



FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM **PROJECT PROFILE**
Peace and Reconciliation Program



Eight young participants take part in USAID-supported sports activities in Ramallah implemented by Peace Players International.

Program Overview

USAID’s reconciliation programs are part of a worldwide effort to bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from areas of conflict in order to address the root causes of tension and instability. Because these projects seek to break down barriers among parties through personal contact, they are often referred to as “people-to-people” programs. Since its inception in FY 2004, USAID/WBG has supported 36 Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza totaling \$24,734,013.

Goals

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

Activities

CARE International (06/2009-06/2012; \$1,121,730): Working in 71 countries CARE is one of the leading U.S. relief and development agencies. The CARE project “An Eye to the Future: Building Skills and Attitudes that Promote Conflict Mitigation in Gaza” promotes a culture of nonviolence and enhances peace building. Directly benefitting 2,400 individuals, the project trains mentors in programming techniques to promote conflict mitigation, and hosts a child-centered before and after-school program focusing on skills in conflict mitigation, communications, and team-work.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (07/2009-01/2012; \$1,121,820): CRS is a U.S.-based non-governmental humanitarian organization working in nearly 100 countries. The project “Youth Voices for Community Action” promotes a culture of nonviolence by building up the skills of 1,350 Palestinian youth in nonviolent conflict mitigation through training, dialogue sessions, and joint meetings and programs that create a space for civil debate.

Just Vision, Inc. (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,500): Just Vision is a U.S.-based organization that emerged in response to the lack coverage of Palestinian and Israeli civilians working to end the conflict. “Multi-Media Education and Outreach Program in Israel and West Bank/Gaza” seeks to end the marginalization of nonviolent peace builders in their own communities and in mainstream media by supporting multi-media education and outreach programs.

Right to Play (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,902): Right to Play, a Canadian NGO, uses specially designed sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children, youth, and communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. The USAID-funded project implements sports activities to promote holistic child development and youth engagement to promote peace building, and conflict prevention reconciliation in Palestinian communities.

American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat Al Salam (AFNSWAS) (06/2010-06/2013; \$1,000,000): AFNSWAS is a U.S. non-governmental organization that supports a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Israelis, and between Palestinians and Jews, through dialogue, cooperation, and education. The project “Creating Change Agents: Palestinian and Israeli Professionals in Dialogue and Action”

CHALLENGES

- Lack of opportunities for direct contact between Israelis and Palestinians.
- Cultural differences, fear, mistrust and lack of free movement between Israel and Palestinian territories.
- Journalistic reports which focus on contentious aspects of relationships between Israelis and Palestinians, reinforcing negative views and perpetuating conflict.



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Israeli and Palestinian youth on the River Jordan, raising environmental awareness for a project supported by USAID and implemented by EcoPeace-Friends of the Earth Middle East.

provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security, and identity.

H.L. Education for Peace (05/2010-11/2011; \$528,594): H.L. Education for Peace is an Israeli organization which works to educate decision makers and key segments of the Israeli public on the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. "Influencing the Attitudes and Perceptions of Key Israeli Players" aims to mitigate identified causes of conflict by bringing a pragmatic Palestinian voice to the Israeli public at large through media and encounters between Palestinians and Israelis which improve mutual understanding and foster more favorable attitudes towards reconciliation.

Keshev (05/2010-05/2013; \$1,000,000): Keshev – the Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel – was established by a group of academics, lawyers, and civic activists to protect and advance democratic values in Israel. The project "Press for Peace: Improving the Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse" seeks to raise awareness among Israeli and Palestinian journalism professionals, journalism students, and public officials of how media coverage and editing practices affect peace and conflict.

Parents' Circle Family Forum (PCFF) (05/2010-05/2012; \$810,000): PCFF is an Israeli grassroots organization that works to promote long-term reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians through dialogue and better understanding of the other's personal narratives. The project "History through the Human Eye: the Israeli-Palestinian Narrative Project" engages Israeli and Palestinian participants in in-depth explorations of the individual and national narrative of the other side. President Obama recognized PCFF's work in his May 19, 2011 speech "A Moment of Opportunity" to the Muslim world.

Peace Players International (PPI) (07/2010-06/2013; \$877,493): Since 2001 PPI, a U.S.-based organization, has used the game of basketball to bridge divides, change perceptions, and develop young leaders. The project "Support for Peace Players International – Middle East: Cross-Border Activities" engages nearly 1,000 Palestinian and Israeli children per year to participate in Twinned Basketball Clubs.

Windows (05/2010-05/2013; \$750,000): Windows is an Israeli non-profit organization of Palestinian and Israeli citizens. The "Youth Media Program" uses media to involve Israeli and Palestinian participants more deeply in the experience of acquaintance with the "other," and to communicate with each other about the conflict.

EcoPeace-Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) (09/2010-09/2013; \$223,710): FoEME is a leading Israeli environmental organization which brings together Palestinian, Israeli, and Jordanian environmentalists in an effort to protect shared environmental heritage, promote sustainable development, and promote conditions for peace in the Middle East. The project "Promoting Water and Environment Education in Jerusalem" focuses on educating youth about water resources in Jerusalem's Kidron Valley, which includes parts of East and West Jerusalem as well as the town of Abu Dis in the West Bank.

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