

March 2019

DFID OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMME - QUARTERLY UPDATE #3

This document is the third quarterly update to Parliamentarians on the progress of DFID's People for Peaceful Change programme. It covers the period November 2018-January 2019. The programme brings together participants on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to gain a better understanding of the other, promote tolerance and work on issues which can benefit both the Israeli and Palestinian communities.

Headlines

- Israeli Palestinian and Jordanian health officials completed the final data collection phase and are finalising their research manuscript of the new Leishmaniosis diagnostic technique to diagnose Leishmaniosis.
- More than 200 young Israeli and Palestinian young participants took part in separate Holy Sites tours aimed at increasing understanding of religious tolerance.
- 37 women and political leaders participated in workshops, training, and events that will equip them with the skills and contacts they need to increase collaboration between their communities.

Activities

- Under the **health pillar** Israeli Palestinian and Jordanian health officials completed the final data collection phase and are finalising their research manuscript of the new Leishmaniosis diagnostic technique they have developed as part of the programme. The new technique is innovative and the first of its kind in using new generation sequencing specifically developed to diagnose the correct parasite infection.
- Under the **religious pillar**, more than 200 young Israelis and Palestinians took part in tours to joint holy sites. This concludes the programme's religious tours activities. Overall, 600 participants took part in these tours. Many participants mentioned never having visited these joint holy sites and participating schools reached out to request the continuation of these tours in the next academic year.
- Under the **youth pillar**, a group of 10 of Israeli and 6 Palestinian young female leaders participated one of the programme's "scenario building" activities. This aims to foster understanding and enhance participants' negotiation skills and enhance participant skills to promote peace in their communities while building a new joint scenario for peace based on a greater understanding of both the Israeli and Palestinian historical narratives. An additional group of 11 Israeli and 10 Palestinian political leaders took part in one of the programme's "desert expeditions," which foster personal connections and positive interaction between participants.

Research and Learning

- On the 13th of December Minister Burt chaired a roundtable discussion on the programme to give an update on the programme's work so far including on the research and learning. He confirmed that a research partner will shortly be added to the programme. DFID has agreed that SFCG should select the partner through a closed selection process because releasing the Terms of Reference for the research as part of an open competition would place sensitive information about existing programme activities into the public domain, which could be used to target future programme activities, individual participants, or local staff involved in the management of the programme. We will release an interim update on the research piece to update MPs shortly.