP Indicator Type	Baseline Value	Starting Fiscal Year	Planned Value for FY1	Actual Value for FY1	Planned Value for FY2	Actual Value for FY2	Planned Value for FY3
1.6.2-12	1.6.2-12 Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale	Output	Integer	OP_std	0	FY12	571	685	1774	1614	144
1.6.2-14	1.6.2-14 Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.	Output	Integer	OP_std	0	FY12	184	213	296	404	132
1.6.2-14a	1.6.2.14a Number of men participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.	Output	Integer	OP_std	0	FY12	20	22	38	18	29
1.6.2-14b	1.6.2-14b Number of women participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.	Output	Integer	OP_std	0	FY12	169	191	277	386	108
1.6.2-C047	Percentage of girls participating in the program who develop more self-confidence and who feel more empowered as females to play soccer	Outcome	Percentage	Mgmt		FY12	N/A	N/A	65	N/A	65

1.6.2-C048	Total number of uninational activities for girls	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	557	675	1677	1501	134
1.6.2-C049	Total number of girls participating in uninational activities for girls	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	160	173	256	343 (147+196)	88
1.6.2-C050	Total number of binational activities	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	6	10	71	108	6
1.6.2-C051	Total number of girls participating in binational activities	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	160	155	256	319 (137+182)	88
1.6.2-C052	Total number of young leaders participating in uninational and/or binational activities	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	8	0	13	13	0
1.6.2-C053	Total number of coaches participating in uninational and/or binational training meetings and seminars	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	10	24	14	15	12
1.6.2-C054	Total number of parents attending uninational and/or binational encounters	Output	Integer	Mgmt	0	FY12	8	19	16	32	20
PRP165	Percent increase in positive perception about the other	Outcome	Percentage	Mgmt		FY12	N/A	N/A	60	N/A	60

## **Outline of Activities in FY14 First Quarter (3-month No Cost Extension Period)**

There will be an effort to increase impact by implementing additional activities within budgetary constraints for another three months. The final quarter of the program will incorporate a continuation of twice weekly uninational soccer training sessions for six uninational groups of girls, from the illustrative communities of Kiryat Gat, the Yoav Regional Council, Abu Gosh, Jericho and Yatta. Each bi-national group of approx. 30-40 girls will participate in a two-day camp as well as in one additional activity. A three-day professional training seminar and a follow-up session will be organized for Palestinian coaches, and Palestinian and Israeli coaches will be invited to a bi-national activity. Approx. 50 Palestinian parents will be invited to a one-day excursion and activity in Israel. The final months of the program will incorporate evaluation meetings between the implementing partners and the Peres Center, and the possibilities for continuation of joint cooperation between partners and coaches will be discussed.

## **Summary of Expenditures in FY12**

The following table presents a summary of all TPSS/USAID expenditures since the start of the program, September 26, 2011, until and including September 30, 2013.

Line Item	Agreement Budget	Total Expenses	Remaining Budget
a. Personnel	\$276,379	\$267,752.45	\$8,626.55
b. Fringe Benefits	\$61,226	\$61,236.21	-\$10.21
c. Travel	\$146,180	\$74,132.02	\$72,047.98
d. Equipment	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
e. Supplies	\$88,141	\$80,379.62	\$7,761.38
f. Contractual	\$450,351	\$321,802.68	\$128,548.32
g. Construction	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
h. Other	\$72,429	\$68,171.69	\$4,257.31
I. Total Direct Costs	\$1,094,708.38	\$873,474.65	\$221,231.33
J. Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
K. Total Amount	\$1,094,708.38	\$873,474.65	\$221,231.33