|  |
| --- |
| February 2020 |

**DFID OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMME - QUARTERLY UPDATE #6**

This document is the sixth quarterly update to Parliamentarians on the progress of DFID’s People for Peaceful Change programme. It covers the period September 2019 – January 2020. 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 from the last quarter

* Participants in the programme’s health pillar completed additional research on the new Leishmaniasis diagnostic technique they developed as part of the programme. Health officials continue to run system validation tests to further evaluate the software.
* Israeli and Palestinians took part in a Joint negotiations workshop where they gained peacebuilding communication and negotiation skills to promote peace in their communities.
* The participants finalised and launched their Mt. Zion/ Mt. of the Prophet Daoud website. <https://www.mountzion.org.il/> .

Detail about the activities

* Under the **health pillar,** Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian health officials have completed additional research on the new Leishmaniasis diagnostic technique they developed as part of the programme. Health officials continue to run system validation tests to further evaluate the software. Participants have been able to apply the new diagnostic technique for laboratory technicians. Participants aim to submit the draft research manuscript to a peer review shortly.
* Under the **religious pillar,** The Mt. Zion/ Mt. of the Prophet Daoud was launched. It includes all published videos created in the project. Religious tours under this pillar are now complete, bringing the last group of 88 Israeli students (46 male, 42 female) to shared holy sites.
* Under the **leadership Pillar**,24 participants (14 male, 10 female), including 9 Israelis, 9 Palestinians, and 6 staff took part in a joint negotiations training workshop. Participants gained and applied peacebuilding communication and negotiation skills in interactive sessions and exercises on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, further building on their understanding of identity and the historical narratives of both sides.

Research and Learning

* The Search for Common Ground International Learning Team Lead research will be completed in end of February 2020. The research piece aims to contribute to the evidence base of what works and what does not in peacebuilding programmes.