



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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A word from Mehra Rimer

Executive Director and Co-founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2022 marked B8 of Hope's 6th anniversary! What kept us going this year? Is there still hope despite the growing challenges of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Did B8 of Hope have a constructive impact and how? This annual report will hopefully give good answers to these questions.

2022 was a difficult year and presented distressing challenges. The political and social relations between Israelis and Palestinians continued to deteriorate. Eruption of deep tensions and violence between Palestinians and Israelis within Israel and in the Palestinian territories worsened, culminating in radicalization and polarization in Israeli politics leading to new elections. Given all this bad news and difficult circumstances, being a peace activist working towards dialogue and justice was harder and harder. Some of the activists of our grantee organizations and movements were themselves subject to threats because they work "with the enemy" (normalization) and some of our heroes even lost loved ones to the conflict this year.

Despite these institutional challenges and personal tragedies, our organizations and movements continued their work in peace activism with courage without hesitation. This commitment by itself gave us hope and kept us going! We dedicated our work to supporting the people and initiatives on the ground; the people directly impacted in their daily lives, the organizations dedicated to disrupting the negative dynamics in Israel and Palestine. The movements called on all Israelis and Palestinians to co-resist the violence.

B8 of Hope believes that our work is needed more than ever. Building peace in growing adverse conditions is the hardest and most necessary mission. It is about keeping faith in humanity and offering an alternative to the simple reflex of hate and violence.

It is in this effort and spirit, that B8 of Hope continued its activity throughout 2022 and celebrated the humanity of the courageous peace-builders in the region, convinced that investing in humanity and humanization will reinforce human rights and make them more sustainable in the long run. Peace between Israelis and Palestinians will come from the bottom up. And by peace we mean a shared future, based on equality, dignity and safety for all.

Concretely, throughout this year, we supported 20 Israeli and Palestinian grassroots and civil society peacebuilding and change-making initiatives. In addition to that, we funded 7 collaborative projects (involving a total of 16 organizations and movements) to encourage "synergy projects" between organizations in order to help them share best practices and scale their individual impact.

The combination of our main missions: raising and granting funds, as well as, providing visibility, networking possibilities and capacity & synergy building opportunities, translated into more people-to-people connections, transformative experiences and better living conditions for Palestinians and Israelis.

Finally, we continued to work on our local mission, our educational role outside the conflict zone focused on creating a healthier and more constructive discourse in Switzerland. We believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also fed by external international polarization. We strive to offer a more constructive alternative to outsiders by encouraging them to be “Pro- Palestinian-and-Israeli-peace-builders” rather than being just pro-Israel or pro-Palestine

On a positive note, this year, we saw the “light at the end of the tunnel” in terms of Covid restrictions and we were able to resume 100% of our activities, which you will learn more about in this report. I am proud to say that a lot has been accomplished.

Peacefully Yours,



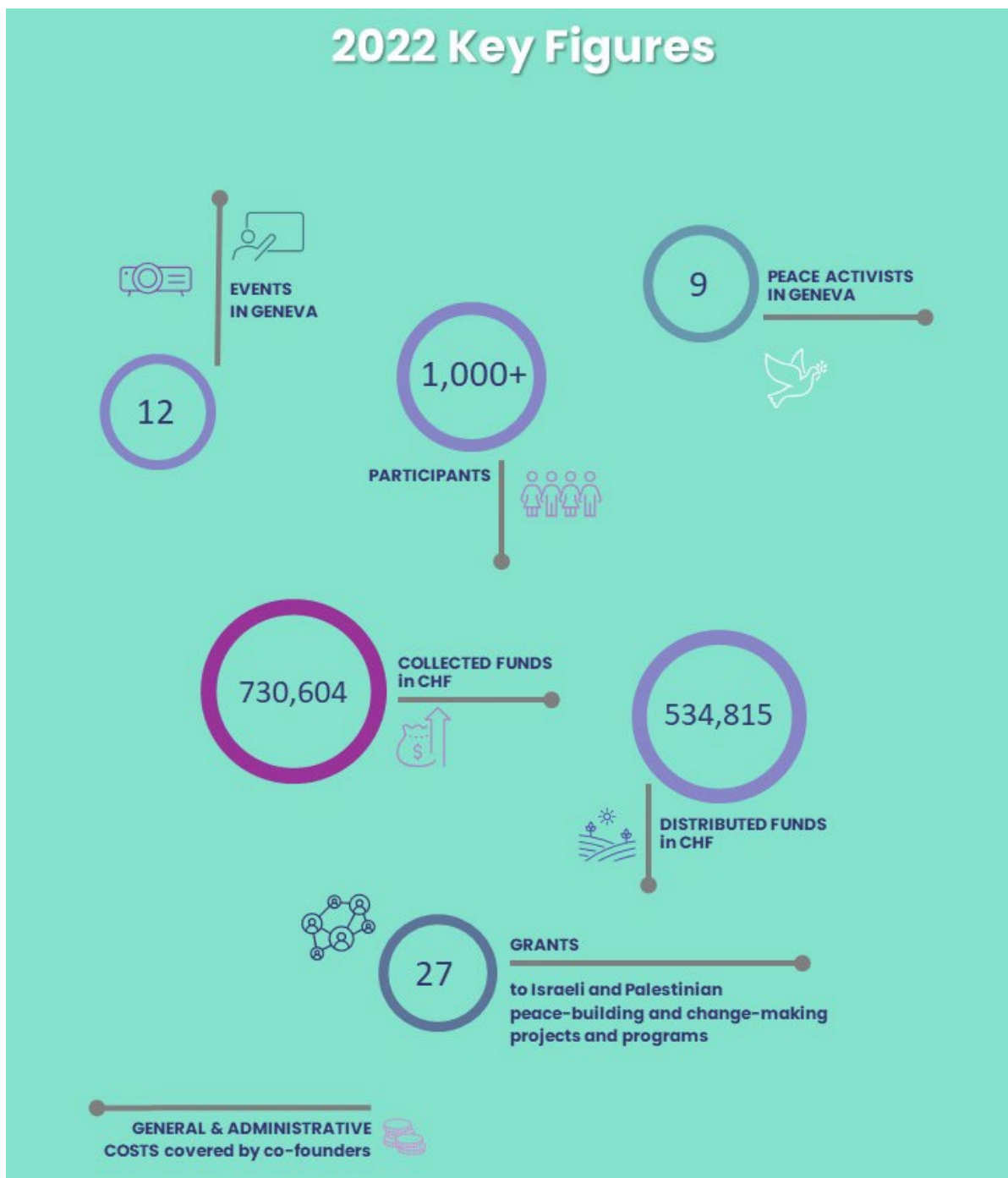
Mehra



About B8 of Hope

Our Vision: a peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians based on equal rights, respect, dignity, inclusivity and safety for all the people living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

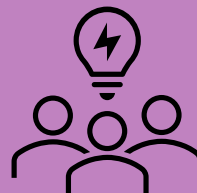
Our Mission: to support Israeli and Palestinian grassroots and civil society initiatives paving a path for this vision and to create a community of supporters abroad who are pro-solution rather than pro-sides, pro Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders and change-makers rather than just pro Israel or pro Palestine.



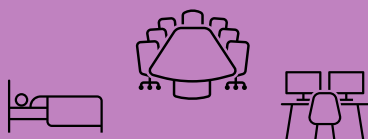
B8 of Hope's Resources & Tools: mostly powered by



worldwide youth group
of several
student ambassadors

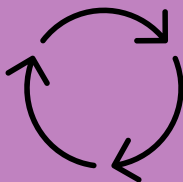


8 board members & sponsors
among which
1 full-time pro-bono director

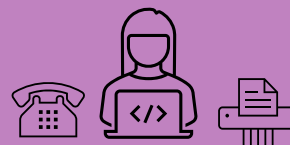


100% SPONSORED INFRASTRUCTURE:

- workspace for day-to-day activities
- meeting room for workshops
- accommodation for visiting activists
courtesy of the Rimer family



reliable network of
volunteers & partners
for events in Switzerland



part-time multi-purpose employee
augmented by qualified interns
& volunteer professionals



Our work in Geneva and outside “Israel-Palestine”

is about:

- Organizing events and encounters giving visibility as well as networking opportunities to peacebuilding and change-making Israeli and Palestinian civil society and grassroots initiatives
- Providing educational opportunities for our audiences and in particular for high-schoolers and university students in order to create a healthier discourse around the conflict and build a community who is pro-solution rather than pro-sides: pro Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders and change-makers rather than just pro-Israel or pro-Palestine.
- Raising funds for the activities of Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations and movements paving a path for a better future based on equal rights, dignity and safety for all Palestinians and Israelis.
- Working in synergies with other Swiss and international organizations which share our values and support Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilding efforts

Various peace activists and events in Geneva

by chronological order

In 2022, six peace builders and change-makers from different organizations were invited by B8 of Hope to Geneva! This allowed our community of friends and supporters as well as high-schoolers and students to hear new ideas and firsthand accounts from Israelis and Palestinians involved in civil society and grassroots initiatives. Furthermore, it also allowed our friends and supporters to learn about the direct and concrete impact of B8 of Hope’s work:

❖ Samah Salaime

At the end of the month of February, we had a short visit from Samah Salaime, educational director at [Wahat Al-Salam - Neve Shalom](#) (Oasis of Peace in Arabic and Hebrew).

Wahat Al-Salam - Neve Shalom is a small village of Palestinian and Jewish citizens living together and has a population of 70+ families. Situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the community was established in 1970 by Father Bruno Hussar on land of the Latrun Monastery. It is a model of equality, mutual respect and partnership that challenges existing patterns of racism, discrimination and the continued conflict. The community has established educational institutions based on its ideals and conducts activities





focused on social and political change. Many of the village residents work in peace, justice and reconciliation projects and speak both languages and manage their community in unity. Neve Shalom – Wahat Al-Salam is the symbol and the embodiment of what could be possible at a larger binational scale.

During her stay in Geneva, Samah also got to learn more about B8 of Hope, she met some of our board-members and made a presentation for a group of women who support B8 of Hope. We also took the opportunity of her presence to interview her.

[Click here](#) to listen to the 5th episode of our Podcast series with Samah.

❖ Ali Abu Awwad

During the Spring, Ali Abu Awwad, Palestinian activist of non-violence and founder of [Taghyeer Movement](#) was hosted by generous supporters in our region. Ali's stay in a peaceful surrounding in the Alps – isolated from the conflict as to work intensively on his manifesto – was very fruitful. This opportunity for Ali to take a step back from his daily activism on the ground to put ideas on paper (so that they can be spread further away) is an important step to scale his vision. The manifesto is a document which will gather all of his thoughts on non-violence and conflict resolution. It was finalized with his team of writers: Michael McRay and Stephen Stern. We are looking forward to its official publication and its rippling effect hopefully in 2023.



During his stay, Ali also came to Geneva and met with members of our board as well as a group of our B8 of Hope Next Gen.

We also took the opportunity of his presence in Geneva to record our [6th episode of our podcast series](#).

While deepening and finalizing the writing of his manifesto, with his team, Ali's stay coincided with the presence of Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green from another B8 of Hope grantee movement: Standing Together. Taghyeer and Standing Together, a Palestinian movement and an Israeli movement meeting in the Swiss Alps: many notes were compared!

❖ Alon-Lee Green and Sally Abed

From May 17th-19th, B8 of Hope hosted Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green from [Standing Together](#) for a series of fund-raising dinners, with 70 guests among our community of supporters.

Standing Together is a grassroots people's movement which mobilizes and organizes Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel locally and nationally. They work on campaigning for peace, equality, and social justice in order to empower citizens of Israel and transform its society.

Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green stood together – representing the entire pool of B8 of Hope grantees (and not only their own movement). With bravery they presented and allowed us to join them from here (in Geneva) to STAND TOGETHER with them, behind them and in full support to an awe-inspiring community of Israeli & Palestinian peace-builders.



We are thrilled to have received the support and encouragement from all our friends here in Switzerland from different backgrounds: Swiss, Arabs (across different Middle Eastern countries), Jewish (Sephardic and Ashkenazi) and Internationals (ranging from Sweden to Ecuador including an exceptional Ukrainian donor who lives a conflict of her own and yet still finds time and place to support B8 of Hope).



Geneva is a rainbow of tolerance. During Standing Together's presence in Switzerland, and despite tragedies on the ground, we had a glimpse of hope. The message we all took home was powerful.



Sally and Alon-Lee also took part in our podcast series and they are featured in the [7th episode](#).

❖ Eran Nissan and Wasim Almasri

International Peace Day observed around the world on September 21st was unsurprisingly eventful for us at B8 of Hope. On its occasion, we invited our friends and supporters to participate in the [Geneva PeaceTalks 2022](#) of September 21st; an in-person event which took place at the Palais des Nations (Geneva), and which was live streamed in both English and French.

PeaceTalks showcases the inspirational stories of people making a positive contribution to Peace. The initiative was co-founded by the United Nations Geneva Office, [Interpeace](#) and the [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#) – all coming together with the support of the Swiss Government. This year marked PeaceTalks' 10th anniversary, and we at B8 of Hope are extremely proud to have been a partner of their milestone edition!



Eran Nissan (from [New Story Leadership](#)) and Wasim Almasri (from [Alliance for Middle East Peace](#)), two of our Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders whose work is supported by B8 of Hope, were among the five hand-picked keynote speakers of the event.

What does Peace mean to you?



PeaceTalks

The next evening, a small private dinner in the presence of 30 guests was given in their honor by the B8 of Hope co-founders and team to let our friends and supporters engage with the speakers on a more casual and intimate level.



[Click here](#) to read Eran and Wasim’s interview in Geneva Solutions’ online media platform.

❖ Mehra Rimer’s TEDx Talk in Geneva

Mehra Rimer our co-founder and Executive Director gave a 11 minute talk at the Geneva TEDx Talks in June. Her talk was about the transformative impact of people-to-people connections, and pays tribute to some of our courageous and inspiring Peace-builders and Change-makers in the Holy Land.



❖ The Mid East Storytellers exhibit

In terms of visibility, our Street Exhibit in Promenade de Saint Antoine, from June 1st to 19th, 2022 was a great success. It featured the 18 portraits of the Mid East Storytellers and attracted a great number of passers-by in the heart of the Old Town of Geneva. Passers-by could scan the QR codes at the bottom of each portrait and listen to each story and explore more pictures online!

The Mid East Storytellers' concept was launched in November 2020 by B8 Of Hope, [Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#) and [Pendulum – Creative Chagency](#). This inspiring collection of stories reflects the voices of Israelis and Palestinians, who are active members of grassroots and civil society initiatives on the ground, paving a path for a shared future based on equal rights, dignity and safety for all.

[Click here](#) to view the online platform.

In the evening of June 9th, the B8 of Hope team gathered on site with members of B8 of Hope Next Gen youth group, in presence of Orson Ophir, our intern and talented graphic designer of this exhibit.

[Click here](#) to see the pictures of the event!



Credit Photo: ALLMEP

The exhibit was also featured in the Spring, in Jerusalem at the Alliance for Middle East Peace Conference (our partners in this venture).



Credit Photo: ALLMEP

It also traveled to the United States on the occasion of the JStreet Conference from December 1st to 6th, in Washington DC.

Presentations in schools and universities and engaging youth

An audience of 230 + students!

❖ Wettingen High-School (Canton of Argovie)

In February, we organized a hybrid event. By the means of technology, we, B8 of Hope, found ourselves simultaneously in Geneva, Wettingen (Canton of Argovie), Tel-Aviv and Ramallah – all at the same time! Welcome to the MetaB8ofHope!

The [Wettingen high school](#) (in the German speaking part of Switzerland) hosted us in the framework of an interdisciplinary weeklong project around the theme of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As part of our local educational mission in Switzerland, we presented our vision and activities to a classroom of 23 students (age 16+).

A screening of the multiple award-winning film [Disturbing The Peace](#) was played followed by a virtual Q&A with two of the film’s protagonists Chen Alon (from Tel Aviv) and Souli Khatib (from Ramallah). Chen and Souli are co-founders of [Combatants for Peace](#), a movement of former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian freedom fighters who chose to give up their weapons for a fairer & better future.

Disturbing The Peace features many of the movement’s members and carries a universal message that applies to all conflicts. Stephen Apkon and Marcina Hale (film director and producer as well as co-founders of Reconsider) challenge us to think that no matter who we are, where we live or what we do:

“One must understand the narrative within one's life, to look at one’s current role in society, and to take responsibility for that role one plays – questioning if it creates a more humane world, for all?”

That is why, B8 of Hope keeps screening this movie + Q&A panel to encourage critical thinking and constructive behavior.



❖ Institut Florimont

On February 24th and 25th, B8 of Hope was hosted by [Institut Florimont](#) (a prestigious Geneva high school) for a screening of "[Guerrières de la Paix](#)" + Q/A with film director Hanna Assouline. The audience: 167 12th graders.

Our participation in Florimont's February week of human rights has become a tradition. It is now the fourth running year that we are being invited. Although we are focused on humanization rather than human rights (strictly speaking), we are extremely grateful that the institute gives our message visibility which in turn gives the students the alternative of being pro-peacebuilders rather than pro-sides.



One of the impacts of this school presentation touched us in particular. Several students (on the initiative of 2 classmates: a Moroccan Jew and an Egyptian Muslim) expressed their desire to travel together to the Holy Land and visit it through the lenses of B8 of Hope!

❖ The American Graduate School

In March, The [American Graduate School](#) in Paris hosted B8 of Hope in the framework of their Speaker Series. The event was hybrid catering for an audience of 23 of their students. Mehra Rimer joined from Geneva whilst Sulaiman Khatib, Palestinian co-founder of [Combatants for Peace](#) joined from Ramallah. Mehra presented the projects of Combatants for Peace (a B8 of Hope grantee) whilst Sulaiman gave insight on his journey of transformation which brought him to peacebuilding. Should you wish to know more about Sulaiman's story, you can purchase his book "In this place together, A Palestinian's Journey to Collective Liberation", co-written with Penina Eilberg-Schwartz on various platforms accessible [here](#).



❖ The Philanthropic Adventures – B8 of Hope workshop

From October to December, B8 of Hope collaborated with the Geneva-based association [Philanthropic Adventures](#), around a workshop about peace philanthropy with a group of 12 high-schoolers (from Collège Candolle, Ecole Internationale de Genève, Ecole Moser, Institut Florimont) at our B8 of Hope workspace in Geneva.

The purpose of this workshop is about a journey towards peacebuilding through the lenses of B8 of Hope while learning the skills of philanthropy with the facilitator of Philanthropic Adventures, Paola Genovese. Philanthropic Adventures is an educational platform for young people to find information, inspiration and support to take action for social and environmental issues they care about. Philanthropic Adventures aims to democratize the concept of philanthropy and help young people define their engagement and bring change.

“Because giving back and giving well is an adventure full of discovery and emotions”

Lets Talk about Peace

Learn about Peace Building in the Middle East with B8ofHope and use your time, skills and creativity to support MEET (Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow) a peace grassroots initiative.

Participate in a 5-sessions Workshop

Step 1: Lets Talk about Peace (1 session)

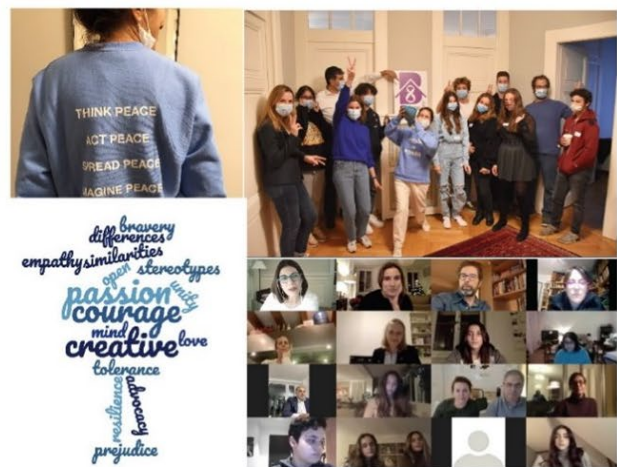
Meet B8ofHope and get a better understanding of their mission and Peace Building in the Middle East.

Step 2: Explore (2 sessions)

Meet a grassroots peace initiative, MEET, and evaluate projects.

Step 3: Act (2 sessions)

Learn how to fundraise in collaboration with A.Community.ch, and organise a fundraising event to support Peace.



Location
B8ofHope offices
Rte de Chêne 63



Dates
Tuesdays 5-7pm
From 01.11 to 13.12 2022



Ages
14-18



Takeaways
Projects Evaluation
Fundraising tools
Social awareness

For info and registration:
hello@philanthropicadventures.com



❖ Internships

This year, we welcomed 3 young interns. Orson and Romane worked under the supervision of Chrystelle Thiébaud, who is our Director of Operations and in charge of our administration, special projects and internship program. Ben worked under our Executive Director’s supervision.

Orson Ophir (17 years old), Year 12 student at the [International School of Geneva](#) is definitely our youngest intern ever! In 2020, when in Year 11, he participated in the [Philanthropic Adventures](#) – B8 of Hope first pilot workshop exploring B8 of Hope’s work. He was an attentive and motivated participant. His interest in the Middle East combined with his skills in graphic design made him eligible for our internship program! From October 2021 to June 2022, during his after school free-time, while learning about B8 of Hope and the role of narratives and storytelling in conflict resolution, Orson worked on the graphic design of our street exhibit of [Mid East Storytellers](#).



The highlight of his internship was to see the result of his work in the street exhibit in the old town of Geneva. What a nice way to end an internship! In the evening of June 9th, the B8 of Hope team gathered on site with members of B8 of Hope Next Gen youth group, in presence of our talented young graphic designer of this exhibit. [Click here](#) to see the pictures of the event.



Romane Caparros (18 years old), a student of international relations at [ILERI – Institut Libre d’Etude des Relations Internationales et des Sciences Politiques](#) interned at B8 of Hope during the months of May and June 2022. She contributed to the smooth running and logistics of our various events such as our fundraising evenings and the stay of our visiting activists. She also was in charge of parts of the tasks around the launch of our Mid East Storytellers street-exhibit in the old town of Geneva as well as the elaboration of our youth group “Next Gen” ’s internal new structure. Romane was a very diligent intern and we are grateful for her hard work.

Ben MacLeod, (18 years old), finished high school in June 2022. Before starting his law studies at the University of Fribourg in the fall, he interned for B8 of Hope and took part in a trip “on the ground”. His internship was short but intense – a ten-day dive into exploring and writing reports on the activities.

Shadowing Mehra during her July visit in Israel and the West Bank, Ben surely improved his understanding of several organizations: A Land for All, Parents Circle Families Forum, Combatants for Peace, Women of the Sun, Roots, Holy Land Trust, Taghyeer, Tech2 Peace and Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow. Ben’s enthusiasm and motivation made our Executive Director very proud.

[Click here](#) to read his report!



❖ Next Gen Activities

The B8 of Hope’s [Next Gen](#) youth group which was launched in 2021 is a small network of brilliant and highly educated students and graduates of universities in Europe, US and Canada. Their common ground is that they are interested in peacebuilding, they have interacted with B8 of Hope at some point in the past years (either by attending our events, interning or volunteering for us or by reaching out to us for their masters or Phd research work...).

The goal of the B8 of Hope Next Gen youth group is for B8 of Hope not to lose contact with those valuable young supporters and to introduce them to one another, as well as to create a network of like-minded young peace advocates. We believe that they are our agents of change and ambassadors of our pro-peace message in their own circles. We hope that one day, some of them will ensure the continuity of B8 of Hope’s work. Furthermore, being part of the network is also a way to have access to interesting learning opportunities.

From simply attending some of our events to taking a more proactive role, here is a glimpse of what some of our Next Geners have been up to this year:

- During February and March, Noa Weller, Perdita Pierce Jones, Margaux Thomas and a few others in their circles volunteered with [PATHWAYS Institute for Negotiation Education](#) (an NGO which is involved in our of B8 of Hope’s Synergies Lab projects) to provide support for their Game Changers in Education workshops.

PATHWAYS ran an international virtual exchange program connecting higher education institutions serving various communities in Israel and in the U.S. [Game Changers in](#)

Education, is designed to connect undergraduate education majors and pre-service teachers for intercultural exchange and learning/practice of negotiation skills and to build their vision of how they, as educators, can be future leaders in their schools and communities. The Next Geners volunteered to support one of the sessions as co-facilitators, helping to facilitate break-out group discussions, negotiation preparations, and debriefs during 1 session a week.

- In the spring, we were also happy that we could have some of Ali Abu Awwad's time in Geneva, for him to have conversations with some of the Geneva based members of our B8 of Hope Next Gen youth group, as part of our educational mission.



- In early July, Noa Grandchamp joined Mehra Rimer in her visit to Israel and the West Bank and took part in some of the explorations. Noa volunteered to take [these beautiful pictures](#) of the activities.

- Later in the summer, Alexandra Merguerian, specializing in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Uppsala University joined the Jerusalem Youth Chorus on a three-day alumni retreat held at the Keshet Eilon music school in Northern Israel. A music enthusiast, Alexandra came back from this unique fieldwork experience with a wealth of inspiring stories useful to her final research paper: "Can borders of identity and trauma be crossed in times of intractable conflict? Young voices from Jerusalem" to be published in the Spring of 2023, with the mention of B8 of Hope. We are grateful to Alexandra for her interest in us and acknowledgment of our work in her paper.



Credit Photo: Alexandra Merguerian

+

- During the fall, Alexandra Merguerian and Jessica Fayon volunteered for B8 of Hope and worked on a document analyzing our social media needs. We are very grateful to both of them as we lack resources and time for this type of analysis and it is crucial for B8 of Hope to use pro-bono help for this type of need.

Working in synergies with other Swiss and international organizations

At B8 of Hope, we believe that the peacebuilding community needs to work in synergies whether on the ground in Israel and Palestine, or abroad among the organizations supporting the NGOs and movements active on the field.

In this spirit, B8 of Hope collaborates with several peers:

❖ Alliance for the Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)

[ALLMEP](#) is based in Washington DC with European headquarters in Paris. Our biggest collaboration this year was several editions of the Mid East Storytellers exhibit (Jerusalem, Geneva, Washington DC).

B8 of Hope also hosted the ALLMEP team-building retreat in our co-founders Mehra and David Rimer's residence in Avoriaz.



Credit Photo: ALLMEP

“This week, the global ALLMEP team had the privilege to connect for a long-overdue team retreat, thanks to our partners and allies at B8 of Hope who hosted us in the French Alps.

After the separation and disruption of COVID-- and amid the continued violence and deterioration on the ground-- this was the first time that the whole staff from the Middle East, US and Europe had the opportunity to pull back from the day-to-day pressures of this work and connect as a team, reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of this moment.

ALLMEP's membership has expanded rapidly in the last two years, as has our global team. But so have the challenges that our community of peacebuilders seeks to overcome. We are incredibly grateful to Mehra, David, Chrystelle and everyone at B8 of Hope for hosting us this week. It allowed us to come together as a team, to hone our strategy, and to ensure that we deliver for our community of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders at this critical time for everyone who cares about peace and equality.”



❖ Amal Tikva

Based in Jerusalem, [Amal-Tikva](#) specializes in capacity building for NGOs. Many of our grantees have benefited from their Fieldbuilding 360° program which helped to improve their vision, mission and governance. We too decided to undergo the program and evaluate the way we work and the outcome of this very useful exercise will be implemented in 2023.

This year Amal-Tikva also helped us refine, polish and finalize our "Synergies Lab", a fund dedicated to collaborative projects between our grantees. To stimulate synergies between our grantee organizations



and scale up their impact through collaborations, B8 of Hope with the help of Amal Tikva called for applications that target collaborative projects in January. In the Spring, we selected 7 projects which connected a total of 15 organizations. These projects involve partnerships that run programs, share data and resources, or develop mutual capabilities. A total amount of 155,000 USD was distributed.

Finally, in the spirits of synergies, we also partnered with Amal Tikva around the second edition of an umbrella crowdfunding in December. A dozen NGOs and movements (mainly from B8 of Hope's pool of grantees) participated. These NGOs and movements recognized that they are greater together than the sum of their parts. Our role as capacity-builders was also about helping them find new ways of funding their activities and scaling them up by themselves. A total amount of 401,716 USD was raised!

amaltikva
אמל תיקבה

BUILDING A MORE PEACEFUL REALITY TOGETHER



❖ Coexistences

[Coexistences](#) is a Swiss registered, Lausanne based association.

This year, we partnered with them by supporting their “Strengthening the Dynamic Between Facilitators of the Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue” seminar which took place from September 4th-13th.

A dozen Israeli and Palestinian facilitators (of dialogue groups including from our grantee organizations) received a unique opportunity to share their field experience and toolboxes; as well as pay attention to their soft spot or their lack of a specific training they might have.

Throughout the 9-day seminar, a cross-fertilization of diverse, rich and effective practices emerged, all the whilst each participant’s psychological need was addressed on the micro level. The combination of Coexistence’s expertise and B8 of Hope’s funding of the seminar (alongside other Swiss funders) was a very fruitful collaboration.



Credit Photo: Coexistences

Raising Funds

In 2022, a series of dinners with small circles of friends and supporters helped us raise 365'600 CHF, which were matched by our co-founders David and Mehra Rimer.

Financial Statements available to our donors upon request (please send a request to info@b8ofhope).

B8 of Hope trips

B8 of Hope does due diligence by visiting its grantees and staying connected to the ground. We also meet with our international peers and partners, attend relevant conferences abroad and stay in touch with the peace-building community in Europe and in the United States.

❖ Feb 4th – Feb 11th: A long awaited trip!

After two years of not having been on the ground, our Executive Director, Mehra Rimer along with our Director of Operations, Chrystelle Thiébaud flew to Israel and the West Bank for an intense week of work.

Despite the restricted travels of these past two years, B8 of Hope had maintained (throughout these times) regular contacts with its grantees via online meetings. However this “in-person” reconnection was truly needed and dare we say – magnificent! It gave a grand boost of energy to both B8 of Hope and to the on the ground peacebuilders.

Jean-Marc Liling, one of B8 of Hope’s board members and representative (living in Jerusalem) joined Chrystelle and Mehra in a series of meetings across the land.

From Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem all the way through Gush Etsion, Beit Jala, Ramallah and Khalil/Hebron, B8 of Hope traveled and met with 170 representatives of different Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. Some of these organizations are B8 of Hope’s grantees and others have been on our radar since more recently.

The purpose of these meetings was to reinforce synergies. We brought together more than 20 NGOs and movements in one same room. One of B8 of Hope’s core mission is to foster synergies between its grantees (and more generally between grassroots and civil society change-makers). We encourage these movements to join forces when it makes sense. We believe synergies are key in scaling up impact. We also believe they are a way of optimizing the spending of funds that organizations receive from us.

Our concept of synergies was born in 2019. A few collaborations have started since then, but all are still fairly nascent. So we have come up with the concept of the [Synergies Lab](#) to deepen and explore further the idea.

After this trip, for the first time ever, we offered an additional grant opportunity to current grantees incentivizing them to build bridges with one another and thus scale themselves. Whether they choose to do so via a joint running of programs, sharing data & resources, or developing capacity – at B8 of Hope we are confident that such synergies will bring them further success.

The 7 collaborative projects that resulted from that trip are described in our work on the ground section [below](#).

Here is an overview of the trip:



❖ May Trip

May began with a joint memorial ceremony – a dual affair taking place in parallel locations: Tel Aviv (Israel) and Beit Jala (Palestinian Authority Territories in the West Bank – Area C). B8 of hope co-sponsored this most inspiring peace event which Mehra Rimer on her side attended as part of her due diligence.

The event which took place on May 3rd brought a moment of union to both bereaved Israeli and Palestinian parents; a moment for them to mourn their loved ones together.

Although afar, the miracles of technology gave the impression to be in one and the same room as the people mourning on the other side. A total of 200,000 participants joined this hybrid ceremony, either in presence in Tel-Aviv and Beit Jala or virtually through different channels (Zoom, YouTube and Facebook).



❖ June Trip

Our Vice-Chair Leila Hawa took a short trip to Israel in June – she was joined by her friends and B8 of Hope supporters Mr and Mrs Altounian. This trip was an occasion for Leila to catch up with our board member and representative on the ground, Jean-Marc Liling. She also took the opportunity to introduce Mr and Mrs Altounian to Chen Alon co-founder of Combatants for Peace and Sally Abed, Head of Development at Standing Together. A "B8 of Hope" journey to Bethlehem was also organized for Mr Altounian where he met with Emili Rishmawi and Ali Abu Awwad from Taghyeer movement as well as Elias Deis from Holy Land Trust. Mr Altounian wrote this heartwarming note to us:



"Chère Leila, Chère Mehra,

Mille mercis à toutes les deux d'avoir organisé ces rencontres à Tel Aviv et à Bethléem. Chacune m'a donné une autre perspective et chacune des organisations que ces activistes représentent a un sens. Chacune a son approche mais elles sont aussi complémentaires. Quel beau travail que vous faites avec B8 of Hope ! Il est difficile après de telles rencontres de rester les bras croisés. Aussi, si je peux être utile, faites-le moi savoir. Encore mille, mille mercis et à très vite j'espère."

❖ July Trip:

Chrystelle Thiébaud and Mehra and David Rimer (B8 of Hope's Treasurer and Co-founder) all went to Israel and the West Bank in July which allowed them to spend time with and debrief Jean-Marc Liling (Board Member and B8 of Hope representative on the ground). However, the primary objective of our summer trip was to receive updates on the preparation and implementation of our 7 Synergies projects which were funded earlier this Spring. During the 3-week stay on the ground, the B8 of Hope team met with all grantees as well as other organizations (who are currently unfunded by B8 of Hope, but on our closest radar). This trip allowed us to evaluate and monitor funded projects through in-depth discussions and/or participation in several activities.



❖ October trip with a donor

In October, Angela, one of B8 of Hope's most appreciated friends and supporters, joined Mehra on a trip to Jerusalem and the West Bank to get a feel of what we do and see the place through our lenses. Hopefully more of these trips will be organized in the future, potentially in small groups.

The short 48-hour trip allowed Angela to connect with 19 representatives of our grantee organizations and movements. Angela has Palestinian roots. Her belated father was from Haifa. He left his city in 1948, when he was 11 years old and never went back. Born in south Lebanon, this was the first time Angela traveled to the land of her ancestors. With her permission, we are sharing the touching words of Angela upon her return in Geneva:

"Dear Mehra

I can't thank you enough for organising this experience for me.

I was energised by the inspirational people you took so much care to introduce me to. Each one of them (19 I think you said!) are extraordinary human beings - intelligent, empathetic, open and curious. I was astounded by them and their ability to turn their legitimate anger, frustration and injustice into peace activism after all they have been through and continue to suffer on a daily basis.

I am still processing everything I learnt in those short 48 hours. The physical proximity of the space they live in together surprised me, the reality of the settlements surrounding Ali Abu Awwad's property was a shock, the myriad of rules of who is allowed where and when and the harsh consequences of not following them disgusted me. It's overwhelming and yet they continue to have hope and strive with all their might for change. Meeting and talking with Israelis and, shock of all shocks, settlers, who know that they need and desire change was truly incredible. The physical geography of the landscape felt familiar as did the smells, some of the sounds and, of course, the food!

It was wonderful to see you in that environment. I can see why you yearn for it and why you have boundless passion for it, they love and admire you and you bring light and humour, while sharing their determination for change.

Please thank them all for me. I hope to meet them again and ask more questions next time.

All the best,

Angela"

❖ USA trip in April and December

Mehra Rimer also took two trips to the US throughout 2022. These trips were important in terms of synergies with our partners [ALLMEP](#) and in terms of due diligence with grantees that are present or have a presence in America. It was also an occasion to talk about the B8 of Hope model in other non-European frameworks.

The meetings with ALLMEP team members in Washington DC during the month of April were in preparation of the Mid East Storytellers' exhibit that took place in December during the [J Street conference](#). Whilst in Washington, Mehra also met with experts of the [USIP \(United States Institute of Peace\)](#) to compare notes and get feedback from this important institution (established by the American Congress in 1984). USIP is an organization devoted to the nonviolent prevention and mitigation of conflicts.

Being in the USA was also an opportunity to catch up with different representatives of B8 of Hope grantees such as Micah Hendler, founder of the [Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#), Stephen Stern, Director of the American Friends of [Taghyeer Movement](#), Carolyn Mays, newest director of [New Story Leadership](#) and several of its board members – Greg Robinson, Liane Dorsey and Joyce Schwarz, as well as with Diana Kutlow from [Hands of Peace](#).

All these organizations either work closely with B8 of Hope or are part of the pool supported by us. Meeting them on a regular basis and keeping a close collaborative approach is very important to us, so that we are able to assist when these organizations are met with challenges.

The December trip in the US was mainly focused on the Mid East Storytellers exhibit at J Street Conference.



His Excellency Jacques Pitteloud and Mrs Angélique Pitteloud hosted a side-event on the last day of the J Street conference, on December 13th, with a dozen of Palestinian and Israeli activists as well as other ambassadors, representatives of USAID and USIP.



Our Work on the ground: Building a Home, a "Beit" בית of Hope

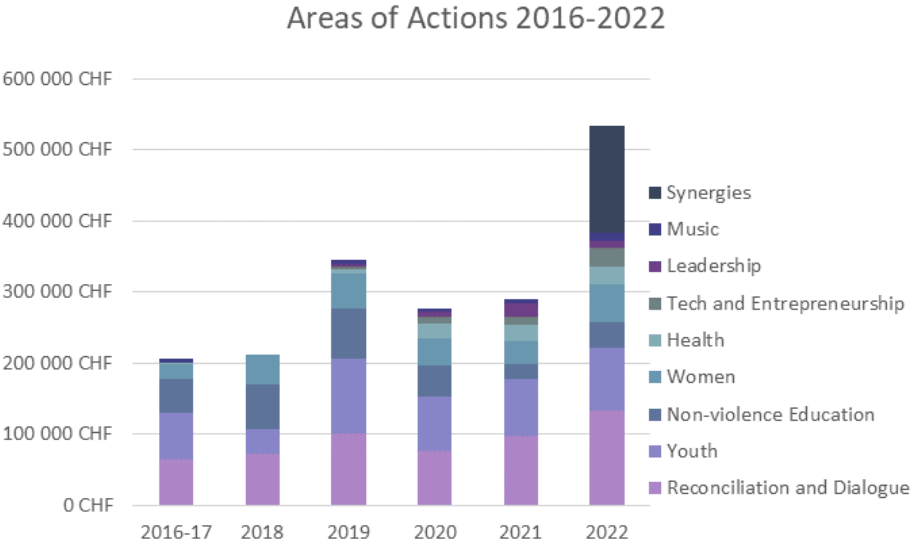
A range of areas of action and synergies!

Since its creation, B8 of Hope has been supporting a growing pool of Israeli and Palestinian grassroots and civil society peacebuilding and change-making initiatives. Each of our grantees have their angles and they are all complementary to one another. In 2022, we supported the individual projects of 20 Israeli and Palestinian organizations and movements and supported some of them through capacity building opportunities. In addition to that, we funded 7 collaborative projects (involving a total of 15 organizations and movements) to encourage synergies inside the “peace community” in order to share best practices and scale the sum of their individual impacts.

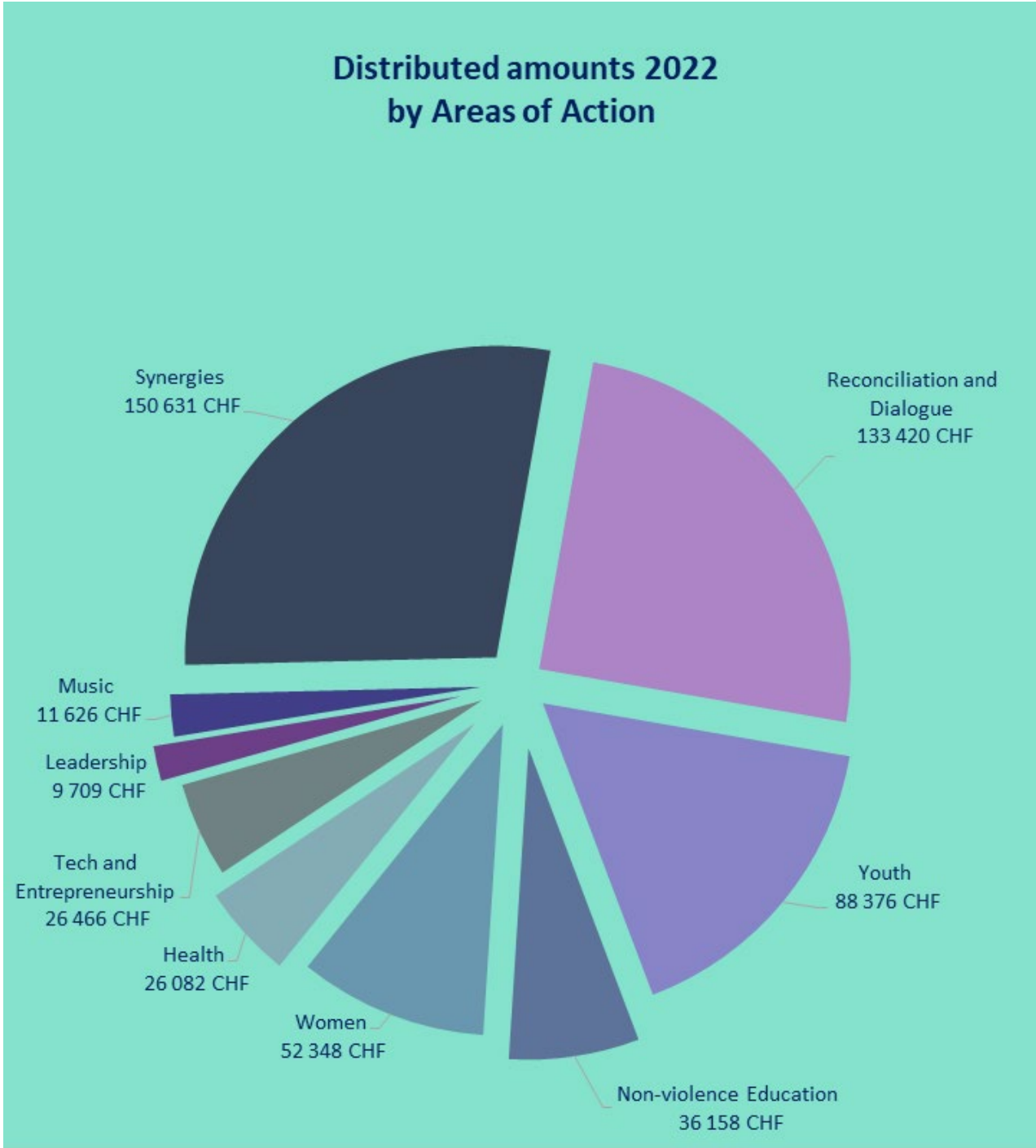
Overall, projects have been focused on building bridges between Israelis and Palestinians, but also on healing divides within the respective "sides" (as the internal divides across Israeli and Palestinian societies are also an obstacle to peace). That said, it is important to note that a few of the projects were mainly addressing health related needs of Palestinians. In the asymmetrical current context of the conflict, we consider that dealing with at least some aspects of Palestinian basic needs was crucial to our global peacebuilding approach. Who wants to think of bridge-building and peace if their basic needs are not met?

The diversity of our pool of grantees shows the inspiring dynamics of the peace community and its importance.

The majority of our funds come from private donors from the Arab and the Jewish diasporas in Geneva, as well as international expats and Swiss locals. A smaller portion of our funds come from institutional and philanthropic entities.



The funds mainly serve the activities and projects of a pool of NGOs and movements, striving towards a better future for Israelis and Palestinians. Our own costs and needs in Geneva are covered by board members. Furthermore, B8 of Hope is based on volunteer work, including our Executive Director Mehra Rimer's full time job. We have only one staff member on the payroll: our Director of Operations, Chrystelle Thiébaud. Our small network of efficient volunteers helps us with a variety of different on-going or punctual tasks, such as managing our IT system, editing our newsletters, auditing our accounts, hosting peace-activists, etc. We could not achieve all our goals without their generous help and we are extremely grateful to them. As far as the board members and co-founders of B8 of Hope, year after year, they have been guiding B8 of Hope's steps. Despite their busy professional lives, they have been putting time and patience in building our strategy, helping B8 of Hope to develop and stay the course.



Our 2022 grantees (individual grants)

❖ A Land for All

[A Land for All, 2 States One Homeland \(ALFA\)](#) is a joint Israeli Palestinian movement founded by a diverse group of Israelis and Palestinians, from ordinary citizens over lawyers to geographers and intellectuals. They sat together to think “out of the box” and came up with a more just, up-to-date and realistic alternative to the traditional two-state solution: two sovereign states with an emphasis on freedom of movement between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the establishment of joint institutions within the framework of a confederation.

The reason why B8 of Hope supports ALFA is because it offers a new vision for the future – and a motivation to all those paving a path towards peaceful and sustainable shared future.

ALFA’s activities in 2022 focused on public engagement, research and strengthening the Israeli-Palestinian partnership in the movement (including hiring its first Palestinian Director, Yara Amayra, who has been the co-leader of B8 of Hope Next Generation Youth Group and was referred to ALFA by B8 of Hope).

B8 of Hope’s 2022 support to ALFA was dedicated to advance the movement’s visibility and public relations both locally and internationally. If ALFA advocates its idea to the extent that it becomes part of public discourse then Confederation, based on a paradigm of sharing and not separation, will become a leading model/proposal among those considered for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is in this perspective that B8 of Hope’s grant covered ALFA’s Second Annual Week of Debates and its Policy Development Process as well as the travel fees of its Israeli and Palestinian co-directors, May Pundak and Yara Amayra to Washington DC in order for them to attend the J Street Conference.

ALFA’s Second Annual Week of Debates, April 2022

Within the framework of public engagement, ALFA conducted a Discussion Week, consisting of four zoom panel sessions with leading Israeli and Palestinian figures (including Abd Abu Shehada, Ali Abu Awwad, Awni Al-Mashni, Ayman Odeh, Mossi Raz, Tehilla Friedman, Yossi Beilin, Zeheva Gal-On). The sessions dealt with various aspects of confederation vis-à-vis other popular solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and created space for leaders and the public to “argue” in a productive way with ALFA's idea.

These 4 main sessions (1.30 hours each) were extremely successful with a total attendance of 880 people. They were followed by 4 other sessions dealing with more specific aspects of ALFA's proposals, and were also attended by hundreds of people. The feedback, the support, the



Credit Photo: A Land for All

response of the leaders and intellectuals who joined the sessions as well as the engagement levels were tremendous. ALFA gained considerable exposure, doubling the number of registrants compared to 2021. As a result, ALFA also gained 521 new registrations for its monthly newsletter. Moreover, 99 attendees expressed a desire to join and support the movement. ALFA is committed to continuing this tradition and creating spaces for meaningful discussion about the future of the conflict.

J Street Conference

The two Executive Directors, May Pundak and Yara Amayra, took part in the [J Street Conference](#) in Washington at the start of December. May took part in a panel on a "Political Vision for Peace" moderated by Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin. Yara participated in a panel of young Palestinian leaders and spoke bravely about the terrible situation facing Palestinian youth in the West Bank who fear for their lives and have no hope or future. May and Yara took advantage of the trip to Washington to meet with a range of past and present scholars and diplomats, including senior figures in the American State Department. Despite the skepticism and despair following the establishment of the new Israeli government, ALFA's vision was received enthusiastically. The United States Institute for Peace, part of the American government, has launched a joint project with Princeton University on the feasibility of a confederation, and May and Yara gave opening remarks at the launch event.

❖ Combatants for Peace

In 2006, a group of Israeli ex-soldiers and Palestinian former combatants laid down their weapons and established [Combatants for Peace](#) on the basis of non-violence principles. The movement – an egalitarian, bi-national, grassroots organization – was founded by former enemies – who had all been involved in violence – on the belief that the vicious cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces. For almost two decades, Combatants for Peace have embodied and served as a model for the humanistic values of freedom, democracy, security and dignity for all. Through joint nonviolence actions, they lay the foundations for a nonviolent future.

"If we are to make peace between Israelis and Palestinians, we must be able to understand where the other is coming from. We don't need to accept or agree with the others' narrative, but we need to recognize that it exists. One side's terrorists are the other side's freedom fighters. One side's occupation forces are the other side's defense forces. One side's Independence Day is the other side's Nakba. Both sides have their dignity and their determination, and no side will be defeated into submission."

Among the many activities of Combatants for Peace, this year, we mainly supported the costs of their Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony which took place in early May. This ceremony is held during the actual national Israeli Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron), a day dedicated to Israeli fallen soldiers.

The concept of Combatants' for Peace alternative joint ceremony is about paying tribute to all the victims of the conflict and giving the spot light to the members of Parents Circle Families Forum, an organization which is also supported by B8 of Hope and unites more than 600 Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families who work on reconciliation.

This ceremony is difficult for both the Israelis and the Palestinian mainstream societies. It is outside the comfort zone of each. "Why should we pay tribute to the "other side's" victims"? Peacebuilding is precisely about going out of one's comfort zone. And that is the purpose of this ceremony. While for many Israelis and Palestinians the concept of a joint ceremony is controversial and potentially painful, this event is a harbinger of a brighter future. B8 of Hope is particularly inspired by its sense of togetherness, reconciliation and hope.

The 2022 edition was held in a hybrid form. It gathered 1000 participants in person in a hall at the Tel-Aviv University. It went viral online and reached nearly 200,000 viewers! Back in 2006, the first edition started with 50 participants. Every year, the numbers increased. In 2019, the open-air ceremony in the HaYarkon Park in Tel-Aviv hosted 9'000 participants. In 2020, during Covid, 170'000 people joined the strictly online edition. 2021 and 2022: an average of 200'000 people followed the hybrid editions! In 2023, the ceremony is expected to go back to its fully in person version in Tel-Aviv, but it will keep being live streamed on social media.



The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony

Thank you to all of our 2022 Sponsoring Organizations



❖ Green Land Society for Health Development

[Green Land Society for Health Development \(GLSHD\)](#) is a Palestinian non-governmental, non-profit organization established in Khalil/Hebron. Its aim is to improve health and environmental conditions, in addition to raising the level of preparedness for disaster response, through awareness campaigns, research, and the provision of health and environmental services in areas of need in the West Bank. Improving living conditions, including access to medical services, is a pillar of B8 of Hope's global approach to peacebuilding.

B8 of Hope usually focuses on one specific activity of GLSHD: the transportation of Palestinian patients (referred by the Palestinian Ministry of Health) to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals. Transportation is a generally complicated issue for Palestinian patients, even inside the Palestinian territories.

Thanks to GLSHD, patients are transported by means of a home-hospital-home (including to Palestinian hospitals) service facilitated by a network of GLSHD volunteers, whether inside the West Bank or from the West Bank to Israeli hospitals in cooperation with Israel-based volunteers. The cost of gas used by the volunteers is what we cover.

This year, we decided to fully focus on the transportation and treatment fees of one specific young patient, Mahmoud. Mahmoud is a 9-year-old Palestinian boy from Khalil/Hebron and he suffers from cerebral palsy which affects the lower limbs (severe contractures of the hips, knees and ankles). After a successful surgery, it was crucial for him to undergo specific physiotherapy sessions, only available in Bethlehem. B8 of Hope covered the gas fees of the GLSHD volunteer driver's daily trips from Hebron to Bethlehem for one year. We are relieved to have solved the challenges of transportation for Mahmoud.

We are very pleased to have also helped in covering the essential and different kinds of therapies that Mahmoud needed: occupational, physical and hydrotherapy therapies and education as he cannot attend regular school (More about Mahmoud's difficult story in the section on Road to Recovery). We all know the old adage "It takes a village to raise a child": in the case of Mahmoud, it took three organizations Road to Recovery, Green Land Society for Health Development and B8 of Hope not to raise him but to help improve his health.



❖ The Jerusalem Youth Chorus

[The Jerusalem Youth Chorus \(JYC\)](#) is a choral and dialogue program for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem. It provides a space for these young people from East and West Jerusalem to grow together in song and dialogue. Through the joint creation of music and the sharing of stories, JYC empowers youth in Jerusalem to speak and sing their truths, as they become leaders in their communities and inspire singers and listeners around the world to work for peace, justice, inclusion, and equality. As a performing ensemble, they seek to amplify their impact even further through local and international performances and media coverage. The Jerusalem Youth Chorus has been featured on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, as well as in the New York Times, on the BBC, on PBS, in Haaretz, Alhurra, and more than 100 other news outlets. They have recorded with multi platinum Israeli artist and peace activist David Broza in Jerusalem, with Duran Duran in London and with YouTube superstar Sam Tsui – which amassed over 400,000 views. They have toured Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, as well as Switzerland and have performed at venues as prestigious as the United Nations in Geneva and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. They were also a featured ensemble at the Yale International Choral Festival. Most importantly, they regularly perform in Jerusalem, joining forces with other organizations working for peace, justice, and equality, and also reaching out to those who have never even considered that something like this possible, let alone beautiful.

This year, B8 of Hope funded JYC's Spring Retreat. From May 19 to 22, 2022, 16 chorus members and 12 staff of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus set out on a 3-day retreat to the wonderful Kibbutz Keshet Eilon. Keshet Eilon is located at one of the most northern points of the country, allowing JYC members to step outside the tension of Jerusalem and to really focus on each other and the group.

They had multiple goals for this weekend on both a musical and dialogue level that complimented each other in a really meaningful way. JYC had three major goals. Musically, they were preparing for their 10-year anniversary concert, which was taking place in the coming August. They also wanted to have their singers finish the retreat having completed original songs in their dialogue groups. This also incorporated the dialogue program and JYC used these three days to go through an intensive songwriting process with their singers, to take what they learned in dialogue and to craft those reflections into original music. Lastly, JYC aimed to bring the group closer together. In many ways, having an overnight, intensive program encourages teamwork and group support, and JYC saw this happening on a musical and personal level with their singers during this retreat.



Credit Photos: Jerusalem Youth Chorus

The retreat was also about fun activities (such as karaoke, and a water balloon fight!) and regular rehearsals to keep the weekend exciting and productive. A highlight was an interfaith presentation run by the staff and singers on Friday night, where each religion grouped together, explained about their core values and sang religious songs for the other members.

If you would like to hear the songs each dialogue group created, please see here:



❖ Judur-Shorashim-Roots

[Judur-Shorashim \(Roots\)](#) is our first and oldest grantee since 2016. This joint grassroots initiative is located in the West Bank and led by Israelis from the settlement block of Gush Etzion and Palestinians from the area of Beit Umar-Bethlehem and Hebron - in other words by people at the heart of the conflict.

Roots fosters understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians through dialogue. The founders of Roots believe that dialogue is not necessarily a place to agree but rather, to mutually recognize each people's connection to the land in spite of their ideological differences. Roots' diverse set of activities offer a space where people can take responsibility and challenge the assumptions their communities hold about each other, as well as build trust and create a new discourse around the conflict.

Among the many activities of Roots (dialogue, interreligious exchange, joint break-fast meals, incident response, prevention of violence escalation etc.), B8 of Hope focuses its support on their youth and young adult activities.

Summer Camp

Roots 2022 Summer Camp brought 80 local Israeli and Palestinian children between the ages of 5-10 together for an incredible week of shattering stereotypes, learning language and having fun! Roots has kept these children engaged since the summer with its weekly after-school workshops. Activities for both 5-9-year-old boys and girls and a special program for 9-14 year old girls learning crafts from local Palestinian and Israeli women.



Young Adult Program Seminar

The grant received from B8 of Hope also helped Roots run an end of year seminar for its Young Adults Program. These 35 high school students and their Israeli-Palestinian staff spent the entire year meeting every other week and attending seminars together. Sending them up North for a three-day experience together to further explore and spend time processing the year before they move on was critical to the program! Part of the seminar was run in cooperation with the "Dreamers of the Galil", a program bringing Jewish and Arab Israeli high school students together. Roots hope to further its collaboration with their staff and program. In addition to the fascinating sessions with the youth, the seminar brought Mr. Amir Tadmor, a former advisor to Yitzhak Rabin to meet the youth, and ample time for the teens to process their year together.

Sharing below the powerful testimonial of one of the participants:

"For me, this is a summary of almost two years of work with Roots. I come from a very conservative home, very rightwing. When I started the program, it was very hard for me to listen to the other side, and I tried to convince the Palestinians that they just aren't understanding the reality correctly. As time went on, the more we met and spoke, my mind started to open to listen to the Palestinian story. I saw for the first time, their suffering and I was exposed to things that I never knew about. Today, I understand that I have changed. I'm able to identify with the Palestinians, I have more understanding and I feel connected to them. I never believed that I would change, but it happened. I learned how important it is to listen to both sides in a more complex and honest way. It hurts me to hear what the Palestinians are going through and how connected this is to the actions of my Country and nation. I'm taking upon myself to be an ambassador for Roots and to convince others to turn towards acquaintance, respect and peace. I deeply enjoyed and value the program, Thank You!"

❖ Lissan

[Lissan](#) (Arabic for language or tongue) is our brand-new grantee in 2022. This Jerusalem based non-profit organization promotes gender and social equality through language education. Lissan's flagship



program, "Medabrot Ivrit", offers practical Hebrew classes for East Jerusalemite women to provide them with greater access to rights, resources, and opportunities. Through practical and accessible Hebrew classes for women, pedagogical and cultural sensitivity training for teachers, and joint programming for Israeli and Palestinian volunteers, Lissan aims to bridge the gap between East and West Jerusalem and strengthen East Jerusalemite women. Lissan's long term vision is for East Jerusalemite women to have ultimate agency in their personal and professional lives, and for the city of Jerusalem – both East and West – to become a more just and equal space for all of its residents.

B8 of Hope is interested in seeing Lissan gain more visibility and increase its social media presence so that more Palestinian women can join the classes and more Israeli women can volunteer as teachers.

Lissan is currently active on three social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Its most active platform is Facebook. It currently has 7,897 followers and 7,695 page likes on Facebook. B8 of Hope's support enabled Lissan to cover the fees of a staff member dedicating time to the management of the social media and pay to boost and greatly expand its reach. The above-mentioned data points to the effectiveness of boosting posts, with each boosted post reaching thousands more than unboosted posts.

❖ Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

[Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow \(MEET\)](#) brings together promising Palestinian high school students for a cutting-edge three-year program. Each cohort consists of equal numbers of young men and women, and Israelis and Palestinians are equally represented. Together, they learn computer science, social entrepreneurship, and leadership skills, in a curriculum crafted with MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), their long-term academic partner. The goal of MEET is to create a generation of leaders who know how to work across political divides from a young age, to extend MIT's cutting-edge technological education to communities who could not previously access it; to promote STEM education and tech-sector leadership among women and minority groups in Palestine and Israel and finally to inspire their program alumni to create and shape a more just society.

B8 of Hope sponsors MEET's social events by covering costs of their logistics. These events establish strong bonds between MEET's staff, students, families and external guests and create unique opportunities of empowerment and people-to-people connection. Hopefully, reading about the following MEET functions: Expo Night, Demo Day and Parents Days will give you a feel of how important they are.



Expo Night

This event was held on the 2nd of August, in Herzliya on the rooftop of MEET's generous corporate partner, Apsflyer, which was spacious enough for all 170 guests to move around freely and explore the different stands. Among the guests were leaders in the philanthropic sector, CEOs of large corporations, friends and family of MEET participants, and MEET's devoted staff. MEET's exciting "Expo Night" event was all about presenting the eight startups the third-year students had worked on over the summer to people from the world of philanthropy, the High-Tech sector, and various partners of MEET. Throughout the event, each group stood proudly beside the banner showcasing their startup, and pitched the product to professionals and observers who challenged them with questions and constructive criticism for them to improve. The impact of an event like Expo Night and its importance to the students' journey in MEET is paramount. It gives them the opportunity to have fruitful discussions with a variety of different professionals, and to showcase the wealth of ideas that can stem from bi-national teamwork. By presenting their work, students gained the opportunity to set an example of cooperative teamwork between members of nations who, on a larger scale, struggle seeing eye to eye.

The ideas for the startups came from the students, and each one tackled a different societal status quo they believed needed revision:

- ⇒ Waterwest – an app tackling the uneven distribution of water in the West Bank.
- ⇒ Together – an app connecting elderly people and young volunteers.
- ⇒ Pink Bird – an app countering “pink tax” and promoting gender equality.
- ⇒ Aid Ahead – an app that teaches teenagers how to act during medical crises.
- ⇒ Vast – an app that provides teenagers with access to practical life skills.
- ⇒ SpokenLi – an app that teaches Arabic and Hebrew language and culture.
- ⇒ Objection – an app that helps minorities defend themselves from police brutality.
- ⇒ Harmoni – an app preventing self-harm among teenagers.

This incredible event was the highlight of MEET's summer program. Finally, after three intensive years of learning computer science and entrepreneurship together, discussing ways to challenge the status quo in the region, and gaining leadership and critical thinking skills, this was the way MEET students got to show how tech innovation might serve as a shared language for social change.

Demo Day

MEET's "Demo Day" was a truly inspirational event held on the 5th of August in which the third-year students presented their social impact startups (mentioned in the previous section about Expo Night) to a panel of four expert judges. During this half daylong event at Appsflyer's offices in Herzliya, the students got to experience the professional setting of pitching to investors and got to be exposed to real investors. At the end of the event, the judges determined two startup winners Waterwest and Together. Each one received a symbolic contribution of 10,000 NIS for them to kickstart their project and help them move forward with their impact/change in the community.

Parents' Days

Parents' Day are closing events at the end of Y1, Y2, Y3 and an opportunity for parents (and siblings or other members of the family) to see their children's outstanding achievements. B8 of Hope was extremely proud to co-sponsor the logistics costs of the three events which took place on August 11th, 12th and September 8th at The Israel Arts and Sciences Academy in Jerusalem, with nearly 500 guests in total. Parents' Days are important to us as they enable parents to learn about their children's experience and to be exposed to other parents. Israeli and Palestinian parents rarely have the occasion to mingle in social context. The beauty of these social events is about including the family in a They are there together thanks to their children, celebrating their graduation and being simply parents. This people-to-people opportunity of connection has a truly transformational effect on the hearts and minds. The families usually stay in contact year after year.

In 2022, over the course of the summer, first year students worked on several entrepreneurship projects centering around social issues. A little before Parent's Day, they went on an exciting trip to Meta's (Facebook) offices to showcase their ideas! These same ideas were then presented during their closing event with an informative booth that parents could visit and inquire- The second-year students worked on a project titled "Case Study" in which they worked on solving problems that existing foundations or corporations struggle with. They were divided into groups, each one tackling a different issue, and on Parent's Day, they were able to present their creative solutions with informative and decorated exhibits they arranged. The third year students worked on their apps (see section on Demo Day and Expo Night). After graduation, they usually join the alumni group and stay connected.



❖ New Story Leadership

[New Story Leadership \(NSL\)](#) focuses on developing a community of leaders and influencers across Palestine and Israel through a 7-week summer program in Washington DC. Palestinian and Israeli young adults who apply to this program are hosted by "pairs" in American families and get work-placements in the offices of Representatives and Senators and in other high-level organizations.

Through the NSL program, they learn to use the Narrative Method to craft their personal stories of struggle and hope. Delegates share their stories at speaking engagements on Capitol Hill and across DC. Each delegate arrives in Washington, DC with a proposed Project for Change (PFC). Working together in Palestinian-Israeli teams, they collaborate on joint social impact projects.

In 2022, NSL's summer program resumed for the first time since 2019 and brought 9 new delegates from Israel and Palestine. Their flight tickets were covered by B8 of Hope.

The new cohort participated in workshops and activities including:

- Work placements at Congressional offices
- Tours of the US Capitol and meetings with members of Congress
- Negotiation Strategies and Presentation Skills

Following NSL's narrative-based theory of change, delegates delivered speeches to influential audiences at venues such as: the Congressional Forum and numerous congressional offices and several local faith communities in DC.



Credit Photo: New Story Leadership

Where were our delegates this summer?



Odelya: Office of Sen. Van Hollen

Odelya currently lives in Beer Sheva and is studying for a BA in Media and Communications at Sapir Academic College in Sderot. After studying at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, she became the Institute's spokesperson in conferences and events in the U.S and Israel/Palestine. Recently Odelya has served as the field and media coordinator of the Negev Coexistence Forum promoting human rights, civil equality, and recognition of the Arab Bedouin villages in the Negev. She is also an education fellow in the Forum for Regional Thinking, giving a lecture series on political issues to 18 year-olds throughout Israel/Palestine. Odelya's Project for Change, Negev Media, aims to offer an alternative narrative to Israeli mainstream media through the promotion of spokespersonship, advocacy, and media literacy among young Arab Bedouins. It seeks to raise awareness of social, political, and infrastructural disparities in the Negev and offer solutions based on mutual interest and gain.

Yara: J Street



Yara is from Al-Khalil (Hebron). She has a BA in Business Administration and International Relations. Yara has been a peace activist since she was 16 and is involved with many peacebuilding organizations including B8 of Hope, ALLMEP, and Givat Haviva among others. She is also a volunteer and a speaker in bridge-building and dialogue projects with various NGOs. Yara is a passionate advocate for Palestinian rights and freedom, equality, and a shared society for Palestinians and Israelis. Yara's Project for Change will serve to empower young adults in Palestine and Israel, with a focus on the youth in Givat Haviva International School. The goal of the project is to train these young adults to share their narratives, advocate for their needs and rights, have constructive dialogue, and build strong connections that would solidify the already existing concept of shared society in Givat Haviva.

Danielle: J Street



Danielle is an American Israeli citizen living in the village of Kfar Warburg in Israel. She received her BA in the fields of Sociology, Anthropology and Film Studies at Tel Aviv University and is currently a student at the International Academic Program Leaders at Work at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo. For the past decade, she has been active as a peacebuilder on numerous platforms and has trained as conflict group facilitator with Seeds of Peace and Sadaka Reut. Today she serves as an Israeli speaker with Solution not Sides, is active with the Geneva Initiative, and facilitates dialogue with Jerusalem Peacebuilders. Recently she joined the 3rd EcoPeace cohort as a water diplomat in training. She is a strong believer in and advocate for regional cooperation on environmental sustainability and peacebuilding.

NEW STORY LEADERSHIP

Where were our delegates this summer?



Nofar: Running for Knesset (Labour)

Nofar is from Tel-Aviv, Israel. She holds a Global MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Richman University and a BA in Economics and Management from the Academic College of Tel-Aviv Yaffo. Four years ago, Nofar founded Karaoke Talkie, a social business that helps people (and especially women) overcome stage fright and build speaking skills by using storytelling and improvisation techniques. Nofar will be using this creative art form in her Project for Change. Her project will entail Karaoke Talkie workshops for Israelis and Palestinians. In these workshops, the participants present slide-deck presentations that they see for the first time to the audience. As a facilitator, Nofar has seen how powerful it can be for two sides to interact with each other on this personal, joyful and playful level.

Baha: Office of Sen. Jamie Raskin



Baha' is a Palestinian refugee from the occupied village of Bayt Nattif. He holds a BA in International Law and Human Rights from Al Quds Bard College where he has also served as a teaching assistant for numerous courses. Baha' is an alumnus of the U.S.- Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) where he designed Unheard Palestinian Stories, a project that addresses the complex nature of Palestinian social norms through open mics. Baha' developed his passion for human rights through his participation in the Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program (BGIA) in New York City. Baha's Project for Change is a creative writing program for Palestinian students in public schools. The program will use creative writing as a tool for youth empowerment and self-expression to foster a new generation of Palestinian writers.

Noor: Office of Sen. Jamie Raskin



Noor is a peace activist and a data scientist from Tel Aviv. He is a graduate in Software and IT Engineering from Ben Gurion University of the Negev. In 2017, Noor participated in a public speaking course sponsored by Peace Now, Israel's leading nonprofit organization for peace resolution. Last summer, Noor took part in a Geneva Initiative program in which young Israeli and Palestinian leaders were introduced to each other's narratives and societies. Noor's Project for Change involves establishing a technological community across the Middle East to connect young leaders interested in creating partnerships for technological innovation. This community will serve as a bridge for collaboration and coexistence in the region. This program has the potential to lower barriers, foster creativity and mutual respect, and drive economic prosperity in the region.

NEW STORY LEADERSHIP

Where were our delegates this summer?



Elad: Campaign for Sen. Van Hollen

Elad Daniel is a Persian Jew who grew up in Los Angeles. In 2010, he moved to the West Bank settlement of Ma'ale Adumim as a Zionist with deep religious fervor, but he became an activist for equality instead. His many Palestinian friends have introduced him to new settings and ways that have exposed him to a much broader spectrum of knowledge and understanding. He graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a BA in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies. He also participated in a Tech2Peace seminar in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking, technology, and entrepreneurship with a focus on video editing. Following three years of intensive independent research, he has compiled and hopes soon to publish a book touching upon numerous aspects of the Israel/Palestine conflict.



Noor: Tom Lantos' Human Rights Commission

From Nablus, Palestine, Noor has a BA in Political Science and an MA in Public Administration from Clark University in Massachusetts. An alum of NSL's #SheLeads and the Japan Israel Palestine Student Conference, Noor has also been a speaker for Solutions Not Sides and the Balfour Project. Noor has a great passion for understanding the world around her through the stories of different people. Having interned as a radio presenter in the U.S. and Palestine, Noor currently co-hosts The Light of the Story, a podcast that sheds light on people's experiences worldwide. Noor's personal Project for Change will highlight specific stories of Palestinians living in the occupied territories and the diaspora.

NEW STORY LEADERSHIP

❖ Parents Circle Families Forum

[The Parents Circle – Families Forum \(PCFF\)](#) is an association of over 600 bereaved Israelis and Palestinians who have lost an immediate family member – a daughter, a son, a mother, a father, a sister or a brother as a result of the conflict. Instead of choosing revenge, PCFF’s members are working hand in hand together, sharing sorrow, bringing hope by trying to stop acts of violence through reconciliation – a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization uses all resources available in education, public meetings and the media to spread these ideas. Their motto is: “If I who have lost a loved one into the conflict can walk the path of peace, then surely you can too.”

In 2022, our grant was used for the Women’s group of PCFF, covering different training courses and trips.



Credit Photo: Parents Circle Families Forum

A Training Course with the Adam Institute

Inspired by United Nations Resolution No. 1325 to involve women in decision-making related to war and peace, 21 members of PCFF’s Women’s Group embarked on a course to learn about peace and reconciliation through a feminist lens. The course took place from May to July with four sessions. The Adam Institute's experienced facilitators taught PCFF's members about the development of women's unique voices and their potential contribution to future negotiations.

A Trip to Jisr A-Zarqa and Um El-Fahm

A group of 40 Israeli and Palestinian members of PCFF’s Women’s Group visited the Palestinian town of Jisr A-Zarqa on the Israeli Mediterranean coast, over a one-day trip. The goal was to become acquainted with the Palestinian women in the village and learn from their experiences. They also visited the Museum of Art in Um El-Fahm, a Palestinian city in the north of Israel. The women learned about the city of Um El-Fahm, and about the vision of the museum for the past 30 years to be a meeting point between Jews and Arabs through art and through the historical and cultural stories, through which the narratives, customs and traditions are shared.



Credit Photo: Parents Circle Families Forum

"Wedded to Peace"

40 bereaved Palestinian mothers, sisters, and daughters have decided to use their individual passions to generate income. It is difficult to advocate for peace when your mind is still occupied with putting food on the table or supporting your children to have a better education. Each woman has a natural talent and passion for different skills – dress designing, floral arrangements, photography, nails and make-up, baking, and sweets making. These exceptional members of the PCFF participated in 8 different vocational training courses (each with its own curriculum and timeline). The sessions took place around Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus. The long-term goal of this group of women is creating a wedding business together.



Credit Photos: Parents Circle Families Forum

Participation to J Street

B8 of Hope covered the travel expenses of two prominent representatives of Parents Circle, Layla Al-Sheikh and Robi Damelin from Israel and Palestine to the US for the needs of their presence at the [J Street conference](#). Given J Street's limited coverage of hotel stay and absence of coverage of travel fees, B8 of Hope decided that making it possible for the two bereaved mothers and activists to express their voice in such an important conference and network for PCFC was crucial.

❖ Peres Center for Peace and Innovation's Saving Children Program

The [Peres Center for Peace and Innovation](#) was founded in 1996 by the 9th President of Israel, two-time Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shimon Peres, and is dedicated to advancing his vision of a prosperous Israel within a peaceful Middle East. The Peres Center is a leading non-profit NGO that, together with local, regional and international partners, develops and implements impact-oriented programs serving hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries of all ages, religions, genders and cultural backgrounds. The Peres Center's Medicine in the Service of Peace initiatives have been active since the organization's founding, advancing health education and services and providing crucial humanitarian

medical aid. To date, more than 13,000 Palestinian infants and children have been treated through the Peres Center’s “Saving Children” program, and the Peres Center is one of the few organizations with the ability to assist children in the Gaza Strip. In addition to the medical outcomes of this program, “Saving Children” acts as a bridge of peace between people, building engagement and cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian public health authorities, medical teams, and between patients, their families, and doctors.

Between 1 July – 31 December 2022, the support of B8 of Hope enabled the Peres Center to provide 13 Palestinian children with life-saving and life-changing specialist consultations and procedures as follows:

- 1 cardiac surgery (therapeutic catheterization) at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv
- 8 cardiac consultations at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv
- 2 tuning procedures at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem for Palestinian children who received cochlear implants through the Saving Children program in previous years
- 2 optical consultations at Carmel Medical Center in Haifa



This child had a Cochlear transplant
Credit Photo: a Peres Center

Case Study: N.A, 12 years old, from Qalqilya, West Bank

N.A is a 12-year-old girl from the city of Qalqilya in the northwestern West Bank. N.A was born with pulmonary atresia with ventricular septal defect (VSD) – a rare congenital heart defect in which the valve between the heart and lungs (pulmonary valve) is not fully developed, and a hole exists between the two pumping chambers of the heart. As a result of the defect, blood is not able to flow between the chambers of the heart or from the ventricle to the lungs. This is a serious and a life-threatening condition that requires immediate treatment, multiple surgeries/procedures, and long-term monitoring to repair and manage. N.A. was first referred to the Peres Center when she was just 6-years-old. By that time, she had already undergone multiple diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in Jordan. But the cost and burden of traveling abroad for N.A.’s care was taking a toll on her and her family, and a more sustainable solution had to be found to enable her continued treatment. Dr. M.N. – one of the first Palestinian doctors to partner with the Saving Children program – referred N.A’s case to the Peres Center, which between 2016-2020 facilitated a number of cardiac surgeries for N.A. at Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer Hospital in Tel Aviv.

In November 2022, the surgical team at Sheba recommended that N.A. undergo yet another therapeutic catheterization procedure to improve her heart’s functioning. The surgery took place on December 26, 2022 and the Peres Center will continue to follow N.A.’s case, facilitating all necessary follow up in order to enable continued treatment of N.A.’s complex chronic condition.

❖ Physicians for Human Rights

[Physicians for Human Rights – Israel \(PHRI\)](#) was founded in 1988 by a group of Israeli physicians and works to promote a just society where the right to health is granted equally to all people in Israel, in the West Bank and in Gaza.

PHRI employs a multi-faceted approach to achieve its goals through the provision of humanitarian aid and work promoting policy change. Through open and mobile clinics, volunteer medical professionals provide services free of charge to people with limited or no access to health care—primarily migrants, refugees, and Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza.



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH. FOR ALL

Credit Photo: Physicians for Human Rights

Promoting and protecting the right to health of Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory is a cornerstone of promoting their basic human rights. A key part of this entails supporting patients from Gaza who experience a severely underfunded healthcare system that is cut off from the remainder of the Palestinian healthcare system. Due to regular shortages of medication, supplies, and equipment and an inability of Gazan health professionals to train and further their professional development, Gazan patients frequently need to undergo medical treatment outside their area of residence, at medical institutions in Israel or East Jerusalem. While the situation in the West Bank is markedly better, the healthcare system there is also severely underfunded and restricted, and many West

Bank residents are also unable to receive the care they need where they live. Palestinian patients are thus regularly forced to contend with cumbersome bureaucracy simply to access healthcare. Throughout 2022, PHRI continued to operate at a multi-level modus operandi, combining medical aid, training of health professionals, casework, legal representation and litigation, human rights education, and cooperation with other organizations. We provided direct medical services to support Palestinian beneficiaries in need while simultaneously bringing national and international leverage to bear on key policies and mechanisms that violate basic human rights in the oPt. During the reporting period, PHRI treated a total of 5,634 Palestinian patients in 25 mobile clinics in Gaza and the West Bank. 47% of patients were women, and 20% were minors. Additionally, a total of 42 patients, of which 23 were women, received surgery as part of PHRI's medical delegations to Gaza in coordination with local surgical teams. During the Gaza delegations, a total of 83 local medical professionals were trained during surgeries performed by PHRI's volunteer surgeons. Additionally, 165 local healthcare professionals took part in a total of 6 mental health conferences and workshops that PHRI organized in Gaza. These conferences sought to train local mental health practitioners on the diagnosis of mental health conditions, as well as the treatment of trauma.

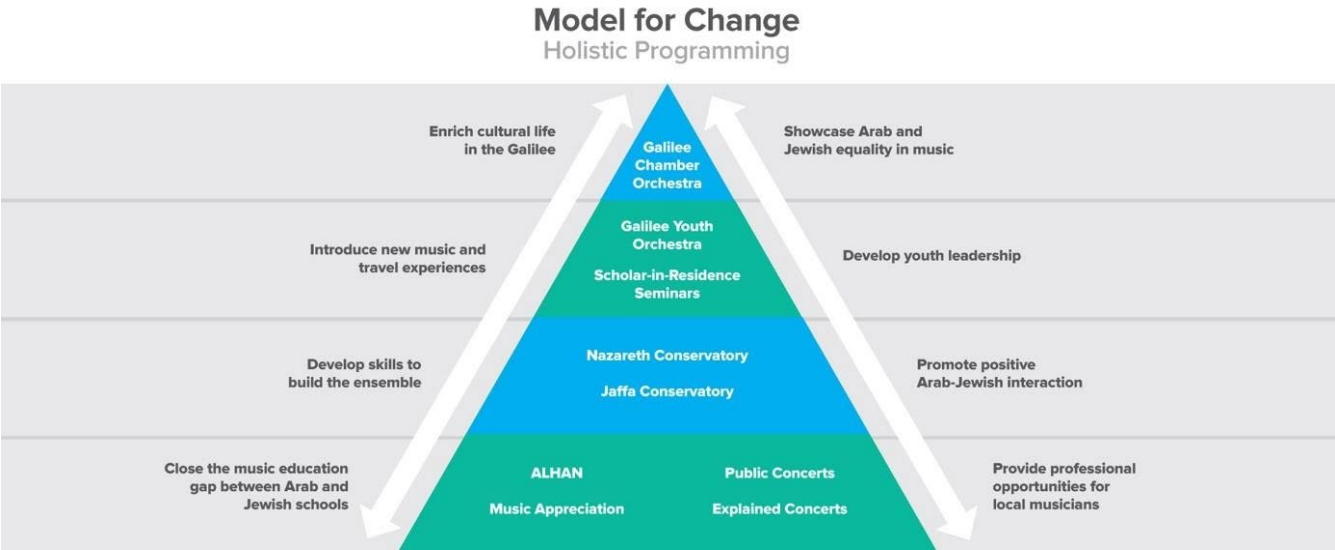
Separately, between July-November 2022, PHRI helped 99 Palestinian patients receive access to medical care outside their area of residence through freedom of movement casework. This work involved paralegal assistance to patients denied medical exit permits and, when needed, submission of legal petitions to the Israeli courts. Moreover, in the reporting period, PHRI’s caseworker processed a total of 86 medical referrals to institutions in Israel and East Jerusalem, ensuring Palestinian patients could access treatment unavailable in the Palestinian Territories. Of the cases handled, 26 were on behalf of residents of Gaza, and 60 were on behalf of residents of the West Bank. Additionally, PHRI granted financial aid to cover 186 medical interventions, adding up to a total cost of 78,430 ILS.

One notable case was that of A, a 5-year-old resident of Nablus. A was referred to PHRI and was examined by a pediatric physician during one of the Mobile Clinic visits in Nablus. A was diagnosed with a heart disease, gastrointestinal illness, and Thyroid disorder. A’s condition was severe and required immediate medical intervention, and with the help of our oPt department and PHRI’s volunteer physicians, A was immediately referred to examinations and medical follow-up in Tel Hashomer Hospital, where he received treatment that stabilized his condition.

B8 of Hope’s grant was dedicated to the core work of PHRI.

❖ Polyphony Education

Polyphony Education is a prestigious music school based in Nazareth, using music in a holistic, multi-tiered approach through which Arab and Jewish musicians and music students come together to build an inclusive community. Arabs and Jews in Israel interact infrequently. Neighborhoods are segregated. People speak different languages—Arabic and Hebrew. Transformation begins when people have new experiences and are invited to perform together in new ways, building beyond the divides that separate them. With Polyphony’s holistic, multi-tiered approach, music becomes the medium through which Arab and Jewish children come together in Israel to build an inclusive community.



B8 of Hope has been supporting Polyphony Education's Music and Society Seminar over consecutive years. This seminar is an immersive two-year program for talented Arab and Jewish musicians aged 15 to 18. The program is a partnership between the School for Cultural Studies and the Institute for Promoting Dialogue at Tel Aviv University, the Israeli Conservatory of Music-Tel Aviv, the Polyphony Conservatory Nazareth and leading musicians from Germany and Israel. It combines advanced chamber music study with an academic curriculum that develops participants into informed global citizens through intercultural dialogue and leadership training. The seminar takes place over eight weekends per year, alternating between Nazareth and Tel Aviv, with home-hospitality and includes 10 Arab and 10 Jewish participants.

Review of the academic 2021-2022 year

The new participants in the Music and Society Seminar successfully completed the first year of the two-year curriculum and in September 2022 began the second year. The basic format continues, integrating performance training, intercultural dialogue and leadership development and social activities, while continually updating and upgrading the curriculum and activities. The monthly weekend seminars alternated between Nazareth and Tel Aviv. In May 2022, Polyphony Education invited parents and students to a joint session in Tel Aviv. The program included a panel discussion by Prof. Shachar Galili, head of the School of Cultural Studies, Tel Aviv University, Costin Orior, Director of the Israeli Conservatory of Music-Tel Aviv, Nabeel Abboud Ashkar, Co-founder and Executive Director of Polyphony Education and two doctoral students who are involved in curriculum development and implementation. The panel dealt with the concepts and values underlying the Seminar model and curriculum and an open discussion among the parents relating to their children's and their experiences in the Seminar. The responses were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the impact of the Seminar not only on the students but also on their families.

In 2021-2022 Polyphony Education initiated a formative evaluation of the Seminar conducted by an outside professional evaluation team, a Palestinian-Israeli woman, and a Jewish-Israeli man. The evaluation will follow the program through the second-year curriculum (2022-2023), providing interim feedback as well as a final report in summer 2023.

In 2021-2022 Polyphony continues to develop partnerships and experimenting with Arab and Jewish educational institutions in dance and theater. Two introductory workshops took place for dance students in collaboration with El-Amal School of Dance (Nazareth) and the Bat Sheva Dance Company (Tel Aviv) and one for theater arts students in collaboration with El-Haneen Theater (Nazareth) and Eronit Alef Art School (Tel Aviv). We are planning expansion of these activities in 2022-2023 and development of a full two-year program beginning in 2023.



Polyphony Education sees with great satisfaction the deepening commitment of its partners. The Israeli Conservatory of Music-Tel Aviv, in addition to providing professional and logistic support, is now participating in funding of the Seminar's music director. The two doctoral students receiving stipends through School for Cultural Studies of Tel Aviv University continue to play an important role in the seminar. Working under the supervision of Professor Galilee Shahar and in close collaboration with Polyphony Education, they are developing the seminar's curriculum, giving lectures, and leading discussions.

❖ Road to Recovery

[Road to Recovery \(RtR\)](#) responds to this acute need with its network of hundreds of Israelis who volunteer to drive Palestinian patients (especially children and their families) from border crossings (West Bank and Gaza) to hospitals inside Israel and back, assisting in financing complementary therapies, purchasing medical equipment and organizing fun and rest days for the pediatric patients (such as trips to the beach, respite camp at the Jordan River Village or a fun safari day) . Road to Recovery is motivated by humanitarian values. Their compassion-driven work creates and deepens connections between Palestinians and Israelis. All activities are organized, coordinated and carried out by RtR's cadre of committed volunteers. RtR's work takes an active role in mitigating the negative effects of the ongoing conflict as it advances contacts between Palestinians and Israelis and is constantly sustained and expanded in its tier of volunteers and in cooperation with Palestinian families and aid organizations. This unique model reduces fear and anxiety, alleviates negative stereotypes and misperceptions of the other, and is leveraged to foster hope and trust between Israelis and Palestinians that are vital to mitigating the negative effects of conflict.



Credit Photo: Road to Recovery

Palestinian patients, eligible for treatments in Israeli hospitals, are required to organize the logistical and financial setup on their own. While any lifesaving treatment regimen is complex emotionally and financially, it is particularly burdensome for this population. This is because in addition to all of the “regular” burdens that a situation like this entails (e.g., communication with doctors, long hospital stays, missed work days, etc), these patients face additional barriers such as language, Israeli security restrictions, to

the hospital, these families have no other choice but to take private taxis that incur high costs. For many patients, whose border crossing and more. Since there is no public transportation from the checkpoints treatments require multiple trips to hospital every week, the economic and emotional burden on the family is insurmountable.

B8 of Hope's financial support of RtR covers mainly the gasoline costs incurred by the volunteer drivers as they drive Palestinians seeking treatment to hospitals. B8 of Hope contributes to the costs of the drivers' fuel expenses, not only because the humanitarian work of these volunteer drivers is crucial but

also, because the conversations in the car are also meaningful. Amid a deeply rooted political conflict, RtR is about rendering simple humanitarian services and about the physical recovery of patients as much as about building trust and mutual respect among Israelis and Palestinians. Every patient they help, they form a warm, human bond with.

As challenges such as the increase in the cost of fuel and the geo-political realities continue to present themselves, B8 of Hope is extremely proud of the achievements of RtR in 2022:

- **850 volunteers** (of whom 300 are new, after the elections in Israel, there was an increase in the number of applicants to volunteer)
- have made 11,910 trips, answering approximately **18,500 requests** (on average, 2 requests are answered with each trip) assisting 1,650 unique patients
- for a total of approximately **1.5M Kms**

RtR reimbursement rate is 1.2NIS (\$0.35, €0.32)/Km. (The rate change since 2021 is due to the increase in fuel prices in July 2022.)

This year, through RtR, B8 of Hope also covered a specific medical treatment for Mahmoud (9 years old).

Mahmoud is a 9-year-old boy from Khalil/Hebron and he suffers from cerebral palsy affecting the lower limbs (severe contractures of the hips, knees and ankles). He needed surgery as well as physiotherapy. The surgery went well. This year, our support was focused on his specific physiotherapy needs, only available in Bethlehem at Life Gate, where he still receives different kinds of therapies: occupational, physical and hydrotherapy therapies and education as he cannot attend regular school.



Credit Photo: Tarawi Family

Since 2020 we have been funding Mahmoud's medical fees through Road to Recovery. B8 of Hope covered the full cost of the Life Gate treatment (through Road to Recovery) as well as the fuel costs of his Palestinian volunteer-based daily transportation to Bethlehem (see section above about Green Land Society for Health Development).

Susan, Mahmoud's mother, has been in direct contact with us since the first day and sends us regular updates about her son's progress. We met Susan through RtR in 2020 through the amazing RtR volunteer driver Dan Morgenstern, who at the time was regularly driving Susan's other son, Adam, to an Israeli hospital for his cancer treatment. Sadly Adam passed away this fall.

The B8 of Hope team was deeply saddened by the news and we would like to share below a very touching tribute by Dan Morgenstern:

"I first met Adam Tarawi and his mother Susan, in February 2020, right at the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. I drove them from one of the crossings within the framework of The Road To Recovery and already from the first journey it was clear that this was a special moment. A gorgeous, smiling child and a mother full of life, but with a harrowing life story. Adam, suffering from sarcoma, the family from Sair, a village near Hebron – two parents and six children.

I also learned about Mahmoud, his younger brother, who suffers from cerebral palsy.

Since then, for the past two and a half years, I have been accompanying this incredible family, taking Adam to and from hospital, being with him for his treatments – radiation and chemotherapy, and at every opportunity, at the end of his treatment and before returning home, taking him to the beach, or the port, for a change of scenery.

I got to know a charming boy, full of life and energy, hooked on computer games and his telephone, and funny.

Over the past few months, his condition deteriorated and the treatments no longer helped. It was hard for him to walk and his pains increased. He spent longer periods of time in hospital and less with his family at home. It was clear that the end was near and it was only a matter of time, but still, the news of his passing yesterday came as a profound shock. Yesterday the cancer defeated Adam, just two months shy of his 12th birthday.

Rest in peace, Adam."

❖ Standing Together

[Standing Together](#) is a grassroots movement mobilizing Israeli Jewish and Palestinian citizens from all walks of life in pursuit of peace, equality, social and climate justice. Standing Together is building a shared home for all those who refuse hatred and choose empathy by not erasing their differences, but rather believing in a true partnership based on shared interests.

B8 of Hope's 2022 grant to Standing Together was allocated towards public activity, as well as developing a [new Arabic podcast](#) for its [Rosa Media platform](#).

The public activities held by Standing Together were crucial to strengthen the local communities throughout a very difficult year - following the May events of 2021, and some other smaller escalations throughout 2022. These activities included 3 conferences: One in the North, and 2 in the South, which was the hotspot area of clashes and violence in 2022.

The grant covered expenses of place rental, equipment rental, refreshments, and mainly transportation to and from the events to various pick-up locations offered to Standing Together's members.

The Emergency Conference: "We are the Negev"

This conference took place in late March and was held in the Bedouin city of Rahat as a response to acts of violence that occurred at that time in several towns in the Negev (Ashkelon, Be'er-Sheva, Rahat). Following the violent events of May of the previous year - these attacks furthered the hostile environment of fear and lack of trust amongst both Arab and Jewish residents of the area. The event aimed to strengthen the shared community in the Negev, and bring a different voice - the voice of the majority of the people that live in the Negev, that seek peace, security and partnership. The event had over 40 participants present in person and nearly 70 people who joined virtually. It has also hosted many of Standing Together's young bedouin leaders within the Negev Chapter.

"Third conference for peace"

In partnership with other peace organizations, Standing Together held its third conference for peace, in the Jewish city of Ibim, near Sderot (Gaza border), in March of this year.



The event followed the success of two conferences that happened in previous years - promoting discussions and bringing together over 300 Arab and Jewish participants from several localities in the country, including Nazareth, Jerusalem, and the Negev. Most of the participants were also movement members of Standing together. The topics discussed included the continuous struggle to end the occupation, the lifting of the siege in Gaza, and how peace can be achieved through shared struggles and Jewish-Palestinian partnership within Israel.

“The second Galilee conference for Arab-Jewish partnership”

Lastly, the movement hosted its second Galilee conference for Arab-Jewish partnership in Kfar Manda in the Lower Galilee, which included panels, lectures, discussion groups, and cultural performances with over 150 participants discussing shared struggles in the topics of education, social justice, climate crisis, violence, and peace. The conference was organized by the local chapter of Nazareth and the Valley area of Standing Together, in partnership with partner organization such as Women Wage Peace, Mothers for Life, Neighbors for peace, Ajeec, Ajyal, Sipur Hikaya, Yad beYad, and Sikkuy-Aufoq.

“Negev Talks” Podcast

This podcast came to live in September 2022, in an attempt to put the issues of the Arab-Bedouin community in the Negev on the table and among political discussions. The Bedouin community in the Negev is not only the poorest, most marginalized community in Israel, but is also the one most often overlooked by politicians, media, news, and public discourse.

The podcast is hosted and managed by Suleiman Al-Tihi, a young Bedouin from the city of Rahat, a university student and member of Standing Together’s national leadership. B8 of Hope’s support covered his salary and enabled Standing Together to launch the new podcast project. The production team consists of a group of 6 young activists from Rahat, Kuseifeh, and other villages in the Negev. With 4 episodes so far, the podcast features local leaderships, activists, academics, and politicians from the Negev and discusses their history, current developments, social intricacies, and more.

❖ Taghyeer

[Taghyeer](#) which means Change in Arabic is a Palestinian movement of grassroots communities and leaders in the West Bank, practicing non-violence as a unifying identity. Taghyeer’s philosophy and action is about taking responsibility for the self-development of the Palestinian society by enabling community-led social action- through non-violence workshops and training - to address problems and challenges. Taghyeer’s Messengers of Change and activists also respond to crisis and elaborate non-violent action plans.

This year, B8 of Hope continued its advisory role and numerous hours of meetings to help improve the complex governance of this massive movement. Our 2022 grant to Taghyeer was dedicated to Massafer Yatta (Southern Hebron Hills) and more specifically to the costs of the on Saturday 9th of December Festival in this part of the West Bank.

The festival took place at the school of Al-Twani village in Massafer Yatta, where around 1500 people (60% were women and 9% children) gathered for two hours. Keynote speakers highlighted the importance of the support for Massafer Yatta, followed by a show of the Palestinian Folkloric dance by a local dancing group “Dabkeh”. The event was called “Festival” as Palestinian celebrated their rights non-violently.

Taghyeer’s work goes beyond defense and protection. It brings together isolated and harassed villagers to take on their own self-development in hands. Villagers throughout Massafer Yatta, along with activists, participated in focused conversation. They explored ways to meet the needs of their villages, including building and painting, modeling the power of nonviolent action to their children, start restoring the historic caves of the region as dwellings and as cultural assets such as Al-Twani's "old city", building a national park that all Massafer Yatta villagers can share; develop a long-term strategy to build greenhouses and agricultural support, ensuring long-term financial stability for women and men.



Credit Photos: Taghyeer

❖ Teachers’ Lounge

In Jerusalem, teachers from different schools do not interact. The education system is segregated, and each community has their own curriculum (Jewish, Arab, secular, religious, etc.). The [Teachers’ Lounge](#) program was established and has been operating in Jerusalem since 2014. This initiative was founded to allow educators from different and often adversarial communities to meet each other and explore Jerusalem’s vivid and varied multiculturalism. Thanks to the program, educators from different communities in and around the city interact in an open dialogue, thereby recognizing Jerusalem’s strength through its vivid and varied cultures. Teachers can create a real change in their students’ lives by focusing on overcoming racism and prejudice. Increasing tolerance and changing the climate of shared life in Jerusalem is in the hands of educators. The program is offered as a professional development program (30 hours annually) for teachers in Jerusalem. Every year, around 50-60 Jewish and Arab teachers from West and East



Credit Photo: Teachers' Lounge

Jerusalem, participate in Teachers' Lounge. The participating teachers are divided into four groups, with an equal number of Jewish and Arab teachers. Every group meets for ten sessions throughout the school year. The group sessions are moderated by two facilitators (a Jew and an Arab). During these sessions, teachers are asked to explore their personal, professional, and cultural identity, and then discuss mutual educational challenges. The experience of "meeting the other" takes place through an innovative narrative-experiential approach while using creative tools such as theater, plastic arts, writing, and photography. The sessions allow participants to meet one another in a direct manner and to share narratives that, above all, create a safe space and a feeling of a joint educational mission. As a part of the program, a special 'tour the city' is included. This tour is designed and led by the teachers themselves. Together they visit participants' homes, schools, and significant places in Jerusalem while sharing personal stories.

Just as in 2021, this year B8 of Hope contributed to the general operational costs of the 2022-2023 school year program (2022-2023). In addition to that we also contributed to Teachers' Lounge's growth in opening new center in Ramle (see section on Synergies Lab).

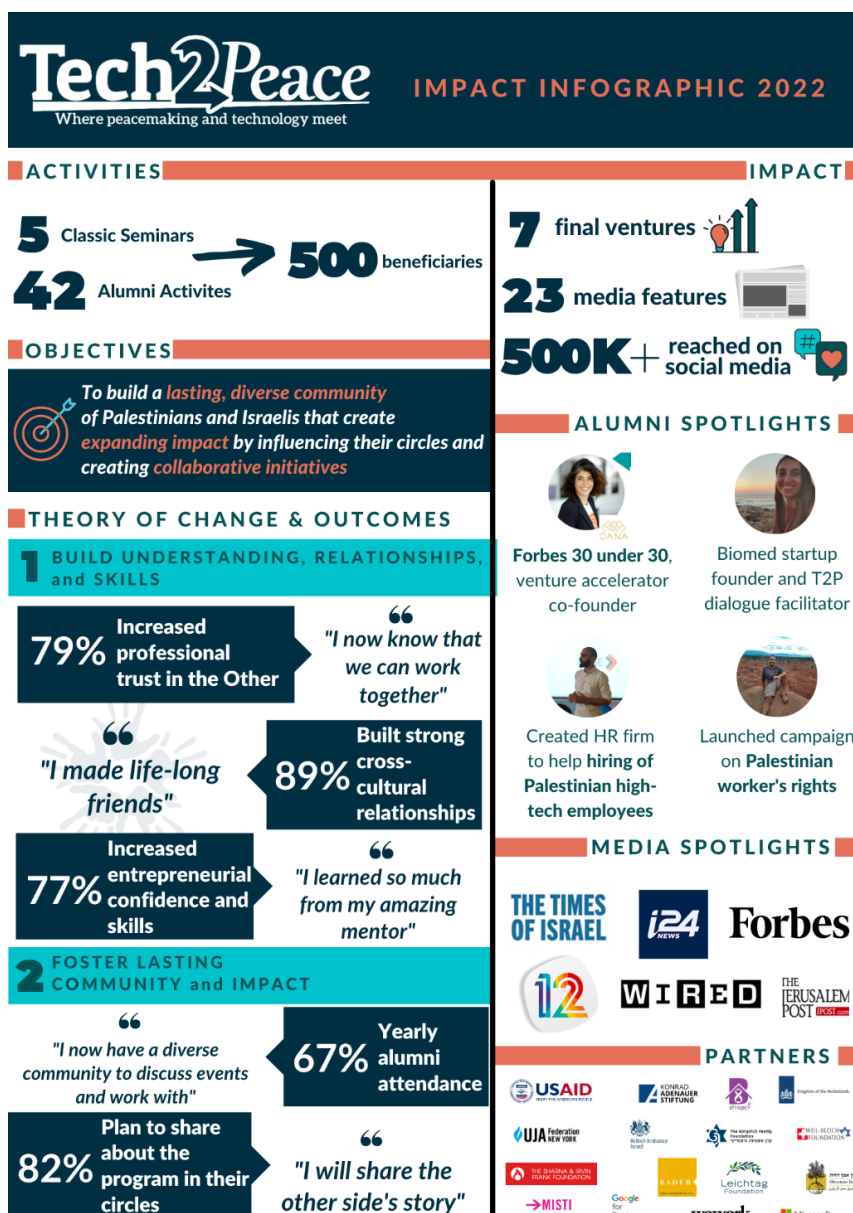
At the end of every year, Teachers' Lounge distributes surveys to assess the impact of participation on the personal and professional lives of the participants. The information helps Teachers Lounge gauge its successes and identify its challenges, to improve the program in successive years.

Here are the most prominent findings from the survey led in June 2022 (for the year 2021-2022)

1. In Jerusalem, 46% of the teachers reported that this was their first experience meeting with teachers from the other sector--45% for Jewish teachers and 47% for Arab teachers. In the Western Galilee, 80% of the participants experienced their first encounter with the other community.
2. The main impact of the program for a majority of Arab and Jewish teachers was the opportunity to meet teachers from the other community and get to know other narratives beside their own. These findings were very similar among Jewish and Arab teachers and correspond with the program's goals and pedagogy – which combines the contact and narrative approach.
3. Most of the Jewish teachers and about half of the Arab teachers stated that the program would affect their teaching. Nearly half of the Jewish and Arab teachers stated that they had already taught something they had learned in the program at their schools, both in Jerusalem and in the Western Galilee.
4. In both Jerusalem and the Western Galilee, a significant majority of Arab and Jewish teachers were satisfied with the program to a great extent or to a very great extent. On the other hand, satisfaction with the online meetings was around 40%, a finding that supports our belief that in-person meetings work best for this kind of program because of the opportunities for spontaneous and unmediated personal connections.
5. A significant number of Jewish and Arab teachers indicated that they would highly or very highly recommend participation in the program to their colleagues.

❖ Tech2Peace

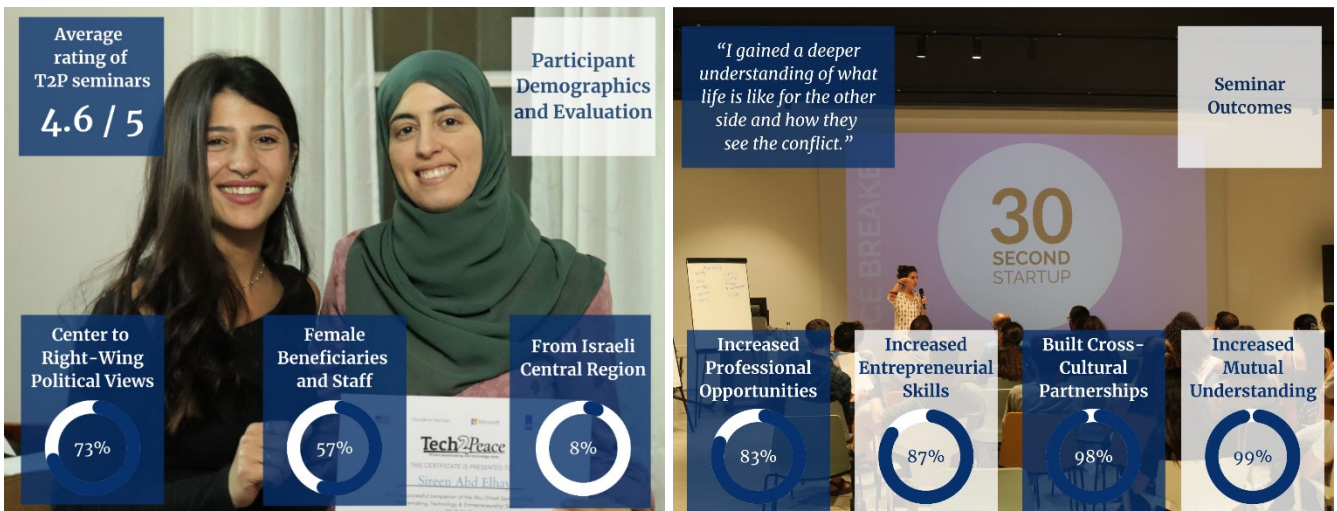
[Tech2Peace](#) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative, created and operated by a young staff of students and volunteers. Their aim is to run high-tech and peace-building seminars, focused on creating a lasting positive relationship between young Israelis and Palestinians. They believe that these participants will not only leave as peace activists, but also as potential colleagues with a strong basis for future positive interaction in the tech-sector. Their mission is to equip the Israeli and Palestinian youth with the skills necessary to ensure greater co-operation and co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians in the future. The seminars teach participants skills in three specializations: Web Building, 3D and Graphic Design, and Mobile App Development. Additionally, participants take part in experiential workshops focused on conflict resolution, thereby humanizing each other, which helps humanize the conflict as a whole from the grassroots level. Upon completing the seminar, Tech2Peace participants will not only become peacebuilding ambassadors, but will also have the skills required for the first steps in their newfound high-tech careers. Since its creation in 2018, Tech2Peace grew from 1 to 2 seminars per year in 2018-2020 to 5 to 6 seminars per year in 2021-2022.



This year B8 of Hope’s grant was spent on a 12-day seminar in Nazareth. 30 Israelis and Palestinians came together, spending half of each day in dialogue and half in high-tech. As usual, the participants had difficult conversations, connected deeply as friends and partners, learned new skills, and innovated together towards a better new reality, demonstrating a power model of positive cooperation. The seminar staff were 100% made up of alumni and the seminar featured an alumni reunion weekend - showing the strength of our community, its internal sustainability, and presenting the new participants with a model of what it means to join the Tech2Peace community.



All in all it was a successful and meaningful seminar - especially as with this seminar Tech2Peace has now passed 400 lifetime beneficiaries!



Here are a few quotes from participants:

"It was a very powerful experience. Changed the way I view Palestinians and the conflict. Gave me more motivation to continue working towards peace."

"It gave me a new perspective on life. It made me think in ways I hadn't before. It helped me see the humanity in others and gave me hope."

"I trust the other side much more than I did before."

"I changed my ideas about the conflict and became more hopeful about change. I also made really good friends that I know I will keep in touch with and want to continue doing dialogue."

"I meet new people from different backgrounds, cities and religions. The seminar helped me to know what the other side feels about the conflict and it was very amazing to learn a lot of things in just 11 days."

"It gave me bigger ambitions to be involved in solving the conflict. I learned new skills in web development. I'm more curious about the idea of going into tech and for sure trying to work with the other side as part of it."

"It expanded my awareness and made me understand much better the other side. It gave me knowledge about tech and startups."

"It made me feel the conflict in a stronger way than in day to day life and made me want to do more about it. Especially maintain my connection with the Palestinians I've met and expand them to more people."

"The seminar gave motivation to work towards peace. I also made really good friends that I will keep in touch with and continue doing dialogue with."



❖ Women Wage Peace

[Women Wage Peace \(WWP\)](#) is a grassroots movement with more than 44'000 members from different communities within Israeli society: right, center and left; religious and secular; Jews, Arabs, Druze and Bedouin; young women and older women; women from the urban hubs of the country and from the periphery. Women Wage Peace was founded in the summer of 2014 in the aftermath of Operation Protective Edge, uniting women of all walks of life. What these women had in common was their willingness to put an end to the cycle of violence, bringing diplomacy and negotiations back on the political agenda.

Women Wage Peace's vision is resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by means of a mutually acceptable agreement, with the participation of women from diverse groups of Israeli society, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325(link) .

B8 of Hope usually supports Women Wage Peace's major marches and events, as well as their meetings with Palestinian women in the West Bank. This year our support went towards matching the crowd-funding campaign which generated the essential funds for the expenses of these big events as well as the core budget of the movement.

In July 2021, in the course of WWP meetings with Palestinian women peace activists, and following the violence outbreak of May 2021, WWP's Palestinian partners decided to establish a movement of their own – Women of the Sun (WOS). During the following months, they worked together, finalized their joint vision – the Mothers' Call, planned their joint actions, and formulated their Partnership Pact.

On March 25, 2022, they publicly announced their partnership, that will lead the leaders on both sides to the negotiating table, for the future of Israeli and Palestinian children.

The event was the starting point for WWP and WOS joint actions and events and was followed by a joint letter to the leaders to promote negotiations as soon as possible, in light of the growing tension and escalation witnessed in the region.



Credit Photo: Women Wage Peace

❖ Zimam

[Zimam](#) ("reins" or "taking the initiative" in Arabic) is a pioneering grassroots youth movement that challenges the status quo. Taking a domestic approach to conflict resolution, they work with the Palestinian leaders of tomorrow, in order to build a more democratic, active and pluralistic society, driven by values of tolerance, non-violence and responsibility.

Zimam works across nine governorates in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Its programs empower young people and transform public thinking, fostering respect for others, building peace and instilling democratic attitudes.

B8 of Hope supports two aspects of Zimam's work: The Leadership Incubator and the Transform Campaign.

Usually B8 of Hope's grants to Zimam are dedicated to these programs, but in 2022, we decided to focus our help to Zimam on a new workshop on Negotiations Skills, described in our [synergies projects section](#).



❖ 50:50 Startups

[50:50 Startups](#) is a new grantee of B8 of Hope and a groundbreaking and quite recent incubator for creating equal partnerships between Palestinian and Israeli startup co-founders. It brings together diverse participants (interested in entrepreneurship and high-tech) to partner while offering them intellectual stimuli and driving the creation of their venture. 50:50 Startups's mission is to create change through venture partnerships that lower barriers, foster creativity and mutual respect, and drive economic prosperity in the Israel-Palestine region. The concept is built on the ideal that the Palestinian-Israeli status quo cannot be sustained and that peace must start in the hearts and minds of individuals – through meaningful connections in venture creation and technological innovation.

At 50:50 Startups, the Palestinian and Israeli participants are equal partners. The workshops (in Israel as well as in the United States) provides them with the expertise of international specialists from the corporate, academia and investment worlds, representing CEOs, professors and key plays in the global tech startup ecosystem.

50:50 Startups program consists of an Opening Seminar for the selected applicants. During this intensive 72 hours seminar which takes place in Israel, the participants will meet, share their ideas and explore shared areas of interest. Through a series of leadership, ideation, and team building workshops 50:50 Startups aim that the participants will gather into diverse teams. Each team will receive a mentor that will help develop their venture ideas. The second phase is the incubation program dedicated to providing the teams with business, soft skills knowledge and training. It lasts 10 consecutive weeks. The best teams are selected at the end of this phase to attend a summer entrepreneurship program at Northeastern University in Boston, with expenses covered by 50:50 Startups' supporters such as B8 of Hope. What interests us in 50:50 Startups is the fact that it is also a natural next step for Tech2Peace alumni. Both organizations are very close and connected. We like this idea of continuity. (See more in the synergies section).



50:50 Startups Northeastern phase

In 2022, a total of 15 Israeli and Palestinian participants were selected to join the program in Boston.

Unfortunately, many of the visas were rejected and only 3 participants ended up traveling to the US for the summer Northeastern phase. The rest of the program participants joined online and followed the courses and the assignments from afar. Sadly, US visa rejections are a problematic reality for participants of programs and especially for Palestinian activists across the peacebuilding and change making community. 50:50 Startups is working with Northeastern University to improve visa obtentions for the next cohort in 2023.

In 2022, the funds from B8 of Hope covered the airfares, food and local travel, as well as the cost of housing in Boston for the 3 participants who got their visas. Participants worked intensively on their ventures, received guidance and advice from entrepreneurs and investors in the Boston area, and had an extraordinary meeting with Microsoft and more.

50:50 Startups ended this 3rd cohort with 9 great ventures and 3 teams that will keep on developing their ideas back home: <https://www.5050startups.org/our-startups>.

In February of 2022, B8 of Hope got to meet Joe Aweidah & Ditsa Keren, young Palestinian and Israeli entrepreneurs and alumni of 50:50 Startups in Jerusalem. They created [FoodChain](#) and learned about their experience with 50:50 Startups and how it helped them build FoodChain, a cross-platform app that connects businesses with surplus food and charities that can distribute that food to people in need, at the click of a button. FoodChain's AI-driven evaluation algorithm quantifies the value of food donations, turning them from a cost into a positive cash flow item through tax credits. Its ultimate goal is to turn food donations into a seamless, effortless, and mutually beneficial process.

Our Synergies Lab (synergies building grants)

Since 2019, B8 of Hope has been actively encouraging connections between our grantees. Our efforts first consisted in bringing them together in the same virtual meeting or in person, during our executive director's trips on the ground. The first ambition was providing a space for community building, sharing thoughts and best practices to face mutual challenges. The first in-person gathering was hosted by Ambassador Jean-Daniel Ruch's at his residence in July 2019.

Little by little, our synergies building efforts shifted towards more concrete actions.

In 2022, for the first time ever, we offered an additional grant opportunity to our grantees in order to build bridges between them and scale their programs and the sum of their individual impacts. The idea behind this pilot Synergies Lab was to push the organizations and movements which were individually supported by B8 of Hope to either partner on of their individual running programs, share data and resources or develop capacity. At B8 of Hope we are convinced that working in collaboration is critical to all of our grantees' success.

The amount of our support available per grant ranged between 10,000 USD to 50,000 USD. In addition to B8 of Hope's regular grantees, the call for proposal was also opened to organizations officially "on our radar" (i.e: organizations that we are familiar with but which we never funded due to lack of funds or capacity). The call for proposals was released in January 2022. Proposals were received by mid-February followed by a period of clarifications and interviews in March which helped us make our final decisions. The funds were distributed in April.

Following the call for proposals, we received 15 grant applications for collaborative projects from 23 different organizations. Most projects involved two organizations, but one of them involved three organizations and another one four! We were extremely pleased to see the enthusiasm for this initiative, as NGO's and movements are often busy with their own work and stay in their bubble.

Since this type of granting was a first experience for B8 of Hope, we went through a thorough selection process with the help and mentorship of our partner Amal-Tikva ([link to Website](#)). This organization's expertise is capacity and skill building for peace NGOs and movements. It offers them a comprehensive range of programs (which a majority of our grantees have participated in). The goal of Amal Tikva is to ensure that stakeholders in peacebuilding are equipped with skills and receive guidance on best practices for scalability, impact and sustainability. Amal Tikva's help was extremely important in developing our approach, clarifying our goals and setting our criteria for the Synergies Lab.

At the end of the selection process 7 projects were chosen, but the sum of the budget exceeded the 100,000 USD available for the Synergies Lab. The quality of the proposals motivated us to search for additional funds and, in some cases, to suggest some adjustments to reduce certain costs. We managed to bridge the gap and the total amount of 155,000 USD was distributed to the 7 projects, involving a total of 15 organizations:

-
1. **Creation of a “train-the-trainers” Negotiation Skills program in Arabic** involving Zimam and PATHWAYS Institute for Negotiation Education

Description: Building of a tailored training module of Negotiation Skills in Arabic

+ 18 hours of training for 10-12 Zimam facilitators

+ a 2-day Showcase Workshop for 24 youth among Zimam’s network participants, including coaching by PATHWAYS Institute for Negotiation Education

Implementation: from December 22 to March 23

[PATHWAYS Institute for Negotiation Education](#) is an independent nonprofit organization, which has been on B8 of Hope’s radar since 2020. It brings negotiation education into educational systems and to build bridges between diverse communities, including in Israel.

2. **Coordination to facilitate Palestinian patients’ access to medical care** involving Road to Recovery and Physicians for Human Rights Israel

Description: Coordinated assistance (referrals/permits request, funding of medical treatments, medical advices and transportation)

to 15 Palestinian patients from the West Bank and Gaza

Implementation: from May to October 22 (pilot program over six months)

3. **Art therapy and trauma healing courses for Palestinian youth from the South Hebron Hills** involving Taghyeer and Holy Land Trust

[Holy Land Trust](#) is a nonprofit Palestinian organization, which has been on B8 of Hope’s radar since 2017. It is committed to fostering peace, justice and understanding in the Holy Land and explores the root causes of violence and seeks to develop solutions to address them. Holy Land Trust believes that true peace and justice can be achieved through nonviolent activism, personal and spiritual transformation and healing.

Description: 8 courses for 20 kids aged 8-14 among Taghyeer’s families network to allow them to express themselves through art (photography, writing, drama, dance and theater) and learn nonviolence practices

by Holy Land Trust

+ one “Open Day” event for them to show and share what they learnt with their family

Implementation: from July to October 2022

4. **Arabic/Hebrew language courses for Israelis and Palestinians Young Leaders**
involving Lissan, MEET, 50:50 Startups and Palestinian Internship Program

The [Palestinian Internship Program PIP](#) has been on B8 of Hope's radar since 2019. It is changing the lives of hundreds of young Palestinians through real-work experiences, hands-on workshops, and professional networking opportunities. PIP guides 40 Finalists, selected from over 300 applicants, through 6-month-long cycles of programming. To date, over 60 companies in Israel have hired Palestinian interns, including leading multinational companies such as Google, Intel, Thomson Reuters, HP Indigo and Teva, as well as a number of start-ups and venture capital firms.

Description: Building of two language courses for Israeli and Palestinian young leaders

with 15 weekly Arabic lessons for Hebrew speakers and Hebrew lessons for Arabic speakers

for 40 youth among alumni of MEET, 50:50 and PIP programs

by Lissan language teachers

Implementation: Mid-November 2022 to February 2023

5. **Startup pre-accelerator program**
involving Tech2Peace and 50:50 Startups

Description: Joint building of a preparatory program to the 9-month startup accelerator program of 50:50 Startups for Israeli et Palestinian startups co-founders

with 8 weekly sessions

for 30 youth among (mainly but not exclusively) alumni of Tech2Peace's Tech, Entrepreneurship and Dialogue seminars

implemented by 50:50 Startups

Implementation: from October to December 2022

6. **Professional development program for Arab and Jewish teachers in the mixed Israeli city of Ramle**
involving Teachers' Lounge team and the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue

The [Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue](#) is an interreligious organization based in Jerusalem, which promotes an inclusive society for all religious, ethnic and national groups. Through education, encounter, research and advocacy, Rossing Center fosters better relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land. One of their program's is about building educators' skills in facilitating conflict-related discussions among high school students, encouraging their respect for difference and diversity, and their role as enablers of an inclusive society. The Rossing Center has been on our Radar since 2021.

-
- Description: 1. Building of an tailored intercultural program in Ramle
with 10 meetings and 4 specific activities
+ training of 2 local facilitators by Teachers' Lounge team
for 16 teachers/educators (8 Jews and 8 Arabs) among the Rossing Center's network
2. Implementation of the Teachers' Lounge program through the organizational infrastructure and at the premises of the "Open House", managed by the Rossing Center

Implementation: from November 2022 to April 2023

7. **Summer singing camp and Open Mic youth song Festival**
involving Jerusalem Youth Chorus and Kids4Peace

Description: Joint building and managing of a bilingual dialogue, music and singing day camp
for 30 youth ages 12-18
with a 5-day program
+ a final concert before the participants families

Implementation: from July 3 to July 8, 2022

Thank you, to our partner [Amal-Tikva](#) for offering their mentorship in developing our approach, clarifying our goals and setting our criteria.

We are renewing the Synergies Lab model in 2023 and will be deepen our support to the most successful projects.



Follow us!

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