PROVISION FOR POST-PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND
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EVALUATION REPORT

UDF-PAL-08-245 Democratic dialogue in Palestine: Acculturation towards tolerance (Occupied Palestinian Territories)

Date: 13 February 2013

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restrictions, the impasse in peace negotiations and the continued frustration of the Palestinians in relation to their human rights limit the impact of the projects at a wider societal level. This limitation was of course beyond the control of RCHRS.

RCHRS had set indicators for **sustainability** that related to individual follow-up, and these were largely met. There were many examples of participants following up the project with individual initiatives, and additionally the RCHRS continues to engage with the participants through a monthly discussion group, on-line forum and informal contacts. The students themselves are active as a Facebook group. This, however, is the only real link between the West Bank and Gaza participants, and the evaluators noted that links between the two OPT areas are a continuing challenge.

In attempting to identify **UNDEF value-added**, the evaluators met with representatives of relevant UN agencies and NGOs and concluded that UNDEF had filled a significant gap in

support of the project had added to its legitimacy and was a unique initiative.

iii. Conclusions

This was a well designed project, effectively implemented and with significant support from both participants and other stakeholders. The body of the report contains some detailed comments that the RCHRS may wish to take into account in planning future initiatives of the same nature.

Restrictions on movement were taken into account in project implementation as far as possible, however they ***are a significant hurdle to full implementation and effectiveness as well as, ultimately, to impact***.

The training focused on improving understanding of theoretical concepts tolerance, human rights, discrimination and did not cover ***practical skills such as project design and management, fundraising and reporting, and evaluation and monitoring,*** which would have better equipped students to put their newly established knowledge into practice in their communities.

iv. Recommendations

For RCHRS

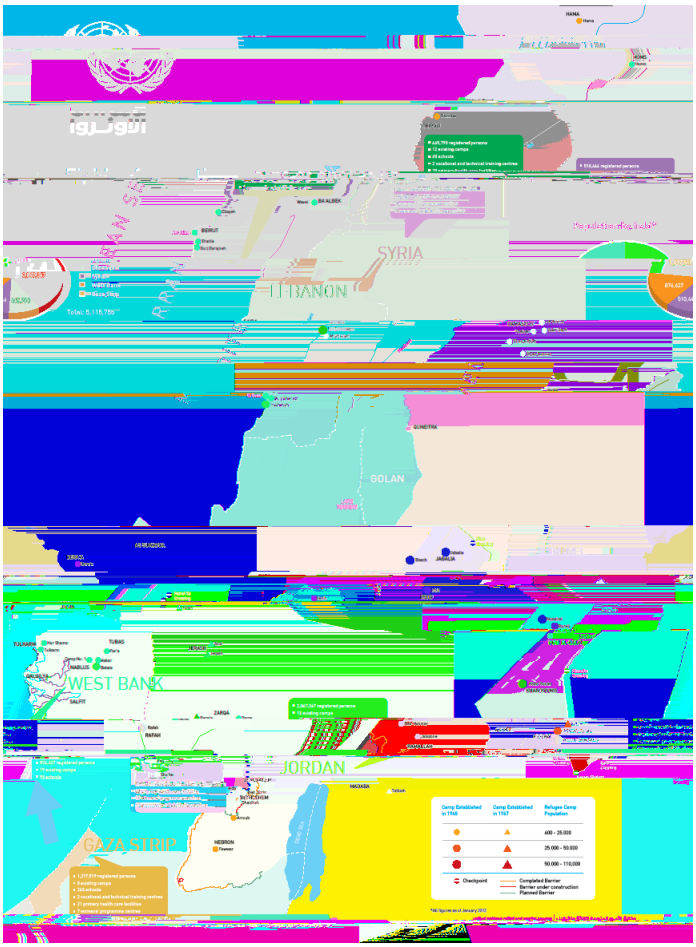
I. Introduction and development context

i. The project and evaluation objectives

From 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2011, the Ramallah Centre f

The experts interviewed staff of the implementing organization, academics who contributed to the project, political representatives, journalists and a ran
activities, as well as representatives of relevant UN agencies and NGOs. Interviews were conducted in English and Arabic.

Information was collected, analysed and is presented in this report according to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria of: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency,



Workshops, forums, conferences and exchange visits	Raise awareness and

III. EQ answers / findings

i. Relevance

Many of those interviewed confirmed that division among young people and indeed in Palestinian society more generally is a growing problem. This division, and discrimination that results from it, is primarily among political party lines, the problematic relationship between the Fatah wing of the PA and HAMAS being reflected both among individuals and structurally/organizationally.

Many young people insist that they do not belong to either party, but in reality it is difficult to -based PA) is seen as a pro-HAMAS statement, and criticism of HAMAS (or the situation in Gaza) is seen as irrevocably pro-Fatah. These political realities lead people also to see Gaza and West Bank Palestinians as distinct and different, with little in common.

Respondents also mentioned a growing tendency to stereotype people in relation to their hometown. While stereotypes of this kind are common in popular folklore in most countries, combined with the political and socio-

Restrictions on movement

Following the 1993 Oslo Accords, the West Bank was divided into three administrative divisions: area A, covering some 18% of the West Bank, is home to 55% of the Palestinian population and is under PA administration; area B, also under PA civil administration but whose security is under Israeli control, covers 21% of the land and is home to 41% of the population; area C is under Israeli administration and covers 61% of the West Bank with just 4% of the population being Palestinian.

Area A comprises Palestinian towns, and some rural areas away from Israeli settlements in the north (between Jenin, Nablus, Tubas and Tulkarem), the south (around Hebron), and a small central area south of Salfit. Area B covers other populated rural areas, many closer to the centre of the West Bank. Area C (including East Jerusalem) contains all the Israeli settlements, roads used to access the settlements, buffer zones (near settlements, roads, strategic areas and Israel), and almost all of the Jordan Valley and the

provided an impetus to the participants to organize outreach activities independently,

The students reported that they liked the methodology used, with small group discussions

A number of interviewees, both facilitators and decision makers, commented on the enthusiasm of the students and their willingness to participate, with the decision makers in

The final conferences elicited less enthusiasm, with a number of interviewees commenting that the format presentations of research papers on a number of diverse subjects was dry and lacked creativity. Several respondents also expressed concern that there were not

the media left soon after the opening session. Links between the West Bank and Gaza conferences were also seen as weak, with respondents lamenting the intermittent videoconference link. One participant in Gaza was even unaware that the project had run in the West Bank too.

These findings contribute to Conclusions (i) and (ii).

Community outreach

It was evident from interviews with the students that they emerged from the training eager to do something, and their major criticism was that they were not given enough concrete guidance on what form this action might take or how they should go about organizing it. To some extent, this support came through JCCC and cowing

A personal experience of human rights and the law

Rami, 23, joined the project in its second year. He

Seeing tolerance at work

One of the men who visited Europe as part of

churches and mosques side-by-side but more importantly, people living side-by-

said he now takes a strong stand to discourage stereotyping, even at home, where

In the second year of the project, there were municipal elections in the West Bank, and electoral processes and considerations were added to the training. As a result, the trainees grouped together to promote voting by young people, and monitored the process and youth involvement.

In some universities, the students organized meetings between the Fatah and HAMAS wings of the PLO and used the occasion to stress the fact that young people from all parties are t together, not divided, and

Participants from the American University in Jenin organized a meeting with four national decision

their villages and home communities, a number of participants became active in defending people targeted for their political or religious views. In one example, a participant mobilized a group of villagers to protect a known HAMAS sympathizer because

One

A decision maker suggested that, although he thought the project had been very successful and had made a sign

These findings contribute to Conclusion (vii).

When asked what might be done to spread the impact of the project given the seemingly intractable political realities of life in the OPT, the only solution that interviewees offered and on several separate occasions
of tolerance and human rights, more classes in schools and universities, more opportunities for young people to bring about change in a way that respects others and protects their rights, they believed, was the only way to build a tolerant society where divisions would

These findings contribute to Conclusion (viii).

Next steps

A number of interviewees, including representatives of UN agencies, said that they hoped such initiatives might continue because they were rare in the OPT and that there was a

suggested that the participants should be supported to pass messages on now to children in schools (something that one participant had indeed said they wished to do), and that teaching children non-violence and tolerance is vital to the future of the OPT. UN interviewees confirmed that, while UNRWA works with UNICEF and UNESCO to support -violence, this is not as effective as peer teachers and young people bringing the message into the school.

This finding contributes to Conclusion (vii and ix).

so there are no initiatives at that level. UNWOMEN also mentioned the lack of programmes run for or with students at tertiary level, with universities being seen only as potential sources of academics for commissioned research. UN respondents believe that UNDEF is ideally placed to support work at university level, although they suggested that isolated programmes will not be as effective as ongoing programmes and that local UNDEF partners should be

initiative such as the RCHRS programme and modifying it to work with young people who cannot go into tertiary education, especially in rural areas.

Clearly UNDEF played an important role in the promotion of tolerance and dialogue through this project, and the p

This finding leads to Conclusion (ix).

IV. Conclusions

i. Based on all findings above, but especially those related to impact and sustainability, it is clear that ***this was a well designed project, effectively implemented***. It received significant support from participants and other stakeholders. One minor design flaw was allowing decision makers to control the content and format of their meetings with students this could have given rise to unmet expectations and disengagement and was therefore a high-risk strategy.

ii. ***One challenge still largely unmet***, however, in relation to the ***is making strong links between young people in the West Bank and Gaza***. It is recognized that the obstacles to this geographically and politically are significant and may at this time be insurmountable.

iii. ***Restrictions on movement*** were taken into account in project implementation as far as possible, however they ***are a significant hurdle to full implementation and effectiveness as well as, ultimately, to impact***.

iv. The training focused on improving understanding of theoretical concepts tolerance, human rights, discrimination and did not cover ***practical skills such as project design and management, fundraising and reporting, and evaluation and monitoring,*** which would have equipped students to put their newly established knowledge into practice in their communities.

v. Although there was media coverage of the project and some events, it was left up to individual (interested) journalists to use these opportunities to cover the issues at the heart of the project. ***Media outreach was in general a weak point*** in the project.

vi. ***The project had significant impact on individuals who participated***. ***Ultimately, however, occupation and the injustice that Palestinians experience on a daily basis limit the impact of the project on a broader developmental scale***. This was outside the contro

viii. ***The project is likely to be sustainable***, since a large number of participants are a

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Evaluation questions

Annex 2: Documents reviewed

Background documents
CIA World Facts: West Bank
CIA World Facts: Gaza Strip
Statistical Atlas of Palestine 2009, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, December 2009
UNDP Human Development Indicators 2011 (

VI. Annex 3: People Interviewed

Activity	Dates
Preparatory phase start	August 2012
Travel to/from the OPT	6 September/14 September 2012
Effective mission dates	7 12 September 2012
Reporting	September 2012
8 September 2012	
International and local experts; New Vision Director	Briefing
Dr Iyyad Barghouti, Director RCHRS	Interview
Ashraf Okeh, Project Coordinator, West Bank	Interview
Talal Abu Rokbeh, Project Coordinator, Gaza	Phone interview
Bahi Al-Khateeb, Freelance journalist	Interview
9 September 2012	
Mohamad Falah Fuad Zakayneh Jaleel Hakam Afef Zakarneh Rama Mohamad Aqel Hamzaila Shimsaleh Manasra Mohannad Abu Ali Nonad Al Samell Abu Raya Abed Rahman Jamal Omar Qandeel Basem Ibrahem Ali Bderat -- Participants, West Bank	Focus Group
Rami Barghouti, Participant West Bank Europe trip	Interview
Wesim Alabed, Participant West Bank Europe trip	Interview
Wadieh Al Arabid, Participant, Gaza	Phone interview
Ibrahim Al Ghandour, Participant, Gaza	Phone interview
10 September 2012	
Fadi Abu Shamaleh, Conference facilitator, Gaza	Phone interview

Annex 4: Acronyms

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EQ	Evaluation Questions
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAMAS	Islamic Resistance Movement
HDI	Human Development Index
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territories
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
RCHRS	Ramallah Centre for Human Rights Studies
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US	United States
USD	United States dollar
WB	West Bank