



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Minister of State

Deposited Papers Clerk
Members' Library
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 198340

9 October 2019

Dear Sir,

Please find attached a copy of the fifth Quarterly Update on DFID's People for Peaceful Change programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this document is placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

*Yours sincerely,
Andrew Murrison.*

DFID OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMME - QUARTERLY UPDATE #5

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

Headlines from the last quarter

- Participants in the health pillar of the programme completed a research abstract on Leishmaniasis. Health participants continue to test the Leishmaniasis diagnostics software programme they've developed.
- Israeli and Palestinian community leaders took part in a joint capacity building workshop to develop a joint historical narrative to improve peace in their local communities.
- Religious pillar participants continue to develop content for the interactive Mt. Zion/ Mount of the Prophet Daoud website <https://www.mountzion.org.il/> .

Detail about the activities

- Under the **health pillar**, Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian health officials completed an abstract for their research manuscript on the new Leishmaniasis diagnostic technique they developed as part of the programme. Health officials continue to run validation tests, results so far demonstrate that the new technique can be reliably applied to collect samples from various types of infections in a timely and pain-free manner.
- Under the **religious pillar**, work continues to develop on an interactive website, including a virtual guide and interactive map of Mount Zion/ Mount of the Prophet Daoud. This website aims to illustrate the diverse communities in Mount Zion/ Mount of the Prophet Daoud and their shared heritage. Additionally, a total of 105 young Israeli and Palestinian participants took part in Holy Sites tours designed to improve mutual understanding of the religious importance of Holy Sites shared by Jews, Muslims and Christians.
- Under the **youth pillar**, 24 community leaders (10 Palestinians and 9 Israelis) took part in a 3-day workshop to build their capacities to promote peace in their communities. The workshop aims to bring participants together to deepen understanding of other historical narratives. Feedback collected from participants indicated a positive learning experience from both Israeli and Palestinian participants.

Research and Learning

- The Search for Common Ground International Learning Team, commissioned to produce an analysis of people-to-people programmes in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to contribute to the evidence base, has completed a literature review of the subject.