



Newsletter

June 2024

From feelings of adversity to sources of inspiration, this is how we feel at B8 of Hope at this moment. We want to reflect this in our newsletter, which focuses on the challenges of seemingly hopeless situations and the initiatives and concrete actions that inspire hope.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Let's start with this short 2-minute clip, which highlights our commitment to contributing to the solution rather than fueling the conflict.

It features a retreat we hosted in February for a group of alumni of our grantee organization [New Story Leadership \(NSL\)](#). The 10 young Israeli and Palestinian alumni of NSL in addition to the Director of NSL, 3 staff members and a facilitator stayed in Geneva for 7 days to work on a project they initiated over Zoom in the fall of 2023. In Geneva, they worked tirelessly on their vision for the future and the outcome was **The Phoenix Plan** which not only calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the freeing of hostages but also sets forth a roadmap for what needs to happen after the fighting stops: healing, reconstruction, justice, security and self-determination for both Palestinians and Israelis for generations to come. Please refer to the [New Story Leadership website](#) for a sneak peek.

To watch the clip, [click here](#)



About the videographer:

Yonatan Belik is an Israeli with Australian origins. He is an alumnus of NSL as well as [Seeds for Peace](#), where he met his Palestinian wife Hiba. They currently live in the US raising their beautiful bilingual (Hebrew and Arabic) daughter Amina. Currently, Yonatan and family are on a new journey called “Yalla Bait”, living and working in a converted shuttle bus, spreading love on the road! Yonatan is a content creation master, and you can follow him on different platforms [@BorderlessBelik](#) on IG/FB/TK/YT



These days, we feel so powerless in the face of the immense tragedy that rages in Gaza, we are devastated for all the innocent victims of this despicable situation, especially children, youth and women who are paying the highest price and enduring the consequences of actions taken by warmongering men. Our hearts are in a million pieces for all Palestinian civilians enduring displacements, bombings, hunger, fear, bereavement and facing death. Our hearts are also crying for the Israeli hostages enduring captivity in frightening conditions, not knowing if they will go back home safely.

We learned that one of the hostages whose death was announced recently was Chaim Peri, from Kibbutz Nir Oz. He used to be a dedicated peace activist and volunteer of our grantee organization [Road to Recovery](#) and drove many Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals. On the other hand, we are relieved for those who recently made it home. However, as our friend and bereaved peace activist [Maoz Inon](#), whose parents died on October 7th, said it recently after the rescue of some of the hostages:

“The current sense of joy is tainted by sorrow for those hurt and killed during the rescue operation, during the last 8 months and for those who will die until we grasp that the only war which is won is a war which leads to peace. War is not the answer.”

We are deeply saddened by all this disheartening news. We pray for an end to the bloodshed and strive for a better future for all.

Humanitarian Efforts and News from the Ground:

In our own modest way, we have been contributing to humanitarian aid to make a positive impact. The first section below is about these efforts, through our grantees and the second section is about some other heartwarming news, bringing some rays of hope in the midst of hardships.

♦ Zimam

In these terrible times, B8 Of Hope is extremely moved by the tireless humanitarian work and courage of our grantee organization, [Zimam](#) and its Gaza chapter who are particularly in our thoughts at this moment and that we have been supporting in our humble way. Since November, Zimam’s Gaza chapter team has been distributing food, tents and hygiene kits in Dier Albalah and Rafah.

More recently, in May, when the Northern part of the Strip finally became accessible, they succeeded in distributing flour bags to 40 families in Beit Lahia. In addition, they organized stress-relief activities for 90 kids. May Zimam continue their work, safely.



All Photos credit @Zimam

◆ Women of the Sun

The West Bank is also facing challenging conditions. Families have lost their income due to the absence of permits for Palestinian workers who typically work in Israel, and local businesses are struggling due to the uncertain situation. Thanks to our financial support, our grantee organization Women of the Sun has been able to deliver food parcels to vulnerable families. We will provide detailed reports in August, once our funds have been fully utilized.

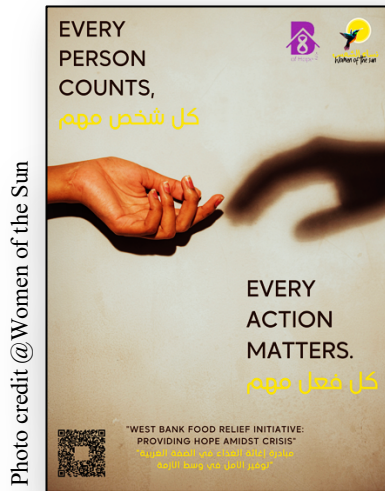


Photo credit @Women of the Sun

◆ Standing Together

Since several months, extremist settlers have intensified attacks against Palestinian villagers. More recently, they have also carried out attacks against food convoys coming from Jordan, passing through the West Bank to access Gaza. In response to these attacks, our grantee organization Standing Together has established a protective operation called “The Humanitarian Guard”. In the framework of this operation, approximately 800 volunteers have shown up every morning since early May, managing to get Israeli police to do their job, and keep settlers away from attacking or blocking aid from entering the Turqumiyah checkpoint and into Gaza.



All Photos credit @Standing Together

◆ Physicians for Human Rights Israel

Our grantee organization [Physicians for Human Rights Israel](#) have joined forces with other human rights entities and filled a petition to the High Court of Justice, demanding that the State of Israel allow patients and wounded individuals from the Gaza Strip who are in life-threatening conditions and are not involved in the fighting to exit the Strip to receive urgent medical treatment. We hope that the signatories of the petition will be successful.



◆ Teachers' Lounge

Last but not least, at B8 of Hope we find light in the darkness through small acts of humanity and efforts to heal hearts during war. Our grantee program [Teachers' Lounge](#) brought us rays of hope in the midst of hardships.

The program's main goal is to produce a growing cohort of educators, both Palestinian and Israeli, who are committed to the ideals of shared society and peaceful coexistence. They are trained to promote those ideals in their professional and personal lives.

Despite the very dark and challenging times, Teachers' Lounge could resume its activities this winter. During the past months, the academic 2023–2024-year cohort have met for weekly meetings to get to know each other and learn together. They held a final meeting to mark the end of school year, during which they prepared a joint photo-project presenting their experience throughout the program.

One of this cohort's beautiful conclusion was:

"What we sow now will lead to the growth and prosperity of these ideas for future generations: roots, strength, challenge, hope, cooperation, peace, and acceptance of the other. Thus, we will all come to be as we are now – one big group".



Photo credit @Teacher's Lounge



As for B8 of Hope's activities themselves, please click [here](#) to see what has kept us busy in Geneva in May and June.

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B8fully Yours,

The B8 of Hope Team



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