



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Our Executive Director.....3

About B8 of Hope 5

Supporting Civil Society in Israel and Palestine 8

Cross-Border Initiatives

A Land for All..... 9

Coexistences11

Combatants for Peace..... 13

Jerusalem Youth Chorus..... 18

Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow..... 20

New Story Leadership 22

Parents Circle Families Forum..... 24

Physicians for Human Rights Israel..... 26

Peres Center's Saving Children Program 29

Road to Recovery 31

Roots-Shorashim-Judur..... 34

Tech2Peace..... 35

Uniting for a Shared Future..... 37

Vivian Silver Impact Award 39

Shared Society Programs

Lissan 41

Polyphony..... 45

Standing Together..... 48

Teachers' Lounge..... 51

Women Wage Peace..... 55

Uninational Programs

Green Land Society for Health Development.....58

Women of the Sun 60

Zimam 64

Synergies Lab..... 67

Emergency Response Grants 74

Cultural Projects..... 82

Building Peace from Switzerland..... 87

Financial Overview..... 99

Acknowledgments 101

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

To us, at B8 of Hope, 2024 felt like a journey from adversity to inspiration. This annual report highlights the concrete initiatives that we have initiated and or financially supported during the most heartbreaking tumultuous year of B8 of Hope's eight years of existence.

First, I would like to honor the memory of all the innocent Palestinian and Israeli lives lost in this conflict, and express my empathy to all those who have been suffering from the unbearable situation—whether they have been facing violence, hunger, displacement, whether they have been mourning loved ones, whether they have been taken hostage, or have been waiting for a loved one to return home.

I would like to dedicate this report to the courageous peacebuilders who have been sparking hope despite the challenges of an impossible overwhelming context.

Despite the devastating circumstances of a heartbreaking tumultuous year, whether through personal grief and hardships, and or organizational challenges, these heroic change seekers, "my" / "our" Palestinian and Israeli peace heroes, have kept paving a path for hope and showing that light can emerge from darkness. These individuals have demonstrated the possibility of a Shared Future, rooted in mutual recognition, equality, dignity, self-determination, safety, security, inclusion, agency, and healing.

They continue to inspire us, and as long as they pursue their vital work, we will stand unwaveringly behind them, offering our full support and deepest admiration.

On behalf of B8 of Hope, I would like to extend heartfelt wishes to the people of the Middle East—regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or religion—for a brighter and more peaceful future. May war and conflict come to an end so that all innocent civilians can live in safety and security. Let us hope for a sustainable peace process to take root and for the healing of hearts to begin.

History has shown us that nations can rise above violence and tragedy to forge paths of reconciliation and hope. Why not Palestinians and Israelis? Why not the entire Middle East? As 2024 has shown, the conflict risks dangerously extending into other countries.

During our B8 of Hope screening events in November, we witnessed a glimpse of this hope: Palestinian, Lebanese, Israeli, and Iranian B8 of Hope volunteers working together to make the event a success. We also see Palestinian and Israeli partnerships and collaborations in the activities of our grantees all the time.

If such collaborations are possible in small pockets, why not on a larger scale? This is the vision we hold for the Middle East: a future built on partnerships and shared prosperity for all.

Throughout 2024, B8 of Hope has been engaged in supporting Israeli and Palestinian grassroots initiatives for change-making and peacebuilding. We have been also fostering healthier discourse around the conflict, encouraging audiences to be pro-peace rather than pro-one side. We firmly believe empathy for more than one side is possible. Empathy for one group does not negate empathy for the other. In polarizing and emotional contexts, finding humanity in the "other" is difficult but necessary. As our Palestinian peace activist friend Ali Abu Awwad says: "My best weapon is the humanity of my enemy." Let's strive to humanize the faceless "other" and search for common ground. Together, we are stronger as peace seekers.

In this annual report, you will find heartwarming updates from our grantees on the ground and about our own activities outside the conflict zone. These positive developments energize us, and we hope they will uplift you too.

In the aftermath of October 7 and the ensuing war, many Palestinian and Israeli initiatives supported by B8 of Hope focused on internal healing. They convened with staff and members to process their emotions, extended support to alumni and affiliated communities, and, in some cases, paused or canceled programs. While some organizations faced demotivation, others gained new members. Gradually, activities resumed in 2024—both online and in person. Alumni networks of our grantee organizations have remained active, organizing dialogue sessions and rallying together to advocate for ceasefires, protect civilians in Gaza, and secure the safe return of Israeli hostages. Some grantees have also dedicated themselves to humanitarian aid. Humanitarian and humanization go together. In general, the peace camp has shown unprecedented unity, and it is crucial to sustain this momentum toward healing and peace. Let us strive to expand this circle, reaching beyond to engage the Israeli and Palestinian mainstreams and the people outside the conflict zone, by depolarizing and encouraging solutions not sides.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

A blue ink signature of Mehra Rimer.

Mehra Rimer
Executive Director



ABOUT B8 OF HOPE

Vision & Mission

Our Vision

is of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence founded on the fundamental principles of mutual recognition, equal rights, and the right of both peoples to self-determination and independence. We envision a future where everyone living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea enjoys dignity, security, and meaningful participation in shaping their lives and societies, regardless of the eventual political framework that upholds these principles.

Our Mission

is to support peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians through two core commitments:

- We empower Palestinian and Israeli grassroots and civil society initiatives that build paths toward mutual recognition, dignity, and equality. We do this by providing essential resources—from funding and visibility to networking and capacity-building opportunities—enabling these peacebuilders to strengthen and expand their vital work.
- We transform discourse in international and diaspora communities by amplifying the voices of Palestinian and Israeli peace practitioners. By showcasing their collaborative efforts and shared dedication to positive change, we encourage a shift from polarized positions toward active engagement in supporting peaceful solutions that honor both peoples' right to security, agency, and self-determination.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Our Executive Board

Our Executive Board guides B8 of Hope with dedication and purpose, bringing together diverse expertise to ensure our governance serves our mission effectively. This committed team oversees our strategic direction while maintaining the careful stewardship of B8 of Hope's resources and impact.

The Executive Board Members, all co-founders of B8 of Hope, are:

- Mehra Rimer, Chair
- Leila Hawa, Vice-Chair
- Arun Chandrasekharan
- David Rimer

Our Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board enriches B8 of Hope's mission through deep expertise in peacebuilding. Through regular consultation with our Executive Director, the Advisory Board helps shape our strategic approach while keeping us closely connected to developments and opportunities within the Palestinian-Israeli peacebuilding ecosystem

The Advisory Board Members are:

- Ahmad Abu Akel, Neuroscientist at University of Haifa
- Fiuna Ongen-Seylan, Chair of Association Coexistences
- Hiba Qasas, Founder and Executive Director of Principles for Peace
- Jean-Marc Liling, Lawyer and Consultant
- John Lyndon, Executive Director of the Alliance for Middle East Peace
- Meredith Rothbart, Co-Founder and CEO of Amal-Tikva

Our Team

B8 of Hope's work is made possible through the dedication of a dynamic group of professionals and volunteers who bring diverse expertise and unwavering commitment to our mission.

The team includes:

- Mehra Rimer, Executive Director (pro-bono)
- Arij Oreibi, Head of Administration, Coordination & Communications
- Frédéric Morel, Accountant (pro-bono)
- Jean-Stephane Riber, IT Support (pro-bono)

Our Regional Partners

We work closely with Amal-Tikva, our consulting partners based in Jerusalem, who provide essential on-the-ground expertise and support across Israel and Palestine. They are also responsible for managing our grantmaking process. Their local knowledge and networks are invaluable to our mission.

The blend of professional staff, regional consultants, skilled volunteers, and the guidance of our executive and advisory boards allows us to maintain significant impact while ensuring that maximum resources go directly to supporting our grantees' vital work in the field.



B8 OF HOPE RESOURCES





SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN ISRAEL & PALESTINE: OUR GRANT PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

B8 of Hope's support for civil society organizations in Israel and Palestine reflects the complex social fabric of the region and the diverse approaches needed to foster positive change. We categorize our grantees based on the scope and nature of their work, recognizing that transformation happens at multiple levels of society.

Some of our partner organizations focus on **cross-border** initiatives, creating vital connections and fostering collaboration between Palestinian and Israeli communities. These bridge-building efforts help maintain channels of dialogue and understanding even in challenging times. Other grantees work within the framework of **shared society**, concentrating on building sustainable coexistence within communities in Israel. We also support **uninational** programs that address distinct needs within either Palestinian or Israeli society, acknowledging that strengthening individual communities contributes to the broader ecosystem of peace and stability.

The funding for these initiatives falls into four main categories: **Individual organization grants, synergy grants, emergency response grants, and cultural grants.**

Our grantees work across fourteen key thematic areas that reflect the diverse needs and opportunities for positive change in the region:

- Arts for Social Change
- Dialogue, Reconciliation & Bridge-Building
- Education
- Focus Populations: Women, Young Adults & Youth
- Health
- Leadership Development
- Nonviolent Action
- Policy & Advocacy
- Social Justice & Community Organizing
- Technology & Entrepreneurship

****A Note on Terminology:** In this report, we use "Palestinian citizens of Israel" as the most accurate designation for this population group. However, when referring to specific grantees or their work, we respect and maintain their own chosen terminology, which may include "Palestinian Israelis," "Israeli-Arabs" or "Arabs." This approach reflects both our organizational commitment to precise language and our respect for our grantees' right to self-identification.

Cross-Border Initiatives

A Land for All

Mission: A Land for All (ALFA) is a shared movement of Israelis and Palestinians who believe that the way towards peace, security, and stability for all passes through two independent states, Israel and Palestine, within a joint framework allowing both peoples to live together and apart. Israeli-Jews and Arab-Palestinians are heavily intertwined on both sides of the Green Line and therefore building walls between them is neither realistic nor desirable. Recognizing that both Jews and Palestinians are part of the same shared homeland, and respecting their equal individual and national rights, ALFA provides pragmatic and viable solutions to the obstacles that have stymied prior negotiations, moving from a paradigm of separation towards a future based on power sharing and shared interests.

Themes: Policy & Advocacy

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope provided ALFA with funding toward strengthening their organizational infrastructure.

ALFA's work is at a critical juncture given the historic opportunity that lies within the current catastrophic reality in Israel and Palestine. ALFA stands uniquely positioned to advance a comprehensive and pragmatic framework for a shared future in the land. Building on significant growth and momentum over the previous year, ALFA sought to enhance their organizational capacity to help transform their vision into reality.

The ALFA team, which is composed of Palestinian and Israeli visionaries, activists, intellectuals, and scholars, understood that in order to achieve their ambitious goals, they needed to establish robust organizational infrastructure that could sustain and amplify their impact.

After careful assessment of their organizational needs, ALFA invested the funds in strengthening their existing staffing structure.

Rather than hiring a new COO, they strategically reallocated resources to expand two existing positions to more comprehensive full-time roles.

This approach allowed them to immediately bolster their operational capacity while working within the constraints of the challenging talent landscape they encountered.

The enhanced staff positions have enabled ALFA to improve day-to-day operations, optimize processes, and build more scalable systems while effectively managing organizational planning, budgeting, and financial operations. This investment in organizational infrastructure has directly contributed to ALFA's ability to expand their reach and impact.



Photo credit © ALFA

Outcomes and Impact: ALFA's strengthened organizational infrastructure and enhanced staffing capacity in 2024 led to substantial growth across multiple areas of their work. They delivered impactful presentations and workshops to over 24,000 participants through hundreds of parlor and public meetings in Israel and Palestine, as well as international events. These sessions focused on fostering actionable hope and sharing their vision for a unified political future.

ALFA significantly strengthened their media presence and communication strategies, with their representatives appearing in more than 200 global and local media outlets including CNN, BBC, MSNBC, The New York Times, Haaretz, and Ma'an. Their co-chairpersons and members published articles in prestigious publications such as Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy, amplifying their message of peace and practical solutions to a broader audience.

On the international stage, ALFA gained significant recognition, presenting their vision at the European Parliament's Annual Policy Review, briefing Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate, meeting with White House and State Department officials, and building relationships with research institutes in Gulf States. Their invitation to the Munich Security Conference and recognition by the International Peace Institute as a partner organization further elevated their global standing, allowing them to present their vision to 22 world leaders and foreign ministers.

Looking toward the future, ALFA achieved important milestones in organizational development. They secured substantial funding to establish a dedicated research and policy department, scheduled to launch in early 2025. Additionally, they expanded their professional team, strategically incorporating both Palestinian and Israeli leaders into key positions, further embodying their commitment to shared leadership and collaborative solutions.



Photo credit © ALFA

Coexistences

Mission: Since 2007, **Coexistences** has been dedicated to fostering dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis by hosting mixed groups in Switzerland, providing a welcoming environment away from the immediate pressures of the conflict. Founded on the principle that meaningful change emerges through small evolutions rather than grand gestures, the organization believes that listening to the other side transforms perceptions and that coexistence emerges from these accumulated moments of understanding. Over the years, Coexistences has hosted 42 groups comprising nearly 750 participants, creating spaces for sustained dialogue and mutual recognition.

Themes: Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Leadership Development

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the facilitators of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue—follow up 2024-2025 encounters program project.

In 2024, Coexistences expanded upon its innovative program, which began in Switzerland in 2022-2023, by enabling two local meetings in Israel and Palestine. These gatherings included 14 dialogue practitioners from diverse organizations including Roots, YMCA, Givat Haviva, Rossing Center, and AJEEC, as well as independent facilitators.

Following October 7 and the ensuing war, these meetings took on heightened significance, particularly the November gathering which addressed crucial challenges of facilitating dialogue during crisis, managing group dynamics, and supporting communities through trauma. Recognizing the critical importance of this work, B8 of Hope chose to support Coexistences, our partners in Lausanne, as they conducted these vital workshops for facilitators in Palestine and Israel, including representatives from several of our grantee organizations.

While B8 of Hope typically focuses on funding local organizations in Israel and Palestine, we believe it is important to strengthen the B8 of Hope ecosystem on

the ground by working together with partners like Coexistences, and to remain flexible in the ever-changing reality of the ongoing war.

Previously, our support for Coexistences had been limited to funding travel costs for our grantees from Palestine and Israel participating in their Switzerland-based programs. By directly supporting this facilitator capacity-building initiative in 2024, we were able to enhance the professional development of dialogue practitioners working across our network, ultimately strengthening peace-building capabilities in the region during an exceptionally challenging time.

Outcomes and Impact: The impact of these meetings extends far beyond traditional professional development. In a field lacking formal institutional structure or nationally recognized training programs in either Israel or Palestine, these gatherings have created an essential space for practitioners to enhance their skills, share methodologies, and validate their approaches. Participants report feeling more confident in their abilities and more aware of the diverse approaches being implemented across the region.

Particularly significant is how this initiative addresses systemic gaps in the field of dialogue facilitation.

Without an established professional body representing facilitators or creating opportunities for interaction, practitioners often work in isolation, facing job insecurity and an unstable professional landscape. Through these gatherings, Coexistences has fostered conditions for developing joint initiatives, building professional networks, and strengthening the overall field of peace-building dialogue in the region. Perhaps most crucially, in the aftermath of October 7, these meetings have provided a rare safe space where facilitators can openly discuss their doubts, share vulnerabilities, affirm one another, and find strength in collective support.

Ultimately, this comprehensive professional development and support network enables these facilitators to conduct more effective and nuanced people-to-people dialogue sessions between Palestinians and Israelis. Their enhanced skills, shared methodologies, and strengthened confidence directly translate into their ability to navigate complex conversations about the conflict, hold space for difficult emotions, and guide participants toward mutual understanding. By investing in the professional growth and resilience of facilitators, Coexistences strengthens the foundation of peace-building work in the region, creating ripple effects that extend far beyond the immediate participants to impact hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians engaged in dialogue programs.

Some participating organizations in the Coexistences workshop



Combatants for Peace

Mission: Combatants for Peace (CfP) is a joint Palestinian-Israeli community of former combatants working in solidarity to end the occupation, discrimination, and oppression of all people living in Israel and Palestine. Guided by the values of nonviolent resistance, they are showing the world that there is another way. CfP was born out of the personal experiences of its Palestinian and Israeli founders who were in the past actively involved in violence against the other side. They share, “We do not seek to deny our violent past but rather work with it, process it, and turn it from a site of conflict into a basis for joint, constructive action. This is how we perceive the history of this land and of the two peoples who co-inhabit it.”

Themes: Dialogue, Reconciliation & Bridge-Building, Nonviolent Action

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded CfP’s Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day & The Nakba Remembrance ceremonies.

The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day and the Nakba Remembrance ceremonies both serve to further CfP’s mission and share their vision with a huge local and international audience. The Joint Memorial ceremony is the flagship event of the peace community both locally and abroad, and the Nakba ceremony is a new opportunity to examine the roots of the conflict and challenge the taboo for many Israelis of discussing the events of 1948 that have led to an ongoing occupation today. These ceremonies are intended to carry the audience—Israelis, Palestinians, and internationals—to past traumas and their lingering legacies, then to the present, in order to build a just, peaceful, and equitable future.

Joint Memorial

2024 marked the 19th annual Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day ceremony. It continues to be the largest Israeli-Palestinian jointly organized peace event. The event is held every year on “Yom HaZikaron” (Israeli Memorial Day), a national day of mourning for Israelis. This ceremony is radically different from the typical Israeli memorial ceremonies that promote a narrative that war and death are inevitable and necessary. Instead, the joint memorial event is a unique opportunity for Palestinians and Israelis to grieve together and stand united in demanding an end to the bloodshed. In mourning together, they seek not to equate experiences, but rather transform despair into hope and build compassion around their shared humanity.

In 2024, due to security concerns and the inability to bring Palestinian partners into Israel for the ceremony, CfP decided to pre-record the ceremony with a smaller audience and organize many local and international screening events that would be broadcast online on the eve of Memorial Day.



Photos credit © Combatants for Peace

Nakba Remembrance

The Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony started in May 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic as a complement to the Memorial Ceremony. It is a unique opportunity to commemorate the pain and tragedy of the Nakba, when, in 1948, more than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes, became refugees, and had their villages and cities destroyed. In Israel, even mentioning the Nakba is completely taboo. However, CfP believes that peace and reconciliation involves a sincere and honest reckoning with this history that didn't end in 1948 but continues until this day. CfP understands that to end the occupation and find a solution to the conflict, Israelis and Palestinians must listen with empathy to each other's stories and acknowledge injustice in order to achieve true liberation. The ceremony offers a variety of live testimonies, short videos, and artistic entertainment in relation to the Nakba and the fate of the Palestinian people.



Photos credit © Combatants for Peace

Outcomes and Impact: The pre-recorded Joint Memorial ceremony had approximately 250-300 participants at the physical event. Online, there were a total of approximately 44,700 views and at least 450 total screening events in Israel, the West Bank, and internationally. The screening events averaged 20-50 people in each gathering, with larger gatherings in New York (400 attendees), London (80 attendees), Marseille (80 attendees), and Beit Jala (60 attendees). Based on these figures, the actual number of viewers was likely much higher than the recorded 44,700 online views.

CfP was successful in maintaining and creating new partnerships with many local and international organizations and activist groups to host screening events, including NIF Australia, ALLMEP, ForumZFD, All That's Left, Standing Together Haifa, Yahad, Standing Together Vienna, Les Guerrieres de la Paix, and more.

The event received significant media coverage, with 17 media items in Hebrew media and approximately 230 media items in English and other foreign languages, both in Israeli media and internationally. Highlights include coverage in the New York Times, France24, Time Magazine, Haaretz English podcast, and the Vatican News.

A post-event survey revealed that the majority of respondents (74%) reported that the current crisis since October 7 and the war in Gaza, along with the Joint Memorial ceremony, increased their motivation to be engaged in activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Organizing the Joint Nakba Remembrance ceremony was logistically challenging, particularly in finding a location that would host a joint event in Palestine. Nevertheless, CfP was able to host the event in Beit Jala with both Palestinian and Israeli participants, while others gathered at screening events or watched on their own in Israel, Palestine, and around the world.

Survey results showed that 77.5% of participants reported that the Nakba ceremony significantly increased or increased to a certain extent their motivation to engage in activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Additionally, 79.5% reported that the current crisis (October 7 and the war in Gaza) significantly increased their motivation to be involved in activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As one CfP activist expressed: "The two ceremonies aim to liberate us from the mental cage of the current situation. We are locked in and imprisoned by a drawn-out limbo of oppression and violence which seems to have always been here and seems will never end. We aim to present this reality of bereavement and dispossession not as a natural and inevitable fact, but as a result of human choices. Seeing these choices for what they are and then choosing differently will allow us to break out of the present and shape a better future."



You can watch the ceremonies by clicking on the links:
[The Nakba Remembrance Ceremony](#)
[The Joint Memorial Day Ceremony](#)

Photos credit © Combatants for Peace



The 19th Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Day Ceremony



Sharing Our Humanity, Honoring Our Children.
Stop The War.

Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony

טקס זיכרון משותף לרגל יום הנקבה מראסם זכר יום הנקבה המשותף

From Pain to Liberation

May 15, 2024

8:00pm Jerusalem | 1:00pm New York

זכרים לנאציונל
ליון מן אגל הסלם
COMBATANTS FOR P

Testimonials:

From Carly Rosenthal at CFP: “We are honored and deeply appreciative of the support we receive from B8 of hope for our peacebuilding initiatives. Last year was an especially difficult year to hold our annual Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day ceremony, with the war ongoing and so many newly bereaved Palestinians and Israelis, but we managed to create an incredibly impactful and meaningful event that was supported by tens of thousands of people worldwide.

This gives us the motivation to continue. Similarly, our Joint Nakba Day ceremony was a challenge but was a successful event that brought many people together, calling for a more just and equal reality for all people in the land. We have seen how much of an impact these ceremonies have on an individual and collective level—in terms of shifting narratives, bridging communities, and providing hope. And these ceremonies would not be possible without the support of B8 of hope and many others. Thank you.”

Joint Memorial ceremony participant: “I have been participating in the ceremonies for years. This year I decided to accept the offer to invite friends to watch together in our living room. Not all the friends I invited came, but in the end we were about ten people, of which for six it was the first time. After the viewing, we had a quite open conversation, and some of it was also very moving and necessary, both about the ceremony itself and about our feelings in light of the situation in Israel and Gaza.”

Nakba Remembrance ceremony participants:

“It broke my heart to know how much pain and suffering my people have inflicted on Palestinians over the decades. But it gave me tremendous hope that both Jews and Palestinians were present and clearly committed to working together for a better future for all. That is perhaps what was most meaningful for me. The resilience and willingness to transcend the pain and conflict in service of the goal of justice and peace for all who live there.”

“Seeing Israeli Jews acknowledge the Nakba was deeply moving and gave me hope.”



Photo credit © Combatants for Peace

Jerusalem Youth Chorus

Mission: The Jerusalem Youth Chorus (JYC) is a choral and dialogue program for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem. Their mission is to provide a space for these young people from East and West Jerusalem to grow together in song and dialogue. Through the co-creation of music and the sharing of stories, they empower youth in Jerusalem with the responsibility 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.

Themes: Arts for Social Change, Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Youth



Supported Activities: In 2024 B8 of Hope funded the core operations of JYC.

JYC demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth throughout 2024, particularly during this unprecedented time of violence and war. When many similar organizations suspended operations after October 7, 2023, JYC not only maintained but expanded its programming. In 2024 the organization sustained weekly music and dialogue sessions, implementing necessary safety measures such as coordinated transportation for participants.

In addition to increased local activities, JYC significantly increased its global visibility through appearances on major platforms including **America's Got Talent** and **TED**. Their artistic output expanded through collaborations with Uniting Voices Chicago

and the release of new musical content, including two singles ("**A Different Way**" and "**Olam Chesed Yibaneh**") and a new music video ("**A Mashup of Possibilities**").

Their incredibly brave singers vulnerably shared their songs and stories on these platforms for the sake of demonstrating that, although many believe there is no alternative to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they are the alternative. JYC provides a different way forward for peace, and for empowering the next generation of leaders to envision a different Jerusalem. JYC took advantage of these highest-level platforms to share their work, demonstrate their impact, and expand the awareness and support of their impact in order to increase the amount of work they are able to do on the ground.

The organization's thirteenth season, beginning September 2024, marked substantial programmatic growth. JYC expanded its weekly engagement to nine hours per participant, encompassing music and dialogue sessions, private voice lessons, Eastern and Western music theory instruction, and leadership training. This enhanced programming attracted a 50% increase in participation compared to the previous season.

Outcomes and Impact: Since its founding in 2012, JYC has created transformative change across various key spheres. At the individual level, participants develop skills and understanding necessary to build enduring cross-cultural relationships that withstand cycles of political tension. These impacts ripple through their communities as chorus members actively share their experiences and defend their new perspectives, influencing families, peers, and neighbors.

The chorus's public performances, recordings, and media presence throughout 2024 helped build broader support for peaceful reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. JYC also strengthened its local presence in Jerusalem while taking more prominent positions on challenging issues pertaining to the war. The organization continues to equip its singers to advocate more boldly for specific changes in their respective Israeli and Palestinian communities.

During this exceptionally hard year, JYC's singers demonstrated extraordinary courage by sharing their experiences on international platforms, embodying an alternative to violence and conflict. Under the leadership of founder and Artistic Director Micah Hendler and Executive Director Amer Abu Arqub, JYC aims to continue to pursue its vision of expanding into additional Jerusalem neighborhoods and eventually to other cities across Israel-Palestine, establishing itself as a model for youth empowerment and cross-cultural understanding.



Photo credit © JYC

Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

Mission: Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (MEET) aims to bring together, educate, and empower the most promising young Palestinians and Israelis to become purpose driven, empathetic leaders who actively challenge existing norms, systems, or behaviors that perpetuate division, injustice, and inequality. They envision a Middle East where Palestinians and Israelis are equal, live in dignity and freedom, and work together to ensure that their shared future is peaceful, fair, and just.

They do this through an innovative three-year program where students work together on joint projects, learn computer science and entrepreneurship, and explore each other's narratives. Working in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) since 2004, MEET's goal is to educate and empower the next generation to take action towards creating positive social and political change in the Middle East through the common language of technology and entrepreneurship.

Themes: Education, Bridge-Building, Tech & Entrepreneurship, Youth

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the MEET Milestones Graduation Ceremony for Year 3 students and MEET's first Peace Tech conference. These gatherings advanced MEET's mission of developing cross-cultural tech leadership and fostering collaboration between Palestinian and Israeli communities.

Against a backdrop of one of the most challenging years in recent memory, MEET's Summer 2024 program concluded triumphantly with the graduation of 80 students from the Year 3 program. The ceremony, held at Jerusalem's IASA campus on August 11, brought together more than 350 attendees, including families from both Palestinian and Israeli communities, along with MEET staff and instructors.

The evening unfolded with a welcoming reception, followed by commemorative photographs and the formal graduation proceedings.

The highlight of the ceremony featured the graduating class, composed of 17-year-old Palestinian and Israeli students, presenting their innovative tech startups designed to create positive social impact in their communities.

These presentations culminated in an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding projects. The event concluded with a reception that provided valuable space for community connection and celebration.

The image shows a large group of students and staff posing for a group photo on a stage. In the background, a large screen displays the MEET logo and the text "Graduation of Class of 2024". The students are dressed in casual attire, and the atmosphere appears celebratory.

meest
Graduation of Class of 2024



In December 2024, MEET hosted its inaugural Innovation for Impact in the Middle East Tech conference, bringing together 150 participants from diverse backgrounds to bridge peacebuilding efforts with the tech and business sectors. The conference featured distinguished speakers and experts who led discussions on tech for social good, binational collaboration, and community building. The program included keynote addresses, expert panels on corporate social responsibility and theories of change, and sessions on impactful entrepreneurship. A significant highlight was the MEET Startup Showcase, which provided young innovators with a platform to present their projects and network with industry leaders.

Outcomes and Impact: The 2024 graduation events and inaugural tech conference demonstrated MEET's effectiveness in achieving its core objectives. The successful completion of the three-year program by 80 students, who developed and presented viable tech startup projects, illustrated MEET's ability to cultivate both technical expertise and entrepreneurial skills. The graduation ceremony served as a powerful example of cross-cultural engagement, bringing together Palestinian and Israeli community members in shared celebration—a particularly significant achievement given the tensions created by the war.

The Innovation for Impact Conference further amplified MEET's impact, achieving strong participation with a balanced demographic representation (43% Israeli, 57% Palestinian; 57% Female, 43% Male). The conference's success was reflected in its high satisfaction rates, with 85% of participants rating the event positively and 65% reporting meaningful professional connections.

The strong engagement of MEET alumni (29% of attendees) demonstrated the program's lasting influence on its graduates. Most notably, 85% of participants expressed optimism about fostering regional collaboration through innovation and technology, reinforcing MEET's role in promoting STEM education and tech-sector leadership while preparing alumni to actively contribute to building a more just society through technology and collaboration.

New Story Leadership

Mission: To equip a new generation of Palestinian and Israeli change agents with the leadership tools needed to create social, economic, and political change in the region.

New Story Leadership (NSL) is a peace-building organization located in Washington, D.C., USA, that works to bring emerging young leaders from Israel and Palestine together in a neutral space and elevate their voices throughout the halls of power in the United States. NSL places an emphasis on the sharing of stories between people on both sides of the conflict and works to bridge the gap between the two communities. Participants in NSL's D.C. Leadership Program are given opportunities to develop leadership skills through work placements in Congressional offices and other similar spaces, which allows them to return to their respective communities with new tools to implement change.

Themes: Policy & Advocacy, Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Leadership Development, Young Adults



Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the core operations of this U.S. based organization.

In response to October 7 and the subsequent war, NSL adapted its programming in 2024, shifting focus from its traditional summer cohort to mobilizing alumni initiatives. In February 2024, NSL convened 10 Palestinian and Israeli alumni to develop the Phoenix Plan, a comprehensive post-war framework addressing critical deadlock issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The plan covered Palestinian and Israeli Leadership, Gaza Reconstruction, Systemic Accountability / Restorative Justice, International Community Engagement, Public Peace Preparation, and Future Visions.

While B8 of Hope has historically focused on supporting individual Israeli and Palestinian participants in NSL's programs by funding travel costs rather than the U.S.-based organization itself, we made a strategic decision in 2024 to fund NSL's core operations. This temporary shift in our approach was motivated by the critical importance of [the Phoenix Plan](#), an initiative led by Palestinian and Israeli alumni that emerged in direct response to the crisis following October 7 and the war.

By providing core funding during this pivotal moment, we aimed to strengthen NSL's capacity to empower emerging Israeli and Palestinian leaders and amplify their voices in international policy discussions when such collaboration was most urgently needed.

NSL successfully brought an alumni delegation to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the Phoenix Plan. The delegation engaged with key stakeholders through multiple channels: meetings with the State Department's Israel+Palestine Desk and Gaza Reconstruction Division; discussions with 25 Congressional offices; presentations to international diplomats including ambassadors from Jordan, Ireland, and the European Union; and participation in think-tank sessions, interfaith symposiums, and academic panels across five U.S. universities. A Congressional Forum, hosted by Representatives Jamie Raskin and Brad Schneider, introduced the plan to the House of Representatives.

Outcomes & Impact: NSL's 2024 initiatives demonstrated significant impact at multiple levels. The Phoenix Plan earned recognition from the State Department as "the most comprehensive report they have seen thus far and the only one drafted collaboratively by Israelis and Palestinians." The delegation's congressional engagement catalyzed momentum toward establishing a bipartisan "Phoenix Caucus," with Congressman Greg Landsman emerging as a key advocate.

The organization's diplomatic outreach yielded invitations to present the Phoenix Plan in Amman, Dublin, and Brussels, with an Ireland visit scheduled for April 2025. Through academic and interfaith events, NSL successfully expanded awareness and support for Israeli-Palestinian collaboration during this period of intense conflict. These achievements highlighted NSL's ability to maintain productive cross-community dialogue and generate practical solutions even during this time of deep crisis, while amplifying alumni voices in influential policy circles.

Most significantly, NSL demonstrated that meaningful Israeli-Palestinian cooperation remains possible even in moments of seeming hopelessness, providing a model for constructive engagement and policy development when such collaboration is most needed.



Photo credit © B8 of Hope

Parents Circle Families Forum

Mission: The Parents Circle—Families Forum (PCFF) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 700 families, all of whom have lost an immediate family member to the ongoing conflict. PCFF believes that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings, and the media to spread these ideas. Their goal is to prevent further bereavement, and to promote dialogue, tolerance, reconciliation, and peace.

Themes: Bridge-Building, Dialogue & Reconciliation

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope provided funding for PCFF’s Capacity Building Staff Retreat.

In response to the October 7 attacks and subsequent war in Gaza, PCFF maintained remarkable operational continuity through their binational staff team. However, the organization faced a critical challenge as travel restrictions made it impossible for Palestinian staff to enter Israel or move freely within the West Bank, while Israeli staff could not enter Palestinian territories. This meant their traditional practice of meeting at offices in Ramat Gan (Israel) and Beit Jala (Palestine) had to be suspended.

While the organization adapted by conducting virtual meetings, the need for in-person connection became increasingly acute, particularly with new staff members who joined after October 7 and had never met their colleagues face-to-face.

Given these restrictions, PCFF determined that meeting outside the region was essential for maintaining team cohesion. Cyprus emerged as the optimal location, with support from the Palestinian ambassador assisting in visa procurement. The organization planned a comprehensive three-day retreat from June 20-22, 2024.

The preparation process was thorough, with separate in-person meetings conducted with Israeli and Palestinian staff members led by Hebrew and Arabic-speaking facilitators respectively. These were followed by joint virtual sessions to build trust in the process, while co-CEOs held weekly planning meetings with facilitators.

The retreat brought together 16 staff members (9 Palestinian and 7 Israeli) plus facilitators and a translator. The program was carefully structured across three days. The first day focused on initial binational meetings for team reconnection, followed by separate uninational sessions and social activities including a traditional Cypriot cultural evening.

The second day centered on focused communication exercises and deeper dialogue about experiences of the war and perceptions of "the other" within the team. The final day included concluding sessions using creative methods like photo-cards to solidify relationships developed during the retreat.

PCFF We dont want you here

The Bereaved Parents Families Forum
doesn’t want new members

Outcomes and Impact: The retreat proved transformative in rebuilding in-person connections between team members who had been limited to virtual interaction since October 2023. It successfully created a safe space for addressing difficult communication issues and sharing experiences of the ongoing conflict. Participants developed practical communication tools, particularly around asking clarifying questions rather than making assumptions about others' perspectives.

The gathering generated consensus on the need for regular in-person binational meetings, with recommendations for frequency ranging from six weeks to two months. While participants indicated that more time would have been beneficial to fully explore implications for organizational workflow, the retreat successfully laid groundwork for continued facilitated dialogue and strengthened team cohesion during this exceptionally challenging time.

Perhaps most poignantly, the group's presence as a united Israeli-Palestinian team drew surprised recognition from other hotel guests, serving as a powerful reminder of PCFF's role in demonstrating the possibility of cooperation and dialogue even during times of intense conflict.



Photo credit © PCFF

Physicians for Human Rights Israel

Mission: Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) is a leading human rights organization that has been advocating for the right to health of the most vulnerable communities living in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) for the last 36 years. Through humanitarian aid and policy change work, they promote a just society where healthcare is equally accessible to all people living under Israel's responsibility and control. The organization was founded in 1988 by a group of Israeli physicians led by Dr. Ruchama Marton.

Themes: Advocacy, Health



Photo credit © PHRI

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded PHRI's essential healthcare services, the enhancement of healthcare access, and the ongoing work for the realization of health rights for Palestinians.

Prior to October 7, 2023, the Palestinian healthcare system faced severe challenges under occupation. The West Bank's healthcare infrastructure struggled with underfunding and restricted access, as checkpoints limited movement of both patients and medical staff. Palestinians encountered complex bureaucratic processes to access healthcare in both the West Bank and Israel. Gaza's healthcare system operated under persistent shortages of medication, supplies, and equipment, while its health professionals faced limited opportunities for training and development.

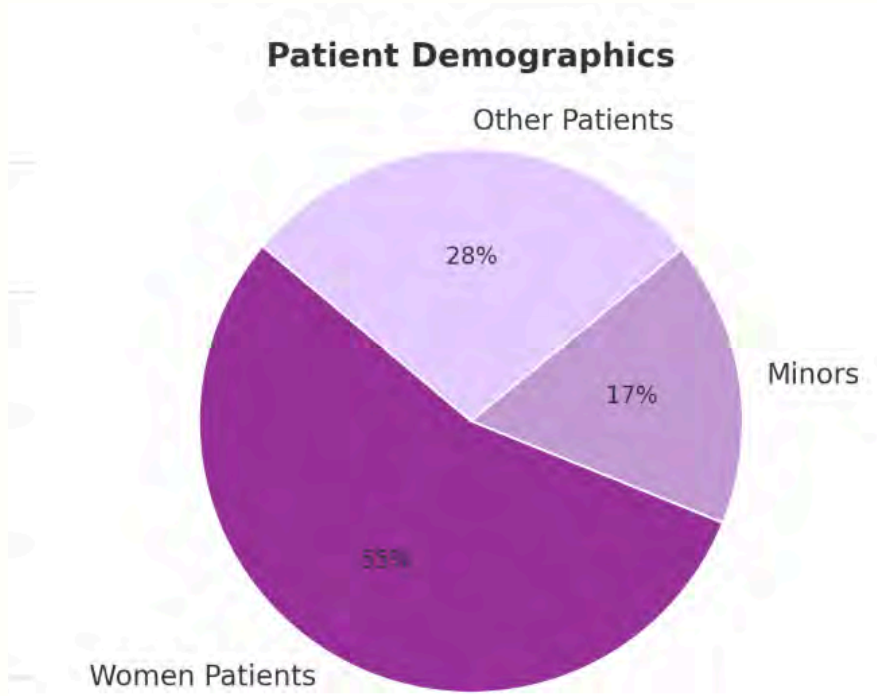
The situation deteriorated significantly after October 7, 2023. Movement in and out of Gaza became almost entirely restricted, leaving over 12,000 patients waiting for medical evacuation to third countries. West Bank residents faced extreme movement restrictions between locations within the West Bank and to East Jerusalem or Israel. Increased settler and military violence resulted in hundreds of casualties and the forced displacement of dozens of shepherding communities. A severe financial crisis further compromised healthcare delivery through the Ministry of Health, with critical medication shortages compounded by widespread loss of income among those previously employed in Israel.

In response to these deteriorating conditions, PHRI doubled its Mobile Clinic operations in the West Bank during 2024. The organization conducted 27,000 patient visits in 96 Mobile Clinic outings, including 11 Women's Mobile Clinics staffed entirely by female healthcare professionals. These clinics provided medical consultations, free medication, and health education, with special attention to communities facing severe movement restrictions and increased violence. PHRI also conducted five specialized medical visits to shepherding communities that had been forcibly displaced.

Additionally, in November 2024, PHRI launched a new kidney disease initiative in the Tulkarem and Tubas regions. This pilot project integrates a specialized Renal Mini-Mobile Clinic into existing operations, providing monthly care for kidney patients while building local medical capacity and promoting community education for disease prevention and management.

The organization maintained its aid delivery program, supplying critical medical equipment, medication, and consumables to four clinics and hospitals in Balata Refugee Camp, Beit Jala, Tul Qarem, and Tubas, with deliveries totaling 388,330 ILS (approx. 94,560 CHF). PHRI also provided individual assistance for costly medications to patients facing financial hardship. To strengthen local healthcare capacity, PHRI conducted four workshops in Nablus, Tulkarem, and Jenin, focusing on emotional resilience and psychological support for frontline medical staff.

Throughout this period, PHRI's caseworkers facilitated medical referrals to institutions in Israel and East Jerusalem, while also providing financial assistance for essential medical interventions. While access to Gaza remained severely restricted, PHRI continued to explore avenues for resuming aid shipments to hospitals in the Strip.



Outcomes and Impact: Through its 96 Mobile Clinic outings in 2024, PHRI reached nearly **27,700 patients** in isolated and underserved areas, with women and minors comprising 55% and 17% of these visits respectively. The specialized Women's Mobile Clinics successfully increased health literacy among female participants, with women reporting greater confidence in monitoring their own health conditions and sharing this knowledge with family members.

The kidney disease initiative significantly improved access to specialized care for renal patients in the Tulkarem and Tubas regions, areas previously lacking such services. Early results show promising signs of improved disease management among participating patients.

PHRI's patient referral system successfully navigated complex bureaucratic barriers to facilitate 103 critical medical referrals (42% for women) to institutions in Israel and East Jerusalem. The organization's financial assistance program provided over 66,000 ILS (approx. 15,600 CHF) for 41 patients who required specialized interventions but could not afford them, representing a critical safety net during a period of severe economic crisis.

The psychological support workshops reached 214 healthcare workers (40% women), demonstrating measurable improvements in participants' resilience and coping mechanisms. Post-workshop assessments indicated enhanced ability to manage work-related stress and trauma exposure while maintaining quality care delivery in extremely challenging circumstances.

PHRI's interventions played a crucial role in maintaining healthcare continuity for vulnerable populations. Their work has been particularly impactful in communities facing multiple barriers to care, including movement restrictions, violence, and financial hardship, ultimately preserving the fundamental right to health for thousands of Palestinians during this extremely difficult year.





Photo credit © Peres Center

Peres Center's Saving Children Program

Mission: The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation was founded in 1996 by the Ninth 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 nonprofit that together with local, regional, and international partners, develops and implements cutting-edge and impact-oriented initiatives serving hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries of all ages, religions, genders and cultural backgrounds.

Themes: Children, Health

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation's Saving the Children program to expand access to lifesaving and life-changing diagnostic treatments and procedures for Palestinian children.

The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation continues to operate its flagship initiative, Medicine in the Service of Peace—Saving Children, which over its 20-year history has provided life-saving and life-changing medical treatments for more than 13,000 Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The program addresses critical healthcare delivery challenges in the Palestinian Authority, including limited opportunities for medical professionals to develop advanced specialties and subspecialties, which has led to dependency on foreign referrals.

For uninsured and under-insured Palestinians, this creates both economic barriers and limited access to advanced medical care. Through established networks and procedures built on trust with both Israeli and Palestinian governmental, civil, and public health authorities, the organization maintains a comprehensive support system that includes coordinating specialist consultations and diagnostic services, arranging hospital appointments and managing payments, securing entry permits for children and family members, organizing cross-border transportation, providing translation services, and delivering emotional and psychological support.



In 2024, with support from B8 of Hope, the program facilitated critical medical procedures for fourteen children at leading Israeli medical centers, including:

- Two cardiac procedures at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv
- Eight cardiac consultations at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv
- One cochlear tuning at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem
- One urology consultation at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem
- Two rheumatology day cares at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem

While the program continues to serve children from the West Bank, services for children from Gaza are temporarily suspended due to the current war.

Outcomes and Impact: The program successfully facilitated specialized medical procedures for fourteen Palestinian children in Israeli hospitals during the war, demonstrating the program's resilience and commitment to maintaining critical healthcare access. The procedures covered a diverse range of medical specialties, including cardiology, audiology, urology, and rheumatology, reflecting the program's ability to address complex and varied medical needs. Despite current challenges, the program maintained effective coordination between Israeli medical facilities and Palestinian patients, successfully facilitating treatments across multiple medical centers in different cities.

The program has demonstrated its ability to sustain vital medical services for West Bank residents while maintaining readiness to resume services for Gaza patients when conditions permit.

Testimonial

J.K. is a 3.5-year-old from Bethlehem, West Bank, who was born with a life-threatening cardiac defect that requires immediate care. She was referred to the Peres Center's "Saving Children" program by the Caritas Baby Hospital when she was just 5-days-old. Since then, the Peres Center has accompanied her through a series of life-saving surgeries, including a Glen Procedure in 2021.

Following that procedure, it was determined that J.K. would need to undergo several subsequent surgeries, but it was recommended to wait until she was older.

Now at 3.5 years old, J.K was referred back into the program for another pediatric-specific heart surgery. On November 24, 2024, J.K. received the catheterization necessary for her to undergo the planned Fontan Procedure.

J.K.'s case highlights the significant long-term impact of the "Saving Children" program, which prioritizes ongoing care for children and families with few other alternatives for the ongoing medical care required for treating complex pediatric cases. The Peres Center will continue to keep in close contact with J.K.'s family and the Israeli and Palestinian medical teams working collaboratively to treat her and give her a chance for a long and happy life.

Road to Recovery

Mission: To give Palestinian families, especially children, a better opportunity to access life-saving medical treatments in Israel.

Road to Recovery (RtR) is an Israeli Association of volunteers who drive Palestinian patients—primarily children—from checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza for life-saving treatments in Israeli hospitals. The Association also helps with the purchase of medical equipment in special cases and organizes vacations and special “Fun-Day” outings for patients and their families.



Themes: Bridge-Building, Health

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded RtR’s core activities.

RtR was able to maintain essential operations throughout the year, in spite of the war. Key activities included:

- The Coordination Center, operating at full capacity, continued its vital work through three part-time coordinators working at 75% capacity. Under the leadership of Center manager Naomi Reichman, who expanded her role to include community relations, the Center enhanced both operational efficiency and volunteer network sustainability.
- RtR conducted regular monthly volunteer gatherings that served as crucial platforms for community building and mutual support. These meetings proved especially valuable during these turbulent times, contributing to the successful integration of 92 new volunteers who joined, inspired by the organization's work and media coverage.

Despite complex security conditions, the organization maintained critical transportation services for Palestinian patients from the West Bank to Israeli hospitals through five operational border crossings, adapting to the reduction from the ten crossings available before the war. While Gaza border closures sadly prevented patient transportation from the Strip, RtR maintains contact with colleagues and patients there.

Outcomes and Impact: RtR’s work generated significant quantitative and qualitative impact.

Organizational Effectiveness:
The implementation of streamlined management structures and processes enabled RtR to meet growing transportation requests with timely responses, despite increased regional security measures.

Volunteer Management:
Strategic engagement efforts yielded positive results through increased media exposure and regular community meetings. RtR not only stabilized its volunteer base but significantly expanded it, attracting dozens of new members committed to the mission.

Scale of Operations



Number of transportation rides to Israeli hospitals



Number of Palestinians transported from the West Bank



Number of transportation requests processed



Number of new volunteers integrated into the network



Number of active volunteers

Impact Story:

The Power of Shared Humanity By Yoel Rozenfeld, Volunteer 15 December 2024



Photo credit © Road to Recovery

“On Sunday, December 15th, I had a powerful and moving experience which I would like to share with you. One of the Palestinian patients I drive is a young girl named Saya. Accompanied by her mother, Amasi, she gets regular treatments every week. During one of our rides together, Amasi shared with me that Saya and she love the beach but, of course, have had no opportunity to get there in a long time. I offered to take them there in the near future. After checking that Saya had no tests in school, we arranged that today would be their “beach” day.

It was an especially good date since Saya’s 10th birthday had been the day before so this would be a wonderful extra birthday celebration.

Once she completed her treatment this morning we drove to the beach, where we were met by my daughter and granddaughter, who is seven years old. I should note that since the events of October 7, my daughter has expressed severe reservations about the possibility of coexistence here. However, despite this, she agreed for the two of them to go to the beach to meet Saya and Amasi.

We went to a popular café located on the beach, the girls at one table, the three adults at an adjoining one. We (the adults) spoke English with each other. Though Saya does not speak Hebrew and knows only a little English and my granddaughter speaks Hebrew and English but knows only a few words in Arabic, the two of them connected almost instantly while playing a game on Saya’s tablet.

After spending nearly half an hour drinking hot chocolate (the girls) and coffee (the adults), we strolled along the beach. Well, the adults strolled, the girls played and ran, holding hands as if they had known each other their entire lives.



Photo credit © Road to Recovery

For the next hour they found a common language as they collected shells, climbed up a small hill overlooking the beach and wrote their names in the sand.

After an hour and a half, we returned to our cars. My daughter needed to return to her work and my granddaughter needed to get to school and I needed to take Amasi and Saya back to Eliyahu Crossing. It had been a very special get-together, one that I think/hope will happen again soon.”

Roots-Shorashim-Judur

Mission: **Roots** envisions a social and political reality in Israel and Palestine built upon dignity, trust, and mutual recognition of both peoples' historic connection to the entire Land. Through grassroots initiatives, they foster understanding, nonviolence, and transformation between Israelis and Palestinians.

The organization has established itself as a distinctive network where Palestinians and Israelis living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories recognize each other as essential partners in pursuing meaningful change. Roots works to challenge deeply-held community assumptions, cultivate trust, and generate new dialogue around the conflict within their respective societies. Their bottom-up, grassroots approach demonstrates how transformation can emerge from local communities working together.

Themes: Bridge-Building, Dialogue & Reconciliation

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope supported Roots' initiative to develop an innovative "Pedagogy of Encounter" curriculum for Israeli-Palestinian young adults.

While the groundwork was laid during 2024, Roots' thorough search for the most qualified researcher to lead this specialized project extended the timeline. The project implementation has been strategically deferred to 2025 to ensure optimal results. The University of Haifa will fund the research component of the "Pedagogy of Encounter" curriculum development, while B8 of Hope will fund the writer who will document and articulate the research findings. This collaborative funding approach maximizes resources and expertise, ensuring the curriculum will have the greatest possible impact when completed in 2025.



Photo credit © Roots

Tech2Peace

Mission: To build a network of Israelis and Palestinians that develop the high-tech skills, professional opportunities, and mutual understanding needed to work together towards a brighter future.

Tech2Peace (T2P) provides high-tech and entrepreneurial training alongside conflict dialogue to young Palestinians and Israelis. They partner with leading organizations like Google for Startups, Microsoft, and MIT to provide the best professional opportunities. At the same time, they use conflict dialogue and team-building activities to create a safe space for young people of all backgrounds and beliefs to meet, express their beliefs, and work with the "other" side.

Themes: Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Education, Leadership Development, Tech & Entrepreneurship, Young Adults

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the organization's core activities.

In response to the evolving challenges of 2024 due to the war, T2P strategically shifted its focus from breadth to depth, launching the T2P Leadership Forum as a pioneering initiative to deepen impact and foster sustained collaboration across communities. This pilot program emerged from a careful assessment of the new realities affecting dialogue, trust, and cross-border interactions, with particular attention to permit restrictions and the need for enhanced economic empowerment.

The Leadership Forum represents T2P's strategic adaptation to these challenges, designed specifically to harness the potential of its growing alumni community. Through a comprehensive series of workshops, mentorship opportunities, and collaborative projects, the program aims to equip participants with advanced tools for leadership in both peace-building and tech innovation sectors.

The Forum launched in May 2024 with an initial weekend retreat followed by targeted workshops.

When early implementation revealed opportunities for enhancement, T2P demonstrated its commitment to excellence through comprehensive program refinement.

The revamped initiative featured professional facilitation from both internal leadership, including CEO Hela Lahar and the organization's COO, as well as external expertise in community-building and leadership development. The program was strengthened through a carefully curated cohort combining original and new participants, an enhanced program identity, and a two-phase approach combining theoretical training with practical internships.

The program's theoretical phase comprised eight intensive workshops focusing on leadership development, dialogue facilitation, and community engagement. The upcoming practical phase will offer participants hands-on opportunities to implement their learning through internships within the T2P's ecosystem.



Photos credit © Tech2Peace

Outcomes and Impact: The Leadership Forum's evolution reflects T2P's broader mission of building a robust network of Israeli and Palestinian professionals equipped with both technical expertise and cross-cultural competencies. In its pilot year, the program demonstrated significant impact across several dimensions.

T2P's adaptive approach to combining high-tech training with conflict dialogue proved particularly effective in the current environment, creating meaningful connections despite increased challenges to cross-border interaction. Participants developed not only professional capabilities but also the crucial emotional intelligence needed to navigate complex cultural dynamics.

Strategic partnerships with leading technology companies enhanced the program's relevance, providing participants with vital industry connections and professional opportunities even as traditional modes of interaction faced new constraints. These relationships helped bridge the gap between dialogue and practical cooperation, creating sustainable pathways for continued collaboration.

Most significantly, the Leadership Forum succeeded in creating safe spaces for authentic dialogue and professional development at a time when such opportunities are increasingly rare. The program's focus on economic empowerment alongside peace-building has proven especially valuable in the current context.

Looking ahead, the Leadership Forum's successful pilot phase positions it to become a core component of T2P's programming. By developing leaders who can navigate both technical and political or cultural challenges, the organization is building a foundation for sustained cooperation and mutual success in the high-tech sector and beyond. This emerging network of alumni leaders represents a powerful force for positive change, equipped to drive innovation and understanding in their communities and professional spheres.

Uniting for a Shared Future

Mission: The Uniting for a Shared Future Initiative (USF) brings together Israeli and Palestinian leaders from many backgrounds, including business, policy, security, diplomacy, academia, media, and civil society. Created by Principles for Peace, this locally-led and internationally supported initiative was built on a shared feeling of urgency and responsibility to act. Together, these leaders aim to strengthen efforts for a political solution to the conflict, working to end the war through a ceasefire, secure the release of hostages, and restart a political process that recognizes both peoples' rights to peace, security, and self-determination.

Themes: Community Organizing, Dialogue, Education, Leadership Development, Policy & Advocacy

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the logistics of USF meetings and paid for travel and accommodation so Israeli and Palestinian leaders could attend key meetings in Geneva.

While civil society and peacebuilding representatives were a smaller part of the group, B8 of Hope saw the importance of bringing their perspectives into conversation with mainstream Palestinian and Israeli leaders. This also gave these peacebuilders valuable networking opportunities with influential people who could help strengthen their work in the future.

The initiative held three major meetings during 2024. The March gathering in Geneva brought together 70 Israeli and Palestinian leaders who created a charter based on shared principles. What made these meetings unique was the extraordinary diversity of participants—from business executives and security professionals to academics, journalists, policy experts, and grassroots activists—representing a wide spectrum of Palestinian and Israeli society rarely found in the same room together. They recognized that while they might never agree on how they see the past or present, they share a future that requires finding common ground.

The July meeting in Geneva grew to include 80 participants. This meeting focused on growing the coalition, creating coordination systems, connecting with the international community, and developing a roadmap with three focus areas: political, economic, and public opinion. The diversity continued to expand, with additional sectors represented and a greater range of political perspectives included, demonstrating the coalition's commitment to inclusive dialogue across traditional divides. Both Geneva meetings were also supported by the Canton of Geneva.

In November, a meeting in Berlin hosted by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sponsored by the European Union strengthened connections with the international community. Before this meeting, joint Israeli-Palestinian USF teams met with key allies in Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, the European Union, the Netherlands, and the United States.

Between these international meetings, groups also met separately in Israel and Palestine to expand their work and prepare for the meetings abroad.

This local, uninational work was crucial to the initiative's success and sustainability. Rather than being a primarily international effort imposed from outside, these on-the-ground meetings ensured the initiative remained firmly rooted in local realities and priorities. By building foundations within each society, participants could develop deeper understanding, trust, and commitment before coming together internationally. This approach strengthened local ownership and authenticity, allowing USF to function as a truly bottom-up process with international support rather than an externally-driven initiative.



Outcomes and Impact: The USF initiative has created a groundbreaking coalition of diverse Palestinian and Israeli leaders who don't necessarily think alike but share a commitment to changing the current situation. The coalition has grown throughout the year and now includes 400 members.

The charter established five key principles that guide all efforts: mutual recognition and acknowledgment of both peoples' right to self-determination and independence; dignity and equality; security and safety; agency and inclusion; and building trust through healing.

The roadmap created during the July meeting balances quick, short-term achievements with longer-term efforts for lasting peace. It focuses on political, economic, and public opinion tracks to address immediate needs while building foundations for future peace.

The coalition's work has started campaigns in Israel and community discussions in the West Bank in Palestine. These efforts support ending the war, freeing hostages, and restarting political talks. The initiative has impressed international allies with its practical approach, diversity, influence, and determination. USF has successfully created a global coalition with a strategic framework for peace.

Watch [this video](#) about the Uniting for a Shared Future initiative

Vivian Silver Impact Award



Mission: To award an annual prize to two women, Arab and Jewish, who show great promise or have demonstrated significant accomplishments in areas that embody Vivian Silver's values and actions. For more than five decades, Vivian dedicated her efforts and passion to bringing people together in dignity, cooperation, and mutual respect. With a keen eye and an open heart, she fostered equality—between women and men, between Arabs and Jews—in Israeli society, and actively strived for peace in the region. Her life work is an example of the power of leadership and a beacon for women of all ages and backgrounds. [The Vivian Silver Impact Award](#) will ensure that her legacy of activism, persistence and hope continues into the future.

Themes: Bridge-Building, Dialogue & Reconciliation, Women

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope helped fund the establishment of the Vivian Silver Impact Award.

This award was created in partnership with Vivian's family and friends following her tragic death during the October 7, 2023 attack on Kibbutz Be'eri. It recognizes two women each year—one Arab and one Jewish—who demonstrate exceptional promise or achievement in areas central to Vivian's life work:

- Building Arab-Jewish partnership in Israel
- Promoting peace between Israel and Palestine
- Advancing women to decision-making and leadership positions

Vivian's remarkable legacy includes serving as CEO of the Negev Institute for Peace and Development Strategies, co-founding AJEEC with Bedouin activist Amal Elsana-Alh'jooj, and being a founding member of Women Wage Peace. Her work encompassed advancing gender equality in the kibbutz movement, developing civil society initiatives in Gaza and the West Bank, and building bridges between Jewish and Arab-Bedouin communities in the Negev.

The award aims to create a network of women leaders who, despite potential challenges of marginalization or persecution, continue working toward a peaceful, shared society. As Vivian once noted, meaningful social change requires persistent effort, comparing it to "bulbs that have to mature in the soil before the plant can grow upward and start blooming."

Outcomes and Impact: The inaugural Vivian Silver Impact Award demonstrated significant impact in its first year of operation. The program attracted dozens of nominations, showing strong engagement from communities working toward peace and equality. This robust response, particularly during this challenging year, highlighted the continuing vitality of cross-community cooperation initiatives.

The award's jury developed and implemented clear evaluation criteria examining candidates' impact, commitment to Vivian's values, and demonstrated ability to forge partnerships. This framework will guide future award cycles and help build a network of women leaders dedicated to Arab-Jewish partnership.



The inaugural recipients embody the award's values through their joint leadership of A Land for All (which is a B8 of Hope grantee). Dr. Rola Hardal, a Palestinian leader with a doctorate in political science, brings expertise in both academic research and gender equality advancement in Palestinian society. Her work demonstrates the combination of intellectual rigor and practical activism that characterized Vivian's approach. May Pundak, whose background in human rights law and community organization has been enhanced by leadership training at the Mandel Institute and Harvard, demonstrates exceptional ability to motivate action while maintaining inclusive leadership principles.

The selection of co-directors of a joint Palestinian-Israeli organization as the first recipients powerfully affirms the award's commitment to recognizing leadership that transcends communal divisions, particularly vital during times of increased separation between communities. [The inaugural award ceremony](#) was held on November 21, 2024, at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and included both in-person and virtual participation with simultaneous English translation, enabling global engagement with the initiative.

Shared Society Programs

Lissan

Mission: Lissan-لسان-لسان (Arabic for language or tongue) is a grassroots nonprofit organization that promotes gender and social equality in Jerusalem. They seek to bridge the gap between East and West Jerusalem and advance a vision of a bilingual Hebrew-Arabic Jerusalem via linguistic justice. They do this by providing practical and accessible Hebrew language classes based on the needs of East Jerusalemite women. Their courses provide these women with the language skills necessary to independently navigate Jerusalem's public domain and access resources, rights, and opportunities to advance themselves personally and professionally.

Themes: Bridge-Building, Education, Women

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded Lissan's core activities.

Lissan operated its flagship project "Medabrot Ivrit—Women Speaking Hebrew" throughout 2023-2024, providing weekly Hebrew language classes to East Jerusalemite women. The program, which ran from December 2023 to August 2024, was delivered through team teaching by Israeli and Palestinian volunteer instructors. The organization successfully trained 50 new volunteer teachers during this period.

Lissan also implemented significant pedagogical improvements, transitioning to the "Can Do" action-oriented approach of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This shift away from traditional rote learning included comprehensive summer training for staff and teachers.

To enhance learning opportunities, Lissan launched several enrichment initiatives in 2024. These included a Practice Your Hebrew program matching advanced students with Intel volunteers for conversation practice, and a Learning Center providing one-on-one support through 15 volunteer tutors.

They also offered specialized Hebrew courses for organizations through partnerships with Rozana, Shared Learning, Sigma Labs, and Roots-Shorashim-Judur. Additionally, they conducted two Arabic courses to promote balanced communication within the community and implemented an Access Your Rights project offering workshops on employment rights, bureaucracy navigation, and financial management for 73 participants.

They also conducted specialized Occupational Hebrew courses in partnership with Jerusalem's Municipal Employment Authority, targeting specific professions and populations through August 2024.

Despite the challenging circumstances brought on by the war, Lissan maintained strong community engagement through various events, including their first community-wide Iftar in March (100+ attendees), student gatherings, and a volunteer appreciation night. The program year culminated in a graduation ceremony that brought together over 700 students, families, volunteers, and supporters.

לשבת ב'יסאן



Outcomes and Impact: The program demonstrated strong retention and achievement rates: Of the initial 500 students who began in December 2023, 420 completed the program. Among these, 315 students (70%) earned full diplomas, while 105 received participation certificates.

The program generated significant economic impact for participants, with 94 students reporting improved job performance, 38 securing new employment opportunities, and 9 participants establishing their own businesses.

Community resilience emerged as a key outcome, with classes serving as safe spaces for connection and mutual support during this difficult season of war.

The strong attendance at community events and the graduation ceremony demonstrated the program's success in maintaining cross-community connections during this challenging time.

The program's growth and sustainability were evidenced by increased enrollment, with new classes beginning in December 2024 serving over 600 students, supported by an expanded pool of sixty **newly trained** volunteer teachers.



**A Word of Thanks from
Lissan to B8 of Hope:**

“B8 of Hope’s support meant that we could restart our language classes just two months after the war began, creating a space for learning and connection when it was needed most. Your partnership has helped us keep going, providing a way for Israeli and Palestinian women to meet through language, even in these complicated times. In a reality that often feels divided, your support has allowed us to keep building bridges and holding onto hope.”

Quotes from Teachers:

“The encounter with the students at Lissan opens a window into less familiar worlds, allowing exposure to life in Jerusalem while also exposing the students to diverse aspects of Hebrew culture and language that are less accessible to them. The experience as a whole enriches me personally and gives me a sense of optimism, which is no small thing in recent years.”

“I am deeply grateful to be part of this project. The interactions and communication between the volunteers, the staff, and the students are filled with generosity, wisdom, and sensitivity. There’s a constant sense of open ears and hearts, with challenges and problems being addressed with honesty, courage, and mutual respect.”

“I have had the opportunity to volunteer in many places, participate in various women's empowerment projects, and teach in different settings, but none compare to my experience at Lissan. The intercultural exchange between me and the students has taught me more than any textbook, and I have been fortunate to meet incredible, inspiring women whom I am proud to call my friends. Seeing the students' progress week after week brings immense satisfaction—it feels almost like magic how the language takes shape and communication becomes smoother and more natural each time. Being surrounded by women in every aspect of the project creates a warm, calm, and friendly atmosphere, where everyone feels comfortable reaching out and expressing themselves without hesitation. Lissan is truly unique in how much it values and appreciates its volunteers. The team's dedication and hard work are evident in every activity, event, and interaction. The combination of fulfilling, meaningful work and a supportive, caring team makes volunteering in the Women Speaking Hebrew project an absolutely enriching experience.”

Polyphony

Mission:

Polyphony aims to bridge the divide between Arab and Jewish communities in Israel through music and to serve as a worldwide model for cooperation based on cultural exchange, dialogue, and partnership.

To this end, Polyphony envisions an Israeli society where Arab and Jewish youth receive equal access to musical education and training of the highest caliber and are provided ongoing opportunities to learn, rehearse, and perform together. Through their holistic, multi-tiered approach, young Israelis from diverse backgrounds can create new possibilities for themselves, families, communities and fellow musicians. In the process, they also obtain a heightened understanding of the social context and importance of music in society and of their value as musicians, role models, and ambassadors for promoting intercultural dialogue and reconciliation.



Themes: Arts for Social Change, Bridge-Building, Education, Youth

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded Polyphony’s Music and Society seminar.

Throughout this year, the Music and Society Seminar continued its innovative two-year program bringing together talented Arab and Jewish musicians aged 15-18. The program operates through eight two-day weekends annually, alternating between Nazareth and Tel Aviv, with participants experiencing home hospitality in both communities. Throughout the year, the program delivered three core components: academic study, dialogue and leadership development, and music study and performance.

The Seminar facilitated numerous significant performance opportunities in 2024. Despite the ongoing conflict, Polyphony successfully organized three major concerts bringing together Arab and Jewish musicians, with audiences of families and friends demonstrating shared society values based on mutual respect and empathy: a January mid-year concert, a May year-end concert (both for year 1, third cohort 2023-2025), and a December "Next Generation" mid-year concert for year 2 of the third cohort.

Additionally, eight students, equally representing Arab and Jewish participants, performed at Carnegie Hall during World Orchestra Week with the National Youth Orchestra—USA. Program alumni collaborated with director Dana Goldberg to create a film for the June 2024 Solidarity Film Festival, while current students performed with Israeli singer Noa and Gil Dor at a 250-guest event in Nazareth. Other performances included a student quartet at the Galmun Model United Nations conference in Nazareth and eight concerts at various conferences and events across Israel.



Photo credit © Polyphony

Beyond music, Polyphony implemented a comprehensive dialogue and leadership development program. Regular intercultural activities included home hospitality exchanges between Nazareth and Tel Aviv, a Ramadan celebration in April, and a community beach gathering in September. To deepen cross-cultural understanding, expert-led workshops on dialogue and conflict resolution were integrated throughout the year.

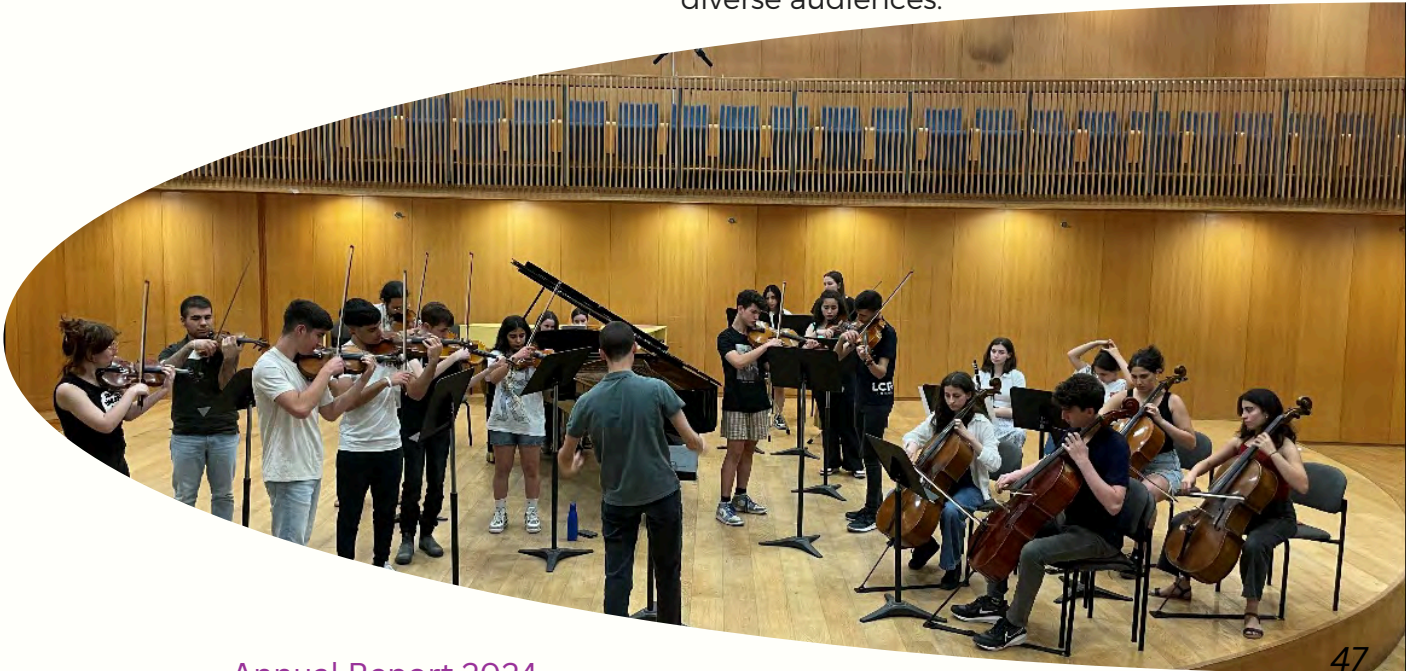
The program's impact extended into broader community engagement. Three students presented their film project to Tel Aviv University professors in Jerusalem, while a student quartet performed at the Galmun Model United Nations conference in Nazareth.

Outcomes and Impact: The program's main goal is always to address the geographic and social separation between Arab and Jewish communities in Israel through sustained engagement between participants. In 2024, their newest cohort of 10 Arab and 10 Jewish students developed strong cross-cultural relationships through shared musical experiences and home hospitality exchanges.

The program demonstrated resilience and commitment to fostering dialogue during the war, with participants maintaining their performance schedule and continuing to showcase an alternative model of cooperation. Their performances across the country served as practical demonstrations of cross-community collaboration.

The creation of the alumni film for the Solidarity Film Festival provided a platform for participants to articulate how their perspectives on living in a divided society evolved through their experiences in the first year of the program. The film's inclusion in the festival expanded the program's impact beyond direct participants to reach broader audiences.

High-profile performances, particularly at Carnegie Hall and with renowned artists, elevated participant achievements while demonstrating the program's success in developing young musicians capable of performing at prestigious international venues. These performances not only showcased the students' musical talents but also presented a powerful example of successful Arab-Jewish partnership to diverse audiences.



Standing Together

Mission: Standing Together is one of the largest Jewish-Arab grassroots movements in Israel, working toward an end to the occupation, peace, equality, and social and climate justice. They are building a new majority in Israeli society of Jewish and Palestinian citizens working together to create a better future for all. To that end, the movement is working to reorganize the political map in Israel by severing the automatic connection between identity and political affiliation. Instead, they are offering a new social division: between the large majority of people who lose out from the existing reality, and the minority who profit from it. The movement is striving to shape a new political current and build power around it. It is working to construct diverse partnerships based on shared interests and broad solidarity among everyone who lives in the land. Standing Together organizes diverse communities across the country around a wide range of social issues, placing the shared interests of all communities at the center.

Themes: Advocacy, Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Nonviolent Action, Social Justice & Community Organizing

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded Standing Together’s core activities.

During the war, Standing Together intensified its efforts to create a large-scale peace movement in Israeli society, centering its work on advocating for a ceasefire, a hostage deal, and a long-term diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

The movement expanded its physical presence by opening new "purple houses" in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Be'er Sheva, complementing their existing center in Haifa. These spaces serve as Jewish-Arab community centers, hosting events, workshops, and meetings for activists. Simultaneously, they strengthened their networks of Jewish and Palestinian activists through local and student chapters across the country, fostering grassroots engagement and leadership development through community organizing.

Standing Together significantly invested in leadership development, conducting student seminars before the academic year, including a dedicated Arabic-language program for Palestinian students and comprehensive training for student chapter leadership from campuses nationwide.

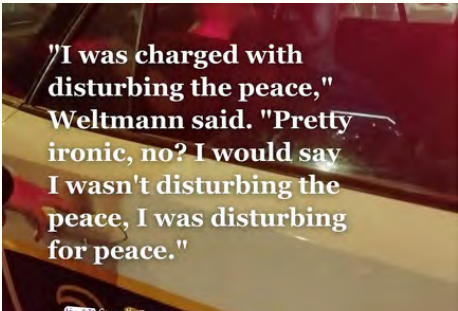
Through their various training initiatives, 110 people participated in initial organizing workshops, 45 participants attended weekend organizing seminars, and 80 students engaged in specialized student seminars.

The movement led major public mobilization efforts, organizing the largest demonstrations in Israel for a ceasefire that drew tens of thousands to rallies and marches. They maintained visibility at anti-government and hostage deal protests as a "purple bloc." Their advocacy extended to coordinated campaigns in Hebrew and Arabic, including billboard advertisements, newspaper ads, and social media outreach promoting a ceasefire, a hostage deal, peace, and Jewish-Arab partnership.

Additionally, Standing Together’s crisis response capabilities proved crucial in maintaining social cohesion after October 7. Their rapid deployment of a bilingual Hebrew-Arabic hotline provided essential legal and psychological support, while their solidarity conventions created safe spaces for hundreds of activists to engage in dialogue about peace and post-war scenarios.

The organization’s humanitarian aid activities mobilized thousands of volunteers, demonstrating their ability to translate ideological commitment into practical assistance during this current crisis. B8 of Hope gave additional funding towards the organization’s humanitarian aid activities (see full report under Emergency Response Grants).

Finally, Standing Together expanded their paid staff team from 53 to 68 members between March and November, with some working part-time. Their international support base also grew, with their "Friends of Standing Together" global community reaching over 3,300 monthly donors worldwide.



Photos credit © Standing Together

Outcomes and Impact: Standing Together achieved significant quantitative and qualitative impact in 2024, establishing itself as one of the largest Jewish-Arab grassroots movements in Israel. The organization dramatically expanded its reach and influence across multiple dimensions:

Mass Mobilization and Aid: Standing Together successfully mobilized tens of thousands of participants in anti-war and hostage-release demonstrations. Their humanitarian response included coordinating the delivery of 180 trucks of aid supplies to Gaza. Notably, they engaged 10,000 Palestinian volunteers in their Gaza aid campaign, helping establish the organization as a recognized name in Palestinian society in Israel.



Community Building and Leadership Development: Standing Together strengthened its infrastructure by establishing three new community centers and creating two new purple urban movements. They conducted 15 training seminars for emerging activists, students, and Palestinian leaders, providing 180 participants with essential community organizing tools. Their campus outreach resulted in engaging 1,200 new student supporters across Israeli universities.

Digital Engagement and Network Building: The movement's digital campaigns reached millions of people both within Israel and internationally. They built a robust communication network of 20,000 WhatsApp members, creating a strong base of potential activists for crucial projects.

Crisis Response and Social Cohesion: Their rapid deployment of a bilingual Hebrew-Arabic hotline provided essential legal and psychological support, while their solidarity conventions created safe spaces for hundreds of activists to engage in dialogue about peace and post-war scenarios. Standing Together demonstrated its effectiveness in building sustainable cross-community coalitions, successfully engaging both Jewish and Palestinian citizens in shared advocacy around issues including workers' rights, campus safety, and peace initiatives.

The movement's growth continues to expand its influence in shaping public discourse around peace and social justice, particularly in advancing discussions about a ceasefire, hostage release, and long-term peace solutions. Their success in maintaining active Jewish-Arab partnerships during this period of intense social polarization demonstrates the viability of their model for cross-community organizing and social change.

Teachers' Lounge

Mission: The Teachers' Lounge program, established in memory of Shira Banki, is a Ministry of Education-accredited professional development initiative that transforms how Jewish and Arab educators engage across Israeli society. Operating in Jerusalem, Ramla, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and the Western Galilee, the program brings together teachers who, despite being neighbors, rarely have opportunities for meaningful interaction.

Through ten structured encounters over the academic year, participants engage in experiential learning through school visits, home hospitality, and neighborhood tours. These deep, reflective experiences enable teachers to examine how their personal identities—shaped by family, history, and customs—influence their role as educators. As they explore their shared communities through new perspectives, teachers develop practical strategies to address racism and prejudice in their classrooms.

The program has cultivated an active community of educators who collaborate on projects promoting coexistence and mutual understanding. By positioning teachers as crucial role models across all sectors of Israeli society, Teachers' Lounge empowers them to create classroom environments that foster respect, tolerance, and hope. Through this ripple effect, the program works toward its ultimate goal: nurturing future generations who are connected, empathetic, and committed to a shared future in Israel.

Themes: Bridge-Building & Dialogue, Education



Photo credit © Teacher's Lounge



Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the organization’s core activities.

Teacher’s Lounge operates according to the academic school year, meaning that in 2024, two operational years were covered. Below is a summary of activities carried out throughout the 2024 calendar year.

2023-2024 Operational Year: Marking its tenth year, Teachers' Lounge continued its vital work of fostering shared society through professional development for educators. The program operated across four locations: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv/Jaffa, Ramla, and the Western Galilee. Each cohort traditionally brings together equal numbers of Arab and Jewish teachers for ten three-hour sessions, led by paired Arab and Jewish facilitators.

The events of October 7, 2023 and the ensuing war necessitated significant program adaptations. After a two-month pause for careful assessment, Teachers' Lounge demonstrated remarkable resilience by modifying its approach while maintaining its core mission. The Jerusalem and Ramla centers initially created separate Arab and Jewish cohorts, providing safe spaces for processing experiences before successfully transitioning to integrated sessions. Tel Aviv/Jaffa and Western Galilee centers maintained integrated groups from the start, a testament to participants' unwavering commitment to cross-cultural dialogue.

A significant achievement during this challenging period was the launch of the Teachers' Lounge Alumni Network. The network's inaugural general meeting drew 20 alumni, while its first seminar, "Translating Pain into Educational Work," brought together 14 graduates at Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom for a powerful experience of collective healing and partnership.

Despite operational challenges, including increased security checkpoints affecting East Jerusalem participants' mobility, the program has maintained its commitment to accessibility and inclusion. The organization has continuously adapted its curriculum to address the evolving needs of participants while navigating the complex realities of the ongoing conflict.

2024-2025 Operational Year: Teachers' Lounge successfully expanded its impact despite the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict. The program launched eight groups across five locations: three in Jerusalem, one in Akko, one in Ramla, one in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and for the first time, a group in Haifa at Beit HaGefen. Although activities in the north faced initial delays due to physical restrictions because of the war, the full program was able to commence after only a few weeks of postponement.

The Alumni Network, which was established during the first months of the war, significantly deepened its activities. Created in response to alumni voices and the team's aspiration to generate lasting impact, it now serves as both a safe environment for graduates and a platform for developing and implementing educational initiatives in their classrooms. Alumni engage through Zoom meetings, seminars, and study tours, and are encouraged to initiate multicultural and tolerance-promoting activities in their schools.

A notable development is the new collaboration with the Headquarters for Shared Society, a division within the Ministry of Education that supports alumni in developing classroom initiatives. Together, they have issued a call for proposals and are providing guidance and support to alumni-led educational projects.

The program's core team has remained stable, with plans to recruit an Alumni Community Manager to support the growing emphasis on the alumni community.

While the coordinators in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, the Galilee, and Haifa remained in their roles, new recruitment was necessary for Ramla, with Jerusalem recruitment planned for the next academic year. The facilitator team also saw changes, with a new professional team of Jewish and Arab facilitator pairs leading each group.

Teachers' Lounge also established a new partnership with the Jewish-Arab Community Center in Jaffa to better address local challenges in recruitment and program implementation. Additionally, the organization began a strategic planning process with Amal-Tikva to develop its five-year strategic plan, focusing on refining goals and identifying objectives for the coming years.



Outcomes and Impact: Teachers' Lounge demonstrated remarkable resilience and impact throughout 2024, adapting to challenging circumstances while expanding its reach. The program has now engaged over 450 educators across five locations, with eight active groups operating in Jerusalem, Ramla, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Akko, and the new addition of Haifa in partnership with Beit HaGefen.

The program's adaptive approach during the war yielded significant results, proving that educational partnerships can thrive even amid conflict.

The successful transition from initially separated to integrated groups in some locations speaks to the deep commitment participants have to cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, even during heightened tensions.

Perhaps most impactful was the formalization and expansion of the Alumni Network, which evolved from a wartime support structure into a vibrant community of practice. This network not only provides ongoing support for graduates but has also become a catalyst for change within Israel's education system.



Photos credit © Teacher's Lounge

The new partnership with the Ministry of Education's Headquarters for Shared Society represents an important institutional recognition of the program's value, providing alumni with resources and support to implement multicultural initiatives directly in their classrooms.

The program's multiplier effect continued to grow as these 450+ educators shared their transformed perspectives with thousands of students, colleagues, and community members. Teachers' Lounge is actively measuring this impact through its expanded alumni activities, tracking how graduates implement their learning in educational settings.

As the organization enters a strategic planning phase with Amal-Tikva, it is poised to deepen its systematic approach to fostering shared society through education. The stable core team, combined with the infusion of new facilitators and the planned addition of an Alumni Community Manager position, ensures the program has the structural capacity to sustain and expand its work.

The newly formed partnership with the Jewish-Arab Community Center in Jaffa demonstrates the organization's commitment to contextualizing its approach to meet local needs, increasing its relevance and effectiveness in diverse communities. This adaptive, responsive approach positions Teachers' Lounge as a model for educational peacebuilding initiatives throughout Israel and beyond.

***A Word of Thanks from Teacher's Lounge
to B8 of Hope:***

"Your grants have been incredibly significant for us, enabling us to sustain the program—especially during this past year, when fundraising for peacebuilding initiatives has been particularly challenging due to the war. Thanks to these grants, we have been able to facilitate meaningful encounters between Jewish and Arab participants, fostering real change in their perceptions. Once again, thank you so much for your support."

Women Wage Peace

Mission: Women Wage Peace (WWP) strives to prevent conflict and achieve a sustainable, nonviolent resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through inclusive diplomacy. They are committed to ensuring women's active participation at every stage of peace negotiations while building bridges across political divides to foster mutual understanding and respect.

Founded in the aftermath of the 2014 Gaza War/Operation Protective Edge, WWP has grown to become Israel's largest grassroots peace movement with 50,000 members. The movement is non-partisan and does not advocate for any specific solution to the conflict. Instead, it empowers women from diverse communities to build trust across divides, leading to a unified demand for diplomatic negotiation with full representation of women.

Themes: Advocacy, Bridge-Building, Community Organizing, Dialogue & Reconciliation, Women

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded the organization's core activities.

During this pivotal year, WWP implemented strategic initiatives across multiple areas, with a particular emphasis on strengthening cross-community partnerships and empowering women in peace-building.

A significant focus has been on enhancing the role of Palestinian Israeli members within WWP, who have been instrumental in building and strengthening the organization's partnership with Women of the Sun (WoS), a Palestinian women's movement, over the past 2.5 years. Israeli-Arab women play a vital bridging role in this collaboration.



Photo credit © Women Wage Peace

They possess a unique ability to navigate the intricacies of both cultures, often serving as both linguistic and cultural interpreters between Israeli Jewish and Palestinian women.

Despite their crucial role, Israeli-Arab women face significant barriers to participation, including resource limitations, gender norms, and social marginalization—challenges further complicated by the war. In response, WWP pledged significant resources in 2024 to empower Israeli-Arab women in peacebuilding.

The appointment of Somaya Bashir as coordinator in October 2024 marked a significant step in WWP's commitment to Israeli-Arab representation in leadership. This dedicated position focuses specifically on culturally sensitive outreach and engagement within Israeli-Arab communities, ensuring authentic connection and sustained engagement.

The "Stitching Life" initiative emerged as a particularly successful program, bringing together Israeli-Arab and Jewish women through the art of embroidery. The program has grown to include 18 active groups with approximately 170 participants. By hosting gatherings in Israeli-Arab villages, the initiative creates safe spaces where women blend traditional techniques with personal narratives, fostering dialogue and understanding through artistic expression.



Photo credit © Women Wage Peace

Grassroots engagement has been strengthened through several meaningful actions. WWP's participation in "March of the Dead for the Living" demonstrated tangible solidarity with Israeli-Arab communities. The organization also established connections with women leaders in municipalities and expanded its work to regions like Acre, where they're developing specific work plans and recruiting new members. WWP's media engagement strategy has focused on building stronger relationships with Israeli-Arab media outlets, ensuring that WWP's message reaches and resonates with Israeli-Arab audiences across multiple media channels.

Beyond its work empowering Israeli-Arab women, WWP maintained active engagement on multiple fronts, primarily focused on advocating for an end to the war in Gaza and pursuing a diplomatic solution. The organization participated in significant peace initiatives, including the July gathering of the It's Time coalition, which brought together 50 Israeli peace organizations. Another notable initiative was the People's Journey to Peace, where Jewish and Israeli-Arab activists traveled across the country together, amplifying the message that the time has come to reach an agreement, end the war in Gaza, and build a foundation for lasting peace. WWP also demonstrated unwavering support for hostage families by maintaining a consistent presence at daily protests calling for all hostages' release.

2024 marked WWP's tenth anniversary since its 2014 founding. To commemorate this milestone, the organization orchestrated a Peace Train to Sderot, near the Gaza border, echoing their inaugural Peace Train where thousands of women united to establish a movement demanding an end to cycles of violence and women's inclusion in peace negotiations. This anniversary Peace Train honored Vivian Silver, WWP's founder who was killed in her home in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7, 2023.



Photo credit © Women Wage Peace

Outcomes and Impact: These diverse activities have yielded significant results. The partnership with WoS has strengthened considerably, particularly since October 7, demonstrating the viability of cross-community cooperation.

The increased representation and participation of Israeli-Arab women has created new channels for dialogue and understanding between communities. WWP's expanded media presence and grassroots initiatives have amplified women's voices in peace-building efforts, while international recognition, including the Nobel Peace Prize nomination alongside WoS, has validated their approach. Through these achievements, WWP continues to advance its vision of achieving a diplomatic resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, carrying forward the legacy of its founder Vivian Silver.

Uninational Programs

Green Land Society for Health Development

Mission: **Green Land Society for Health Development** (GLSHD) is a Palestinian nonprofit organization established in 2007 in Hebron. It aims to raise the level of health and environmental conditions in Palestine, in addition to raising the level of preparedness in disaster management, through awareness campaigns, research, and provision of health and environmental services in areas of need in Palestine. Their aim is to improve the quality of life for people in Palestine.

Themes: Health, Education

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope supported the construction of the hydrotherapy unit at the Mercy Hospital Rehabilitation Center.

GLSHD made significant strides in expanding rehabilitation services in the Hebron area through two parallel initiatives. Last year, with funding from B8 of Hope, the organization successfully trained a team of Palestinian hydrotherapists through a collaborative program with Allyn Hospital in Jerusalem and MASHAV (Israel Foreign Ministry). This year, construction began on a dedicated hydrotherapy unit at Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital.

This comprehensive project addresses critical gaps in rehabilitation services in the Hebron region, where families currently face limited access to affordable hydrotherapy treatments. The new facility at Mercy Charitable Rehabilitation Center, funded by B8 of Hope, will provide integrated rehabilitation services combining physical, mental, and psychological support. This integrated approach distinguishes it from existing private clinics in the area.

The project particularly focuses on improving accessibility for children with special needs and their families, who have historically faced barriers including prohibitive costs at private clinics, transportation challenges, and lack of adapted facilities. By establishing this service within a charitable hospital setting, the program aims to make hydrotherapy accessible to families who previously could not access such specialized care.

Outcomes and Impact: By the end of 2024, the first stage of the hydrotherapy unit construction at Mercy Hospital Rehabilitation Center was successfully completed, with the second stage commencing on schedule. The pool is due to open its doors in 2025. This tangible progress represents a crucial step toward addressing the rehabilitation service gap in the Hebron region.

Mercy Charitable Rehabilitation Center - Hebron



Women of the Sun

Mission: Women of the Sun (WoS) is dedicated to advancing gender equality and the political and economic empowerment of Palestinian women across the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Diaspora. Operating at the grassroots level, the organization develops intimate understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by Palestinian women, enabling the creation of tailored, sustainable solutions that drive meaningful change.

Through targeted initiatives, WoS pursues a comprehensive approach focused on education access, economic empowerment, political participation, trauma healing, and peacebuilding. The organization works closely with educated women to develop their leadership capabilities and prepare them for positions of political influence, while simultaneously reaching out to women across all socioeconomic strata to educate them about their fundamental rights to political engagement and economic participation.

Through these complementary approaches, WoS builds capacity, engages communities, and advocates for systemic change to create a more equitable and inclusive Palestinian society where women's voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their contributions are valued for generations to come.

Themes: Community Organizing, Education, Women

Supported Activities: In 2024, B8 of Hope funded programs aimed at developing the leadership of women in Palestine.

Women of the Sun's commitment to empowering Palestinian women was realized through a diverse portfolio of carefully designed programs and initiatives. By immersing themselves in communities, they developed and implemented programs that delivered tangible improvements in women's lives while contributing to broader societal transformation. The following sections detail their key programs and their impacts throughout the past year.

Educational Access and Empowerment: In its commitment to fostering educational excellence, WoS brought together 50 dedicated educators from across the West Bank and Gaza.

Through six intensive sessions, these kindergarten teachers, elementary educators, social specialists, and administrative supervisors explored innovative approaches to childhood education and development.

The program delved into crucial areas such as managing children's stress and enhancing learning through brain stimulation techniques. Participants gained practical skills in weekly planning, mathematical and language concept integration, and the vital importance of diverse teaching methods. The program's emphasis on child expression and parent engagement has already begun showing positive results in classrooms across Palestinian communities.



Photo credit © Women of the Sun

Economic Empowerment: The economic empowerment initiative reached 50 ambitious Palestinian women and youth between the ages of 18 and 35. These workshops went beyond traditional financial education, creating a supportive environment where participants could develop practical skills in financial literacy, budgeting, and sustainable business practices.

The program's impact extends beyond individual success stories—it represents a growing network of economically empowered women who can contribute to their communities' prosperity while achieving personal financial independence.

Political Participation: The political participation workshops focused on nurturing leadership potential among Palestinian women and youth from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Participants engaged in intensive training covering leadership development, governance principles, financial management, and conflict resolution. By addressing the unique challenges women face in leadership roles, these workshops have equipped a new generation of leaders with the tools and confidence to drive positive change in their communities.

Trauma Healing: Under the skilled guidance of Amal in Bethlehem and Wisam in Gaza, the trauma healing workshops provided safe spaces for emotional expression and healing. Through non-verbal therapeutic activities including art, drawing, and listening circles, participants found powerful ways to process their experiences and emotions. The incorporation of practical stress-reduction techniques, such as breathing exercises and relaxation methods, has given participants valuable tools for ongoing emotional well-being.

Peacebuilding Initiatives: The peacebuilding workshops brought together 120 Palestinian and Israeli women and youth aged 18-35, representing diverse religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. These sessions created unique opportunities for dialogue and understanding across traditional divides. While the workshops successfully fostered meaningful connections and generated actionable peace initiatives, they also highlighted the ongoing challenges in balancing cultural heritage with modern peacebuilding approaches. These insights will inform future programming as WoS continues to adapt its methods to better serve its diverse participant base.

Through these interconnected programs, WoS has touched hundreds of lives this year, creating ripples of positive change that extend far beyond individual participants to impact entire communities. The organization's commitment to addressing both immediate needs and long-term societal transformation remains unwavering as it continues to adapt and grow its programs based on community feedback and observed outcomes.

Outcomes and Impact: The impact of WoS's programs has been profound and far-reaching, demonstrating the power of targeted interventions to create meaningful change. Throughout all programs, participants consistently demonstrated exceptional engagement and commitment, creating dynamic learning environments that fostered growth and transformation.

The organization's emphasis on creating safe, inclusive spaces has proven particularly effective. These environments enabled participants to engage authentically with challenging topics, share personal experiences, and build strong community bonds. Whether processing trauma through artistic expression, engaging in cross-cultural dialogue, or developing professional skills, participants found strength in collective learning and mutual support.

A key success factor has been the caliber of program facilitation. Expert trainers and guest speakers, including notable figures such as Fatima Rahal, brought rich experience and practical insights to the workshops. Their ability to balance theoretical knowledge with real-world application enhanced the learning experience and inspired participants to envision new possibilities for themselves and their communities.

The programs have yielded tangible results across multiple dimensions. Participants have gained practical tools for personal and professional development, from financial management and leadership skills to emotional regulation techniques. Many have already begun implementing these skills in their daily lives and professional roles, creating a multiplier effect as they share their knowledge within their communities.

Particularly noteworthy has been the programs' success in bridging traditional values with contemporary challenges. By encouraging participants to draw strength from their cultural heritage while engaging with modern approaches to leadership, healing, and peacebuilding, WoS has helped forge sustainable pathways for change that respect and build upon existing cultural frameworks.



The organization's inclusive approach has enriched all aspects of its programming. By bringing together participants from various religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, the programs have created valuable opportunities for cross-cultural learning and understanding. This approach has not only enhanced the learning experience but has also contributed to building more resilient and connected communities.

As WoS looks to the future, participant feedback and program outcomes will continue to inform program development, ensuring that initiatives remain relevant, effective, and responsive to community needs. The organization's holistic approach to empowerment, combined with its dedication to excellence in program delivery, positions it well to continue making significant contributions to Palestinian society.



Photos credit © Women of the Sun

Zimam

Mission: **Zimam** (meaning “reins” or “taking initiative” in Arabic) is a pioneering grassroots youth movement in Palestine that challenges the status quo. Taking a domestic approach to conflict resolution, they work with the leaders of tomorrow to build a more democratic, actively engaged, and pluralistic society.

Working across nine governorates in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, their programs empower young people to transform public thinking and make real change. Inspired and driven by values of democracy, pluralism, nonviolence, and responsibility, they are building the foundations for a peaceful future where they can live in a sovereign and prosperous Palestinian state free from occupation.

Themes: Education, Leadership Development, Social Justice & Community Organizing, Young Adults

Supported Activities: In 2024 B8 of Hope funded the development of Zimam's progressive digital platform (**Masa7a**) which gives a voice to Palestinian youth across the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, as well as their Progressive Youth Camp, a two-day intensive workshop for young activists.



Promoting Progressive Values Through Digital Media in Palestine

Masa7a is a data-driven digital platform that creates space for diverse Palestinian voices and perspectives. The platform serves Palestinians aged 15-35 across the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, focusing particularly on youth who seek to engage with progressive values and civic discourse. Through advanced analytics, the platform promotes liberal values and amplifies voices advocating for non-violence, pluralism, and civic freedoms, providing a much-needed space for individuals who don't have access to non-conservative media as either consumers or producers.

Zimam developed innovative content for the platform, including an economic education series examining the Palestinian economy. This five-part video series explains the complexities of the Palestinian economy in language accessible to the average person, addressing topics such as the Oslo Agreement's economic components, Shekel Surplus challenges faced by Palestinian banks, the tax system including Israeli deductions, the experiences of Palestinian laborers in Israel (particularly following October 7), and the social security system in Palestine.

In addition to the economic series, Zimam produced a six-part debate-style discussion series featuring newly recruited social activists discussing important social issues. These include exploring whether political activists are active members of society or directed tools, whether or not boycotting Israeli products as resistance is effective, gender equality as a genuine social demand or external agenda, relationships before marriage, internships as learning opportunities or exploitation, and social media's role in society.

The platform also fostered a vibrant community of emerging content creators, supporting five young Palestinians in producing authentic narratives about their communities. These creators have developed compelling content ranging from explorations of Palestinian folklore to examinations of university life at Birzeit University. Other notable projects include challenging refugee camp stereotypes, documentation of post-October 7 experiences in Jerusalem, and unique perspectives on gaming culture in Palestine.

In addition to content creation, Zimam expanded its digital presence into real-world engagement through its Progressive Youth Camp, which brought together 30 young activists for an intensive two-day workshop. The camp created a dynamic space for exploring liberal progressive values in the Palestinian context and developing strategies for effective youth activism on campuses and across media channels.



Participants engaged in deep discussions about what an inclusive, progressive Palestine would look like and explored ways to enhance this vision through youth activism. They delved into strategies for recreating narrative formation to better reflect diverse perspectives and discussed methods for organizing and mobilizing effectively within their communities. The workshop also examined the current media landscape in Palestine, identifying gaps in representation and developing key messages to amplify progressive narratives. Throughout the camp, participants explored innovative ways to leverage social media as a powerful tool for driving social impact and fostering meaningful engagement among youth.

Outcomes and Impact: Masa7a's innovative approach to digital engagement and youth empowerment has yielded significant results in expanding the space for progressive discourse in Palestinian society. The economic education series has successfully democratized complex economic information, making it accessible and relevant to young Palestinians, fostering greater understanding of the structural factors affecting their daily lives and economic opportunities.



The platform's support of diverse content creators has amplified previously underrepresented voices and perspectives within Palestinian media. Through carefully curated content spanning cultural heritage, contemporary social issues, and youth perspectives, Masa7a has created new pathways for dialogue and understanding across different segments of Palestinian society. This approach has significantly expanded the platform's reach, gaining 3,000 new followers (bringing the total to 10,300), approximately 600 new YouTube subscribers, and generating over 700,000 views on Instagram.

The Progressive Youth Camp has created a network of empowered young activists equipped with both theoretical understanding and practical tools for promoting inclusive, progressive values. Participants have developed enhanced capabilities in digital storytelling, community organizing, and strategic communication, positioning them to be effective agents of positive change in their communities.

Perhaps most significantly, Masa7a's work has contributed to expanding the constituency for peace and progressive values by demonstrating their relevance and importance to young Palestinians' lives and aspirations. Through its combination of digital engagement and in-person programming, Zimam has created sustainable channels for promoting nonviolence, pluralism, and civic freedoms that resonate with youth experiences and perspectives.

As Masa7a continues to evolve and expand its reach, its data-driven approach and commitment to amplifying youth voices position it well to contribute to the development of a more inclusive and progressive Palestinian civil society.



SYNERGIES LAB

Understanding that social change is amplified through collaboration, we launched the Synergies Lab in 2022 to foster meaningful partnerships between our grantees. This dedicated fund supports joint projects that leverage the unique strengths of different organizations, enabling them to achieve greater impact together than they could alone.

B8 of Hope’s approach to synergies goes beyond mere networking—we actively encourage and support our grantees to identify areas of common ground and develop collaborative initiatives. By combining their expertise, resources, and networks, organizations can extend their reach, deepen their impact, and make more efficient use of available funding. These strategic partnerships help avoid duplication of efforts and create innovative solutions that address complex challenges from multiple angles.

Through the Synergies Lab, we're building an ecosystem of changemakers who understand that lasting transformation requires working across organizational boundaries. This collaborative approach reflects our belief that the path to peace and social change is strengthened when civil society organizations work in concert rather than in isolation.

This section of our 2024 annual report continues the documentation of initiatives that began under the 2023 Synergies Lab. While preliminary progress was reported in our 2023 annual report, October 7 and the ensuing war necessitated a temporary pause in all projects as organizations adapted to the new reality. Of the original initiatives, three resumed operations after several months and were successfully completed in 2024. One project, which focused on driving patients from Gaza to medical centers in Israel, was discontinued due to the closure of Gaza's borders following October 7.

This report details the outcomes of the completed initiatives and documents the circumstances of the discontinued medical access project.

Zimam & Pathways

Negotiation Skills Development

Objective: To prepare 10 Palestinian trainers to engage with Palestinian and other audiences on the issue of persuasion using negotiations skills and elements of debate.

Supported Activities: Building on a successful pilot creative negotiation skills workshop series in 2022-2023, Zimam and Pathways collaborated again in 2024 to design an advanced learning program. This initiative responded to requests from 15 initial participants for follow-up workshops to refine their skills and expand applications of their knowledge.

The 2024 program took place in Cyprus, with participants traveling from Palestine to learn in an environment removed from their fraught context.

The program incorporated a new partnership with the Cyprus-based Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR). On May 11, participants engaged with two accomplished academics—one Turkish-Cypriot and one Greek-Cypriot—for in-depth presentations and discussions about the Cyprus conflict's history and current attitudes.

Following these presentations, Pathways facilitated an interactive workshop where participants selected specific issues to research and presented brief overviews to their peers.



Photo credit © Zimam

Outcomes and Impact: The program fostered significant growth among participants, who gained broader perspective on conflict dynamics through exposure to the Cyprus context. By experiencing conflict analysis as outside observers rather than direct participants, they developed more creative and self-critical approaches to conflict transformation. Participants also enhanced their research and writing skills through reflection essays about their experiences, while benefiting from time away from their challenging home environment to collaborate with peers.

The partnership yielded substantial organizational development. Zimam gained access to specialized content and training beyond their internal capacity, while Pathways successfully scaled their negotiation methodology to reach more participants. Both organizations established direct connections with AHDR, opening opportunities for future Cyprus-based projects. The successful completion of two project phases strengthened the partnership between Zimam and Pathways.

Multiple participants wrote reflection essays upon returning home, documenting their insights about Cyprus as a place, culture, and conflict zone. A key observation was the transformative experience of viewing conflict as spectators rather than parties to the conflict, which enhanced their capacity for self-reflection and innovative approaches to conflict transformation.



Photo credit © Zimam

PHRI & Road to Recovery

Healthcare Access Initiative

Objective: To facilitate access to medical care in Israel and East Jerusalem for approximately 25 Palestinian patients from Gaza and the West Bank by providing medical referrals, financial coverage for treatment, and transportation services through collaboration between Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) and Road to Recovery (RtR).

Supported Activities: Following October 7 and the subsequent war, the joint project between PHRI and RtR faced significant operational challenges due to severe movement restrictions in both Gaza and the West Bank. **After successfully assisting four patients in the first two months through combined medical referrals, financial assistance, and transportation services, the partnership was discontinued in February 2024.** PHRI then redirected its efforts to focus on providing targeted medical assistance to 15 female patients in isolated West Bank communities, where increased military presence and settler violence had created additional barriers to healthcare access.

By April 2024, PHRI had assisted five women, including support for specialized treatments, surgeries, diagnostic testing, and provision of medical supplies. While RtR reallocated the funds toward their core operational activities, more information about PHRI's reallocation of funds can be found in the Emergency Funds section of the annual report.

Teachers' Lounge & Rossing Center

Educational Integration

Objective: To build bridges of understanding and cooperation among Jewish and Palestinian educators in the mixed city of Ramla through structured dialogue and shared experiences, addressing systemic inequality and political tensions while exploring multiple narratives of place.

Supported Activities: The city of Ramla is characterized by its diverse population of Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel from various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. While this creates a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and perspectives, systemic inequality and political tensions underscore most interactions, whether consciously or subconsciously. The program addresses fundamental questions such as how to connect to a place that holds multiple narratives and how to see the city through others' eyes.

Following a successful first year in 2022-2023, the program began preparing for its second cohort in September 2023 with nationwide facilitator training. However, October 7 and the subsequent war dramatically impacted operations. After a period of initial shock and uncertainty, the program faced significant challenges, including the loss of their program coordinator due to the war.

Through joint organizational meetings, they developed an adapted strategy: offering scholarships to encourage participation and implementing a gradual approach to bi-national dialogue. The program successfully recruited 14 participants and structured the sessions to begin with separate uninational groups for the first four meetings before bringing everyone together.

The program included 10 meetings and encounters, featuring self-guided tours through Ramla's streets, markets, and historical sites. These excursions served as educational tools for participants to interpret the city's meaning from various perspectives and discover both unique and shared connections to the same spaces.

Outcomes and Impact: The program created meaningful opportunities for dialogue and understanding in extremely challenging circumstances. One notable example involved a Palestinian Israeli teacher—the only Palestinian educator at a Jewish school—who participated alongside two Jewish teachers from the same school, allowing the group to address real workplace dynamics and support for Palestinian Israeli teachers in predominantly Jewish schools.

The Teachers' Lounge and Rossing Center partnership proved valuable in reaching previously unengaged communities.

Both organizations reflected that leveraging local resources and connections was instrumental in increasing program participation, particularly through their developing relationship with the Ramla Municipal Education Authority. The involvement of facilitators who are residents of the city, bringing their deep knowledge of the local context and community, combined with Teachers' Lounge's programming expertise, created a foundation for sustainable partnership.



Photo credit © Teacher's Lounge

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the program aims to recruit a new group of 14-16 participants and expand their reach to more schools, with discussions underway about potentially opening an additional group.

The vision for Teachers' Lounge Ramla extends beyond the program itself—by engaging educators, they aim to create a multiplier effect that reaches throughout local communities. Teachers are uniquely positioned to raise a new generation of young people who are both sensitive to and aware of other identity groups, equipped with the skills to interact positively with those different from themselves.

The program's success hinges on the effectiveness of their facilitators and the development of local leadership. Their intimate familiarity with the city plays a crucial role in framing the curriculum and guiding educators. After another year of experience, they have gained clarity around effective strategies and techniques, recruitment methods, and how to appropriately balance uninational with bi-national interactions.

MEET & Lissan

Project Aleph: Language & Tech Learning

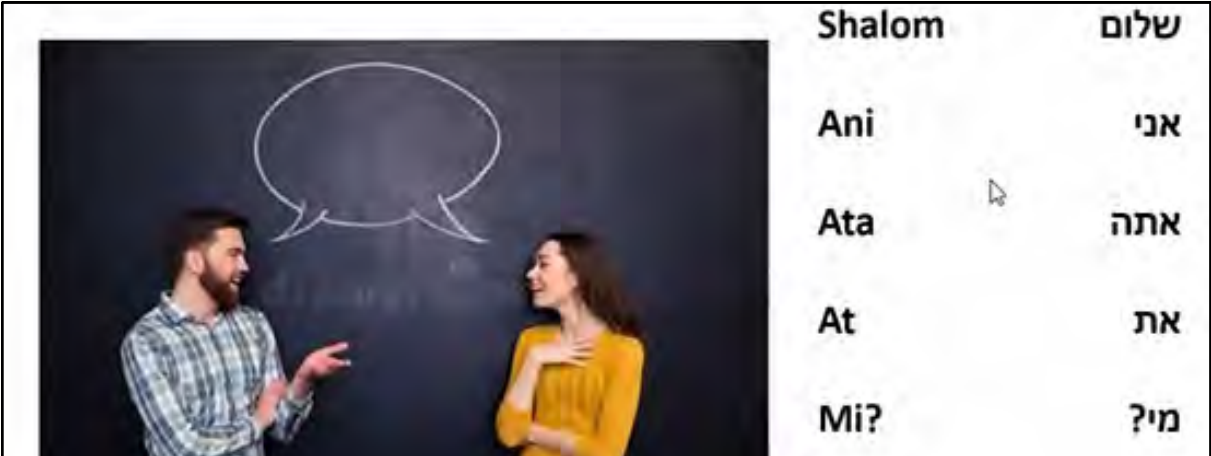
Objective: To provide Israeli and Palestinian alumni of PIP, 50/50 Startups, and MEET with the opportunity to learn Hebrew and Arabic—the languages of the other—through the expertise and experience of Lissan and Madrasa. These language courses deepen participants’ understanding of each other and enhance their capacity to collaborate across cultural boundaries.

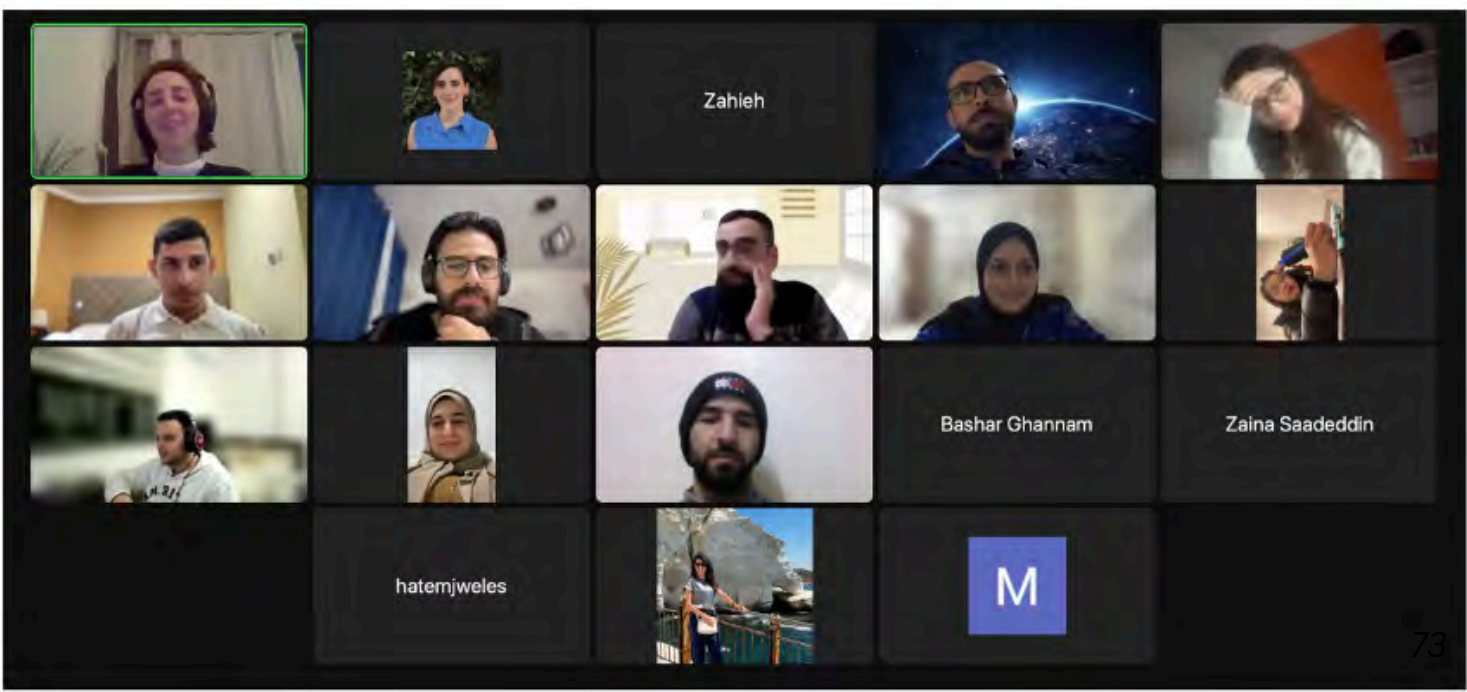
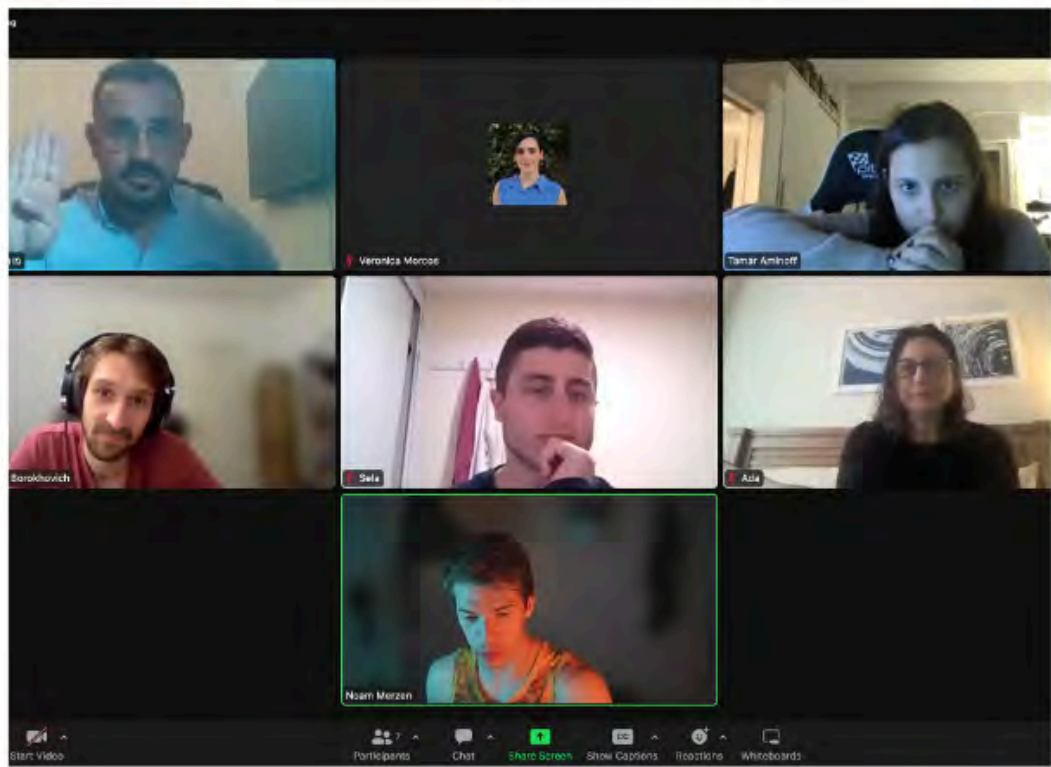
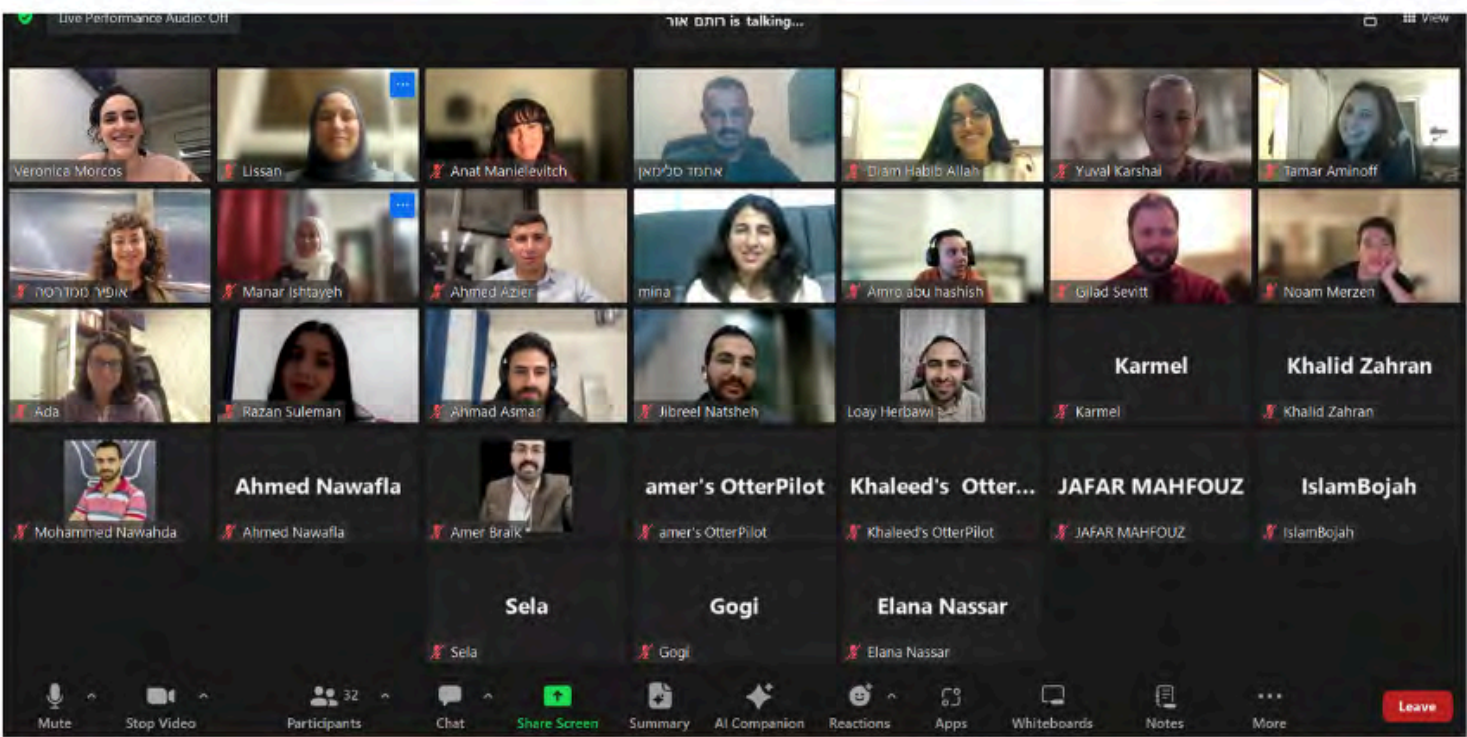
While English serves peacebuilding organizations as a relatively neutral language that allows Israelis and Palestinians to conduct a constructive dialogue, a key step towards building a shared society that is based on equity and true partnership is learning the mother tongue of the other nationality. The Hebrew/Arabic courses aim to deepen participants’ understanding of and improve their capacity to work with the “other side.” Moreover, in the current socio-political reality, knowing Hebrew allows young Palestinians access to quality education and career opportunities that would not have been available to them without any knowledge of Hebrew.

Supported Activities: 2024 marked the third year this synergy has been in operation. In 2023, the synergy successfully recruited over 90 applicants from PIP, MEET, and 50-50 startup alumni for Hebrew and Arabic language courses, with additional applications accepted in January 2024. After an initial delay due to the war, courses started in February 2024 and were held over zoom.

First-semester groups included 37 participants in Hebrew classes and 8 in Arabic, with learning materials delivered to 22 participants in the West Bank despite logistical challenges. In the second semester, 11 participants enrolled in Hebrew and 4 in Arabic classes. While army reserve duty prevented some applicants from participating in Arabic classes, the synergy remained committed to fostering understanding and collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian communities. The project concluded in December.

Outcomes and Impact: Lissan-MEET reflected that this experience encouraged them to think more creatively about what is possible, allowing them to pilot new ideas or target audiences. Ultimately the project created a foundation for partnership among the cross-organizational bi-national alumni community, based on shared social and professional interests. It also created a successful model for advancing mutual understanding and personal and professional growth in a supportive community.





EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

The events of October 7 and the ensuing war created unprecedented challenges, with particularly severe humanitarian consequences in Gaza and the West Bank. In response to these extraordinary circumstances, we provided targeted emergency support to four grantees—both Israeli and Palestinian organizations—to help address urgent Palestinian humanitarian needs. These emergency grants enabled our trusted partners to quickly adapt their work and provide vital humanitarian and medical aid to Palestinian communities during this period of acute crisis.

Physicians for Human Rights Emergency Mobile Clinics

In 2024 B8 of Hope provided two emergency grants to Physicians for Human Rights (PHRI). The first supported PHRI's Mobile Clinics initiative, with a particular focus on the Women's Mobile Clinic program that specializes in early detection and management of chronic diseases prevalent in visited areas, including diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure.

Over the 12-month period, PHRI's achievements through the first emergency grant included:

- Operating **84 Mobile Clinic** sessions, including 11 Women's Mobile Clinics
- Serving **23,453 total visits**, with **54% women and girls, and 17% minors**
- Providing financial assistance for **33 treatments** and medical tests to **18 beneficiaries** in Israeli hospitals and clinics, including eight women and girls through 16 cases
- Facilitating medical referrals for **103 beneficiaries, including 42 women and girls**
- Distributing costly medication unavailable in the West Bank to **23 beneficiaries**, including **seven women and girls**

The second emergency grant originated from reallocated funds following the discontinuation of PHRI's synergy project with Road to Recovery due to the war. This grant enabled PHRI to provide targeted assistance to 15 female patients from the West Bank who needed support with diagnosis, medication provision, and medical surveillance. Some of these beneficiaries were also participants in the Women's Mobile Clinic initiative.



Photo credit © PHRI

Testimonials

Below are notable cases of 10 beneficiaries who received assistance through the emergency funds. To protect their beneficiaries' privacy, aliases were used.

F. is a 64-year-old who visited PHRI's Women's Mobile Clinic and suffers from diabetes. PHRI started a follow-up program for chronic diseases, where they educate and empower women about their common chronic diseases, with the aim of providing better chronic disease prevention and management. Following her medical examination, F. was provided with a blood sugar monitoring device and a table to record her results in full coordination with the local nurse and the volunteer leading this initiative.

Similarly, **A. and M. are two residents** of Tulkarem with renal failure, one of them on dialysis. Since May, the PHRI mobile clinic director and coordinator have been able to provide A. and M. with renal medications they desperately need, which are unavailable in the West Bank at the moment.

T. is a young 25-year-old woman with a severe hearing impairment. The medical tests to determine whether an implant could help T. are currently unavailable in the West Bank. T.'s family reached out to PHRI in August 2024, and with the help of one of their medical volunteers and the Women's Mobile Clinic coordinator, T. was provided with a medical referral to the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel. PHRI also covered the total amount of the medical test with the specialist, which was out of the family's financial means. They are happy to report T. underwent the medical tests and will soon get an implant.

S. is a 55-year-old from the Nablus area who was diagnosed with a mass and abnormal bleeding. PHRI provided a medical referral so that S could reach the relevant units at the Ichilov hospital in Israel, as the specific tests she requires are currently nonexistent in the West Bank. Additionally, they covered the cost of the ultrasounds and the biopsy, which she could not afford. She underwent the tests and will have a follow-up meeting to discuss her results this September.

*In May, PHRI assisted **M., a 54-year-old woman** living as a status-less Palestinian in the South of Israel. With a suspected mass in the brain, M. was in urgent need of further medical imaging she could not afford. Following several attempts, PHRI managed to secure and pay for the MRI and the CT scan M. needed. The imaging allowed M. to receive a diagnosis, and they are currently assisting her to secure the chemotherapy treatment she requires.*

***A. is a 58-year-old** who reached one of PHRI's Mobile Clinics in August in the vicinity of Nablus. A. is partially deaf, an impairment that carries some social stigma. The type of device A. needed is available in the West Bank but entirely out of her financial means. PHRI helped A. by financing the totality of the hearing aid she needed, and she can now hear her surroundings.*

***K. is a mother** in the village of Yata, near Hebron. In July, one of PHRI's volunteer doctors and board members contacted the Mobile Clinic department as K. developed a lung infection that was not improved by medication. Upon further examination, K. needed a CT scan, which she couldn't afford. PHRI covered the cost of the medical imaging required at a location close to K., and she is now recovering.*

***L. is a 29-year-old patient** PHRI first assisted in 2018. They have helped L. for years with referrals and financial assistance to cover nephrology follow-up treatments at the Ein Kerem Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Recently, L. successfully underwent a kidney transplant. However, the crucial anti-rejection medication needed following transplant surgery is currently unavailable in the West Bank. This is due to the ongoing financial crisis, which has spiraled since the start of the war. PHRI are currently providing L. with Prograf (Tacrolimus), an immunosuppressant to lower the risk of L. rejecting her new kidney.*



Photo credit © Standing Together

Standing Together

Gaza Aid Transport

In 2024, B8 of Hope provided funding for Standing Together’s humanitarian aid campaign for the residents of Gaza.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza reached catastrophic levels in 2024, with Palestinians in the Strip facing severe starvation, disease outbreaks, and widespread suffering, while the majority of the population became internally displaced. In August 2024, Standing Together initiated a humanitarian aid campaign across Palestinian towns in Israel, collecting essential food and supplies for Gaza residents. The initiative served a dual purpose: delivering crucial aid while fostering Jewish-Arab solidarity in opposition to the war.

The campaign emerged against a backdrop of intense political persecution of Palestinian citizens of Israel since the war’s onset, with individuals facing arrests, job terminations, and academic suspensions for criticizing the Israeli government’s Gaza policies. This climate of repression led to widespread self-censorship within the Palestinian-Israeli community and growing feelings of helplessness regarding the conflict. Standing Together’s initiative provided a crucial platform for both Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel to engage in meaningful grassroots action, offering tangible support to Gaza’s residents while opposing government policies of collective punishment.

The campaign achieved remarkable success, mobilizing tens of thousands of Palestinian and Jewish Israelis nationwide and accumulating aid equivalent to **400 truckloads of food and supplies and getting 180 of those into Gaza**. The initiative’s impact extended beyond organized collection points, inspiring independent community-led aid drives in areas where official collection sites couldn’t be established. In Palestinian-Israeli communities, the campaign significantly boosted morale, empowering residents to take concrete action against governmental policies in Gaza.

In addition to the humanitarian aid campaign, Standing Together also established a Humanitarian Guard to protect aid convoys from settler violence at the Tarqumiyah checkpoint, ensuring safe passage of trucks with supplies to Gaza. This additional initiative raised public awareness about checkpoint attacks while building broader support for humanitarian principles and against settler violence.



Photos credit © Standing Together

Testimonial *(edited for length and clarity)*

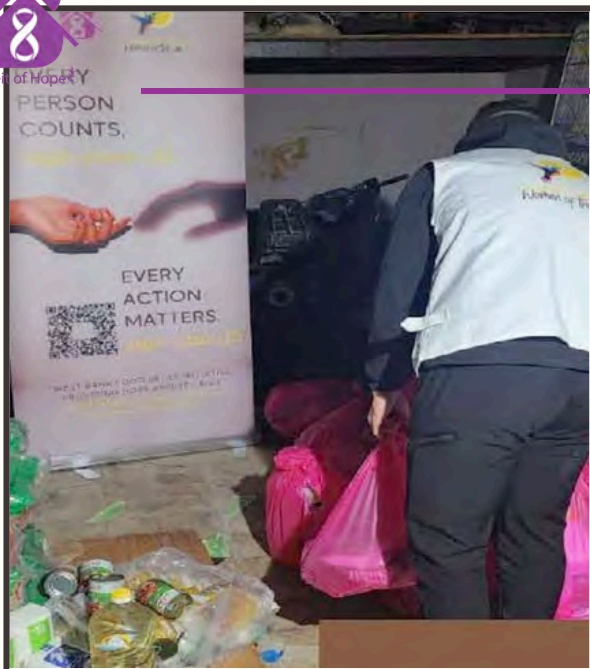
Amal Gawi is a documentary director and a journalist. She grew up in Kafr Qara and has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in gender studies from Tel Aviv University. She was the coordinator of Standing Together's massive campaign that gathered over 400 trucks of aid for Gaza. Here is her story about her involvement in the movement and her thoughts about the campaign and how it impacted Arab society in Israel.

"At the beginning of the war I felt there wasn't a sane space anywhere, one that could contain everyone's pain. In Standing Together I found a supportive circle of people who believe in the same values I believe in. I'm the oldest of four sisters. It might sound like a cliché, but I don't want my sisters to grow up in a place filled with hate. I have a need to fix things. I can't stand aside and wait for it to happen.

This campaign wasn't about the sugar, or the flour or the diapers. It was about taking a stand in front of this bloody and cruel war. There were thousands of Arab volunteers, and hundreds of Jewish volunteers also came. It was a cry by people who are against the war. It wasn't only the food. It was a strong voice against the war, for political agreements, and for peace. That was what we were trying to convey.

Finally, people could do something. Entire families came, helped pack and clean. It was the organizing of an entire society for one goal. With the negative things that we experience and see in the media, this campaign gave a spotlight to the good.

I've been crying a lot since the campaign started. It's been very touching. We were in Sakhnin, in Deir al-Asad, in Nazareth and in Umm al-Fahm, and in each one of these places, thousands of people came to donate and volunteer. It's heartwarming."



Women of the Sun

West Bank Food Distribution

In 2024, B8 of Hope provided funding for emergency relief efforts for the Women of the Sun (WoS) community in the West Bank.

When the war in Gaza broke out in October of 2023, numerous Gazan families found themselves stranded in Bethlehem—primarily women and children who had been receiving medical treatment in Israeli hospitals. Unable to return home, these families faced unprecedented challenges in navigating life in Bethlehem, depending on local organizations for support.

WoS stepped forward to provide critical assistance through their Emergency Food Aid Distribution project. They were able to support 20 families from Gaza who remain stranded in Bethlehem, delivering essential nutritional support tailored to the specific needs of women and children.

Beyond the displaced Gazan families, WoS also extended their support to 80 additional families severely impacted by the war. This included workers who lost their jobs in Israel and families living near conflict zones who face severe economic hardship. Their comprehensive aid program provided essential resources to help these families cope with the profound disruptions to their lives.

The food packages distributed by WoS became more than just sustenance—they represented a lifeline of stability and care during a time of immense uncertainty. Through this initiative, WoS continued to stand with families affected by the war, providing both material support and a sense of solidarity during this difficult year.



Photos credit © Women of the Sun

Testimonial:

A Tale of Resilience and Hope from the Emergency Aid Program

Before October 7, this young woman was a mother from Gaza who regularly traveled to Tel HaShomer hospital in Israel for her daughter's medical treatments. Her daughter, who has Down Syndrome and a physical disability, needed specialized care that wasn't available in Gaza. When the war broke out, this young mother found herself suddenly expelled from Israel along with other Gazans, stranded in Bethlehem. Four months pregnant and caring for her daughter, she had nowhere to go.

Women of the Sun, working with local organizations in Bethlehem, stepped in to help. They secured housing for her and other displaced Gazan women and children, ensuring they had access to basic necessities, medical care, and emotional support during those first uncertain months.

Then came the devastating news. After three months of lost communication with her family in Gaza, she learned that her home had been targeted. In one heartbreaking moment, she lost her five sons, her husband, her mother, her brothers, and many other relatives. She was left alone with her daughter in an unfamiliar city, carrying her unborn child.

Yet even in the depths of this unimaginable grief, life continued. Five months into the conflict, she gave birth to a healthy baby girl in Bethlehem. Today, with the continued support of WoS and the local community, she is focusing on her daughters—one with special needs, one newly born—finding strength in motherhood and the solidarity of those around her.

Her story, while marked by profound loss, speaks to the resilience of the human spirit and the vital importance of community support in times of crisis. Through WoS's emergency aid and the compassion of local organizations, she and her daughters have been given the opportunity to start building their lives again.

Zimam

Gaza Humanitarian Aid

In 2024, B8 of Hope provided Zimam with two emergency grants for their humanitarian efforts on behalf of families in need in Gaza.

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza that quickly developed in the wake of October 7 and the subsequent war, Zimam launched its Emergency Relief Campaign on October 20th. For the next 10 months, Zimam focused its efforts on delivering essential aid through multiple channels, working closely with local partners on the ground. The campaign provided critical support through stress relief activities for children, distribution of food and clean water, provision of personal hygiene supplies, and establishment of temporary shelters



Photos credit © Zimam

Key achievements included the **distribution of 32 comprehensive hygiene kits serving 160 individuals**, helping families maintain basic sanitation amid rising costs and disease concerns. The campaign also coordinated with local cooks in Deir Albalah and Rafah camps to prepare and **distribute over 1,100 meal packages**, providing sustenance to more than **12,000 individuals**.

Additionally, Zimam sourced and installed nine robust, **weather-resistant tents, offering secure shelter to approximately 145 individuals** who had previously been exposed to harsh conditions or housed in inadequate temporary structures.

Art has a singular ability to transcend barriers and speak to our shared humanity, even in times of profound conflict. When dialogue seems impossible and tensions are high, artistic expression can create spaces for connection, healing, and understanding. Through music, film, and other creative forms, artists help us process complex realities, preserve hope, and imagine different futures.

B8 of Hope's support for cultural initiatives reflects our recognition that peacebuilding requires not only political and social action, but also the transformative power of the arts. We invest in creative collaborations that bring together artists across divides, supporting projects that range from musical performances to documentary filmmaking. These initiatives offer alternative narratives and create powerful platforms for voices that might otherwise go unheard.

Music

"River to the Sea" by Achinoam Nini

In 2024, B8 of Hope supported a groundbreaking collaboration between the Jerusalem Youth Chorus (JYC) and renowned Israeli singer and activist Achinoam (Noa) Nini to record and produce "River to the Sea" (working title) as a peace anthem. The project created a unique space for the JYC community to engage in meaningful dialogue about polarizing phrases and growing divisions within their communities, while crafting a musical piece alongside Nini.

The process brought together 25 young Israeli and Palestinian singers in challenging but transformative conversations about sensitive issues that have emerged since the beginning of the war. Despite the difficulty of addressing polarizing slogans and rhetoric that have become widespread during the conflict, the young participants showed remarkable courage in engaging with these topics. Through their dialogue, they developed greater understanding and ability to see the humanity in those with different perspectives.

Nini's involvement brought vital energy and inspiration to the project. Her charismatic presence and experienced guidance helped create an atmosphere where young people felt empowered to tackle difficult subjects through artistic expression. Throughout her career, Achinoam Nini has consistently leveraged music as a tool to foster understanding and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. JYC shares this vision, believing in music's transformative power to bridge divides and in young Israeli and Palestinian voices to demonstrate that positive change is achievable.

The collaboration was enriched by the addition of Mira Awad, a renowned Palestinian citizen of Israel and accomplished singer-activist who has long worked alongside Nini on peace initiatives. While not present during the original recording with JYC, Awad's contribution significantly enhanced the project's message of Jewish-Palestinian partnership. Her participation alongside Nini and the JYC created a more complete representation of diverse voices united in harmony—reinforcing the initiative's goal of demonstrating meaningful collaboration across divides.

The resulting song serves as a powerful rallying cry, inspiring hope for an alternative future. This partnership between several influential voices carries significant potential to transform perspectives during this intense moment in Israel and Palestine, demonstrating how artistic collaboration can create spaces for difficult but necessary dialogue about peace and coexistence.

The song is due to be released in 2025.



Photos credit © JYC



Documentary Films

"The Day After"

In 2024 B8 of Hope contributed to the production of the documentary film "The Day After" (working title).

"The Day After" chronicles the remarkable peaceful resolution of Northern Ireland's Troubles—one of modern history's longest and bloodiest conflicts—through the unique lens of an Israeli and Palestinian film crew. The documentary interweaves historical narrative with the crew's personal journey, examining the profound sacrifices and compromises required to transform a deeply divided society into a shared one.

Filmed throughout 2023 and 2024, spanning the period before and after October 7 and the subsequent war in Gaza, the documentary brings its Israeli and Palestinian creators face-to-face with key figures from both sides of the Northern Irish conflict—former combatants, grassroots activists, and political leaders who shaped the peace process and helped establish the frameworks that have maintained stability for 25 years.

Watch the trailer
["The Day After"](#)

As the crew uncovers striking parallels between the conflicts—from Belfast's former military checkpoints to its history of urban bombings—they delve into the complex cost of reconciliation. The film explores a crucial question: How did Northern Ireland's opposing factions emerge from their darkest period to initiate dialogue and forge a lasting peace?

While the narrative shifts from endless conflict toward the possibility of a shared society, "The Day After" aims to equip audiences in Israel-Palestine and worldwide with a practical peace-building vocabulary, moving beyond platitudes to offer a tangible vision for an equitable future between the river and the sea. At its heart, the film poses a deceptively simple yet profound question: What if...?

The project represents a unique collaboration between educational activism and filmmaking, bridging two peoples who share one land and future. Creative **producer and co-creator Liel Maghen**, who has spent seven years bringing Israeli and Palestinian activists to Belfast to study practical peace-building, planted the seed for this project. **The film's collaborative spirit extends through its entire crew: co-directors Aziz Abu Sarah and Yuval Orr, co-writers Timna Perets and Amira Mohammed, and cinematographers Husam Abu Diab and Daria Geller** all contribute their perspectives to the narrative.

For Israelis and Palestinians, visiting Belfast offers a transformative glimpse into an alternative future—almost like stepping into a parallel universe where peace became possible. The filmmakers aim to convey this perspective-shifting experience to their audience, challenging the uncomfortable status quo in Israel-Palestine. As global attention returns to the ongoing conflict in their homeland, the documentary strives to provide those seeking sustainable peace with a new political vocabulary and framework for imagining what's possible.

The film is due to be released in 2025.

"There is Another Way"

In 2024 B8 of Hope contributed to the creation and production of the documentary film "There Is Another Way."

"There Is Another Way," **directed by Stephen Apkon**, documents the journey of Combatants for Peace, a group of visionaries who demonstrate an alternative to violence and injustice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The documentary explores their commitment to collective liberation, where the needs, rights, and safety of all people take precedence over division.

In the wake of October 7 and the subsequent war in Gaza, the movement faces unprecedented challenges in maintaining their vision of nonviolence. The film captures their struggle to uphold their core beliefs while confronting devastating realities. As one of the few remaining active binational groups in the region, Combatants for Peace has intensified their work during this period of crisis, building upon their legacy that earned them multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominations following their featured role in the 2016 documentary "Disturbing the Peace."

Against a backdrop of staggering bloodshed and widespread despair about the possibility of peace, these activists continue to demonstrate through their actions that an alternative path exists. The film will be released both as a standalone short documentary and as an epilogue to "Disturbing the Peace," offering a powerful testament to the endurance of hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

The film is due to be released in 2025.

[“There is Another Way” Trailer](#)



"Résister pour la Paix"

In 2024 B8 of Hope contributed to the creation and production of the documentary film "Résister pour la Paix" ("Resisting for Peace").

Directors Hanna Assouline and Sonia Terrab's documentary "Resisting for Peace" returns to Israel and the Palestinian territories one year after their initial journey, capturing the voices of peace activists who maintain their commitment to justice in the wake of October 7, 2023, and during the subsequent war in Gaza.

The documentary traverses Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Jallah, kibbutzim, and checkpoints, weaving together personal narratives of Israelis and Palestinians who, despite suffering profound personal losses including family members both before and during the current war, continue to build bridges across divides.

In the aftermath of October 7 and the ensuing devastation, the film argues that peace stands as the sole viable path forward. It challenges the conventional binary of pro-Israeli versus pro-Palestinian positions, instead highlighting two distinct camps: those who perpetuate hatred and destruction, and those who advocate for peace, justice, and freedom.

Though a minority, these peace advocates wield greater influence and numbers than commonly perceived, and the film posits that they will be instrumental in shaping the region's future. "Resisting for Peace" serves as a testament to their courage and resilience in the face of ongoing turmoil.

The film was released in 2024. For a comprehensive report on the B8 of Hope's screenings of the film in Geneva in November, please see our Building Peace from Switzerland: Local Activities & Impact section.

[“Résister pour la Paix” Trailer](#)



Conclusion

In 2024, amidst one of the most challenging periods in recent memory, our support for 22 civil society organizations across Israel and Palestine reflected our unwavering commitment to grassroots peacebuilding. Even as the conflict intensified, these organizations demonstrated remarkable resilience, adapting their work while staying true to their mission of fostering understanding, equality, and dignity for all.

Our grantees' diverse approaches—from policy advocacy to artistic expression, from humanitarian aid to dialogue initiatives—represent different paths toward the same goal: a future built on mutual recognition and shared humanity. Their work reminds us that even in times of acute crisis, there are individuals and organizations committed to transcending divisions, seeking solutions, and maintaining channels for partnership and understanding.

These 22 organizations, working at both local and systemic levels, embody our belief that lasting peace will emerge through sustained grassroots efforts that honor both peoples' rights to security and self-determination. Their persistence in building bridges, fostering dialogue, and creating positive change at the community level continues to inspire hope for a more constructive path forward, even in the darkest of times.



BUILDING PEACE FROM SWITZERLAND: LOCAL ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

In 2024, B8 of Hope expanded its impact through a diverse array of activities spanning local engagement in Switzerland, international outreach, and strategic convenings.

Despite the challenging context of the war, B8 of Hope maintained its commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding between Israeli and Palestinian communities while building crucial support networks in Switzerland and beyond. From hosting major peace-building initiatives to nurturing the next generation of peace advocates, B8 of Hope's activities reflected its mission to support and amplify voices working for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.



Hosting Israeli and Palestinian Peace Activists in Switzerland

Bringing key figures to Switzerland to convene, strategize, and engage with different audiences

In 2024, B8 of Hope facilitated crucial connections between Israel-Palestine and Switzerland through strategic convenings, public engagements, and professional development initiatives. These visits created spaces for collaboration, dialogue, and skill-building that advanced peace-building efforts in the region.



Major Convenings & Strategy Retreats

Pathways Institute & Zimam Negotiation Skills Workshop—Geneva (January)

The year began with a significant three-day retreat at B8 of Hope's workspace in Geneva, bringing together Pathways Institute for Negotiation Education and Zimam to finalize their collaborative project: the second module of a Negotiation Skills Workshop in Arabic, specifically designed for Zimam's needs.

This initiative represents one of the four projects supported by B8 of Hope's Synergy Lab, which fosters collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian organizations. The in-person gathering allowed the two organizations to refine the module's design and conduct hands-on training of the material, with plans for implementation in summer 2024.

New Story Leadership (NSL) Alumni Retreat—Geneva (February)

In February, B8 of Hope hosted another significant retreat in Geneva, welcoming a group of 10 Israeli and Palestinian alumni from our grantee organization New Story Leadership (NSL). The group stayed for seven days to advance a project they had initiated over Zoom in fall 2023.

The retreat brought together not only the alumni but also NSL's Director, two staff members, and a facilitator—14 people in total—who were all warmly hosted by families in Chêne-Bougeries, giving them a taste of life in Geneva.

While in Geneva, the group worked tirelessly on their vision for the future, with their project outcome, the Phoenix Plan, scheduled for publication in the coming months. Their experience was enriched by exposure to Swiss democracy through a presentation by local politician Julien Levy, and they had the opportunity to meet with B8 of Hope's Executive Board members and two Advisory Board members, including Hiba Qasas, who shared insights about her peace-building work with Principles for Peace Foundation.

[Watch an inspiring video](#) of the team's week in Geneva together with B8 of Hope as they worked on the Phoenix Plan



Public Engagements & Dialogue Events

Ali Abu Awwad & May Pundak at the Human Rights Film Festival (FIFDH)—Geneva (March)

During his visit to Geneva in March, Ali Abu Awwad, leader of the Palestinian nonviolence movement Taghyeer, was joined virtually by May Pundak, the Israeli co-director of A Land for All (another initiative supported by B8 of Hope), for a powerful panel discussion at the Human Rights Film Festival and Forum (FIFDH).

The panel captivated the audience as Ali and May shared their vision for the future and spoke on many issues with one voice. Their participation in this prestigious Geneva festival represented a significant achievement for B8 of Hope in giving visibility to grassroots peace activism.

Before the FIFDH event, Ali also shared his insights with B8 of Hope friends and Next Gen members, moving many with his powerful message: "Courage is not just about overcoming the painful reality but it is about being able to take painful decisions towards a peaceful future."

Jerusalem Peacebuilders Summer Program Talk—Geneva (July)

In July, B8 of Hope was hosted by the Jerusalem Peacebuilders at the John Knox Center as part of their summer program. Mehra Rimer had the opportunity to engage with 16 young Jewish, Muslim, and Christian participants (aged 16-17) from Israel and Palestine.

The success of B8 of Hope's youth development initiatives was particularly evident as one of their Tech2Peace program alumni served as a leader and co-facilitator for this interfaith group, demonstrating the organization's impact in nurturing future peace leaders.

Ahmed Abu Akel Visit—Geneva (August)

B8 of Hope welcomed Advisory Board member Professor Ahmed Abu Akel, a Haifa-based neuroscientist whose expertise in empathy connects deeply with the organization's mission. During his visit, Ahmed recorded a podcast at The Spot Podcast Factory, sharing insights about the intersection of neuroscience and peace-building.

Palestinian Internship Program (PIP) Engagement—Geneva (September)

In September, B8 of Hope welcomed Devon Spitzer, executive director of the Palestinian Internship Program (PIP), to our Geneva workspace. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about this innovative organization that B8 of Hope has been following with interest. PIP takes a unique approach to peace-building through economic empowerment, matching Palestinian university graduates and young professionals with internships at Israeli tech companies while connecting Palestinian entrepreneurs and senior executives with global business and tech leaders for mentorship.



The program has achieved remarkable success in building bridges through professional development: over 100 Palestinian interns have been placed with 60 multinational, Israeli, and Palestinian companies, and nearly 90 mentees have participated in their mentorship program. These placements do more than advance careers—they create lasting professional and personal relationships between Palestinian tech leaders and their Israeli counterparts, fostering understanding and cooperation through shared business interests.

Samah Salaime (Wahat al-Salam—Neve Shalom) Visit to Geneva (September)

In September, B8 of Hope welcomed Samah Salaime, a social worker, community activist, and feminist from Wahat al-Salam—Neve Shalom ("Oasis of Peace" in Arabic and Hebrew). For over fifty years, this unique village has been home to Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel who have chosen to live together, speaking both languages and respecting each other's narratives, even in the most challenging times.

During her brief but impactful visit to Geneva, Samah provided first hand updates about the situation on the ground and shared insights about the village's work. As the only community of its kind in Israel, WASNS's impact extends far beyond its borders, serving as a model for what could be possible on a larger scale.

Meeting with Rabbi Yakov Nagen—Geneva (November)

November began with an inspiring meeting with Rabbi Yakov Nagen, an Israeli rabbi, author, and prominent leader in interfaith dialogue, particularly focused on peace initiatives between Judaism and Islam.

During his visit to Geneva, Rabbi Nagen shared his unique perspective on interfaith peacebuilding, emphasizing his core belief that while religion has been part of the conflict in the Middle East, it must also be instrumental in creating solutions. His insights were particularly valuable given his extensive work in religious dialogue and his commitment to building bridges between faiths. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore how religious understanding and cooperation can contribute to peace-building efforts.

Rozana Advocacy Meeting with Mohammad Asideh—Geneva (December)

In early December, B8 of Hope met with Mohammad Asideh in Geneva, where he was visiting in his capacity as Director of Advocacy for Rozana. This international organization, with headquarters in Australia, Europe, and the US, spearheads positive change in Palestine and Israel through a unique approach: enhancing Palestinian healthcare while fostering cross-border relationships between Israelis and Palestinians at institutional, professional, and grassroots levels.

The meeting was particularly valuable as B8 of Hope and Rozana share several mutual grantees, allowing for beneficial brainstorming and exchange of insights that will directly benefit our grantees' work. Rozana's mission demonstrates how vital sectors like healthcare can serve as bridges for cooperation and understanding between communities.

Media Engagement

Heidi.news Profile (April)

B8 of Hope's Mehra Rimer **was featured** in Swiss online news platform Heidi.news, which highlighted her personal journey and the story behind the creation of B8 of Hope, bringing greater visibility to the organization's peace-building work in Switzerland.

The Spot Podcast Interview (August)

B8 of Hope produced **a podcast** featuring Advisory Board member Dr. Ahmad Abu Akel, a cognitive and social neuroscientist from the University of Haifa's School of Psychological Sciences. The discussion explored the neuroscience of empathy and its crucial role in conflict resolution, bringing an important scientific perspective to peace-building work in the region.

The Other Side Podcast Feature (October)

Mehra was also featured on "The Other Side," a groundbreaking podcast hosted by Steven (Tel-Aviv based Israeli-Jew) and Younes (Ramallah based Palestinian) from Debate for Peace. The episode provided a platform for discussing B8 of Hope's unique approach to supporting Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives.

Combatants for Peace Webinar (December)

In December, Mehra joined Combatants for Peace's co-founders in a webinar titled "Another Way Forward: Co-Creating Amid Catastrophe." Speaking from her perspective as both an Iranian-Swiss peace advocate and a donor supporting grassroots initiatives in Israel and Palestine, she shared insights on sustaining peace work during this time of crisis.

Engaging Swiss Society in Peacebuilding

Raising awareness and fostering local engagement through education, advocacy, and cultural events

Throughout the year, B8 of Hope worked to deepen Swiss society's understanding of Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives through educational programs, film screenings, and public discussions that provided safe spaces for crucial dialogues about peace and coexistence.

Educational Outreach

Geneva Graduate Institute Guest Lecture—Geneva (April)

In April, B8 of Hope was invited to provide a comprehensive introduction about its activities at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, speaking to Professor Cyrus Schayegh's class on International History and Politics.

Professor Schayegh regularly arranges guest presentations by practitioners to offer his students diverse non-academic perspectives on Israel and Palestine. During this presentation, students learned about B8 of Hope's origin story, their involvement in supporting grassroots Israeli and Palestinian peace-building initiatives, and the nature of these initiatives and how they are supported. Most importantly, students were exposed to B8 of Hope's constructive message, which emphasizes a pro-solution approach rather than contributing to polarization.

Le Rosey Institute Workshop—Rolle (October)

In October, as part of B8 of Hope's annual collaboration with Geneva-based partner Philanthropic Adventures, the "Let's Talk About Peace" workshop at Le Rosey Institute featured two remarkable peace advocates: Rami Elhanan and Bassam Aramin from the Parents Circle Families Forum.

The workshop was structured in two sessions. The first focused on introducing students to peace activism, bridge-building, dialogue, and nonviolence, exploring how to overcome barriers posed by stereotypes, fear, and hatred. In the second session, Rami and Bassam, Israeli and Palestinian fathers who each lost a daughter to the conflict, shared their profound personal stories. Despite their devastating losses, they have chosen to dedicate themselves to promoting peace through the Parents Circle Families Forum. Their testimonies, stories of loss, and courageous choice to pursue peace activism deeply moved the students at this renowned boarding school, providing a powerful firsthand perspective on choosing reconciliation over revenge.

L'Institut Sainte-Marcelline Session—Lausanne (December)

In December, B8 of Hope had the opportunity to engage with 60 high-schoolers at L'Institut Sainte-Marcelline Lycée français de Lausanne.

Executive Director Mehra Rimer and Advisory Board member Fiuna Ongen Seylan led a discussion about the vital work of Palestinian and Israeli peace activists and the challenges they face. The session included a screening of "Résister pour la Paix" (Resisting for Peace). This powerful documentary, which features stories of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, highlights a crucial third narrative focused on depolarization and a joint voice for peace. Student feedback was very positive, and the discussion also provided an opportunity for Fiuna to share insights about her work with Coexistences, a remarkable Swiss partner organization in Lausanne, engaging both students and their families in the association's inspiring work.

Film Screenings & Public Discussions

“Guerrières de la Paix” Screening—Geneva (March)

In March, B8 of Hope hosted French film director and activist Hanna Assouline for a screening of her film "Guerrières de la Paix" ("Warriors for Peace") at the International School of Geneva.

The screening was followed by an engaging Q&A session with Year 13 students, where Hanna was joined by Mehra Rimer. Even though the film was released in 2018, its message of peace and dialogue remains deeply relevant today.

“Résister pour la Paix” Documentary Screenings—Geneva (November)

November was a landmark month for B8 of Hope's public engagement through the documentary "Résister pour la Paix/Resisting for Peace" by Hanna Assouline and Sonia Terrab, respectively a French Jewish film director and a Moroccan film director of Arab-Muslim culture.

Response to the film was overwhelming, with a total of 600 guests attending across two evening screenings at the Art Center of the Geneva International School and Ciné 17, plus a morning session for school students at Geneva International School. Each screening featured thought-provoking Q&A panels with the filmmakers Hanna Assouline and Sonia Terrab, alongside Palestinian peace activist Lama Abuarqoub and Israeli peace activist Yonatan Zeigen (who appears in the documentary). The discussions ranged from exploring the humanization of "the other" and B8 of Hope's grantees' remarkable work to more complex political conversations.

The events demonstrated B8 of Hope's success in providing a safe space in Geneva for crucial dialogues rooted in peace and mutual respect. The diversity of the audience was particularly noteworthy, representing a variety of nationalities, religions, and ethnicities, including volunteers from across the region—Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese, and Iranians. The screenings were also successful in fundraising, with donations matched by the David and Mehra Rimer Foundation.

Public Speaking & Advocacy

Panel with Former Swiss Ambassador Jean-Daniel Ruch—Geneva (September)

September began with an impactful panel featuring B8 of Hope's Executive Director Mehra Rimer alongside former Swiss Ambassador to Israel Jean-Daniel Ruch, following a screening of the documentary film "Disturbing the Peace." The event, co-organized by LICRA Genève and Librairie L'ICAM—L'Olivier, provided Mehra with an opportunity to act as an ambassador for all of B8 of Hope's grantees, particularly Combatants for Peace, whose stories are featured in the powerful documentary.

PeaceTalks at Maison de la Paix—Geneva (October)

October marked the Human Rights Week in Geneva, where Mehra Rimer represented B8 of Hope as a guest speaker at the PeaceTalks event, addressing an audience of 200 at the iconic Maison de la Paix in Geneva, with additional viewers joining online.

She shared the platform with two significant partners: Hiba Qasas, B8 of Hope Advisory Board member and founding director of Principles for Peace, and Palestinian nonviolence activist Ali Abu Awwad. Both Palestinian speakers offered powerful perspectives on what peace means to them.

LICRA Geneva & University of Geneva Panel—Geneva (November)

Following the November screenings of "Résister pour la Paix," Mehra Rimer and film director Hanna Assouline (who also leads the Les Guerrières de la Paix movement in Paris) were invited to speak at a panel organized by LICRA Geneva chapter at the University of Geneva as part of Human Rights week.

The panel, titled "La Paix le socle de l'humanité/Peace, the foundation of humanity," was particularly significant given the current polarization in universities. Mehra and Hannah focused on promoting the voices of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and understanding.

US Engagement & Partnership Development

B8 of Hope expanded its international impact in 2024 through strategic engagement with key institutions and peace-building organizations, strengthening its global network while advancing support for grassroots peace initiatives.

Meetings in Washington, DC (May)

During her visit to Washington, DC in May 2024, Mehra Rimer conducted a series of strategic meetings with key stakeholders in Middle East peace-building. She met with Avi Meyerstein, founder of the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), to exchange insights and compare notes on peacebuilding strategies.

The visit included productive discussions with representatives from the United States Institute for Peace and members of Congress interested in Middle East peace initiatives. While in DC, Mehra also received an exciting update from Micah Hendler, founder of B8 of Hope grantee organization Jerusalem Youth Chorus, about the chorus's recent participation in the prestigious TED conference in Vancouver, where Micah and chorus director Amer Abuarquob spoke about their peace activism through music.

Additionally, Mehra attended a fundraising event for another B8 of Hope grantee, New Story Leadership, where alumni presented the Phoenix Plan for Gaza reconstruction, which had been developed during their February retreat in Geneva. These meetings strengthened B8 of Hope's connections with American institutions and donors while providing opportunities to advocate for grassroots peace-building initiatives.

Combatants for Peace & Parents Circle Families Forum Memorial Ceremony—DC (May)

While in Washington, DC, Mehra attended a powerful satellite screening of the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Ceremony, organized by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle Families Forum, and hosted by the American chapter of the New Israel Fund at the Tiphareth Israel Synagogue.

The hybrid event combined the livestream of the original Tel Aviv ceremony (co-sponsored by B8 of Hope) with in-person speeches from bereaved family members in Washington who shared their stories and hopes for future generations. The event was particularly meaningful as Mehra was able to attend alongside Marguerite Barankitse, a renowned Rwandan peace activist and founder of Maison Shalom, whose perspective on reconciliation and healing after genocide added a profound cross-cultural dimension to the memorial.

Strengthening the Next Generation of Peacebuilders

B8 of Hope's Next Gen Youth Network provides a platform for young people to develop peace-building skills and become ambassadors for dialogue in their communities, ensuring the continuity of peace-building work for future generations.

B8 of Hope Internship Program—Remote (January-June)

Juliet Wishner, a master's student in international human rights from the University of Denver, joined B8 of Hope as an intern in December 2023. Her existing interest in and knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict aligned well with our mission. While studying at the Geneva Graduate Institute for a semester, Juliet worked on-site with us for one month, and upon returning to the United States in January 2024, she continued collaborating remotely until June 2024. During her time with B8 of Hope, Juliet contributed to our Next Gen initiatives and helped compile reports on our activities.

B8 of Hope Next Gen Youth Network Gathering—Geneva **(December)**

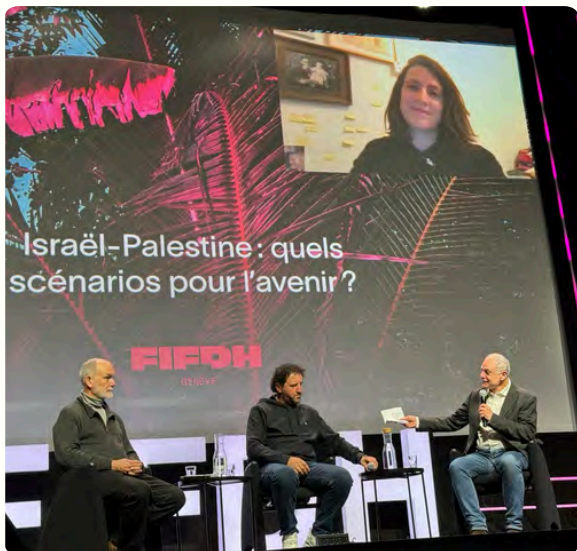
In December 2024, B8 of Hope hosted an intergenerational gathering that brought together our dedicated volunteers. The Next Gen network, a cornerstone of B8 of Hope's future leadership development, comprises high school students, university students, and young professionals who have participated in the organization's events, activities, and internships.

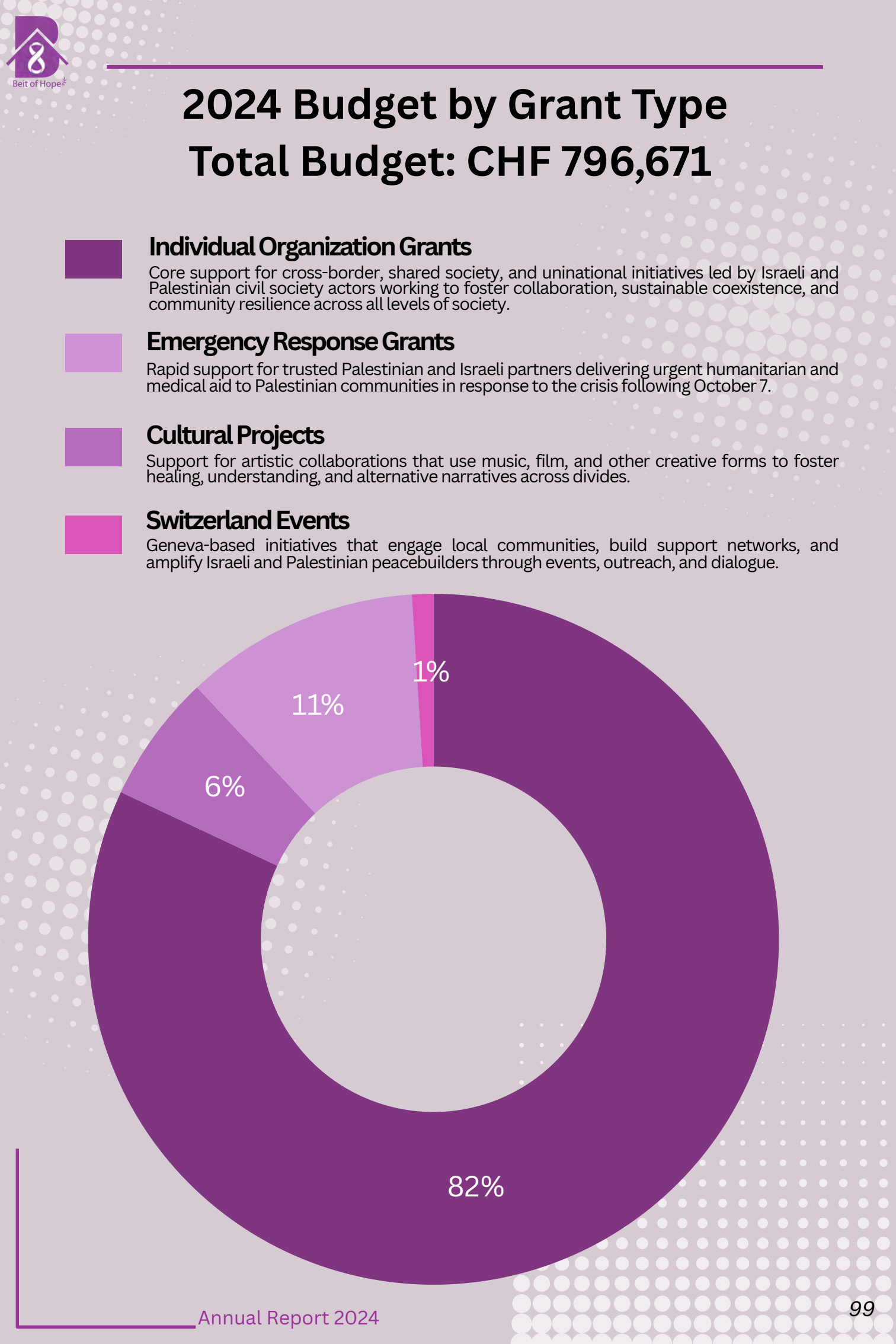
This network serves multiple purposes: it keeps young people connected with both the organization and each other, provides them a platform to engage with a pro-solution rather than pro-sides approach, and empowers them to become peace ambassadors in their own circles.

The December gathering exemplified B8 of Hope's commitment to mentorship and continuity, creating an atmosphere where youth could learn from experienced peace activists while developing their own voices as advocates for dialogue and understanding. The event's intergenerational and intercultural atmosphere brought particular joy and pride to the organization, highlighting the success of their efforts to cultivate the next generation of peace builders.

Conclusion

Throughout 2024, B8 of Hope's activities in Switzerland and beyond demonstrated the power of creating spaces for dialogue, understanding, and collaboration. The organization's ability to bring together diverse voices—from grassroots activists to religious leaders, from young professionals to seasoned peace advocates—reinforced its role as a vital bridge-builder. Whether hosting strategic convenings in Switzerland, engaging with Swiss society, developing international partnerships, or nurturing future peace leaders, each initiative contributed to B8 of Hope's vision of supporting practical, sustainable paths toward peace. As we look to the future, these varied activities lay a strong foundation for continuing to support those working tirelessly for peace and understanding between Israeli and Palestinian communities.





2024 Budget by Grant Type

Total Budget: CHF 796,671



Individual Organization Grants

Core support for cross-border, shared society, and uninational initiatives led by Israeli and Palestinian civil society actors working to foster collaboration, sustainable coexistence, and community resilience across all levels of society.



Emergency Response Grants

Rapid support for trusted Palestinian and Israeli partners delivering urgent humanitarian and medical aid to Palestinian communities in response to the crisis following October 7.



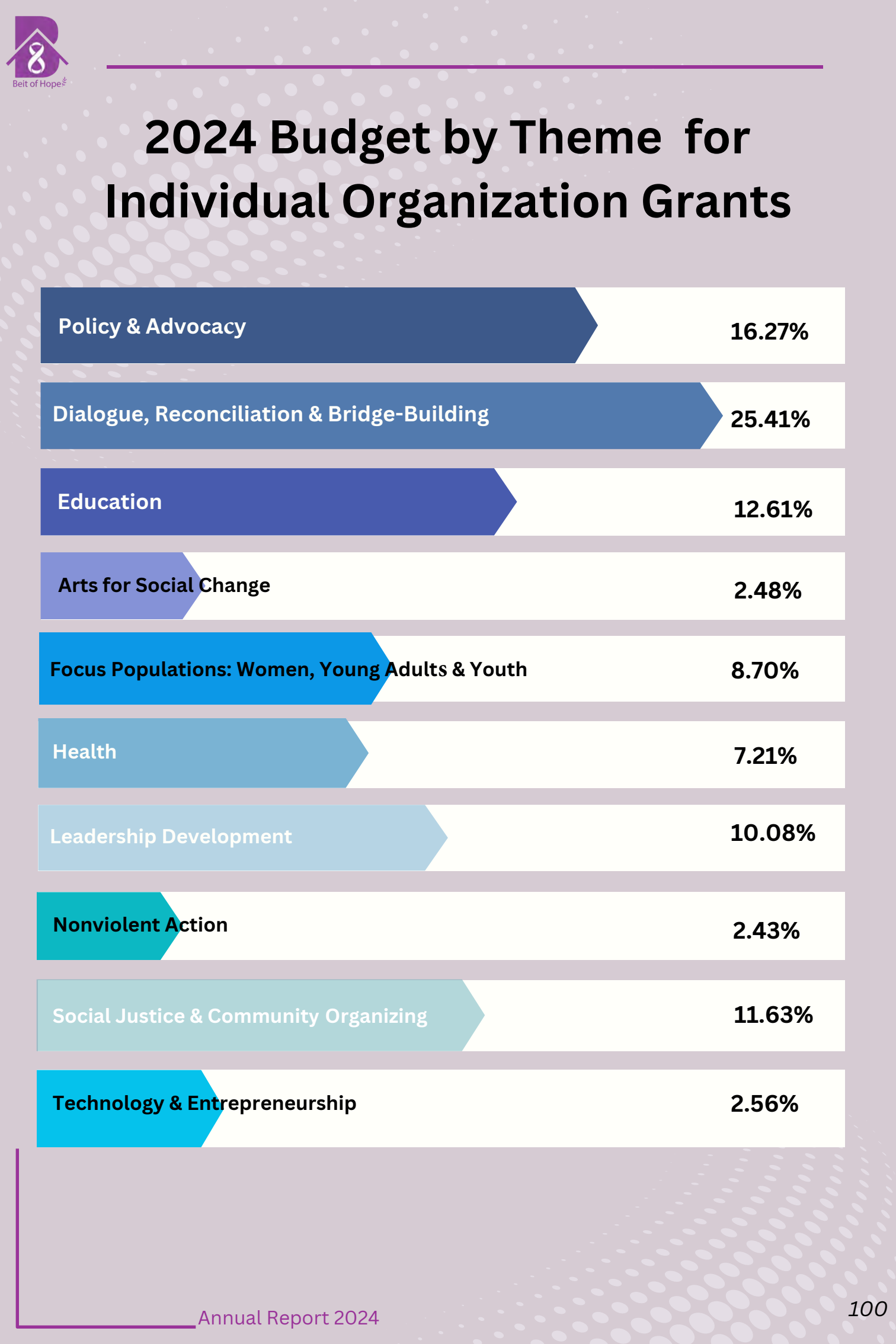
Cultural Projects

Support for artistic collaborations that use music, film, and other creative forms to foster healing, understanding, and alternative narratives across divides.



Switzerland Events

Geneva-based initiatives that engage local communities, build support networks, and amplify Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders through events, outreach, and dialogue.



2024 Budget by Theme for Individual Organization Grants

Policy & Advocacy

16.27%

Dialogue, Reconciliation & Bridge-Building

25.41%

Education

12.61%

Arts for Social Change

2.48%

Focus Populations: Women, Young Adults & Youth

8.70%

Health

7.21%

Leadership Development

10.08%

Nonviolent Action

2.43%

Social Justice & Community Organizing

11.63%

Technology & Entrepreneurship

2.56%



Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners and supporters whose invaluable contributions have made our work possible this year. Your commitment to our mission has enabled us to achieve significant impact and create meaningful change.

We are profoundly grateful to our dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time and energy throughout the year. From helping at events to providing crucial support for our day-to-day operations, our volunteers have been the backbone of our success. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and willingness to contribute their diverse skills and perspectives have enriched our work and strengthened our community impact.

We would like to specifically acknowledge:

- Centre des arts—Ecole Internationale de Genève
- Ciné 17
- David and Mehra Rimer Foundation
- Guerrière de la paix
- Institut Le Rosey
- Kaleidoscope
- New Israel Fund
- PeaceWorks
- Philanthropic Adventures
- Poppy (flower shop)
- Principles 4 Peace
- République et Canton de Genève
- The Spot Podcast

Looking Forward

As we reflect on this remarkable year, we are moved by the courage shown by our grantees who have continued their vital work throughout this crushing war. These Israeli and Palestinian grassroots organizations and civil society initiatives have remained unwavering in their commitment to creating a better future for all the peoples of the land.

Looking ahead, we recognize the immense task before us. As these communities begin to emerge from the devastation of war, our focus will expand to support the long process of healing and reconstruction. We remain steadfast in our vision of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence—a future where everyone living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea enjoys dignity, security, equality, and meaningful participation in shaping their lives and societies.

This vital work depends on the generous support of our Swiss donor community. Your trust in our mission has enabled us to provide essential resources to local peacebuilders while amplifying their voices in international discourse. As we continue this journey, your participation becomes ever more crucial.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Together with these courageous organizations in Israel and Palestine, we are building the foundation for a better shared future for all.



Beit of Hope 