



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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

### **Program Overview**

Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants are part of a congressionally mandated effort to support people-to-people reconciliation activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of conflict to address the root causes of tension and instability. Since the program's inception in 2004, USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv have supported 69 CMM grants for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Below is a list of the current CMM awards that are being implemented by U.S., Israeli and Palestinian organizations.

### **Goals**

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

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

1. Ein Dor Museum of Archaeology (9/2013-9/2014); \$96,548: Ein Dor Museum of Archeology is an Israeli organization founded in 1986 that is considered a first-rate cultural and educational center. The project "From Past to Present – Israeli Jewish and Arab Youth Experiencing a Shared Past and Creating the Present through Archaeology and Art" provides Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab youth with an opportunity to engage in interactive archaeology, arts, and experiential processes to strengthen their identity and confidence in their counterparts. Ein Dor Museum will also engage the youths, parents, teachers, schools, and local municipalities, recognizing their role in ensuring the commitment of the targeted youth.
2. Center for Educational Technology (9/2013-9/2014); \$100,000: The Center for Education Technology (CET) is an Israeli nonprofit organization established in 1971 with the social mission of promoting the advancement of the educational system in Israel. The project "Women Educators Build Bridges" aims to strengthen the capacity of 50 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish women educators in the topics of reconciliation, negotiation, and mediation. Through this 12 months program, CET aims to strengthen democratic values of tolerance, acceptance of the other, respect, empathy, minority rights, and gender equality. As part of the project, CET will develop new content for these teachers as well as for all English teachers throughout Israel in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and specifically with the guidance of the Chief Inspector for English Language Education, with the objective that teachers and students interact and communicate in a manner that bridges differences and fosters coexistence.
3. MadaTech - National Museum of Science, Technology & Space (9/2013-2/2015); \$100,000: MadaTech – Israel's National Museum of Science, Technology & Space was established in 1983. The project "Science in the Service of Collaborative Coexistence" engages 30 Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab junior high school students with a special interest in science. The program will acquaint them with each other and will build on their common interests. The participants will be selected from a pool of 5,000 students who participate annually in the year-long OlympiYeda Science Competition conducted by MadaTech, based on their scientific abilities, emotional intelligence, social values and skills, and their desire to actively participate and invest in a multi-cultural experience. The selected students will participate in a ten day Summer Science Workshop where they will be exposed to unique scientific content unlike that provided through formal education. The students will

learn about innovations in science through experiments, demonstrations, independent information retrieval, as well as from encounters with senior scientists and visits to science facilities and institutions.

4. The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) (9/2010-6/2014; \$999,715): The Abraham Fund Initiatives is an Israeli organization that has been working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The "Language as a Cultural Bridge" program organizes encounters between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish fifth and sixth graders who participate in language and cultural classes. The Israeli-Arab students participate in Jewish cultural seminars and Hebrew language classes, and the Israeli-Jewish students participate in Arab cultural seminars and courses in spoken and literary Arabic. Both groups come together in ongoing encounters for the students, parents and teachers throughout their two-year participation. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, having approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers. The Jewish Agency also sponsors this initiative. Approximately 1,600 students participate in the activities funded under this grant.

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

1. Hand in Hand (03/2012-02/2015; \$1,080,000): Hand in Hand, Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, is an Israeli organization building peace, coexistence and equality through a network of integrated, bilingual schools for Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab children. The project "Shared Community/School Integration" seeks to establish eight Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab shared communities; five of these will be built around existing integrated schools, and an additional three in regions without existing schools.
2. Citizens' Accord Forum (09/2011-09/2014; \$612,414): The Citizens' Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel (CAF) is an Israeli organization established with the vision of building a just and equal relationship of accord and stability among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The project "Youth Parliaments of the Mixed Towns of Israel" aims to create youth parliaments in Israeli cities with large Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish populations to encourage moderated discussions, dialogue and outreach.
3. The Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace (9/2011- 9/2014; \$1,193,002): Sub-award: Center for Democracy and Community Development (\$407,148): The Adam Institute, an Israeli NGO, works with civil society organizations to enhance their commitment to non-violence and build their capacities to better serve their constituencies. The project "Return to the Public Sphere" conducts a series of workshops for a total of 200 young Israeli and Palestinian civil society leaders aged 21 to 35 to build capacity for effective, democratic and peace-oriented leadership on both sides.
4. Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace (9/2013-9/2015; \$500,000): Sub-Award: Center for Democracy and Community Development (\$160,920): The Adam Institute, an Israeli NGO established in 1987, works with civil society organizations to enhance their commitment to non-violence and build their capacities to better serve their constituencies. The project "Entering the Arena: Addressing Women's Role in Politics and Peace Building" aims to address the absence of women's representation across all strata of policy-making. The objective is to create a large cadre of young women to be the next generation of political agents and spokespeople in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
5. Ben-Gurion University (9/2011-9/2014; \$760,160): Ben-Gurion University has a program that works with educators in Israel and the West Bank dealing with victims of political violence. The project "Human Service Professionals and Educators in Israel and Palestine: Building Knowledge and Peace" aims to identify, implement and evaluate the most promising, culturally appropriate models of intervention to be used with children, families and communities coping with trauma and bereavement associated with the ongoing conflict. The project will form and train a cadre of 15 Israeli-Jewish, five Israeli-Arab, and 20 Palestinian human service providers, primarily mental health practitioners and educators who specialize in conflict mitigation. The 40 participants will lead four workshops for 200 Israeli and Palestinian professionals.

6. Near East Foundation (NEF) (9/2011-9/2014; \$1,209,502): NEF is a U.S. organization based in Nablus working to build relationships and cooperation amongst Israeli and Palestinian olive producers in six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The project “Olive Oil without Borders” provides economic and social impact through increased income profitability and cross-border trade, higher levels of trust, and increased cooperation to stimulate cross-border economic cooperation.
7. Near East Foundation (8/2013-8/2016; \$1,200,000): NEF is a U.S organization based in Nablus, working to build relationships and cooperation amongst Israeli and Palestinian olive producers in six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The project “Cross Border Youth Agribusiness Partnership” aims to build lasting relationships based on trust and collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians – particularly youth – by providing joint training in agribusiness and supporting joint cross-border agricultural enterprises. The project aims to create jobs and generate income, promote technical upgrading, and increase economic opportunities in at least 17 Palestinian and Israeli farming communities.
8. Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2011-12/2014; \$1,061,275): Sikkuy is an Israeli NGO engaging Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab local officials and civil society leaders to produce joint frameworks for increased economic opportunity. The project “Equality Zones: Jewish-Arab Regional Forums for Cooperation” promotes the inclusion of Arab municipalities in statutory government frameworks, develops small business opportunities, and increases employment for Arab women.
9. Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2013-9/2016; \$898,898): Sub-Award: MEJDI (\$36,000): Sikkuy is an Israeli NGO engaging Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab local officials and civil society leaders to produce joint frameworks for increased economic opportunity. The project “Opening Hearts and Homes: Tourism for Equality and Shared Society between the Arab and Jewish Citizens of Israel” (TESS) aims to mitigate the conflict between Jews and Arabs in Israel and generate measurable, positive changes in the perceptions and pre-existing stereotypes by developing tourism programs that will bring large numbers of Jewish Israelis, particularly youth and women, to visit Arab communities. Sikkuy seeks to increase economic opportunities and development and increase awareness and understanding of the Arab culture and current situation.
10. The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) (05/2012-04/2015; \$583,119): Sub-awards: House of Water and Environment (\$159,525): The Arava Institute is an Israeli organization that generates capacity for conciliation and cooperation in the Middle East, transcending political boundaries in order to achieve environmental change. The project “Mitigating Trans-boundary Waste-Water Conflicts” aims to help reduce and prevent further waste-water conflicts and disputes between Israel and the West Bank. AIES works with Palestinian and Israeli master’s level students, 30 Palestinian and Israeli high-school students, technicians and decision makers including mayors, city council members, local authorities and other government officials from both sides to engage Palestinians and Israelis on the shared interest of environmental protection through waste-water treatment.
11. Education and Society Enterprises Ltd/Mifalot (02/2012-06/2015; \$900,000): Mifalot is an Israeli organization that uses sports to bring together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish children and at-risk youth. The project “United Soccer for Peace” uses soccer to teach marginalized youth values, leadership and conflict mitigation skills.
12. Seeds of Peace (8/2012-2/2015; \$1,150,966): Seeds of Peace is a U.S. organization that aims to empower young people from regions of conflict with the leadership skills and interpersonal networks necessary to advance reconciliation and coexistence. The project “On Common Ground” is designed to provide Palestinian and Israeli youth between the ages of 14-32, as well as local educators, with experiences, opportunities, skill sets and resources needed to find common ground on the core issues within and between their societies that are perpetuating conflict and preventing peace. “On Common Ground” has three primary components: A) Community and Cross Border Dialogues; B) Building Capacities for Peace; C) Needed Leaders. Activities focus

on the unique role women play in peace-building, capacity building workshops for educators, summer camps for youth in the West Bank and Gaza, and a set of resources for teachers.

13. Beit Issie Shapiro (8/2013-8/2016; \$1,015,171): Beit Issi Shapiro is an Israeli organization founded more than 30 years ago and considered a leading organization in the field of disabilities, benefiting 30,000 people every year. The project "Creating the Ability to Connect" aims to bring together Jewish and Arab health professionals, caregivers, social workers, families, and youth from Ra'anana and Kalansawa to work together to ensure that Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish children with disabilities receive the best services possible while promoting mutual trust and understanding.
14. Hagar: Jewish-Arab Education for Equality (8/2013-2/2016; \$615,350): The Hagar Association is an Israeli NGO founded in 2006 to promote social change through bilingual, multicultural education and community programming. The project "Education for All: Expanding Integrated Education in Israel's Negev" will enable Hagar to expand its already established bi-lingual Jewish-Arab integrated school in Beer Sheva and reach additional Negev residents, bringing together individuals from different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds who would not otherwise find themselves in the same classroom. This integrated bilingual school provides Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab children and their families from the periphery the opportunity to know the language and the culture of the other and promotes greater understating, tolerance, and respect amongst the different groups who attend this school.
15. Save A Child's Heart (9/2013-9/2016; \$1,000,000): Save A Child's Heart (SACH) is an American organization founded in 1995 by the late Dr. Amram 'Ami' Cohen, an American cardiac surgeon. Dr. Ami first began to operate on indigent children on a voluntary basis. Since then, SACH has treated more than 3,300 children from a wide variety of countries. The project "The Heart of the Matter" aims to strengthen the pediatric cardiac care within the Palestinian Authority by building strong professional bonds between Israeli and Palestinian medical staff. Through existing cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding between SACH and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the project aims to increase the knowledge and expertise of Palestinian health care personnel in pediatric cardiac care through training programs at the Wolfson Medical Center (WMC) in Holon, Israel.
16. PeacePlayers International (PPI) (8/2013-8/2015; \$1,198,791): 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 "Peace Players Basketball Clubs" consists of three components: youth activities, leadership development program, and coaching for reconciliation, all of which aim to serve the purpose of bringing together Palestinian and Israeli children and young adults ages 6-30 to develop mutual trust and cross-community cooperation through sports, cultivating grassroots support for a just and lasting peace. The project uses basketball and life skill lessons as vehicles to unite and educate participants. Basketball provides a common language for the youth, fostering a culture of teamwork and coexistence.
17. EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East (9/2013-3/2015; \$1,198,960): Sub-Award: Friends of the Earth in the Middle East for Environmental Development (FoEME-ED) (\$360,000): FoEME is an Israeli organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. FoEME's main objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. The project "Green Economy Initiatives in the Good Water Neighbors Network of Communities" aims to foster economic cooperation between neighboring communities that share environmental resources to help ensure community-wide and ultimately national and regional cooperation over the management and use of these resources.
18. The Research Foundation of State University of New York on behalf of SUNY New Paltz Institute for Disaster Mental Health (8/2013-8/2014; \$93,169): Sub-Award: Ben Gurion University (BGU), Substance Abuse Research Center (SARC) (\$4,500): The Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz facilitates partnerships between groups working in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery by organizing and hosting trainings, conferences, and multi-agency meetings. The project "Mitigating Conflict via Early Mental Health Interventions: Community-Based Psychological First Aid Training for Palestinians and Israelis" aims to

enhance the provision of psychosocial assistance to vulnerable individuals in the region via a train-the-trainer program in Psychological First Aid (PFA). PFA is recommended by the World Health Organization and provides quick basic needs to help survivors of traumatic experiences.

19. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (09/2011-06/2014; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: Sadaka-Reut (\$600,876): The “Gemini” project, implemented by CRS in partnership with Sadaka-Reut, a youth partnership organization, focuses on bringing together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish youth aged 18 to 25 for an extended period of dialogue, skill-building, mentoring, and activism.
20. Peres Center for Peace (09/2011-06/2014; \$1,094,708); Sub-awards: Organization for the Advancement of Women Sports in Kiryat Gat (\$83,459): The Peres Center for Peace is an Israeli organization that seeks to build relationships of trust and coexistence between Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, and Palestinians through sports, health and education initiatives. The Peres Center is implementing a project entitled “Twinned Peace Sport Schools.” The project seeks to enable Israeli and Palestinian girls aged 6 to 14 to transcend the barriers of hostility and internalize the concepts of teamwork, fair play and mutual respect through healthy, enjoyable activities and cross-border encounters. The project seeks to maximize impact and sustain results by engaging participants’ families and communities, ensuring participation of women and girls, cultivating young leaders on both sides, and promoting long-term, cooperative relationships. The project aims to provide 320 children and youth from four underprivileged communities from the West Bank and southern Israel, with athletic training, peace and inter-language education, and joint sports and social events. Training will also be provided to Israeli and Palestinian adult coaches and peace education facilitators.
21. Search for Common Ground (9/2013 – 2/25/2015; \$704,424): Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is an international private voluntary organization working in the field of conflict transformation. The project “New Generation Initiative” aims to empower Israeli and Palestinian young leaders to constructively resolve conflict between their communities. The project will bring 60 Israeli and 60 Palestinian youth – men and women aged 21 to 30 – to undergo a joint process of experiential leadership skills training, dialogue, mentoring and learning about each other’s society that will raise awareness, break down barriers, and guide them towards using their acquired skills for promoting peaceful change in the region.