

## CMM SUMMARIES-2009-2012

Since FY 2009, Public Affairs Tel Aviv monitors Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) programs within Israel, 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 in order to address the root causes of tension and instability. These projects are sponsored by USAID. Below is a list of the currently awarded CMM awards that are implemented by Israeli organizations.

<b>2009 AWARDS</b>
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**The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) --\$1,061,550 - Program Length: Four years – Sept 2009-Sept 2013**

**Arab Society – Police Relations:** The grant is covering three major areas:

**Policy Change** – Working with higher levels in the police, together with local officials and national government ministers, to implement community policing as policy in Israel's Police.

**Police Training and Practice** – Introducing democracy, human rights and knowledge of the Arab community into police training. The idea of policing with the community – the need for community involvement – will be integrated into police policy. This will involve learning from models around the world about best practices that integrate policing with community involvement.

**Community Empowerment and Reconciliation** – Facilitated seminars with the Arab community leadership, local representatives and police station staff, building local capacity to work with the Police to solve community problems.

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### 2010 AWARDS

**The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) -- \$999,715 - Program Length: Three years - Sept 2010-Sept 2013**

**Language as a Cultural Bridge:** This program organizes ongoing 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. The program is the only of its kind for children of this age group and the most widespread spoken Arabic course for any age group. Both groups come together in ongoing encounters for the students, parents, and teachers throughout their two-year participation in this program. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers. The Jewish Agency is also a sponsor of this initiative. Approximately 1,600 students participate in the activities funded under this grant.

**Arava Institute for Environmental Studies -- \$243,333 - Program Length: Two years Sept 2010-Sept 2012**

**The Youth Environmental Education Peace Initiative (YEEPI):** This project uses environmental education as a vehicle for bringing together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students. During the first year of this project, 20 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish graduates of the Arava Institute participate in a “train-the-trainers” course to learn how to facilitate cross-cultural encounters during the second phase. In the second year of the program, these trained leaders implement an environmental education program in partnered Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish high schools, bringing together approximately 300 high school students to learn about their shared responsibility to protect the environment.

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### **Center for Educational Technology (CET) -- \$559,000- Program Length: Three years - Sept 2010-Sept 2013**

**Shared Life: Learning Together for Mutual Understanding:** This program develops a bilingual website to build bridges among Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish high school students. The activity-rich website includes an eight-episode television series and classroom activities to reinforce the coexistence theme. Approximately 150 teachers throughout Israel receive training in using the website to teach civics education to approximately 2,000 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students. These students interact with each other and with their teachers through the website and participate in two face-to-face meetings during their participation in the program. The website is expected to reach a further 18,000 students through a robust advertising campaign. The Ministry of Education is a partner in this program and is providing enrichment hours for the teachers who participate in the training.

### **Peace Child of Israel -- \$258,233 - Program Length: Sept 2010-Dec 2011**

**Du-Drama, Pocahontas and West Side Story - Crossing the Segregation:** This program brings together 30 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish tenth-grade students each year for a year-long extracurricular course in theater and music. The mixed group of students prepare two American plays -- Pocahontas in year one and West Side Story in year two -- to advance the theme of coexistence. They perform the plays throughout Israel, reaching over 2,000 audience members each year. After each play, the students answer questions from the audience regarding their experiences as Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students working on a shared goal.

### **Merchavim -- \$750,000 - Program Length: Three years - Sept 2010-Sept 2013**

**Shared Citizenship on Sesame Street:** This grant develops teacher training materials featuring characters on the Israeli version of Sesame Street (“Rehov Sumsum”) to teach the concept of shared citizenship. Approximately 1,200 Arab and Jewish kindergarten teachers receive training in using these course materials,

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and 36,000 of their kindergarten students participate directly in related classroom activities. Video content relating to the program will also be showcased nationally on the leading Israeli children's television channel ("Hop!"), which carries Rechov Sumsum. Sesame Street's global content directors in New York vet all content developed for this program. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers.

### 2012 AWARDS

#### **1. Arab-Jewish Community Center (Israeli NGO, Israel program)**

Sub-Partner: N/A

Dollar Value: \$100,000

Duration: 18 months – Feb 2012– Jul 2013

Overview: The Arab-Jewish Community Center (AJCC) seeks support for a program entitled "Jewish-Arab Class Exchange Program." This program recognizes that the majority of the Jewish and Arab youth have not been previously exposed to the other, and in recent months tensions have been increasing in Jaffa. This program is expected to contribute to increase tolerance and respect for the "other" between the Arab and Jewish youth regardless of their background.

This program will bring Jaffa conflicted youth together during the school year for artistic meetings and dialogue. This program will implement approximately sixteen joint Arab-Jewish meetings for ten Arab and ten Jewish schools in the Jaffa/Tel Aviv area. The program will create pairings of Jewish-Arab classrooms targeting around 1,200 children between the ages of 11-13. The program will utilize art and dialogue as tools for breaking stereotypes and to get to know the "other." The meetings will be held at the Jewish-Arab Community Center in Jaffa as well as at targeted Jewish and Arab schools.

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By hosting some of the meetings at the schools, the participants will get an opportunity to know their Jewish or Arab counterparts better. Facilitated sessions and discussions will be held around a central theme (culture, religion, language, and environment) which would have to be represented through artistic expressions such as dance, arts and music. The artistic activities will enable youth to express their feelings and communicate without necessarily using words as well as reinforce the importance of tolerance, which is one of the foundations for real meaningful dialogue with each other. At the end of the program, each Arab-Jewish pair will carry out a joint presentation to be attended by the community members and families to show the positive effects that the program had on the children.

Beneficiaries: 1,200 Jewish and Arab children from the Jaffa/Tel Aviv area