

B8 OF HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2025 marks ten years since the beginning of the journey that led to the creation of B8 of Hope. In December 2015, I found myself standing on a stage in Geneva with Ali Abu Awwad and Jean-Marc Liling—two extraordinary individuals whose courage and humanity transformed me. They were the first to introduce me to the power of people-to-people dialogue and the transformative experiences that lie at the heart of peacebuilding.

I had invited them to Geneva so that my friends could witness a reality that rarely makes the news: humanization, encounter, and connection. The invitation went viral. We held several events—bringing together Swiss, Jewish, and Arab members of the diasporas, students, diplomats, and many others. More than 700 people participated. Shortly afterwards, in early 2016, B8 of Hope was born. A decade later, I remain humbled by the ripple effects of that December 2015 invitation.

B8 of Hope grew organically—from a team of volunteer co-founders rolling up their sleeves, to a more structured and professional organization. We continue to operate with modest resources, keeping our administrative costs in Geneva to a minimum so that every possible franc can be spent on the ground in Israel and Palestine.

We learned by doing—through my many trips to the region, not from conference rooms but alongside our grantees, in their homes, their offices, their daily challenges. For them, we are not a distant Swiss check book. We know their stories, their struggles, and their families. We are, in many ways, a family.

Navigating our donor community has been both a privilege and a challenge—yet always a source of pride. Our donor base is strong, diverse, and courageous: Swiss, Arab, and

Jewish supporters who continue to stand with us. We also know their stories, their struggles, and their families. We are also in many ways, a family. Our shared language of empathy—for all—has held us together during one of the most difficult chapters in the Israeli-Palestinian landscape.

This journey has enriched me profoundly on a personal level.

Over these years, I have learned that peacebuilding begins with dialogue. Dialogue opens the door to transformation; it creates the space for empathy and mutual recognition. But dialogue alone is not enough. Among many of our grantees, dialogue leads to co-resistance and co-creation.

I learned from my Palestinian friends how crucial it is to have Israeli allies who do not remain in dialogue only, but who act—who stand beside them, amplify their voices where Palestinians cannot be present, and help carry the message forward. And the reverse is equally true: Israelis need allies who recognize their humanity, grief, and hopes.

These courageous Israelis do exist. They represent another face of Israel—often forgotten in times of rising antisemitism reinforced by the actions of their government. It is important not to lose sight of those who dissent—and they are many.

I must also underline, with deep admiration, the even greater courage of Palestinian peace activists who face daily challenges: checkpoints, restrictions, lack of basic freedoms, the weight of occupation. Despite everything, they wake up each morning, put on their activist hat, and join their movements with determination, creativity, and hope.

Israelis and Palestinians live in deeply asymmetrical contexts. The layers of difficulty for Palestinians are different and complex. Yet beyond these differences, the pain, the loss, and the heartbreak are shared. The tears of the bereaved mothers are the same.

As every year, I wish to pay tribute to all the real-life heroes I have had the honor to know—Palestinians and Israelis—true human beings of extraordinary dignity. Over this past decade, they have taught me more about humanity than any book or institution ever could.

To our board members, donors, volunteers, and community of supporters, thank you for your trust and for choosing to invest in B8 of Hope's network of civil society and grassroots peacebuilding initiatives. Your support strengthens our belief that inclusivity is the most effective path forward toward a shared future grounded in mutual recognition, dignity, equality, and self-determination for all the people living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. In a time marked by fear, polarization, and competing narratives, choosing to be pro-solution, pro-Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilders and changemakers, rather than pro-sides, is an act of courage and the most effective way to help end the violence and suffering.

Thank you for standing with us, for choosing hope, and for helping us nurture the human connections that keep the path to peace alive.

Mehra Rimer
Executive Director

ABOUT B8 OF HOPE

Our Vision: A shared future between Israelis and Palestinians founded on mutual recognition, equal rights, and the right of both peoples to self-determination—where everyone enjoys dignity, security, wellbeing, and meaningful participation in shaping their lives and societies.

Our Mission: To empower grassroots Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilders with resources to strengthen and expand their work, and to transform global discourse by amplifying their voices and encouraging engagement in peaceful solutions that honor both peoples' rights.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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. All of B8 of Hope's operational costs and in-kind donations in Geneva are covered by the Executive Board.

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

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

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 Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding ecosystem.

The Advisory Board Members are:

Ahmad Abu Akel, Neuroscientist at University of Haifa
Fiuna Ongen-Seylan, Former 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 Alliance for Middle East Peace
Meredith Rothbart, Co-Founder and CEO of Amal-Tikva

Operational 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.

Our team members are:

Mehra Rimer, Executive Director (pro-bono)
Elie Pritz, Deputy Director
Arij Oreibi, Head of Operations and Digital Communication
Frédéric Morel, Accountant (pro-bono)
Jean-Stephane Riber, IT Support (pro-bono)

Regional Partners: We work closely with Amal Tikva, our consulting partners based in Jerusalem, who provide due diligence and capacity-building to our grantees to ensure a transparent, impact-driven granting process. Their on-the-ground expertise and support across Israel and Palestine is essential to B8 of Hope's work and 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.

**SUPPORTING
CIVIL SOCIETY
IN ISRAEL &
PALESTINE:
OUR GRANT PROGRAMS**

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 Israeli and Palestinian 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.

This year, funding for these initiatives fell into five main categories: Individual organization grants, synergy grants, emergency response grants, USF special project grants, and cultural grants.

Our grantees work across several 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 & Wellbeing
- 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.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION GRANTS

CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Photo: Combatants for Peace



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 2025, B8 of Hope funded ALFA's initiative to expand Palestinian public engagement with its "Two States, One Homeland" vision.

With this support, ALFA concentrated on strengthening the foundations of its Palestinian department and widening its reach across the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, Palestinian communities inside Israel, and the diaspora. Under the leadership of Co-Director Dr. Rula Hardal, the team developed strategic and operational plans for deepening engagement, while also expanding its professional capacity. ALFA hired Qais A'sad, formerly the Carter Center's Country Director in Palestine, as Director of Palestinian Public Engagement, and Basel Khalila, a former Knesset adviser and media consultant, as Palestinian Public

Engagement and Media Coordinator. Together, they prepared targeted political messaging and began laying the groundwork for new Arabic-language social media platforms designed to communicate directly with Palestinian audiences.

ALFA also invested heavily in building Palestinian leadership. Through consultations with academics, civil society leaders, and key figures in the West Bank and Israel, ALFA refined its outreach strategy and invited new leaders into the movement. In July, ten Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Israel joined a leadership gathering in Beit Jala following months of trust-building and political dialogue. Their participation—including the involvement of women and youth—helped strengthen the shared commitment to the Two States–One Homeland framework. Later in the year, five additional Palestinian leaders from the diaspora, East Jerusalem, and various West Bank locations joined ALFA’s leadership body, broadening representation within the movement.

Alongside leadership development, ALFA increased its presence in Arabic-language media. Sustained engagement with outlets such as Ma’an and Al-Quds Al-Arabi amplified ALFA’s messages of civic equality, mutual recognition, and shared political future. Op-eds by Awni Al-Mashni, an interview with Dr. Hardal, and coverage in regional publications—including An-Nahar—helped introduce ALFA’s ideas to new audiences, including communities historically skeptical of confederative approaches. This visibility also contributed to stronger attendance at ALFA programs, including a leadership workshop with AJEEC-NISPED, a political imagination session with young leaders from Combatants for Peace, and preparations for a large public event in Nazareth expected to draw 130–150 participants.

Finally, B8 of Hope’s support allowed ALFA to advance two long-term pillars of its work: public opinion research and the revision of its founding vision document. ALFA partnered with the Institute for Social and Economic Progress in Ramallah, led by Obada Shtaya, to design a Palestinian survey aligned with a parallel Israeli study. In addition, a binational committee began updating ALFA’s vision document to address the post–October 7 landscape. A one-day workshop in Beit Jala brought together twelve Israeli and Palestinian members who initiated this process through focused dialogue, historical reflection, and joint drafting.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Despite the ongoing volatility of 2025, ALFA made concrete progress in strengthening Palestinian participation within its binational movement. The establishment of a more robust Palestinian department, the recruitment of seasoned leaders, and the development of tailored political messaging created a clearer and more credible channel for Palestinian engagement. New leadership cohorts—drawn from the West Bank, Israel, East Jerusalem, and the diaspora—expanded ALFA’s representation and deepened shared stewardship of its political model.

ALFA’s increased media presence, particularly in Arabic-language outlets, signaled growing recognition of its ideas within Palestinian discourse. The coverage helped draw new participants to workshops and public events, demonstrating a steady widening of the movement’s reach. At the same time, the launch of the vision-document revision process and the preparation of a Palestinian public opinion survey marked important steps toward aligning ALFA’s political framework with the realities and needs of the current moment.

Together, these developments indicate that even during a difficult and fractured year, ALFA succeeded in expanding its Palestinian base, opening new channels of dialogue, and laying essential groundwork for a more inclusive and resilient shared political vision.

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 Israeli and Palestinian 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 2025, B8 of Hope continued its long-term support for CfP's two major annual ceremonies: the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony and the Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony.

The Joint Memorial Ceremony, held on April 29 under the theme Choosing Humanity, Choosing Hope, created a space where Palestinians and Israelis could grieve together in the midst of war, loss, and instability. The Joint Memorial Ceremony stands apart as a rare public space where Israelis and Palestinians can mourn together, transforming grief into solidarity and hope.

On May 15, the Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony, themed Holding onto Hope, Holding onto Home, commemorated the expulsion of over 700,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948 and the destruction of their towns and villages. This year, as many Palestinians once again faced displacement and violence, the ceremony resonated deeply, underscoring that remembrance is both a form of resistance and a foundation for imagining a shared future.

Both ceremonies were livestreamed in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, and screened around the world, ensuring accessibility to a broad audience.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

This year, the two ceremonies reached more than 200,000 people in Israel, Palestine, and globally through livestreams, public screenings, and in-person attendance. They offered spaces of shared mourning at a time when such opportunities are exceedingly rare, allowing participants to see one another's humanity across divides of identity and loss.

By centering empathy, dignity, and nonviolent resistance, the ceremonies shifted the public conversation, challenging narratives of separation and replacing them with a vision rooted in mutual recognition. Both gatherings drew wide media coverage and global social media engagement, carrying their message well beyond the immediate community. Importantly, Palestinian and Israeli youth played a central role as speakers, performers, organizers, and participants. Their leadership ensured that remembrance is not only about confronting the past but also about shaping a different future, planting seeds for long-term movement building.

The impact of these ceremonies is best expressed in the words of participants themselves. A Palestinian speaker at the Joint Memorial Ceremony reflected: "I came to mourn my father, and I left feeling seen by someone I was told was my enemy." An Israeli youth participant in the Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony shared: "Remembering the Nakba is not about guilt. It's about truth. And without truth, there can be no healing—not for Palestinians, and not for us."

Year after year, Combatants for Peace continues to hold open spaces of courage, healing, and truth-telling. And year after year, B8 of Hope remains committed to standing alongside them.

COMET-ME

FUND A CAMERA FIGHT IMPUNITY



STAND WITH PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK

MISSION

[Comet-ME](#) is an Israeli-Palestinian organization bringing basic energy, clean water, and internet access to some of the most marginalized Palestinian communities in the West Bank. Working in more than 140 off-grid communities across Area C—from the South Hebron Hills to the Jordan Valley—Comet-ME designs, builds, and maintains solar energy systems, water pumping and filtration solutions, and broadband networks. Rooted in daily, long-term partnership with local residents. Comet-ME's work is grounded in the belief that environmental sustainability and social justice are inseparable. By providing essential infrastructure where it has been systematically denied, Comet-ME enables more than 10,000 people to live with dignity, remain on their land, and build resilient, self-determined futures.

THEMES

- **Bridge-Building**
- **Health & Wellbeing**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope funded Comet-ME's initiative to strengthen community resilience in Area C of the West Bank through capacity-building workshops and the production of educational instructional videos.

The project is designed to equip residents with practical tools related to digital safety, energy use, and basic system maintenance, complementing Comet-ME's long-standing work in off-grid infrastructure and community partnership.

The project implementation has been strategically deferred to 2026 to ensure optimal results. A full update will be included in next year's annual report.

EMDR 4 PEACE



MISSION

[EMDR 4 Peace](#) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian community of EMDR therapists committed to healing trauma, restoring dignity, and promoting reconciliation across conflict-affected communities. Through shared training, cooperation, and direct therapeutic work, EMDR 4 Peace brings together Jewish and Arab mental-health professionals who learn together, treat people in their own communities, and use the healing power of therapy to sow seeds of trust, resilience, and peaceful coexistence.

THEMES

- **Bridge-Building**
- **Health & Wellbeing**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported EMDR 4 Peace's core activities.

With this support, EMDR 4 Peace strengthened its organizational foundation and expanded its trauma-healing work across Israeli and Palestinian communities. The organization focused on building internal capacity—recruiting its first CEO, upgrading financial and governance systems, achieving Nihul Takin (Good Governance) certification, expanding its board and association membership, and refining operational processes. EMDR 4 Peace also advanced three program models slated for launch in 2026: a new therapist-training program, a structured graduate-support framework, and an international speakers' series.

Alongside these organizational developments, EMDR 4 Peace continued delivering trauma care and professional support. It provided emergency EMDR interventions in Tamra following a missile strike, completed mentoring for graduates of its first two training cohorts, and facilitated a cross-community midwives' workshop in Beit Jala in collaboration with Midwives of Peace. Additional workshops were held for Druze therapists working with families affected by violence in Syria, with another scheduled for Rabbis for Human Rights activists harmed during olive-harvest incidents. The organization also completed the full infrastructure and volunteer-run screening process for its upcoming binational therapist-training cohort, which drew significant interest from applicants.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The progress supported by B8 of Hope helped EMDR 4 Peace transition from a volunteer-driven initiative into a more stable, professionally structured organization. The creation of a CEO position, strengthened governance systems, and new board and association engagement created a sustainable base for future binational programming. Achieving Nihul Takin (Good Governance) marked an important milestone in organizational maturity and credibility.

Programmatically, EMDR 4 Peace broadened its reach and demonstrated its capacity to respond effectively during crises. Emergency interventions in Tamra, support for Druze therapists, and preparation for additional workshops reflected its growing role as a trusted provider of trauma-informed care across communities. The Beit Jala workshop offered a rare shared space for Israeli and Palestinian midwives, resulting in reported improvements in coping, stress regulation, and professional solidarity—an illustration of the healing potential of cross-community encounters.

The strong response to the upcoming binational training cohort—75 applicants seeking to join the program—signals increasing demand for shared professional learning and the organization's rising profile. Together, these outcomes show an organization strengthening its foundations while extending its impact in a year marked by ongoing conflict and community trauma.

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 2025, B8 of Hope supported the core activities of JYC.

This year, JYC launched its 14th season with the highest enrollment to date in its high-school program—50 singers, equally representing East and West Jerusalem and surrounding areas. With B8 of Hope's support, JYC continued its core work of combining musical training with facilitated dialogue, welcoming 20 new singers and creating conditions for 30 returning members to deepen their artistic and interpersonal skills.

JYC also sustained a busy artistic calendar. The chorus performed publicly in Jerusalem and then traveled to Toronto to participate in the Glenn Gould Foundation's Promise of Music festival, where they performed on the main stage and offered additional concerts at community venues. During the trip, singers also led educational sessions in a local school and participated in cultural learning activities, expanding the reach of their voices beyond Israel-Palestine.

The year included new artistic collaborations as well. During a visit to Chicago, JYC partnered with Uniting Voices Chicago to create an original song, "[Standing Together](#)," which is being released as a joint music video. The song has already been embraced by the grassroots movement Standing Together, which partnered with the chorus to use it as a soundtrack for their organizing efforts. Additionally, JYC held its semi-annual 3-day intensive offsite, where singers strengthened their musical foundations, participated in dialogue workshops, and built relationships across divides—made possible by the staff capacity that B8 of Hope's support helped sustain.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

With B8 of Hope's support, the chorus entered 2025 stronger than ever, reaching its highest level of active enrollment and successfully sustaining a binational program at a time of profound social and political strain. New singers reported early signs of transformation through JYC's model, describing increased patience, listening, teamwork, and mutual support—an indication that the program continues to cultivate essential interpersonal skills alongside musical excellence.

International performances in Toronto and the collaboration in Chicago amplified JYC's global visibility and reinforced the message that young people from Jerusalem can model partnership and shared creativity on an international stage. These opportunities allowed singers to share their stories widely, strengthening JYC's position as a cultural ambassador for coexistence.

The year's final intensive further deepened relationships within the chorus, equipping singers with the dialogue tools and confidence they will carry into the season ahead. As JYC prepares to expand its work through new uninational middle-school programs, it does so from a position of organizational strength—with more singers, more staff capacity, and an increasingly resonant artistic voice.



“Before I was in the choir, I didn’t know any Arabs at all... Through their songs and through the dialogues with them, a new world opened up for me.”

Another participant described a “lightbulb moment” when hearing a fellow singer share a Holocaust family story: “It resonated deeply because my people are suffering too... It shifted my understanding of the profound human need for safety.”

TESTIMONIAL

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 2025, B8 of Hope supported two core activities: the Graduation Ceremony for Year 3 students and the Building Community through Technology and Education Program, which anchors MEET's yearlong educational model.

This summer, MEET successfully hosted three weeks of in-person programming in Jerusalem,

bringing together more than 250 Israeli and Palestinian youth to learn, collaborate, and build together. For the first time in several years, participants from the West Bank were able to attend in person, making the experience particularly meaningful.

The program culminated in the Graduation Ceremony for 74 Year 3 students, held on August 10 at the IASA campus in Jerusalem. These 17-year-old graduates—Israeli and Palestinian—celebrated the completion of their three-year MEET journey in front of more than 350 guests, including families, staff, and instructors. Families from both sides of the conflict sat together in one hall, honoring the resilience, leadership, and collaboration of their children.

The ceremony opened with a reception and group photos, followed by student presentations of startup projects designed to address social challenges in their communities. The projects, showcasing both technological innovation and social vision, were warmly received by the audience, and winning teams were recognized before the evening concluded with a shared celebration.

In addition, B8 of Hope's support helped enable key community-building milestones within MEET's yearlong program. In late September, MEET launched its academic year with a two-day kickoff retreat in Jerusalem for both Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts, setting the foundation for integrated technical training, dialogue, and leadership development. Students engaged in facilitated conversations alongside their technical learning, establishing norms of trust, respect, and honest engagement across differences.

This work continued in December with MEET's annual Winter Conference (WinterConf) in Neve Shalom, which convened approximately 150 Israeli and Palestinian students for three days of intensive collaboration. Through hands-on computer science workshops, startup "personal track" sessions, dialogue circles, and student-led activities, participants deepened relationships and strengthened their sense of shared community. For Year 1 students, the focus was on trust-building and stereotype-breaking; for Year 2 students, WinterConf marked a professional milestone as they selected industry-aligned roles within mixed-nationality startup teams.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Together, these activities demonstrated the power of sustained, in-person engagement even amid a highly volatile context. The graduation ceremony marked not only an educational milestone but also a public affirmation of what long-term joint learning can achieve—students graduating with technical skills, entrepreneurial experience, and lived practice in collaboration across divides.

The kickoff retreat and Winter Conference reinforced MEET's core model: pairing advanced technical education with intentional relationship-building. Students consistently highlighted the importance of informal time and facilitated dialogue in deepening trust and enabling meaningful collaboration. By creating repeated opportunities for Israeli and Palestinian youth to learn, live, and build together, MEET strengthened a cohort of young leaders equipped to carry both professional skills and a commitment to shared society into their futures.

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., 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 2025, B8 of Hope supported New Story Leadership's efforts to elevate and advance the Phoenix Framework—a reconstruction and governance vision for Gaza and the broader region developed by NSL alumni.

With this support, NSL carried out a series of strategic presentations, convenings, and diplomatic engagements across Israel-Palestine, the United States, and Europe, significantly expanding the Framework's visibility and credibility.

The year began with high-impact outreach inside the region. At the "It's Time" Conference in Jerusalem, Phoenix Team members presented the Framework to more than 5,000 peacebuilders and activists, placing it at the center of civil society conversations about postwar reconstruction. Shortly after, NSL convened its alumni in Tel Aviv/Jaffa to strengthen the Phoenix network locally and recruit new leadership into the initiative. NSL also hosted a diplomatic dinner and briefing in Tel Aviv/Jaffa, where Phoenix leaders shared their approach with key international representatives from Israel and Europe.

In Washington, D.C., NSL expanded international engagement. With facilitation from the Deputy EU Representative to the U.S., the Phoenix Team met diplomats from 16 EU member states, laying the groundwork for future briefings in Brussels. NSL also presented the Framework at a Middle East Institute roundtable with senior experts across diplomacy, security, and human rights, reinforcing the Framework's policy relevance. A separate set of meetings with the French Ambassador and 14 Members of the U.S. Congress built bipartisan momentum around approaches to Gaza reconstruction and locally led peacebuilding.

The fall brought placements on major global stages. Phoenix members presented at Goals House at the UN General Assembly, and NSL participated in a high-level roundtable at the Permanent Mission of France to the UN, where a Palestinian alumnus met directly with President Emmanuel Macron to advance the Framework. These engagements positioned Phoenix within global debates on recovery, governance, and long-term regional stability.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

With B8 of Hope's support, NSL significantly expanded the reach, legitimacy, and political traction of the Phoenix Framework during a year of uncertainty and extreme regional volatility. The Framework moved from an emerging idea among alumni to a recognized, credible contribution within diplomatic, civil society, and policy circles. Its presentation to thousands of activists in Jerusalem, followed by engagements with European diplomats, U.S. policymakers, and international leaders, demonstrated the ability of young Israeli and Palestinian professionals to shape conversations traditionally reserved for senior officials.

The Phoenix Team's work also strengthened NSL's alumni network itself. Through regional convenings, shared advocacy trips, and collaborative briefings, Israeli and Palestinian alumni deepened trust, navigated moments of tension, and emerged more aligned—an important achievement during a year marked by emotional strain, geopolitical shocks, and travel disruptions that directly affected programming.

Perhaps most significantly, the investment allowed NSL alumni to model a joint, humane vision for recovery at a time when constructive alternatives were urgently needed. By the end of 2025, the Phoenix Framework was gaining traction across multiple spheres—from grassroots movements to senior diplomats—positioning NSL to enter 2026 with stronger coalitions, planned delegations to Ireland and Brussels, and growing momentum on Capitol Hill.

PARENTS CIRCLE FAMILIES FORUM



MISSION

[The Parents Circle—Families Forum \(PCFF\)](#) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 800 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 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 2025, B8 of Hope supported the Parents Circle–Families Forum’s Critical Voices project, which strengthens the leadership and public presence of bereaved Israeli and Palestinian women.

Designed to confront the longstanding marginalization of women’s voices—particularly those calling for reconciliation—the project provided bereaved women with the tools, confidence, and support necessary to speak publicly from their loss and to lead within the Forum and beyond.

Throughout the first half of the year, the project invested heavily in trust-building, healing, and growing women’s capacity for public engagement. In February, 51 bereaved women met online for a bi-national gathering, creating space to share personal realities at a time of growing fear, insecurity, and widening restrictions. In March, Israeli members participated in a workshop on how to hold “brave discussions” in their own communities and initiated weekly online meetings to process the ongoing war together with their Palestinian counterparts. In May, 35 Palestinian women joined a three-day seminar that combined trauma support, resilience-building, and training on understanding Israeli society in the aftermath of October 7. During these months, PCFF women also reached outward, facilitating 48 dialogue meetings, hosting two major webinars, and appearing at public events, demonstrations, and in the media through op-eds, interviews, podcasts, and social campaigns—ensuring that bereaved women’s voices remained present in the public arena.

As the year progressed and the war expanded across Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran, the project adapted to the rapidly shifting realities facing women on both sides. Newly bereaved members continued to join—68 since October 2023, representing more than half of all new members—and the project became a vital framework for integrating them into the Forum and preparing them for future public work. Programming was adjusted to include content on self-care, dialogue, peace advocacy, and female activism during wartime, responding directly to the emotional and practical needs women expressed.

Despite the difficult security environment, two in-person bi-national gatherings were held in Beit Jala—the first since the war began. In August, 21 women came together for a trust-building workshop using art therapy and movement-based exercises. In November, 39 women returned for a second gathering that deepened their connection and provided space for vulnerability and shared grief. A third gathering, including a solidarity action for Palestinian women in the West Bank, took place in December.

The group also continued to learn from women activists working on the ground during the war. Online sessions in August and September featured Israeli and Palestinian presenters whose work ranged from documenting unreported realities in Gaza and the West Bank to supporting displaced communities through the [Clean Shelter](#) initiative. Israeli members additionally participated in a Tel Aviv workshop on how to engage skeptics and opponents in their own communities—an increasingly crucial skill.

Throughout the second half of the year, PCFF women sustained and expanded their public engagement. Between July and November, they facilitated 44 dialogue meetings, spoke at demonstrations calling for an end to the war and for humanitarian aid, and represented the Forum at the Paris Peace Conference. Their voices continued to appear in traditional media and in widely shared PCFF social media content, ensuring that their message of empathy, recognition, and reconciliation remained visible during a time of deep social fracture.

PARENTS CIRCLE FAMILIES FORUM

(CONTINUED)



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

In 2025, the Critical Voices project strengthened the participation and leadership of bereaved women within PCFF during a year marked by intense instability. The Forum saw a significant increase in women's engagement: 68 women joined since October 2023, most newly bereaved, and the project successfully integrated them into the group's ongoing work. This growth expanded the Forum's base of women prepared to take part in reconciliation activities and public outreach.

The project also documented measurable improvements in trust and connection among participants. Women who attended the in-person gatherings described feeling safer, more supported, and more able to express their grief in the presence of the "other." Comments such as "my pain has been contained and acknowledged" and "meeting the other side gave me hope" reflect the emotional impact these encounters had on participants. These responses indicate that the meetings provided grounding and relief at a moment when both communities reported heightened fear, siege, and collective trauma.

Women also reported gaining new knowledge relevant to their activism. The learning sessions with Israeli and Palestinian women activists exposed participants to concrete examples of humanitarian initiatives and nonviolent organizing during wartime. Feedback showed that these sessions broadened participants' understanding of what women-led activism can look like in the current context and offered models they found "inspiring" and "practical."

Externally, the project increased the visibility of bereaved women in public discourse. Over the full year, women facilitated more than 90 dialogue meetings, represented PCFF at the Paris Peace Conference, spoke at demonstrations, and appeared in traditional and social media. This consistent presence ensured that bereaved women's perspectives—rooted in personal loss but committed to recognition and reconciliation—remained part of local and international conversations during the war.

Across 2025, participants consistently noted that the project helped them cope with personal grief, reduce isolation, and maintain engagement in peace work despite the ongoing conflict. These reflections point to the project's role in sustaining the emotional and civic capacity of bereaved women at a time when many described feeling marginalized by broader political dynamics.

PALESTINIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



MISSION

[The Palestinian Internship Program \(PIP\)](#) works to equip young Palestinian professionals with the skills, experience, and cross-border networks they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving regional economy. By leveraging Israel's strong tech and innovation sectors, PIP creates high-level opportunities for Palestinian talent—providing mentorship, professional development, and real-world work placements that enable participants to play a vital and productive role in the Palestinian business ecosystem.

Grounded in a vision of a dynamic, interconnected region, PIP strives to cultivate a new generation of highly skilled, motivated Palestinian professionals who can drive economic growth and foster collaboration across borders. Through its programs, PIP helps build a shared tech landscape in which Israeli and Palestinian professionals can innovate together and contribute to a more resilient and prosperous future.

THEMES

- **Bridge-Building**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Technology & Entrepreneurship**
- **Young Adults**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported PIP as it advanced its mission of expanding professional opportunities for young Palestinian talent and building cross-border networks within the Israeli and Palestinian tech sectors.

Despite a year shaped by the war in Gaza, the conflict with Iran, and widespread instability, PIP succeeded in moving forward on all three of its programmatic goals.

Under its flagship internship and mentorship tracks, PIP launched Cycle 20 of the Palestinian Internship Program and Cycle 10 of the Palestinian Mentorship Program, both of which concluded at the end of 2025. Recruitment also began for the next cohorts, which will open in January 2026. These cycles continued to offer high-level placements, mentorship, and professional growth opportunities for emerging Palestinian leaders.

PIP also expanded its Career Coaching program, recruiting new coaches through targeted outreach, LinkedIn engagement, and networking. In November, the organization led a guided tour of Abu Ghosh in partnership with Blend.Ar for coaches, mentors, and prospective volunteers—an experience that deepened understanding of Palestinian narratives and strengthened long-term volunteer commitment (for a more in depth report about this program, refer to our Synergies section).

With B8 of Hope's support, PIP invested in alumni engagement and community building. The organization hired its first Community Associate who launched bi-monthly newsletters, organized a September alumni event with Makers Palestine focused on inclusive tech innovation, and began preparing a quarterly schedule of alumni gatherings for 2026. PIP also opened a new AI course for participants and alumni, enabling graduates to “give back” through future community workshops on applied AI.

In 2025, PIP also began laying the groundwork for a broader advocacy initiative. The organization hired a PR firm, held consultations with CSR and DEI teams in Israel's tech sector, and formally announced the program during the Abu Ghosh tour, with plans to pilot the initiative in 2026.

Finally, PIP adapted its programming to the war-era context by expanding emotional-resilience support and continuing to offer accessible learning environments. Through EMDR4Peace sessions, in-person meetings in Beit Jala, virtual internships, and remote coaching, PIP created more stable conditions for participants to continue learning and connecting despite the volatility of the year. This adaptive work culminated in a new initiative: an AI Bootcamp for Good, a four-week course run in partnership with Gigaverse and Makers Palestine. Twenty-five participants learned core AI concepts, developed community-oriented projects—such as apps for Alzheimer's caregivers and health-tracking tools—and ultimately presented their work to Gigaverse investors and staff.

PALESTINIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

(CONTINUED)



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

2025 delivered clear results across all three of PIP's programmatic goals. The internship and mentorship tracks continued uninterrupted despite political and security challenges, and PIP enters 2026 with strong applicant demand and clear continuity between its outgoing and incoming cycles.

The expansion of career coaching and alumni programming strengthened PIP's long-term professional community. Alumni engagement increased through new events, newsletters, and access to specialized programming such as the AI course. The Abu Ghosh tour helped consolidate a committed base of Israeli volunteers, ensuring the sustainability of coaching and mentorship offerings.

The year also marked major progress in PIP's data-driven understanding of its impact. In September, PIP completed its most comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process to date, gathering responses from 446 out of 596 finalists. Findings show that 70% of all PIP beneficiaries are currently employed in the tech sector, while 92% are either employed, pursuing higher education, or running their own businesses. Geographic data demonstrated that while 76 alumni are now living abroad, the majority—353 alumni—remain in the region, directly contributing to the Palestinian economy.

The AI Bootcamp for Good further demonstrated PIP's ability to innovate in response to participant needs. The hands-on projects and investor presentations expanded participants' networks and created new pathways for professional growth, even during a period of widespread disruption.

Finally, by adapting its programs to the pressures of war—maintaining virtual internships, providing mental-health support, and creating new learning avenues—PIP ensured that Palestinian young professionals could continue developing their skills and careers despite an exceptionally volatile year.

Together, these outcomes reflect a year in which PIP not only sustained its core programming under difficult conditions but strategically expanded its reach, strengthened its community, and deepened its measurable impact on the economic futures of young Palestinian professionals.

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 37 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

- **Policy & Advocacy**
- **Health & Wellbeing**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported PHRI's Mobile Clinics project, which brings essential medical care to Palestinian communities across the West Bank.

These are communities that, due to checkpoints, closures, settler violence, military operations, deteriorating public health infrastructure, and worsening poverty, often have no other access to healthcare. Throughout the year, PHRI expanded the reach and scope of its clinics, which became both a source of medical treatment and a lifeline of protection, dignity, and solidarity in a moment of deepening crisis.

Between January and December, PHRI doubled the number of mobile clinics it dispatched compared to pre-war levels, carrying out 83 outings during the reporting period and receiving an estimated 34,189 patient visits—55% from women and 18% from minors. Twenty clinic days saw over 500 patients, and one clinic in Qalqilya reached more than 700 patients in a single day. Several clinics were held for communities affected by forced displacement as a result of military operations, including a visit to the Nur Shams refugee camp that drew more than 500 patients and a clinic in Baqa al-Sharqiyya that treated 425 displaced residents, including 52 children.

Nine of the outings operated as Women's Mobile Clinics, staffed entirely by female volunteer physicians, nurses, psychologists, medical students, and translators. These clinics returned to the same communities three times consecutively to ensure proper follow-up care. In addition to medical services, they offered targeted health education workshops on first aid, household injury prevention, and the early detection of diabetes and hypertension—supporting women's long-term health literacy.

PHRI also piloted four renal-focused clinics to address the acute vulnerability of dialysis and kidney patients amid widespread medication shortages and disruptions caused by curfews, incursions, and forced relocations. These clinics delivered critical nephrology care

and lifesaving medications in partnership with local patient associations and hospitals, at an estimated medication value of more than ca. 40,000 CHF

Across all mobile clinics, volunteer doctors and pharmacists operated PHRI's free pharmacy, distributing 219 medication packages to 187 patients outside of clinic hours when urgent treatment was required—nearly half for chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. PHRI also processed 67 medical referrals (27% for women) to hospitals in Israel and East Jerusalem and provided financial assistance for 103 medical interventions, covering over 35,500 CHF of otherwise unaffordable tests or treatments.

In addition to patient care, PHRI expanded its resilience training for frontline medical workers, who faced hundreds of attacks, delays, and obstructions while on duty. Three workshops were held in the Tubas and Qalqilya governorates for 105 participants—including ambulance teams, psychologists, school counselors, educators, and social workers—providing practical tools for coping with traumatic stress and sustaining their work. PHRI also equipped two municipal ambulances with bulletproof helmets, vests, and dashcams after crews emphasized the urgent need for protective gear during interviews conducted for a forthcoming report.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Demand for PHRI's services surged dramatically in 2025. Clinics averaged significantly more patient visits than the previous year, with many exceeding the already high levels recorded in the first half of 2025. The scale and consistency of these visits—over 34,000 in total—reflect both the collapse of accessible public healthcare in many areas and the trust communities place in PHRI's presence. By reaching communities facing displacement, encirclement, or prolonged closures, the mobile clinics ensured that thousands retained access to medical treatment that would otherwise have been out of reach.

The Women's Mobile Clinics strengthened women's health literacy and access to care, offering continuity across repeated visits and creating safe, culturally responsive spaces led entirely by women. The Renal Clinics filled a critical gap for chronic kidney patients who could not access regular medications due to shortages and movement restrictions, preventing life-threatening lapses in treatment.

Medication provision, referrals, and financial assistance also had measurable impact: more than 187 patients received urgently needed medications; 67 patients accessed hospitals otherwise unavailable to them; and over 35,500 CHF in financial support enabled essential tests, surgeries, and treatments. These interventions were particularly significant for patients facing severe economic distress or unable to travel because of closures or fear of violence.

The resilience workshops strengthened the capacity of frontline responders who faced hundreds of attacks, delays, and life-threatening conditions while providing care. Participants reported that the tools offered helped them better manage stress and continue serving their communities despite extreme pressures. The provision of protective equipment to ambulance teams allowed responders to reach scenes more safely and confidently, addressing needs they themselves had raised.

Taken together, these outcomes demonstrate the essential role PHRI played in preserving access to healthcare across the West Bank in 2025. The clinics did far more than deliver medical care—they enabled continuity of treatment for thousands, supported the resilience of the healthcare workforce, and brought vital services to communities experiencing the highest levels of vulnerability during the ongoing war.

Photo: Fang Gleizes for PHRI



The human impact is captured in the story of S, a 50-year-old woman from Beit Ummar. S suffers from chronic pain and infections but was unable to reach hospitals in Hebron due to closures, checkpoints, and fear of settler violence. Through PHRI, she received both a medical referral and financial coverage for specialist care at Al-Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. Tests revealed treatable conditions, and S is now scheduled for surgery that could drastically improve her quality of life. Her daughter told PHRI: “She came back from the hospital happy and relieved. We could never have accessed this care without your help.”

TESTIMONIAL

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 & Wellbeing**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported the Peres Center's "Saving Children" program, which provides life-saving and life-changing medical treatment for Palestinian children who cannot access the care they need within the Palestinian health system.

Rooted in more than two decades of cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian doctors, hospitals, and families, the program is known for overcoming logistical and political barriers to ensure that children with complex medical needs receive timely, high-quality care.

At the start of the grant period, the Peres Center anticipated facilitating advanced treatment for 10–15 children from the West Bank, focusing on specialties such as cardiology, ENT, orthopedics, pulmonology, and rheumatology where gaps in local infrastructure remain severe. The program handles every element of access: medical coordination, permit processing, travel arrangements, translation, and psychosocial support for families navigating a stressful and unfamiliar environment.

In June, operations were briefly halted due to the outbreak of war between Israel and Iran, which led to missile attacks and the suspension of all non-emergency activities. Staff redirected their capacity toward emergency humanitarian work. Activities in Gaza remained suspended due to compounded crises and movement restrictions, but by July the Saving Children program resumed accepting referrals from across the West Bank.

Under the leadership of Project Manager Souha Atrash, the Peres Center reestablished its referral pipeline in close coordination with Palestinian and Israeli physicians—including Palestinian doctors trained in Israel through the Peres Center’s Training Doctors initiative. Referrals were reviewed to determine whether treatment could be provided within the Palestinian health system with available coverage; when advanced interventions were necessary, arrangements were made with trusted Israeli hospital partners.

With support from B8 of Hope, the program facilitated treatment for seven Palestinian children during the reporting period. These interventions included two therapeutic catheterizations, three cardiology and pulmonology clinic visits (including stress testing), an orthopedic follow-up and prosthetic fitting, and multiple rheumatology consultations and a day-care admission. Children requiring advanced care were treated at Sheba Tel HaShomer Medical Center in Ramat Gan and Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. In each case, the Peres Center arranged all medical documentation, secured entry permits for the child and an accompanying family member, and provided emotional support throughout the process.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Despite a year marked by war, closures, and significant operational constraints, the Saving Children program succeeded in restoring its activities in the West Bank and ensuring that children with urgent medical needs could access specialist treatment. The program facilitated documented interventions for seven children, each requiring advanced care that would not have been available to them otherwise. These cases illustrate the program’s ability to navigate rapidly shifting conditions and maintain continuity of care during periods of heightened instability.

The program’s coordination with both Israeli and Palestinian doctors—including Palestinian specialists who trained in Israel through the Peres Center—ensured that each child received an appropriate medical evaluation and referral. When cases could be absorbed within the Palestinian health system, the program supported this pathway; when advanced procedures were required, it enabled safe passage to Israeli hospitals. Families consistently expressed relief at receiving this combination of medical, logistical, and emotional assistance during an exceptionally stressful period.



A.H. is a boy from Nablus whose life has been shaped by a serious spinal defect present since birth. The condition limits his mobility and makes independent walking extremely difficult without proper medical support. From a young age, A.H. has relied on a walker and specialized leg braces to move safely, and as he grows, these devices must be regularly evaluated, replaced, and adjusted to ensure they continue to meet his developmental needs. For un-insured or under-insured Palestinian families with limited access to advanced orthopedic medical care, this process can be both medically and financially overwhelming.

When A.H. was still a toddler, he was first referred to the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation's "Saving Children" program. Over the years, the program has coordinated multiple treatments for A.H., including a complex orthopedic surgery at Sheba Medical Center that significantly improved his long-term mobility and quality of life. This year marked another important milestone for A.H.: Thanks to the generous contribution from B8 of Hope, the "Saving Children" program this year facilitated a full assessment of his mobility needs and provided him with new, properly fitted leg braces designed for his current stage of growth under the care of orthopedic and prosthesis specialists at Sheba Medical Center. These updated braces have made a remarkable difference, allowing A.H. to stand more steadily and walk with greater independence and confidence.

A.H.'s story reflects the essence of what makes the "Saving Children" program truly unique: Beyond emergency or one-time care, the program is committed to long-term, continuous, high-quality treatment for children with complex medical needs. At the same time, it nurtures enduring relationships between Palestinian patients and Israeli healthcare providers based on mutual trust, common humanity, and a shared commitment to improving children's lives. Thanks to supporters like B8 of Hope, children across the region receive opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

TESTIMONIAL

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 & Wellbeing**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope funded RtR's core activities.

This support enabled the organization to sustain its humanitarian mission throughout a year marked by instability, missile threats, and the ongoing war in Gaza and northern Israel. Despite these conditions, RtR operated without interruption, ensuring that Palestinian patients—primarily children from the West Bank—could continue reaching Israeli hospitals for life-saving care.

B8 of Hope's support helped RtR maintain the operations of its Coordination Center, the logistical backbone responsible for scheduling hundreds of cross-border rides each month. The grant also covered fuel reimbursements, a critical expense that allows volunteer drivers to continue transporting patients daily. In addition, RtR used part of the funding to sustain its weekly volunteer communications, ensuring that drivers received timely updates, guidance, and support.

Throughout 2025, RtR invested in recruiting new volunteers to meet rising needs. With increased media visibility and public interest—bolstered by the organization's 15th anniversary event—RtR successfully brought in approximately 270 new volunteers, significantly strengthening its capacity and broadening its geographic reach. The organization also hired a media and social media manager, a strategic step that expanded its digital presence and strengthened volunteer mobilization and public awareness.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

With B8 of Hope's support, RtR delivered sustained, large-scale humanitarian impact throughout 2025. The organization facilitated an average of 350 patients transported per month and coordinated approximately 1,400 round-trip rides monthly, ensuring that hundreds of children and their caregivers could safely reach Israeli hospitals for essential treatments. These efforts were supported by an average of 170 active volunteers each month.

The financial assistance for fuel reimbursements—totaling roughly 17,350 CHF per month—proved crucial in maintaining volunteer participation during a period of rising costs and heightened security risks. The added capacity from the 270 newly recruited volunteers helped RtR maintain continuity even when early-year retention challenges emerged.

RtR's strengthened digital strategy also yielded tangible results: with a dedicated media manager, the organization significantly expanded its online engagement, raising awareness of its mission, attracting new volunteers, and deepening visibility among potential supporters in Israel and abroad. RtR's work was further recognized on the international stage when it received the Austrian Intercultural Achievement Award 2025 from the Austrian Federal Ministry.

Throughout a year marked by war and uncertainty, RtR continued to embody a rare and essential form of cross-border solidarity. Every coordinated ride, every volunteer mobilized, and every child transported represents a direct, human impact made possible through B8 of Hope's steadfast partnership.

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, non-violence, and transformation between Israelis and Palestinians.

The organization has established itself as a distinctive network where Palestinians and Israelis living in the West Bank 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 2025, B8 of Hope continued to support Roots in developing its Pedagogy Development Project.

This initiative aims to synthesize more than seven years of binational youth programming into a practical guide for Israeli and Palestinian informal educators and peacebuilders. The goal of the guide is to articulate Roots' core principles, methods, and lessons so that others working in the field can benefit from its accumulated experience.

The project began in April with the appointment of researcher Iris Saban, working alongside Dr. Dana Amir of Haifa University. Over the course of the year, Iris conducted extensive interviews with staff and alumni, held focus groups, participated in Roots' internal pedagogical workshops, and built a research archive of more than 55 items documenting the organization's youth and young adult programs. Regular consultations with Roots leadership helped shape the structure and priorities of the emerging guide.

In June, Roots presented early insights from the project at a Van Leer Institute conference on Israeli–Palestinian cooperation, highlighting the relevance of its youth pedagogy to wider conversations in the field. In August, Iris presented a proposed table of contents for the guide, marking the transition from research into drafting.

By late 2025, the project had moved into the writing and editing phase. Roots also began exploring complementary formats—such as short podcasts featuring staff reflections—to help make key concepts from the guide more accessible to educators and practitioners.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

By the end of 2025, Roots had completed the research foundation for its pedagogy guide and advanced significantly toward producing the first written framework for its binational youth model. The process clarified the core principles that make Roots' youth encounters effective and reaffirmed the organization's decision to design the guide specifically for informal educators and peace practitioners, ensuring that it will serve those best positioned to implement its insights.

The project also strengthened Roots' visibility and credibility within the peacebuilding field. The invitation to present at the Van Leer Institute placed the organization's youth pedagogy within broader regional discourse on cooperation. In addition, Roots' collaboration with Haifa University generated new academic engagement, with faculty beginning to secure funding for three studies examining Roots' work—an important development that may expand the evidence base for grassroots reconciliation efforts.

As the year concluded, the guide was in its final stages of drafting and preparation for editing. The work completed in 2025 laid a strong foundation for producing a clear, practice-based pedagogical resource that can support educators and strengthen the wider field of Israeli–Palestinian peacebuilding.

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 2025, B8 of Hope supported Tech2Peace's Leadership Team program, which included completing the first cohort of the new Leadership Forum and preparing for the launch of a second cohort.

The initiative is designed to cultivate a network of young Palestinian and Israeli alumni who can organize within their own communities and sustain T2P's long-term vision for cross-border cooperation and shared leadership.

The first cohort concluded in July 2025 after an eight-month pilot that brought together 12 alumni and two staff members for a combined program of theoretical learning and community-based practicum work. Participants engaged in workshops on community organizing, storytelling for change, public narrative, and conflict transformation, meeting regularly to build practical skills they later applied through field projects. The cohort reflected T2P's geographic and generational diversity, drawing alumni from the West Bank, Jerusalem, the South, the North, and Tel Aviv–Jaffa, as well as from several seminar years.

Alongside the Leadership Forum pilot, T2P invested in strengthening its broader alumni infrastructure. Regional hubs hosted hybrid gatherings and mentorship spaces, and staff worked to build structures that would allow alumni to take on greater responsibility in shaping local initiatives and sustaining cross-community relationships.

While preparations for the second cohort were underway, the program did not begin before the close of 2025. The launch of the next cohort has been deferred to 2026 and will be reported on in next year's annual report.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The first Leadership Forum cohort produced meaningful results for both individual participants and the movement as a whole. Eight alumni completed the full program, combining theoretical study with on-the-ground practicum work, while two additional participants completed the theoretical portion. Graduates reported significant growth in their ability to facilitate groups, organize community initiatives, and collaborate across political and geographic divides. Several have already stepped into emerging leadership roles within T2P's regional hubs, helping design new activities and support incoming alumni.

The pilot also strengthened T2P's internal movement infrastructure by clarifying the progression from seminar participant to leadership trainee to organizer or mentor. Through this process, T2P developed a clearer pathway for long-term alumni engagement and made key adjustments for future cycles, including shortening the program to six months and integrating theory and practicum more closely to help sustain momentum.

Perhaps most importantly, the cohort deepened trust and solidarity among young Palestinian and Israeli leaders during a profoundly difficult moment. Participants described the program as both professionally meaningful and emotionally sustaining, offering a space to practice cooperation while navigating the realities of prolonged conflict.

By completing this first cohort, Tech2Peace has established a tested, adaptable model for cultivating alumni leadership. The next cycle, beginning in 2026, will build on these lessons and continue growing a community of young organizers prepared to act locally and across borders.

50:50 STARTUPS



MISSION

To cultivate a new generation of cross-border startups, equally co-owned by Palestinians and Israelis, demonstrating that shared innovation can drive both economic opportunity and social transformation. By bringing entrepreneurs from both communities together as equal partners, the organization works to reduce animosity, build mutual respect, and replace barriers with collaboration.

Through joint ventures in technology and innovation, [50:50 Startups](#) helps founders take risks together, confront challenges together, and grow together—laying the groundwork for trust that can transcend conflict. Each startup becomes a practical model of peaceful, productive cooperation, showing how shared creativity can contribute to stability and prosperity across the region.

THEMES

- **Bridge-Building**
- **Technology & Entrepreneurship**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported 50:50 Startups' Startup Accelerator Bootcamp.

The Bootcamp is a core component of the organization's binational entrepreneurship program. Originally planned as an international bootcamp in Cyprus, the program was adapted due to regional constraints and delivered at Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus, ensuring continuity while preserving its purpose: advancing joint Israeli–Palestinian ventures from ideation toward proof of concept.

The Bootcamp brought together 45 participants, evenly representing Palestinians (from East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza), Arab Israelis, and Jewish Israelis, with women comprising more than a third of the cohort. Participants entered with strong professional backgrounds, allowing Bootcamp facilitators to deepen their entrepreneurial skill set and accelerate the development of joint ventures.

Throughout the Bootcamp, teams worked intensively on venture formulation, market validation, and early product development. The program supported 8–10 binational startup teams as they advanced toward proof of concept (POC) and prepared all participants for eventual pitch presentations and early-stage fundraising. B8 of Hope's support directly enabled the facilitation, instruction, and operational infrastructure needed to run this Bootcamp during a challenging program year.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The Startup Accelerator Bootcamp, supported by B8 of Hope, played a central role in strengthening 50:50 Startups' mission during 2025. The Bootcamp successfully guided 8–10 joint Israeli-Palestinian teams toward POC development and advanced all participating teams toward pitch readiness. In a year marked by volatility, these results reflect the resilience of binational cooperation and the viability of equal-ownership ventures even under stress.

The diverse composition of the Bootcamp—Palestinian, Arab Israeli, and Jewish Israeli entrepreneurs working as equal partners—deepened trust within the cohort and expanded cross-border professional networks. Participants learned to navigate risk, collaboration, and problem-solving together, modeling the type of shared leadership that 50:50 Startups seeks to cultivate across the region.

B8 of Hope's support ensured that, despite regional disruptions, the Startup Accelerator Bootcamp could move forward with high-quality training, facilitation, and venture development support. This allowed participants to build momentum at a critical early phase of their startups and reinforced the organization's long-term vision for cross-border innovation and shared economic opportunity.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION GRANTS

SHARED SOCIETY PROGRAMS

Photo: Lissan



BLEND.AR



MISSION

[Blend.Ar](#) builds and nurtures a shared community of Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian citizens of Israel grounded in cultural fluency, mutual understanding, and real human connection. Through immersive Arabic language study combined with meaningful encounters between learners and native speakers, Blend.Ar uses language not merely as a skill but as a bridge—fostering recognition, empathy, and common identity. By equipping Jewish Israelis with deep fluency in Palestinian culture and enabling Palestinians to reconnect with their historic linguistic and cultural heritage, Blend.Ar fosters social cohesion, reduces alienation and hostility, and supports more humane, connected coexistence across mixed cities, workplaces, and shared public spaces.

THEMES

- **Bridge-Building & Dialogue**
- **Education**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported Blend.Ar's efforts to strengthen its Arabic-language programs for Israelis and its Hebrew-language programs for Palestinians.

With this support, Blend.Ar invested in expanding its marketing capacity so it could reach new audiences, produce consistent Arabic-learning content, and build a stronger digital presence. The organization also broadened its Arabic course offerings and teaching capacity to accommodate more Israeli learners from both the general public and partner institutions. In addition, Blend.Ar continued developing its digital learning platform by completing an evaluation of its first version and advancing work on an upgraded 1.5 version and mobile application, designed to make learning more accessible.

On the Palestinian side, B8 of Hope's support enabled Blend.Ar to continue building its Hebrew-language track. During 2025, Blend.Ar ran several pilot Hebrew courses, reaching Palestinian students from varied backgrounds, including PIP participants and East Jerusalem and West Bank learners. The team evaluated these pilots and refined the curriculum to meet different linguistic needs. Blend.Ar also operated weekly tandem programs—online and in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa—where Palestinians practicing Hebrew and Israelis practicing Arabic could meet regularly and learn together.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Blend.Ar achieved strong measurable outcomes in 2025, exceeding its targets for social media growth and student enrollment. Its investment in marketing led to a substantial expansion of its online community: TikTok followers rose from 7,000 to about 17,000; Facebook and Instagram from 4,000 to roughly 19,000; YouTube grew to 3,000 subscribers from none the previous year; its WhatsApp group doubled from about 1,500 to 3,000; and its mailing list expanded from around 3,500 to 5,500 people. This significantly broadened the organization's reach and strengthened its ability to bring new learners into sustained contact with Arabic language and Palestinian culture.

This visibility translated directly into program growth. The number of active Israeli Arabic students increased from approximately 450 in 2024 to around 1,100 in 2025—a major jump that included both private learners and participants from institutions such as hospitals, civil and medical cadet programs, tech companies, and government offices. Many came from communities with little prior exposure to shared society initiatives.

On the Palestinian side, Blend.Ar's Hebrew-language track made meaningful strides. About 70 Palestinian students took part in Hebrew courses over the year, and the tandem programs created regular spaces for Israelis and Palestinians to engage one another through language. The evaluation and refinement of the Hebrew curriculum established a strong base for further development in the coming year.

Despite the ongoing war and a growing sense of despair, Blend.Ar notes that learners continued to show up, study, and build relationships—an affirmation that cultural and linguistic connection remained possible even in a year defined by disruption and strain.

LISSAN

MISSION

[Lissan-لسان-לשון](#) (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 2025, B8 of Hope funded Lissan's core activities.

This enabled the organization to sustain and expand its core programs during a particularly demanding year in Jerusalem. Lissan continued to advance its vision of a bilingual, more equitable city by providing accessible Hebrew instruction and practical rights-based education to East Jerusalemite Palestinian women.

Across the 2024–2025 program year, Lissan reached 740 students in 50 classes, taught by 85 volunteer and professional teachers, totaling 5,130 hours of instruction.

Medabrot Ivrit – Women Speaking Hebrew, Lissan's flagship program, continued to grow. Hundreds of women gathered weekly for 2.5-hour classes at Hebrew University, the Willy Brandt Center, Mini Active, and on Zoom. When the Iran war disrupted routines toward the end of the academic year, Lissan quickly shifted all classes online, enabling every participant to complete her course. In July, the program celebrated its largest graduation to date, honoring over 450 students and 50 volunteer teachers, with more than 800 attendees. At the ceremony, advanced students shared their stories—testimonies of confidence, mobility, and independence gained through Hebrew fluency.

The 2025–2026 program year launched in October with training for ten student coordinators and three teacher-training workshops, followed by the opening of 34 classes serving over 650 women at existing sites and a new partnership with David Yellin College of Education.

Lissan's complementary program, Access Your Rights, also expanded. In 2025, more than 500 women participated in 26 workshops on navigating employment, healthcare, municipal services, financial management, disability rights, and higher education. These sessions were delivered in partnership with local organizations including Job 360, MATI, WAAC-MAAN, Ataa Center, Abu Tor Center for Innovation, the Rayan Center, and Al Bashayir.

Through its Hebrew for Organizations initiative, Lissan delivered 20 tailored Hebrew courses to 290 participants across 13 partner institutions, including Roots, Jinnovate, Community Court, Project Rozana, and multiple community centers in East Jerusalem. Two Arabic courses were also offered to Lissan community members. B8 of Hope's support for this program—particularly through the Café Shorashim partnership—helped strengthen a growing ecosystem of shared linguistic tools across the city.

In the final quarter of the year, Lissan piloted two new initiatives responding directly to community needs. The Yes, She Can professional development incubator began working with nine job-seeking women on workplace Hebrew and soft skills, and an intensive Hebrew course for Palestinian women training as EMTs and ambulance drivers launched in partnership with Project Rozana and Magen David Adom.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

With B8 of Hope's support, 2025 became a year of significant reach and deepening impact for Lissan. The organization served 740 students, supported by a remarkable volunteer community, and ensured continuity of learning even during wartime disruption. The expansion of Medabrot Ivrit, including its largest-ever graduation ceremony, underscored the program's role in strengthening women's confidence, mobility, and ability to navigate daily life in Jerusalem. Students' testimonies—describing the ability to speak without fear, move independently through the city, and advocate for themselves—reflect the program's transformative power.

The Access Your Rights program significantly broadened the support available to East Jerusalemite women, equipping more than 500 participants with knowledge that directly affects their economic and social well-being. Meanwhile, Hebrew for Organizations extended Lissan's impact beyond its own classrooms, embedding practical Hebrew training across civil society groups, nonprofit partners, and community institutions—a multiplier effect that strengthens shared civic space in Jerusalem.

Finally, the launch of the Yes, She Can incubator and the EMT/ambulance driver Hebrew course marked meaningful steps toward professional advancement for Palestinian women—opening access to new employment pathways and strengthening their participation in essential services. These pilots demonstrate Lissan's responsiveness to community needs and its ability to design programs that remove linguistic barriers to opportunity.

In a year marked by uncertainty and periodic interruption, Lissan continued to expand opportunity, confidence, and connection for hundreds of women across East Jerusalem. B8 of Hope's support played a central role in sustaining this growth and ensuring that language continues to serve as a bridge toward equality and shared belonging.

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 2025, B8 of Hope supported Polyphony's Music & Society Seminar, a two-year immersive program that brings together talented Arab and Jewish high school musicians for advanced chamber music training, ensemble work, and facilitated dialogue.

Despite a year shaped by the ongoing war in Gaza and the 12-day Israel–Iran conflict in June, Polyphony sustained the Seminar's core mission: creating a shared artistic space where young musicians study, rehearse, and build relationships across deep social divides.

Throughout the year, the third cohort (2023–2025) met eight times for intensive two-day seminars held alternately in Nazareth and Tel Aviv. Sessions combined chamber music rehearsals, full-ensemble work, academic lectures, and social activities, with students

hosted by families during overnight stays. A major highlight was a new partnership with the Revolution Orchestra and Israel's Ministry of Education, through which Seminar students joined a national arts-and-language initiative. Students from 32 schools studied translated song lyrics in both Hebrew and Arabic, culminating in two large-scale May concerts titled *I Shall Speak to You – Two Languages, One Love*, performed in Jaffa and Haifa by the Revolution Orchestra and all 20 Seminar participants.

As the academic year progressed, Seminar weekends integrated rehearsals, guest lectures (including journalists, conductors, and composers), shared meals, and conversations about politics, translation, identity, and media. In April, Polyphony celebrated the graduation of 13 students, many of whom immediately joined the alumni network.

In parallel, Polyphony prepared for the launch of the next Seminar cohort. Auditions in Nazareth and Tel Aviv during June–August resulted in a new group of 20 students—13 new participants and 7 returning alumni—representing music conservatories in both cities. This new fourth cohort began its program in September 2025, opening with seminars focused on group-building, navigating stereotypes, and strengthening communication in both Arabic and Hebrew. Two Seminar alumni joined the staff team as social guides, supporting the younger musicians' academic and interpersonal development.

Through the fall seminars in September, October, and November, students rehearsed chamber and orchestral repertoire, engaged in structured dialogue and leadership discussions, explored each other's communities, and began building the peer relationships that anchor the program. Teachers noted significant growth in their musicianship, focus, and ensemble work, as well as genuine connections forming across the group. A mid-year concert in December is set to showcase their work.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

In a year marked by war and uncertainty, the Music & Society Seminar continued to serve as a rare and stable meeting point for Arab and Jewish youth, demonstrating the resilience of Polyphony's model. Students in the outgoing cohort completed a full cycle of musical and intercultural training, deepened their artistic skills, and performed publicly in a high-profile bilingual concert series attended by hundreds of young people from across Israel. These performances—rooted in shared repertoire sung in each other's languages—offered a powerful example of artistic collaboration as a bridge across cultural divides.

The launch of the fourth cohort in the fall marked a strong new beginning. The diverse group of 20 musicians—supported by the leadership of two Seminar alumni—quickly began developing trust, shared language, and ensemble cohesion. Early sessions revealed marked progress in their communication, confidence, and collaboration, with teachers reporting improved focus, listening, and cross-cultural engagement.

The program's long-term impact is reflected in its alumni achievements. Former Seminar students continued to excel on national and international stages in 2025—including one becoming the first Palestinian musician to hold a contract with the Israel Philharmonic, and another winning the Valencia Iturbi International Piano Competition. These individual successes highlight the transformative role the Seminar plays in shaping accomplished artists who serve as cultural ambassadors and role models across communities.

Across both outgoing and incoming cohorts, the 2025 program year strengthened a network of young Arab and Jewish musicians who are learning, performing, and imagining a shared future together—demonstrating the profound potential of music to cultivate connection, empathy, and leadership in a deeply divided society.

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 on 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 2025, B8 of Hope funded Standing Together's core activities.

Against the backdrop of war, political instability, and escalating violence in the West Bank, Standing Together focused its efforts on national mobilization, community protection, and the expansion of its organizing infrastructure.

Central to this year's work was the "Yes, Peace" campaign—a nationwide effort calling for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and a political resolution that ensures freedom and safety for both peoples. The campaign sought to reintroduce the language of peace into Israeli public discourse and counter the prevailing narrative that framed endless war as the only viable path. Standing Together carried out large-scale demonstrations, coordinated actions across the country, and partnered with organizations such as the It's Time Coalition, Women Wage Peace, Combatants for Peace, and Soldiers for the Hostages. They also organized a disruption campaign—intentionally interrupting daily life in cities across Israel to push the anti-war message into the public sphere and motivate wider civic action. In addition, they launched a major social media campaign featuring videos of former hostages and their families, reaching audiences across the political spectrum.

Alongside its national work, Standing Together expanded its Solidarity Guard, a network of volunteers providing protective presence for Palestinians facing threats from settler violence. Activists intervened during the Jerusalem Day March to de-escalate violence and coordinate police protection and later established an ongoing presence in several West Bank villages to accompany families under daily threat. The movement also mobilized volunteers for the annual olive harvest, sending hundreds of activists to help Palestinian farmers safely access their groves in locations such as Deir Ammar, Deir Istiya, and Mukhmas.

At the same time, Standing Together invested heavily in local organizing. The movement now operates 14 local chapters and 14 student chapters, with two new chapters established this year in the Shfela and Negev regions. Its network of student union representatives—now 37 nationwide—has made Standing Together the largest organized political force on Israeli campuses advancing equality, anti-racism, and peace.

To support this growing base, the movement expanded its Purple Houses—community spaces for bilingual dialogue, organizing meetings, and cultural exchange. Four houses (Haifa, Tel Aviv–Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Be'er Sheva) operated throughout the year, with plans underway to open an additional house in Nazareth.

Finally, with B8 of Hope's support, Standing Together significantly scaled its training and leadership development programs. More than 320 activists participated in leadership seminars, and nearly 190 activists completed either the introductory Tools of Organizing workshop or its advanced counterpart. Over 60 students participated in student leadership trainings, including a dedicated Palestinian Youth Seminar designed to cultivate emerging leaders within the movement's chapters.

STANDING TOGETHER

(CONTINUED)



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

In 2025, Standing Together emerged as one of the most visible and influential voices in Israel advocating for a ceasefire, a political solution, and shared equality for all who live between the river and the sea. The “Yes, Peace” campaign helped shift the public conversation, contributing to a moment in which roughly 80% of the Israeli public opposed the continuation of the war—a dramatic and significant shift from the early months of the conflict. The movement’s widespread media presence, public actions, and partnership with civil society organizations broadened the reach of its message and reintroduced peace as a legitimate and necessary part of national discourse.

The Solidarity Guard provided critical protection to Palestinian civilians, both during acute flashpoints like Jerusalem Day and in the quieter, often undocumented daily moments when settlers threaten villages in the West Bank. By deploying more than 900 activists, the Guard helped prevent violence, supported farmers during the olive harvest, and built trust with local families facing constant risk.

The movement’s investments in organizing infrastructure produced measurable growth. With 28 combined local and student chapters and 37 student representatives, Standing Together is now a nationwide network of Arab and Jewish activists capable of rapid mobilization. The expansion of Purple Houses strengthened local engagement, offering thousands of Israelis and Palestinians accessible spaces for dialogue, organizing, and community building.

Leadership development efforts created a deeper and more diverse activist core. Hundreds of participants gained skills in community organizing, political education, and movement building. The Palestinian Youth Seminar was especially significant, equipping emerging Palestinian activists with tools to lead within their communities and within the movement as a whole.

Through all of this, Standing Together continued to model a politics of shared interests and shared humanity. In a year defined by fear, violence, and polarization, the movement remained grounded in a vision of a broad-based Jewish–Arab partnership capable of reshaping Israeli society from the bottom up.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE



MISSION

To create a community of Jewish and Arab teachers in Israel who engage with the “other” as a basis for a society that promotes multiculturalism and coexistence in Israel.

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

- **Education**
- **Bridge-Building & Dialogue**

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope funded Teachers' Lounge core activities.

At the time of reporting, Teachers' Lounge program was preparing to launch a new academic year of Jewish–Arab professional development groups across the country. Because the program operates on the Israeli Ministry of Education's school-year calendar, this reporting period focused primarily on training facilitators, recruiting teachers, and expanding regional partnerships—the essential groundwork for the coming year of encounters.

In September and October, Teachers' Lounge held its annual facilitator trainings in Jerusalem and Ramle. Sixteen facilitators, together with staff and local coordinators, participated in two multi-day workshops focused on dialogue pedagogy, tools for navigating identity-based conversations, and methods for leading mixed Jewish–Arab educator groups. These trainings ensure that all groups—whether in Jerusalem, the Western Galilee, the Negev, or Tel Aviv-Jaffa—begin the year with a shared professional foundation.

During this period, the program also carried out extensive recruitment for the 2025–2026 academic year. By December 1, a total of 98 teachers and educators had registered or expressed interest in joining Teachers' Lounge groups across five centers, with two full groups in Jerusalem, one in the Western Galilee, one in the Negev (a new center launched in partnership with AJEEC–NISPED), and one in Tel Aviv–Jaffa. Recruitment in Haifa is ongoing in consultation with Beit HaGefen, while Ramle will pause this year due to challenges in balancing participation across communities. An additional 32 alumni expressed interest in the renewed National Alumni-Community Program, which will begin at the end of December.

Throughout the fall, Teachers' Lounge also strengthened its organizational infrastructure. Two new staff members joined in resource development and administration, and the program successfully secured continued and new funding from multiple philanthropic partners. Joining the Anna Lindh Foundation network further expanded its connections with Israeli and Euro-Med organizations working toward shared educational goals.

Finally, in preparation for the coming year, Teachers' Lounge laid the groundwork for its new Negev program, coordinating with AJEEC–NISPED on pedagogy, evaluation, and joint recruitment to ensure a strong launch for the first-ever Teachers' Lounge group in the southern region.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

(CONTINUED)



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Although the majority of the program's direct encounters begin later in the academic year, the work accomplished from June to December 2025 laid the foundation for a robust new cycle of Jewish–Arab teacher engagement. The facilitator trainings strengthened the program's professional capacity, ensuring that all groups will enter the year with experienced, well-prepared leaders equipped to guide complex conversations about identity, community, and shared society.

Recruitment efforts broadened the program's geographic reach, with nearly 100 educators already committed across Jerusalem, the Western Galilee, the Negev, Tel Aviv–Jaffa, and potentially Haifa. This level of early interest—during a period of heightened tension and polarization—demonstrates the ongoing demand for safe, structured spaces where educators can engage across difference and develop tools to address racism and prejudice in their classrooms.

The renewed Alumni–Community Program, with an expected 40 participants, reflects the program's long-term impact: teachers who previously completed the Seminar are returning for deeper learning, joint projects, and community-building. This growing alumni network illustrates the ripple effect the program seeks to create—empowering educators who continue to model shared society values long after the formal program ends.

Additionally, the expansion to the Negev marks a meaningful step in Teachers' Lounge's evolution. By partnering with AJEEC–NISPEd and engaging teachers from Bedouin communities, the program is extending its model into new regions where educational inequity and segregation are deeply felt.

Taken together, these developments signal the strengthening of a country-wide community of Jewish and Arab educators committed to modeling coexistence, challenging prejudice, and shaping more inclusive learning environments. B8 of Hope's support enabled Teachers' Lounge not only to sustain its work during a complex year, but to prepare for its most geographically diverse and engaged cohort yet.

WOMEN WAGE PEACE



Photo: Gal Mosenson

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**

In 2025, B8 of Hope funded a pilot initiative proposed by WWP to rebuild and professionalize the movement's grassroots field infrastructure through the establishment of regional hubs and the addition of paid coordination capacity. The project was designed as a six-month pilot to strengthen volunteer engagement, expand outreach across diverse communities, and restore WWP's on-the-ground presence following years of sustained activism, compounded by the pandemic, political stagnation, and ongoing war.

Due to unforeseen challenges, the project was unable to move forward as planned during 2025. Implementation has been deferred and will be reported on in the 2026 annual report.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION GRANTS

UNINATIONAL PROGRAMS



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 2025, B8 of Hope supported WoS's Empowering Women for Peacebuilding initiative, a multi-stage program designed to strengthen Palestinian women's leadership in peace and security processes under the framework of UNSCR 1325.

From August to November, the organization delivered a series of interconnected training sessions and community-based workshops across the West Bank and Gaza, translating the principles of the Women, Peace and Security agenda into practical tools for local action.

The program consisted of four core training sessions, each building participants' knowledge of human rights, the four pillars of UNSCR 1325, leadership and negotiation skills, and the foundations of advocacy campaign design. Participation ranged from 30–60 women per session, with a core group of 45 women completing the full training cycle.

Following the training sessions, WoS implemented three applied workshops in Bethlehem-area communities—Wadi Rahal, Beit Fajjar, and at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society—and an additional session in Nuseirat, Gaza. These workshops addressed urgent issues facing women in conflict-affected areas, including settler violence, domestic violence, gaps in protection mechanisms, and the challenges women face during displacement and economic hardship. Each workshop created a trusted space for women to share experiences, connect theory to lived reality, and explore collective strategies for safety and advocacy.

Across all components, the project reached more than 105 direct participants and over 300 indirect beneficiaries, including family members, local leaders, and community members exposed to the initiative's awareness activities. WoS also created a dedicated UNSCR 1325 landing page, providing ongoing public access to training materials and expanding reach beyond in-person participants.

WOMEN OF THE SUN

(CONTINUED)



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The UNSCR 1325 initiative strengthened women's capacity to participate in peacebuilding and protection efforts in communities facing multiple forms of violence. Participants demonstrated a 25–30% increase in knowledge of UNSCR 1325, along with improved leadership, negotiation, and advocacy skills. Many reported increased confidence in articulating community needs, engaging with local institutions, and challenging gender-based barriers to participation.

The applied workshops deepened the program's impact by grounding the WPS framework in the realities of women living under occupation, exposure to settler violence, domestic violence, and—in Gaza—ongoing displacement and economic strain. These sessions created rare safe spaces for women to speak openly about trauma and protection, forging solidarity and generating practical ideas for community-level safety mechanisms.

The initiative also strengthened WoS's partnerships with local organizations, from community protection committees to regional civil society groups. These connections enhance sustainability and lay the groundwork for future advocacy efforts led by graduates of the program.

By equipping more than 100 women with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to engage in peace and security processes, WoS advanced its mission to elevate Palestinian women's leadership across the West Bank and Gaza. The program reaffirmed that grassroots, women-led initiatives are essential to building safer, more inclusive communities—and to ensuring that the perspectives of Palestinian women are recognized in any future peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

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 2025, B8 of Hope supported Zimam’s Ambassadors Program, an intensive leadership initiative designed to equip young Palestinians with the historical knowledge, communication skills, and political literacy needed to engage constructively in public discourse and peacebuilding.

Launched in June, the program brought together 20 young participants from across the West Bank for a structured learning journey that unfolded over several months. Through six core workshops and two political study tours, participants engaged deeply with Palestinian

and Israeli narratives, diplomatic communication, and comparative conflict experiences.

The workshop series began with training in pragmatic diplomacy and public communication, focusing on message framing, public speaking, and engaging diverse audiences. Participants then explored the history of the Palestinian national movement, tracing key turning points from the founding of Fatah and the PLO through the First Intifada and the Oslo Accords. Subsequent sessions examined Zionist narratives and Israeli identity formation, challenging participants to critically analyze competing historical frameworks.

A two-day workshop on the Israeli political system provided an in-depth look at governance, coalition politics, and judicial structures, using simulations and mock exercises to build strategic understanding. The program concluded with a workshop on storytelling and responding to complex questions, strengthening participants' ability to articulate personal and collective narratives with clarity and confidence.

Experiential learning played a central role throughout the program. Local political field visits deepened participants' understanding of how settlement expansion, mobility restrictions, and territorial fragmentation shape daily life in the West Bank. In addition, a four-day comparative study tour to Cyprus exposed participants to another divided society, offering insights into displacement, memory, and the long-term consequences of unresolved conflict.

Despite significant movement restrictions and logistical challenges, Zimam adapted its schedule to ensure consistent participation, successfully completing the full program cycle by the end of the year.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The Ambassadors Program created a rare space for young Palestinians to re-engage with political and civic life at a time marked by fragmentation, polarization, and uncertainty. Participants demonstrated measurable growth across three core areas.

First, they developed a more nuanced understanding of narratives, learning to interpret history critically rather than absorb it passively. Exposure to multiple perspectives strengthened their ability to articulate Palestinian experiences while engaging thoughtfully with competing viewpoints.

Second, participants significantly strengthened their diplomatic and communication skills. Through simulations, debates, and public-speaking exercises, they became more confident in responding to sensitive questions, representing their communities, and engaging strategically in public discourse.

Third, experiential learning deepened their sense of responsibility and agency. Field visits and the Cyprus study tour expanded participants' perspectives beyond the classroom, grounding their learning in lived realities and reinforcing their role as emerging peace leaders.

By the conclusion of the program, participants emerged more articulate, reflective, and prepared to engage constructively in shaping their society's future. The Ambassadors Program did not simply transfer knowledge; it supported a process of personal and political maturation, equipping a new cohort of young Palestinians to participate in peacebuilding with clarity, resilience, and integrity.

SYNERGIES LAB GRANTS

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.

BLEND.AR AND PIP

BLENDING BRIDGES: INTEGRATING PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP, LANGUAGE, AND CROSS-CULTURAL PREPARATION



OBJECTIVE

To address the deepening socio-political rupture between Israelis and Palestinians by fostering meaningful, structured, and professionally grounded cross-cultural engagement between Palestinian internship finalists and their Israeli career coaches.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported Blending Bridges, a joint initiative of PIP and Blend.Ar that integrated professional mentorship with structured cross-cultural preparation and language learning.

Launched in partnership between the Palestinian Internship Program (PIP) and Blend.Ar, Blending Bridges was grounded in contact theory and informed by critical pedagogy, aiming to promote understanding, ease tensions, and improve the effectiveness of cross-border mentorship—particularly among participants not typically engaged in formal “peace camp” frameworks. Through a combined approach of career coaching, cultural workshops, experiential learning, and Hebrew language instruction, the initiative equipped participants with tools to communicate and collaborate professionally during one of the most challenging socio-political periods in recent years.

As part of the program, 51 Palestinian internship finalists were paired with Israeli career coaches for individualized mentorship focused on career development, navigating Israeli and global workplaces, and building sustained professional relationships. To support these mentorships, the partners implemented a coordinated process of cross-cultural preparation on both sides.

Israeli and international mentors participated in two cross-cultural workshops facilitated by Blend.Ar. These sessions explored Palestinian society and identity, including distinctions between “Palestinian” and “Arab citizen of Israel,” the diversity of Palestinian communities, and key cultural and historical reference points. A second workshop focused on practical tools for cross-cultural communication in professional settings. The workshops were facilitated by Bana Abu Ghosh (Blend.Ar) in Hebrew, with simultaneous translation provided by Chen Kupperman for international participants, and were attended by 21 mentors and volunteers.

In parallel, 43 Palestinian internship finalists took part in two online workshops introducing Israeli and Jewish society, workplace culture, and communication norms. For many participants, this marked their first structured engagement with Israeli society outside the context of occupation. The sessions were jointly developed and facilitated by PIP and Blend.Ar, with careful attention to the sensitivities of the political moment.

The program also included an experiential cultural tour in Abu Ghosh for Israeli participants, offering direct exposure to Palestinian narratives and lived realities. This activity coincided with the opening of PIP’s Advocacy Program and deepened Israeli volunteers’ engagement with questions of inclusion and shared society.

In addition, the partners implemented a Hebrew language course for 20 Palestinian participants, responding to participants’ immediate professional needs and the central role of Hebrew in Israeli workplaces. This component replaced the originally planned Arabic course for Israeli coaches, reflecting priorities identified during implementation.

All activities were jointly facilitated by Chen and Bana from Blend.Ar and Mohammad Atira from PIP, modeling Palestinian–Israeli partnership throughout the program.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Blending Bridges strengthened the quality and depth of cross-border professional mentorship by embedding it within a framework of cultural preparation, reciprocal learning, and language access. Participants on both sides reported improved communication, greater confidence navigating sensitive conversations, and a clearer understanding of how cultural context shapes professional interaction.

For Israeli mentors, the program addressed a significant gap, as many had previously worked with Palestinian interns without receiving structured cross-cultural training. For Palestinian participants, the workshops and Hebrew instruction provided practical tools to engage more confidently in Israeli-dominated professional environments while maintaining space for their own identities and experiences.

At a broader level, the synergy between PIP and Blend.Ar demonstrated the value of integrating mentorship, cultural immersion, and language learning into a single process. Even amid profound political strain, Blending Bridges offered a concrete model for professionally oriented cross-border collaboration rooted in preparation, reciprocity, and sustained relationship-building.

EMDR 4 PEACE AND PIP

TRAUMA-INFORMED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PALESTINIAN GRADUATES



OBJECTIVE

To combine professional development with trauma-informed resilience training for young Palestinian graduates, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and emotional tools to succeed in multicultural work environments and overcome the psychological barriers caused by conflict and instability.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In May 2025, PIP and EMDR 4 Peace held two intensive workshops in Beit Jala, attended by 46 PIP participants. These were the first in-person gatherings PIP had been able to hold since October 7, 2023, marking an important milestone in restoring community building and direct support for participants. The workshops, each lasting six hours, were facilitated by a bi-national team of Israeli-Jewish and Palestinian mental health professionals trained in EMDR protocols.

The program was carefully structured in three parts. It began with exercises in self-

introduction and resource development, allowing participants to share professional and personal aspirations in a way that emphasized safety and dignity. The second phase introduced EMDR-based group protocols, enabling participants to process workplace-related fears and anxieties while strengthening internal resources for problem-solving and resilience. The final phase focused on practical “releasing techniques,” offering participants tools to let go of stressors and hold on to sources of personal strength.

Preparation was rigorous: facilitators underwent an advance one-day training led by senior EMDR trainers, followed by online planning to refine the workshop design. This ensured not only fidelity to EMDR practice but also a strong cohesion within the facilitation team. The workshops were hosted at Talitha Kumi in Beit Jala, and supported by PIP staff who managed recruitment, transportation, and participant follow-up.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The workshops had a profound impact on participants. Pre- and post-surveys indicated measurable improvements in self-efficacy, confidence in multicultural settings, and openness to professional coexistence with Israelis. Many participants described the sessions as the first time they were able to speak about conflict-related stress in a way that felt safe and productive. One participant reflected: “This was the first time I felt my body could relax while talking about these things. I left with hope—not because everything is solved, but because I remembered I have strength.”

The intervention also served as a model of cooperative professional practice. By working with a mixed facilitation team, participants witnessed firsthand a respectful collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians, which reinforced the workshops’ message of resilience and mutual recognition.

The workshops further strengthened the professional community around PIP. Beyond technical training for employment, participants received acknowledgment of their lived experiences, addressing trauma-related barriers that often go overlooked in workforce programs. This alignment between professional preparation and psychological resilience underscored the unique value of the synergy.

For EMDR 4 Peace, the program also deepened the skills of their facilitators, several of whom are alumni of EMDR 4 Peace training programs. Delivering the workshops not only benefited participants but also provided facilitators with meaningful professional growth, reinforcing the program’s sustainability.

Finally, the workshops generated promising preliminary data. Monitoring tools showed trends toward increased emotional regulation and workplace readiness, with follow-up surveys underway. EMDR 4 Peace plans to publish findings academically, comparing this cohort with others in conflict-affected contexts, thereby amplifying the learning beyond the program itself.

LISSAN AND ROOTS

LANGUAGE LEARNING AS A FOUNDATION FOR DIALOGUE AND TRUST



OBJECTIVE

To equip Israeli and Palestinian participants in Roots' dialogue programs with Hebrew and Arabic language skills, enabling them to communicate directly without translation, deepen trust, and foster authentic relationships rooted in mutual understanding and shared humanity.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported Café Shorashim, a joint initiative of Lissan and Roots that integrated language learning into binational dialogue work. The program was developed in response to a shared recognition that reliance on translation often limits spontaneity, emotional depth, and participants' sense of agency in dialogue spaces.

Drawing on Lissan's pedagogical expertise, the program combined structured language instruction with guided language exchange. Activities included two Hebrew courses (beginner and intermediate) with a total of 25 Palestinian participants, an Arabic course for 18 Israeli participants, and a 15-week in-person language exchange involving 15 Palestinian and 10 Israeli participants. The Hebrew and Arabic courses were conducted online via Zoom, while the language exchange took place at Roots' activity center in Gush Etzion.

The language exchange was designed not as a dialogue group but as facilitated, practical language practice grounded in everyday life. Sessions focused on familiar topics—such as family events, food, transportation, and leisure—allowing participants to practice conversational language while engaging naturally with one another. Weekly 90-minute sessions were co-facilitated by Hebrew- and Arabic-speaking instructors from Lissan, with preparatory uninational meetings held before joint sessions to support readiness and emotional safety.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Across the online language courses, participation remained steady despite the ongoing war, and participants reported clear progress in comprehension and spoken ability. Many Israeli participants noted that they were already able to hold basic conversations in Arabic, while Palestinian participants demonstrated growing confidence in everyday Hebrew communication. These gains reduced dependence on translation and strengthened participants' sense of agency within Roots' broader dialogue work.

When in-person exchange sessions were able to take place, participants experienced the power of direct, unmediated communication. Practicing language together around ordinary, shared topics created moments of curiosity, ease, and connection that are difficult to achieve through translation alone. Café Shorashim also created a new entry point into Roots' dialogue spaces, integrating practical skill-building with trust formation.

At the same time, the project surfaced important structural and pedagogical challenges. Ongoing security disruptions affected continuity of in-person meetings, and geographic and logistical barriers placed additional strain on instructors and participants. More fundamentally, the collaboration clarified a misalignment between Café Shorashim's binational exchange framework and Lissan's long-term, community-based pedagogical focus. As a result, Lissan and Roots concluded that this model was not the optimal strategic fit for Lissan moving forward.

Despite these constraints, Café Shorashim succeeded in demonstrating the transformative potential of language learning as a tool for deepening dialogue and trust during a period of fragmentation and fear. The insights gained through this partnership will continue to inform both organizations' approaches to sustaining shared spaces and strengthening resilience through language, encounter, and community connection.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE AND ROSSING CENTER

BUILDING A SHARED-SOCIETY EDUCATOR COMMUNITY IN RAMLE



OBJECTIVE

To increase the desire and capacity of Jewish and Arab teachers in the city of Ramle to incorporate the values and skills needed for a shared society into their daily educational work. By equipping educators with tools for dialogue, reflection, and mutual understanding, the program aimed to build a professional community committed to coexistence, tolerance, and the prevention of racism within schools and the wider community.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported a joint initiative led by Teachers' Lounge and the Rossing Center that implemented a year-long professional development process in Ramle, combining an intensive teachers' seminar with continued alumni engagement and facilitator training to strengthen both classroom practice and the broader educational ecosystem for shared society.

From November 2024 through February 2025, the Teachers' Lounge program was implemented in Ramle in partnership with the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue. Fourteen teachers—eight Jewish and six Arab/Muslim—participated in ten three-hour sessions held at the Open House in Ramle. The group was led by two professional facilitators, one Jewish and one Arab, and structured to balance safety and openness through a combination of uninational and bi-national meetings.

The curriculum integrated dialogue, experiential learning, and artistic expression, alongside two field tours of Ramle that explored the city's layered histories and contemporary realities. Participants visited sites such as the White Tower, the Ramle market, local schools and

community centers, and the wall separating the Jawarish neighborhood from adjacent Jewish areas. Encounters with local residents and shared meals deepened both personal relationships and professional trust.

Between March and June 2025, the program's alumni network was reactivated through eight additional gatherings, enabling educators from previous cohorts to continue learning together and strengthen a supportive professional community. One highlight was an alumni field tour titled "A Multicultural City – Challenges and Success," which revisited Ramle's complexities through a shared society lens.

In October 2025, as part of preparation for the next activity cycle, Teachers' Lounge and Rossing Center jointly hosted a professional facilitators' training in Ramle, bringing together facilitators from across Teachers' Lounge centers. The training focused on ethics of care, pedagogy of responsibility, and reflective practice in the context of ongoing social and political strain.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The impact of the programs and trainings was both personal and professional. Teachers described both as transformative, reporting that they opened their minds and hearts to perspectives they had not previously encountered. One Jewish participant reflected, "We discovered that we are all people with the same desires and dreams," while an Arab teacher noted, "As a result of the personal acquaintance, listening and openness were created." Others spoke of building bridges, discovering new perspectives, and experiencing greater acceptance of cultural and religious diversity.

The experience also nurtured a strong sense of professional community. Participants emphasized that beyond the tools and knowledge they gained, the true value lay in being able to share experiences, challenges, and successes with peers from across the city's divides. Several described the program as "life-changing" and expressed gratitude for the chance to participate in such meaningful encounters.

Many educators left the programs and trainings with a renewed sense of responsibility to promote tolerance and coexistence in their schools. Some reported plans to introduce new classroom activities to prevent racism and foster understanding among their students. Others felt personally committed to carrying forward the message of shared society, making it their "mission" to further these discussions in the future.

Through these processes, the Teachers' Lounge and Rossing Center created not only a temporary dialogue space but also a sustainable professional network in Ramle. By the end of the programs and trainings, participants felt more connected to one another and more prepared to bring the values of coexistence into their schools and communities. The synergy achieved its aim of building educators' capacity for shared society, while also leaving a legacy of empathy, responsibility, and professional solidarity that will continue beyond the life of the project.

In spite of the obvious impact of the program, the partners concluded that the Ramle-based synergy would not continue into the 2025–2026 activity year, following sustained recruitment challenges—particularly in achieving balanced Jewish–Arab participation—amid broader social and political strain affecting shared society initiatives nationwide. This decision reflects structural constraints rather than a lack of impact, and the learning from the Ramle collaboration will inform future efforts to support educators working toward shared society in mixed cities.

WOMEN WAGE PEACE AND STANDING TOGETHER

JOINT MASS MOBILIZATION FOR A CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE



Tamar Matsafi

OBJECTIVE

To mobilize Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel in mass protest demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, and a political alternative based on safety, equality, and peace, while centering women’s leadership and broad grassroots participation.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported a joint mobilization effort led by Standing Together and Women Wage Peace (WWP), bringing together two of Israel’s largest Jewish–Arab grassroots movements in coordinated public action against the war.

The collaboration began in April 2025 with a large-scale demonstration under the banner “Refuse War” at Habima Square in Tel Aviv. The protest brought together over 10,000 Jewish and Palestinian citizens, making it one of the largest peace mobilizations since the outbreak of the war. Organized jointly by the two movements, the rally amplified public pressure for a ceasefire and hostage deal following the collapse of negotiations, while intentionally highlighting women’s leadership at the forefront of the peace movement.

Speakers included former Knesset member Zehava Galon, former IDF colonel Doron Meinert, Standing Together National Co-Director Rula Daood, Yuval Green of Soldiers for the Hostages, and co-hosts Enam Farah Odeh (WWP) and Bashir Alziadna (Standing Together). Musician Rona Kenan performed, and the visual language of the rally—featuring large posters depicting Palestinian children killed in Gaza alongside Israeli hostages—underscored the shared human cost of the war. Materials were produced in Hebrew, Arabic, and English to ensure broad accessibility.

When police attempted to prohibit the display of these posters, Standing Together successfully challenged the decision in court. The controversy generated extensive media coverage in outlets including Haaretz, The Guardian, Times of Israel, and Middle East Eye, significantly increasing the rally's visibility. Speeches and footage from the demonstration circulated widely online, reaching hundreds of thousands of viewers across social media platforms.

In late May and early June, as the public and political context shifted and large democracy protests took place in central Tel Aviv, the two organizations adapted their strategy. Rather than organizing a second mass rally in the city, they launched a series of three coordinated protests near the Gaza border, bringing the anti-war message directly to the geographic and moral center of the fighting.

The first action was a march from the Sderot train station, where hundreds of Jewish and Arab participants gathered and attempted to proceed toward the Gaza border before being halted by police. Several organizers, including Standing Together National Co-Director Alon-Lee Green, were arrested at the conclusion of the march and later released without charges. The second action, held at the Sha'ar HaNegev junction, drew approximately 1,000 participants for speeches and protest focused on the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the urgent need for a ceasefire. The third action took the form of a white-clad march near the border, emphasizing the severe starvation and civilian suffering in Gaza through a unified visual message.

Although these actions were smaller in scale than the Tel Aviv rally due to security and police restrictions, all were extensively documented and shared through the movements' networks, reaching tens of thousands of viewers and sustaining public attention on the call to end the war.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Together, the April mass protest and the subsequent Gaza border actions marked a significant escalation in joint Jewish–Arab anti-war mobilization. The collaboration demonstrated the capacity of grassroots peace movements to adapt strategically while maintaining a clear moral and political message under highly constrained conditions.

The April rally helped reestablish large-scale public protest for peace as a visible force in Israeli society, while the Gaza border actions shifted the geography of dissent and underscored the immediate human consequences of the war. Across all actions, the partnership between Standing Together and WWP strengthened coordination between their constituencies, reinforced women's leadership within the peace camp, and sustained a public call for a ceasefire, the return of hostages, and a political alternative—at a moment when such voices faced significant resistance.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

The second year of war following October 7 brought unprecedented humanitarian strain, particularly for Palestinians in Gaza and across the West Bank. As violence intensified, displacement deepened, and access to food, water, healthcare, and basic security deteriorated, the scale and urgency of needs far exceeded what many organizations had previously encountered. At the same time, civil society actors on the ground—both Palestinian and Israeli—were forced to adapt rapidly to conditions marked by instability, restriction, and profound human suffering.

In response, B8 of Hope provided targeted emergency grants to seven trusted partners working at the intersection of humanitarian relief, community protection, and nonviolent solidarity. These grants were designed to be flexible and responsive, enabling organizations to meet urgent needs as they emerged—often in real time—while remaining rooted in dignity, accountability, and local leadership. Through this support, our partners delivered essential aid, strengthened community resilience, and sustained critical spaces of care and protection during a period of deep suffering.

COMBATANTS FOR PEACE

VARIETY OF EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES



In 2025, B8 of Hope contributed to Combatants for Peace's (CfP) emergency crowdfunding campaign, which mobilized resources for urgent humanitarian support and joint nonviolent resistance during one of the most devastating periods of the war. As violence escalated across Gaza and the West Bank, CfP activated its binational network to meet immediate needs while sustaining the emotional and organizational resilience of activists working on the frontlines of shared struggle.

Through this campaign, CfP advanced four critical initiatives:

Support for orphaned children from Gaza: As some of the youngest survivors of the war—now orphaned—were relocated to Bethlehem for care, CfP helped prepare them for the new school year by providing school bags, clothing, lunchboxes, and other essentials. The effort offered both material support and a message of recognition and dignity during an unimaginable period of loss. Thanks to B8 of Hope’s support, CfP was also able to support displaced children from the Al Kaabneh Bedouin community in the Jordan Valley as well as displaced children in Al-Auja near Jericho.

Emergency relief for displaced families in Tulkarem: Following repeated military invasions that destroyed homes and displaced more than 32,590 people in the Tulkarem refugee camp and in the northern West Bank area, CfP volunteers distributed food, diapers, infant formula, and basic supplies to families left without shelter. Parallel to the humanitarian response, CfP’s U.S. activists launched an advocacy campaign to raise awareness of the situation and call attention to the ongoing risks faced by residents.

Access to clean water in the Jordan Valley: Amid escalating settler violence and severe restrictions on water infrastructure for Palestinian communities, CfP delivered water tanks to families facing both drought and threats of displacement. The initiative helped sustain daily survival needs while supporting communities’ ability to remain on their land.

Emotional resilience for activists: Throughout the year, CfP facilitated peer support, community-care spaces, and trauma-informed workshops for Palestinian and Israeli activists working under extreme emotional strain and physical danger. These efforts strengthened the movement’s capacity to continue its nonviolent work during a time of acute crisis.

By contributing to this collective crowdfunding effort, B8 of Hope stood alongside many partners supporting CfP’s urgent humanitarian work—helping Palestinians and Israelis respond to injustice while modeling the solidarity and shared humanity that underpin their vision for a just future.

COMET-ME

VARIETY OF EMERGENCY COMMUNITY PROTECTION



In 2025, B8 of Hope contributed to Comet-ME's emergency crowdfunding campaign to expand the installation of community-run security cameras in Palestinian villages across Area C of the West Bank. The campaign responds to a sharp escalation in settler violence and mounting threats to Palestinian communities' ability to remain on their land.

Through this initiative, Comet-ME has expanded and continues to expand the use of security cameras as a tool for community protection, documentation, and accountability. The cameras are installed in villages that have experienced repeated attacks and are designed to provide high-definition, time-stamped footage that can be shared in real time, preserved as evidence, and used to support legal and advocacy efforts when needed.

Comet-ME hopes to support the installation of more than 800 cameras across 30 villages, making this infrastructure an increasingly essential layer of protection alongside access to electricity, water, and internet. Requests from additional communities continue to exceed current capacity, underscoring the scale and urgency of the need.

The security cameras project operates in coordination with community members, protective presence activists, and legal professionals, forming part of a broader effort to deter violence, document incidents, and challenge impunity. By contributing to this collective crowdfunding effort, B8 of Hope supported Comet-ME's ongoing work to strengthen community resilience and help Palestinian communities in Area C live with dignity and remain on their land amid escalating threats.

JORDAN VALLEY ACTIVISTS

EMERGENCY STRATEGIC PLANNING



In 2025, B8 of Hope funded the Jordan Valley Activists' (JVA) participatory strategic planning process.

This enabled the group, made up mostly of Jewish Israelis, to take a major step forward in strengthening its structure, priorities, and binational cooperation during a year of profound instability in the region. JVA's core mission is to help Palestinian shepherds and farmers remain on their land in the face of army and settler violence; the planning process was designed to ensure that the group could continue fulfilling this mission under the radically changed conditions that emerged after October 7, 2023.

The two-day gathering, held in Bardala in the northern Jordan Valley, brought together 43 members of JVA's General Assembly and 27 Palestinian partners—marking the first time in the organization's nine-year history that Israelis and Palestinians jointly participated in a full strategic planning retreat. Guided by a professional facilitator and by Jamil Qassas, the Palestinian Director of Combatants for Peace, participants used the Future Search method to reflect on their shared past, assess current trends, and imagine realistic future scenarios in which Palestinian communities are still able to remain on their land.

Through this process, the group identified a set of key action areas for the coming years, including expanding volunteer recruitment to ensure 24/7 protective presence when needed; improving the use of legal tools; strengthening economic support for communities—especially access to water and livestock feed; developing alternative livelihood strategies; and increasing national and international advocacy to counter ongoing threats. These priorities are now being ranked through a consultation process with JVA's full membership, forming the basis for a comprehensive work plan for the year ahead.

Beyond its strategic outcomes, the gathering had a significant relational impact. It deepened solidarity between Israeli volunteers and Palestinian community members and helped strengthen cohesion among the Palestinians themselves, fostering a more unified approach to facing escalating violence and displacement pressures.

With B8 of Hope's support, JVA was able to clarify its path forward, build stronger cross-community partnerships, and prepare for the sustained, coordinated work required to protect some of the most vulnerable Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley.

TAGHYEER

EMERGENCY RAMADAN FOOD ASSISTANCE IN NABLUS



In 2025, B8 of Hope supported an emergency humanitarian initiative implemented by Taghyeer to provide food assistance to vulnerable families in the Nablus area during the month of Ramadan. The initiative responded to acute economic hardship and food insecurity affecting many households amid the ongoing violence and instability of this second year of war.

Taghyeer is a Palestinian organization that focuses on engaging Palestinian society on a way forward to achieve social change and national goals through nonviolence. Through their Ramadan initiative, food parcels were distributed to seventy families identified as most in need. The assistance included essential food supplies as well as meat and chicken, ensuring families were able to observe Ramadan with dignity.

Beyond meeting immediate material needs, the distribution had a meaningful social and emotional impact. Families expressed a renewed sense that their struggles were seen and acknowledged, and many spoke of the joy and relief the assistance brought—particularly for children during the holiday period. The initiative also reinforced trust in Taghyeer’s continued presence and commitment on the ground, strengthening confidence among volunteers and community members in nonviolence and peacebuilding efforts during this extremely difficult period.

TAKADOM

RAMADAN GIFT BASKETS ACROSS EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK



In 2025, B8 of Hope funded Takadom for Peace's humanitarian relief efforts, enabling the organization to reach marginalized Palestinian women and displaced families across East Jerusalem and the West Bank at a time of acute hardship.

Takadom is a Palestinian nonprofit organization that aims to create a positive impact for Palestinian women and youth in public affairs, through participation, influence, and constructive contribution.

During Ramadan, Takadom distributed carefully prepared gift baskets containing essential food items and hygiene products to divorced women, widows, and women whose husbands—or they themselves—had lost their livelihoods due to the ongoing conflict. Despite closed roads and widespread logistical challenges, the team aimed to reach 60–80 families, many of whom had previously participated in Takadom's empowerment programs. For women who found it emotionally difficult to receive aid, the baskets served as a reminder that they were not forgotten, offering recognition of their daily struggles and honoring their resilience.

As the year progressed and displacement intensified, Takadom expanded its relief work beyond its original plan. In addition to refugee camps in East Jerusalem and Ramallah, and villages in northern Ramallah and Jericho, the team also responded to urgent needs in Al-Far'a Camp, where families uprooted by the conflict had sought shelter. Working with the local popular committee—who had transformed a former water bottling plant into a functioning aid hub—Takadom distributed food and hygiene supplies while respecting the privacy of women who preferred not to be photographed.

Throughout these efforts, Takadom emphasized dignity, solidarity, and community leadership. Wisam, who led the Ramadan initiative, shared how meaningful it was to carry out this work alongside her daughter, allowing her children to witness and participate in acts of compassion.

Through B8 of Hope's support, Takadom for Peace was able to stand with women and families enduring profound instability—offering practical relief, emotional acknowledgment, and the reassurance that their strength and courage are seen.



Ramadan Mubarak



Ramadan Mubarak



Ramadan Mubarak



Ramadan Mubarak



Ramadan Mubarak

In a small village south of Ramallah, amid challenging circumstances, one woman embodies the true spirit of community and self-reliance.

When our local partner Takadom provided her with 10 Ramadan gift baskets containing food and hygiene products, she didn't simply distribute them equally. Instead, she carefully assessed the needs of women in her village and redistributed the contents based on who needed what most—a testament to her deep understanding of her community's varying needs.

Initially, she was reluctant to accept anything for herself, believing there were many women in more difficult situations. This selflessness stems from her ability to manage with what she has: a small but productive homestead with five chickens providing eggs, three goats offering milk and cheese, and two horses that, despite their expense, are essential for working her land. This modest farm allows her to maintain independence and dignity.

Her commitment to self-sustainability means she typically declines donations, preferring to rely on her own resources. Yet her vision extends far beyond her own household. She dreams of expanding her small farm to produce enough food to share with her neighbors regularly, hoping to create food packages every few days for the women and children in her village.

What makes her story particularly remarkable is that she sees her efforts not as a business venture but as a mission to uplift those around her. She envisions acquiring more livestock and planting more fruit trees to increase her capacity to help others. In a region where hardship is commonplace, she has become an influencer by example—showing how resilience, resourcefulness, and generosity can transform not just one life but an entire community.

Through her actions, she reminds us that true sustainability isn't just about surviving—it's about creating enough abundance to share with others, even in the most challenging circumstances.

TESTIMONIAL

ROOTS

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY PROTECTION RESPONSE



In 2025, B8 of Hope supported an emergency response led by Roots in light of the sharp deterioration in Palestinian security across West Bank and Jerusalem-area communities. The grant enabled Roots to provide practical protection and resilience measures across its partner network, focused on communities experiencing repeated violence and escalating restrictions.

Roots delivered four intensive basic first-aid courses for Palestinian communities, each totaling 21 training hours over three days and reaching 10–12 participants per course. Participants received first-aid certification and were equipped with medic kits to provide immediate care for wounded community members. Trainings were carried out for communities in Massafer Yatta, north Hebron hills, the southern Bethlehem region, and the Jordan Valley, with local communities hosting the courses.

To strengthen documentation and legal accountability, Roots also procured and installed ten security cameras in locations that had been sites of repeated attacks. These cameras—selected for low-light capabilities and remote transmission—enabled footage to be saved and retrieved in the event of assaults or incursions, supporting evidence collection for potential legal cases.

In addition, Roots launched a pilot effort to support Palestinian farmers in maintaining access to their farmland in areas where increased security restrictions near settlements had made cultivation difficult and dangerous. The project brought Jewish volunteers to participate in agricultural work alongside Palestinian landowners in the Bethlehem area, helping safeguard ongoing presence on the land and reduce the risk of crop loss. The initiative operated as a three-month pilot with weekly outings, coordinated in partnership with Hamidrasha Haemunit, Roots alumni, and local activists, and included coordination and travel support.

ZIMAM AND RISE ALLIANCE OF CHILDREN EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN FROM GAZA



In 2025, B8 of Hope supported an emergency initiative led by Zimam, in partnership with Rise Alliance of Children, to provide trauma-informed educational and psychosocial support to Palestinian children displaced from Gaza and living in Cairo, Egypt.

As the war continued into its second year, many Gazan families—lacking resident status and access to formal schooling—faced prolonged instability, leaving children particularly vulnerable to trauma, isolation, and disrupted development.

The initiative established and continues to operate a dedicated play-based learning and psychosocial support space in central Cairo, designed as a safe and nurturing environment for displaced children. Grounded in evidence-based, trauma-informed practices, the program combines early childhood education with structured play, creative expression, music, movement, and storytelling to help children process loss, rebuild emotional regulation, and restore a sense of routine and safety.

During the initial phase in July and August, the program operated within its dedicated learning space for 16 working days per month, delivering three structured sessions per day and reaching a consistent group of approximately 60 children per month. This continuity allowed for close follow-up and emotional stabilization for children whose schooling had been interrupted for extended periods. In September, the project expanded its reach by partnering with two schools and an additional kindergarten, bringing the same trauma-informed methodology directly into educational settings and reaching approximately 250 additional children in that month alone. In total, an estimated 370–400 children benefited from the program between July and mid-September.

The project was implemented by a trained team composed primarily of young displaced educators from Gaza, ensuring cultural sensitivity and deep emotional attunement to the children's experiences. Rise Alliance of Children contributed global expertise in trauma-informed interventions, while Zimam provided local leadership, community trust, and contextual knowledge—together sustaining a culturally responsive program under extremely challenging conditions.

By supporting this initiative, B8 of Hope helped ensure that displaced children from Gaza were not only protected in the present, but were also given access to learning, play, and emotional care—allowing elements of childhood, stability, and connection to persist amid ongoing displacement and uncertainty.

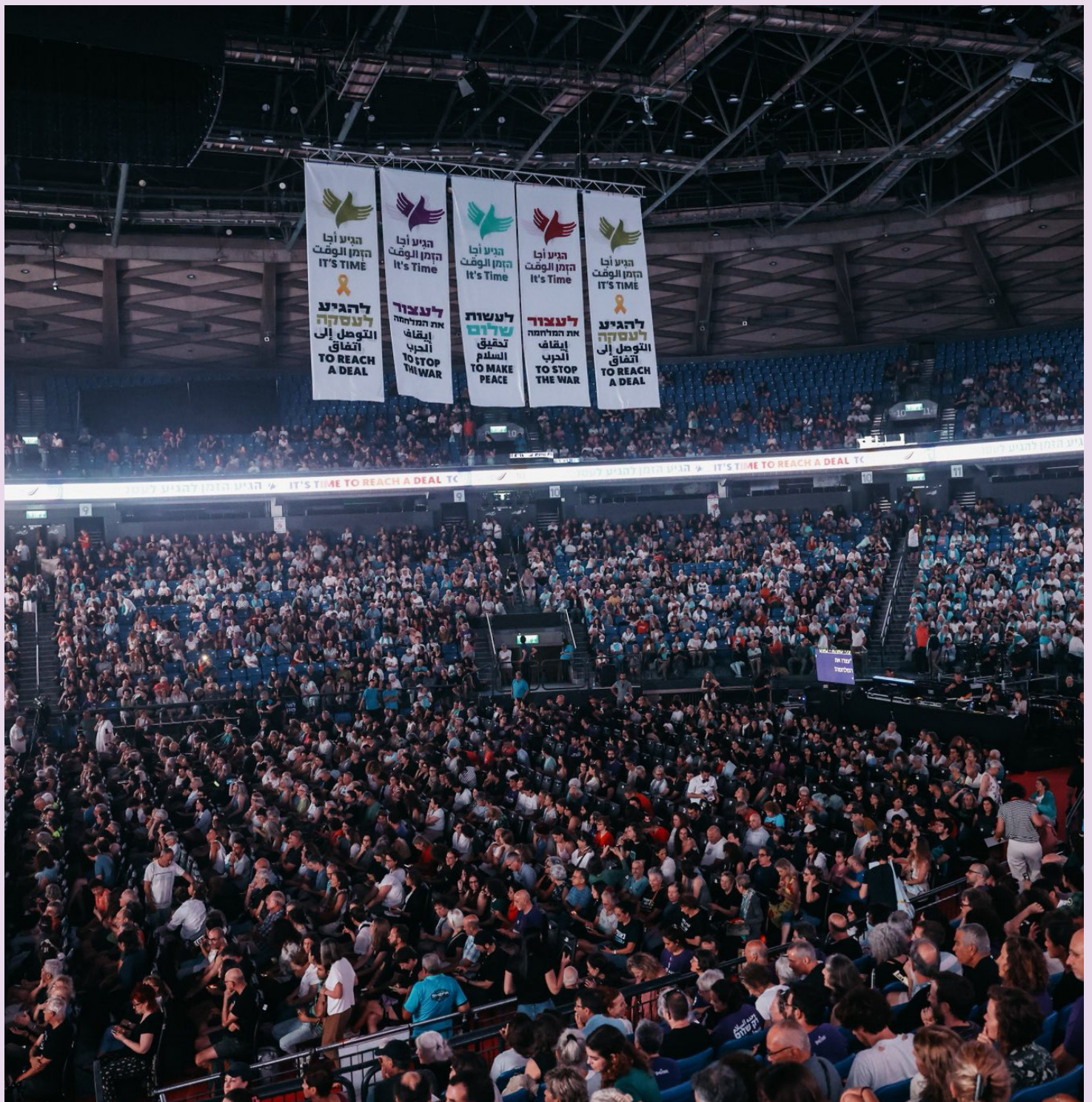
**UNITING FOR A
SHARED FUTURE**
SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

In 2025, B8 of Hope created a dedicated funding pot to support projects that emerged from, or were inspired by, the Uniting for a Shared Future (USF) initiative. As USF grew into a broad coalition of Israeli and Palestinian leaders committed to advancing a political horizon, it became clear that civil society actors had a crucial role to play in strengthening its public voice and grounding its work in local realities.

These special grants were designed to empower organizations and initiatives that embody USF's core principles—mutual recognition, equality, shared security, and a renewed political vision—and that translate these principles into concrete action on the ground. Rather than supporting organizations in general, B8 of Hope funded specific projects that sought to widen public engagement, amplify civil society perspectives, and build momentum for a just and negotiated future.

The following two projects were selected for their ability to extend USF's reach into Israeli and Palestinian society, deepen grassroots involvement, and help shape the public and diplomatic conversations that will determine what comes next.

THE PEOPLE'S PEACE SUMMIT: JOINT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN MASS MOBILIZATION



OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate broad-based grassroots support for a political resolution and to elevate Israeli and Palestinian civil society voices into national and international arenas. The project sought to build momentum for a diplomatic horizon by convening diverse communities, organizations, and leaders around a shared call to end the war and advance a just political future.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

With support from B8 of Hope, the [It's Time Coalition](#) organized the People's Peace Summit, held in May 2025. The summit brought together over 8,000 Israelis and Palestinians, alongside more than 60 civil society organizations and hundreds of local leaders—an unprecedented show of grassroots mobilization. For the first time, mainstream political figures actively sought to appear on stage alongside peace activists, reflecting the coalition's growing visibility and influence.

The summit's reach extended far beyond the event itself. It generated over 100 features in Israeli media, received substantial international coverage, and included messages from global leaders such as President Mahmoud Abbas, President Emmanuel Macron, and EU Foreign Minister Kaja Kallas. More than 100 diplomats, including 30 ambassadors, attended in person, signaling significant diplomatic interest in grassroots-led efforts.

Building on this momentum, representatives from the It's Time coalition were invited to participate in the Paris Peace Conference, ensuring that the upcoming two-state discussions convened by President Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are informed by local civil society perspectives.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The People's Peace Summit demonstrated that large-scale, joint Israeli–Palestinian mobilization is possible even in a moment of deep crisis. Its turnout, broad organizational participation, and significant diplomatic interest signaled that civil society is emerging as a meaningful force in shaping public conversation around ending the war and pursuing a political solution.

The event also elevated the It's Time coalition onto both national and international stages, creating new opportunities for its message to reach decision-makers. The invitation for coalition representatives to join the Paris Peace Conference reflects the growing recognition of grassroots actors as essential contributors to any future political horizon.

MEHAZKIM

SHIFTING PUBLIC DISCOURSE THROUGH PRO-DIPLOMACY MESSAGING



OBJECTIVE

To widen Israeli public openness to political and diplomatic solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by introducing new, resonant language into mainstream discourse. The project—led by Mehazkim, in partnership with Kallmar and the Civil Headquarters—sought to reach persuadable, non-left-identified audiences and test messaging that could make a diplomatic horizon feel both legitimate and emotionally accessible.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

With support from B8 of Hope, Mehazkim and its partners designed and launched a multi-phase digital persuasion campaign under a new brand identity, “Israel’s Path.” The first phase focused on brand development, visual design, and the recruitment of a diverse set of influencers—ranging from military figures and athletes to cultural personalities—each of whom received tailored messaging kits to align content with their specific audiences.

Working closely with the aChord Institute, the project conducted in-depth message testing to evaluate which diplomatic framings resonated most with centrist and undecided publics. The phrase “regional peace” emerged as the strongest and became the centerpiece of the campaign’s second phase. Mehazkim then produced a range of sharable content—videos, AI-assisted visuals, and influencer collaborations—that connected national identity, personal security, and hope for the future with diplomatic action.

A major amplification effort took place in partnership with mako, one of Israel’s largest media platforms. The resulting “Israel of Tomorrow” series featured a children’s video about peace, interviews, creative cultural pieces, and an imagination survey envisioning Israel’s future. Influencers participating in the project—including Major General (res.) Nimrod Sheffer—brought the message into mainstream media through televised interviews and appearances on widely viewed podcasts.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The project effectively inserted diplomatic language into the national conversation at a moment when long-term political solutions were receiving minimal public attention. Across social networks, campaign content reached 1.8 million people, engaged 436,000 viewers, and generated more than 65,000 interactions, with an additional 180,000 impressions through mako’s distribution. These numbers demonstrate the campaign’s success in reaching audiences beyond the traditional peace camp.

Message testing yielded critical insight: the framing of “regional peace” consistently outperformed all other diplomatic language, enabling audiences to consider political solutions without triggering ideological resistance. Meanwhile, the involvement of respected figures from Israel’s security establishment—especially Nimrod Sheffer—significantly enhanced credibility and engagement across middle-ground audiences.

By grounding its message in themes of national identity, stability, and shared futures, the project demonstrated that persuasive, pro-diplomacy communication can resonate widely even in a polarized environment. The work completed in this grant cycle not only shifted public conversation in the short term, but also generated strategic learnings that will guide future persuasion efforts within the Uniting for a Shared Future initiative.

CULTURAL GRANTS

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 to podcasts. These initiatives offer alternative narratives and create powerful platforms for voices that might otherwise go unheard.

UNAPOLOGETIC: THE THIRD NARRATIVE PODCAST SEASON 2 LAUNCH



[Unapologetic: The Third Narrative \(UTTN\)](#) is an independent podcast created and hosted by two Palestinian activists, Amira Mohammed and Ibrahim Abu Ahmad. Together, they explore what they call the Third Narrative—a way of talking about the land between the river and the sea that refuses both polarization and erasure, and that is unapologetic about who they are and where they speak from.

Season 1, launched in late October 2023, introduced personal stories that revealed the layered, complex identities of people living in this space. While that first season centered on dialogue and storytelling, Season 2 moves toward action. This chapter amplifies the voices of organizers and initiatives confronting injustice, with a particular focus on Palestinian activism and women's leadership, and shows listeners concrete ways to support and engage in meaningful change.

In 2025, B8 of Hope supported the production of Season 2. Between September and late November, UTTN recorded 11 episodes featuring nine guests, and released the first six episodes along with full transcripts on YouTube to increase accessibility. The team adopted a new rhythm—pairing biweekly releases with dedicated promotion weeks—and shared clips and visuals across platforms. Since mid-September, Season 2 content has reached nearly one million views across Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, brought in more than 2,300 new followers, and helped place UTTN in the top 1% of podcasts worldwide by Listen Notes.

With B8 of Hope's support, UTTN is using the intimacy of long-form conversation to offer an unapologetically Palestinian, deeply grounded space where listeners can encounter stories, strategies, and calls to action that rarely surface in mainstream coverage of the region.

CONCLUSION

The initiatives outlined in this section reflect B8 of Hope’s comprehensive approach to supporting Israeli and Palestinian civil society across moments of crisis and long-term transformation. In 2025, this support ranged from emergency grants that responded to urgent needs on the ground, to sustained investment in organizational capacity, cross-organizational synergies, and cultural initiatives that create space for expression, narrative, and resilience.

Together, these efforts demonstrate that civil society support must be both responsive and enduring. Emergency funding helped partners stabilize and continue their work under extreme pressure, while longer-term grants enabled organizations to deepen collaboration, strengthen professional practice, and engage broader publics. Cultural initiatives, including media, music, and storytelling, complemented political and social action by preserving human connection and opening imaginative space at a time when dialogue is often constrained.

Taken as a whole, B8 of Hope’s support in Israel and Palestine affirms the central role of civil society in sustaining dignity, agency, and hope. By standing alongside partners through crisis and continuity alike, B8 of Hope contributed to an ecosystem in which diverse forms of resistance, care, and cooperation remain possible—even in the most challenging circumstances.

Photo: Standing Together and WWP



BUILDING PEACE FROM SWITZERLAND:

LOCAL ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Switzerland remained a central pillar of B8 of Hope's work in 2025. Geneva continued to serve as a unique hub where Israeli and Palestinian peace activists could meet safely, engage international audiences, and connect with students, civil society actors, diplomats, and supporters. Through hosting activists, engaging Swiss society, strengthening partnerships, and investing in the next generation, B8 of Hope used its Swiss base to amplify grassroots peacebuilding voices at a time of unprecedented pressure on civil society.

HOSTING ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE ACTIVISTS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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

Throughout the year, B8 of Hope hosted a wide range of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists in Switzerland, offering them space to rest, reflect, connect, and share their work. These visits combined private meetings, public engagement, media outreach, and dialogue with students and supporters, strengthening both the activists' visibility and the broader peacebuilding ecosystem.

RAMI AMAN (GAZA YOUTH COMMITTEE)—FEBRUARY

Early in the year, B8 of Hope hosted Rami Aman, a Palestinian peace activist and founder of the Gaza Youth Committee, during a brief 48-hour stop in Geneva as part of his European networking tour (he is currently based in Cairo). Rami's work promoting dialogue with Israelis has come at enormous personal risk, including repeated arrests by Hamas, and his presence in Switzerland provided a rare opportunity to hear directly from a Gazan civil society voice committed to nonviolence and engagement.

During his stay, B8 of Hope facilitated a connection with France 24 in Paris, resulting in an interview that brought Rami's perspective to a broad international audience. His time in Geneva also allowed for in-depth conversations with the B8 of Hope team about the realities of peace activism in Gaza and about possible avenues for continued moral and strategic support.

AMIRA MOHAMMAD & YUVAL ORR (THE DAY AFTER DOCUMENTARY PROJECT)—MARCH

During the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) in March, B8 of Hope hosted Amira Mohammad and Yuval Orr, members of the documentary project *The Day After* (working title), which B8 of Hope supports. The film follows Palestinians and Israelis traveling to Belfast amid war to explore lessons from the Northern Irish peace process.

B8 of Hope sponsored Amira and Yuval's participation in FIFDH Impact Days, strengthening the film's future impact campaign and helping position it for wider engagement beyond the festival. During their visit, B8 of Hope also convened a small gathering for supporters particularly interested in the project. The discussion was enriched by the presence of the Irish and Norwegian Ambassadors to the United Nations, whose comparative insights added depth to the exchange.

Yuval and Amira also recorded [a podcast episode](#) for B8 of Hope, talking extensively with Executive Director Mehra Rimer about the project.

DORIT SEGAL, TULY FLINT, & AHMED ABU LIBDEH (EMDR 4 PEACE)— MARCH

In March, Dorit Segal, Tuly Flint, and Ahmed Abu Libdeh—Israeli and Palestinian mental-health professionals and co-founders of EMDR 4 Peace, a new NGO supported by B8 of Hope—were in Geneva participating in the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH). In that context, they were invited to lead a workshop on trauma titled "Israel-Palestine: Engaging in Dialogue."

The workshop, held on March 8, focused on their work addressing trauma within Israeli and Palestinian communities. Dorit, Tuly, and Ahmed created a safe space for open dialogue, enabling participants to share emotions and lived experiences while exploring therapeutic approaches to individual and collective trauma. Several members of B8 of Hope's staff and board participated in this workshop.

WASIM & ASMAHAN (COMET-ME)—APRIL

In the spring, B8 of Hope hosted Wasim and Asmahan from Comet-ME (Community–Energy–Technology in the Middle East) during their visit to Switzerland. Comet-ME is an Israeli–Palestinian organization that installs renewable energy systems, clean water infrastructure, and internet connectivity in off-grid Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank.

Their visit provided an opportunity to engage deeply with their work and to reflect on how meeting essential human needs can serve as a foundation for dignity, resilience, and cooperation. Beyond the technical impact of their projects, Wasim and Asmahan’s partnership embodies the possibilities—and challenges—of sustained Israeli-Palestinian collaboration.

AMIRA MOHAMMED & EVELYN UZAN (UNAPOLOGETIC: THE THIRD NARRATIVE)—MAY

Later in the spring, B8 of Hope welcomed Amira Mohammed and Evelyn Uzan, Palestinian and Israeli co-host and producer of Unapologetic: The Third Narrative (UTTN), for a multi-day visit to Geneva focused on youth engagement and dialogue. Their colleague Ibrahim Abu Ahmed was unable to travel due to flight cancellations following the missile strike on Ben-Gurion Airport, but remained actively involved remotely.

During their visit, Amira and Evelyn spoke with students at Institut Le Rosey and Institut Sainte-Marcelline Lycée français de Lausanne-Valmont, facilitating discussions about narrative, identity, polarization, and responsibility. They also gave an interview to the high-school newspaper at the International School of Geneva – La Châtaigneraie campus. The visit culminated in a live podcast recording at the Geneva Graduate Institute, organized in collaboration with Chahut Media, with Ibrahim joining remotely. Across these engagements, more than 130 students were reached.

In parallel, B8 of Hope hosted two small gatherings with members of its donor community, bringing together approximately 50 guests for intimate conversations about narrative change, media, and grassroots peacebuilding.

DEVON SPITZER (PALESTINIAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM)—JULY

Mid-year, B8 of Hope hosted Devon Spitzer, Executive Director of the Palestinian Internship Program (PIP), during her visit to the Geneva workspace. Devon participated in a filmed interview exploring how PIP supports Palestinian university graduates and young professionals through internships with Israeli and multinational companies, as well as mentorship from global business leaders.

Since its founding, PIP has placed over 100 interns with 60+ companies, illustrating how professional collaboration and economic opportunity can contribute to meaningful bridge-building.

VISIT BY TWO ALUMNI FROM A GRANTEE ORGANIZATION—JULY

During the same period, B8 of Hope also hosted two alumni from one of its grantee organizations, one Palestinian and one Israeli. The visit offered them rare time together at a moment when movement and meeting are increasingly restricted, serving as a powerful reminder that peacebuilding also involves protecting personal relationships across divides.

SHIR YERUSHALMI (STANDING TOGETHER)—AUGUST

Over the summer, B8 of Hope hosted Shir Yerushalmi, a member of Standing Together and a student based in Geneva. The visit provided an opportunity for in-depth exchange about Standing Together's organizing model and its efforts to mobilize Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel around shared social, economic, and political demands.

Through conversations with the B8 of Hope team, Shir shared insights into the movement's on-the-ground challenges, strategies for sustaining joint activism under pressure, and the personal toll of organizing in an increasingly hostile environment. The visit reinforced the importance of maintaining close relationships with grantee organizations and staying connected to the lived experiences of those directly engaged in grassroots mobilization.

AHMED ABU AKEL & JEAN-MARC LILING—AUGUST

Around the same time, B8 of Hope met with Advisory Board members Professor Ahmed Abu Akel and Jean-Marc Liling during their private visits to Switzerland. These conversations offered encouragement and strategic reflection at a time of heightened urgency in the field.

ALI ABU AWWAD—SEPTEMBER

In early autumn, B8 of Hope welcomed Ali Abu Awwad to Geneva for a meeting with Executive Director Mehra Rimer. A leading Palestinian advocate of nonviolence, Ali holds a special place in B8 of Hope's history as the original inspiration behind the organization's creation. His visit provided space for reflection on moral courage, loss, and long-term commitment to peace.

ACHINOAM NINI—SEPTEMBER

That same month, B8 of Hope also received an unexpected visit from Israeli singer and peace activist Noa (Achinoam Nini). Her presence highlighted the role of culture and art in sustaining hope and supporting activism grounded in dignity, equality, and shared humanity.

JUMAN DARAGHMEH (BLEND.AR / TECH2PEACE)—SEPTEMBER

Later in September, B8 of Hope hosted Juman Daraghmeh at the Geneva workspace for a week. Juman is an alumna and former facilitator at Tech2Peace and currently works with Blend.Ar, which promotes sustainable connections through Arabic language and cultural education.

During her stay, Juman advised us on social media and outreach strategies and supported preparations for our upcoming website improvements. She was also connected with a local women's network, where she received the Défi de Sophie award in recognition of her commitment to humanity and peace.

DINNER WITH PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI ACTIVISTS—OCTOBER

In October, B8 of Hope convened a dinner for approximately 20 Palestinian and Israeli activists from partner organizations who were in Geneva for an unrelated conference. The evening offered a rare and much-needed space to reconnect outside formal settings, exchange experiences, and share updates on ongoing work.

Beyond professional exchange, the gathering served as a moment of mutual care and solidarity, reinforcing the sense of community that sustains long-term peacebuilding—particularly at a time when opportunities for cross-border connection are increasingly limited.



SHAHD BISHARA (STANDING TOGETHER)—OCTOBER

Later that month, B8 of Hope welcomed Shahd from Standing Together to the Geneva workspace. Her visit created space for meaningful exchange about the organization's current campaigns, the constraints faced by joint Israeli–Palestinian movements, and what it takes to sustain organizing under conditions of heightened polarization.

These conversations helped deepen B8 of Hope's understanding of Standing Together's evolving context and allowed for reflection on how international partners can provide support that is responsive, grounded, and aligned with activists' needs.

MERON RAPOPORT (A LAND FOR ALL)—NOVEMBER

Toward the end of the year, B8 of Hope hosted Meron Rapoport, veteran Israeli journalist and co-founder of A Land for All, for lunch in Geneva. His visit, linked to a speaking engagement at the Graduate Institute, also created space for discussion with members of Golem Suisse about political imagination and shared futures.

NAJI ABBAS (PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISRAEL)—NOVEMBER

During the same period, B8 of Hope also welcomed Naji Abbas from Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI). Naji, who leads PHRI's Prisoners and Detainees Department, was in Geneva to present a shadow report to the UN Committee Against Torture, offering insight into PHRI's broader human-rights work.



ENGAGING SWISS SOCIETY IN PEACEBUILDING

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

Throughout 2025, B8 of Hope continued to deepen Swiss society's understanding of Israeli–Palestinian peace initiatives through educational outreach, film screenings, and opportunities for public dialogue. These engagements were designed to create safe spaces for nuance and complexity, particularly for young people, and to present a pro-solution approach at a time when public discourse is often dominated by polarization.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

STUDENT DIALOGUE SESSION: DEBATE FOR PEACE DELEGATION— GENEVA (MARCH)

In March, B8 of Hope hosted a diverse group of high school students from Israel who are members of Debate for Peace, during their educational visit to Geneva. The group included both Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel. B8 of Hope presented its work and highlighted efforts to support peacebuilding initiatives in their region. The exchange created a rare space for dialogue with young people directly impacted by recent events and offered an opportunity to listen and engage with their reflections.

STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF GENEVA CAS PROJECT—GENEVA (MARCH)

Also throughout March, Mehra Rimer mentored two high-school students from the International School of Geneva—Naia Gerigk Lopez and Louis Baud—as part of their Community Action Service (CAS) project. They selected B8 of Hope as the focus of their work, interviewed several grantee representatives, and [wrote articles](#) about their experience.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENTS: UNAPOLOGETIC: THE THIRD NARRATIVE— ROLLE & LAUSANNE (MAY)

In May, educational outreach expanded significantly through the multi-day Geneva visit of Amira Mohammed and Evelyn Uzan from Unapologetic: The Third Narrative (UTTN). Their visit focused on youth engagement, a cornerstone of B8 of Hope's educational mission. Amira and Evelyn spoke with students at Institut Le Rosey and Institut Sainte-Marcelline Lycée français de Lausanne-Valmont, engaging them in open and often challenging conversations designed to encourage critical thinking and reflection. They also gave an interview with the high-school newspaper at the International School of Geneva – La Châtaigneraie campus. Across the week, these educational engagements reached over 130 students.



SCHOOL ENGAGEMENTS: GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE GUEST LECTURE—GENEVA (MAY)

B8 of Hope Executive Director Mehra Rimer 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. Mehra invited Amira Mohammed to join her for this presentation and discussion. It was for the students to meet a Palestinian nonviolence activist face-to-face. 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.



PUBLIC DIALOGUE EVENT: LIVE PODCAST RECORDING WITH CHAHUT MEDIA—GENEVA (MAY)

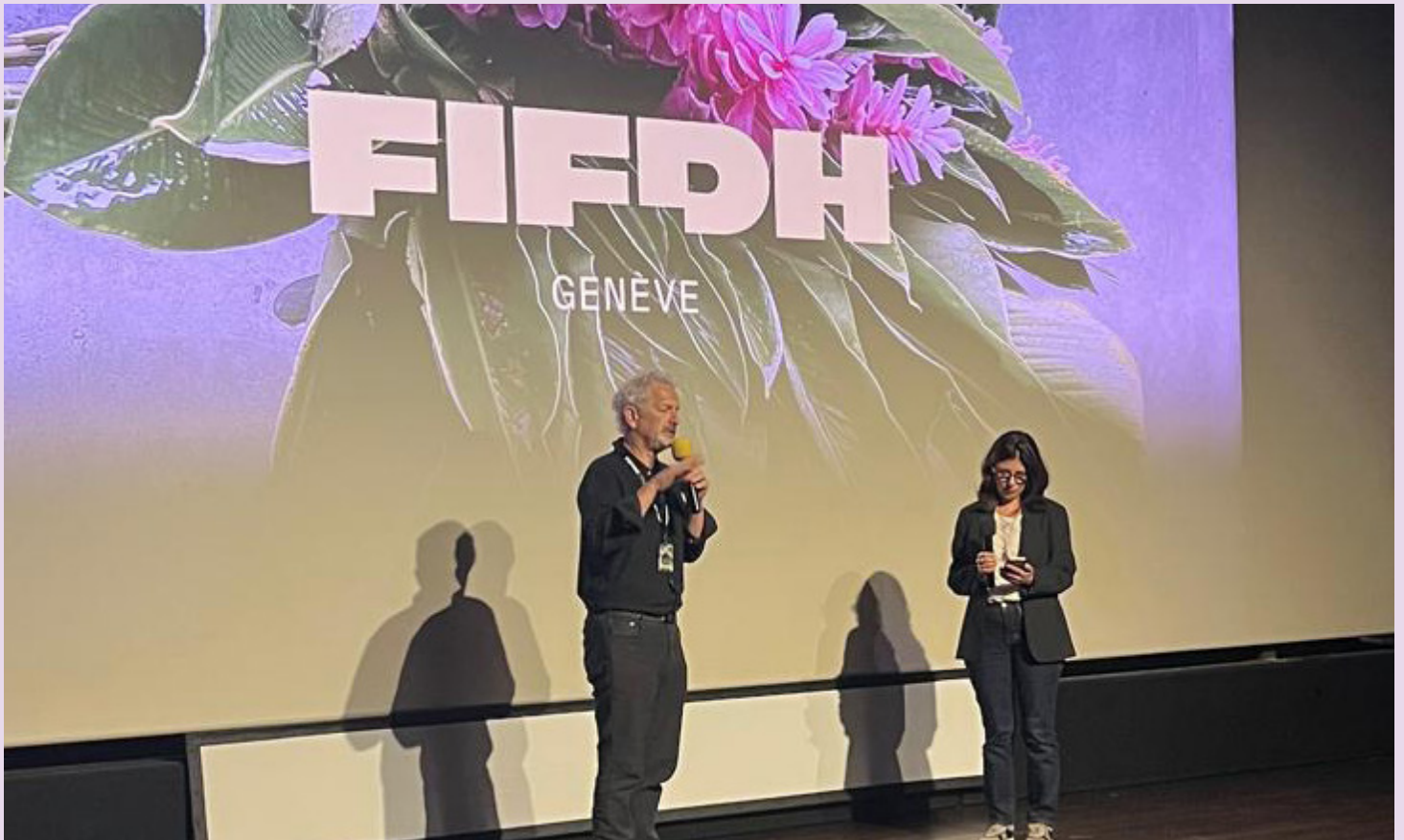
The week concluded with a live podcast recording at the Geneva Graduate Institute, organized in collaboration with Chahut Media. Ibrahim Abu Ahmed joined remotely due to travel disruption and contributed meaningfully to the conversation. The event created a public-facing educational space for exploring narrative change and depolarization, extending the reach of the week beyond school settings.

GRADUATE SEMINAR: UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE / IDHEAP MASTER OF PHILANTHROPY—LAUSANNE (MAY)

In May, Mehra Rimer was invited to speak at a graduate seminar titled “Philanthropy and Innovation,” led by Professor Maximilien Marxer as part of the LMM Master of Philanthropy program at the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (University of Lausanne). The seminar explored the evolving relationship between philanthropic practice and social innovation, providing an ideal space to share B8 of Hope’s approach to adaptive, trust-based giving.

Mehra was joined by Advisory Board member Fiuna Seylan Ongen who contributes strategic insight and serves as a spokesperson for B8 of Hope. Together, they offered students a behind-the-scenes look at how B8 of Hope’s funding model supports long-term, community-driven peace work. The conversation quickly extended beyond philanthropy into the peacebuilding dimension of B8 of Hope’s mission, including a particularly moving exchange prompted by two Ukrainian students’ reflections on the seeming impossibility of cross-conflict cooperation in the Russia–Ukraine context. By sharing the early beginnings of several initiatives, Mehra and Fiuna helped open a space for imagination and hope.

FILM/CEREMONY SCREENINGS & PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS



FILM SCREENING & ROUNDTABLE: RÉSISTER POUR LA PAIX— DELÉMONT (FEBRUARY)

On February 12, Swiss associations Mouvement Paix and Terre d'Accueil hosted B8 of Hope in Delémont (Canton of Jura) for a screening of *Résister pour la Paix* (Resisting for Peace), the documentary by Hanna Assouline and Sonia Terrab, which highlights many B8 of Hope grantees and to which B8 of Hope contributed production support.

Following the screening, a roundtable discussion took place, moderated by former Swiss ambassador to Israel Jean-Daniel Ruch. The panel included Advisory Board member and spokesperson Fiuna Seylan Ongen, Executive Director Mehra Rimer, and Pierre-Alain Fridez, Socialist National Councilor (Swiss Parliamentarian) from Jura. The event provided a meaningful public space—outside Geneva—for Swiss audiences to engage with Israeli and Palestinian peace activism and the importance of supporting civil society actors committed to dignity and coexistence.

FILM SCREENINGS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS: THERE IS ANOTHER WAY (FIFDH)—GENEVA (MARCH)

During FIFDH in March, B8 of Hope supported and participated in several screenings and discussions connected to the documentary *There Is Another Way*, which follows members of Combatants for Peace—Israeli former soldiers and Palestinian former fighters who have chosen reconciliation over violence.

Following the first public screening, Executive Director Mehra Rimer moderated a Q&A session with the film's director, Stephen Apkon. The discussion reflected the strong emotional impact of the film, with audience members engaging deeply around questions of moral courage, accountability, and the human cost of the conflict.

A second screening was followed by a panel discussion bringing together Israeli, Palestinian, and Saudi voices, moderated by mediator and transitional justice expert Pierre Hazan. The panel explored the political, social, and emotional dimensions of choosing nonviolence in times of escalating violence, offering a rare space for multi-national reflection within the festival framework.

In addition to these public events, B8 of Hope organized a more intimate screening at the StoryBoard House in Chêne-Bougeries for a small group of friends and supporters. As part of a full week of screenings in Geneva, we were privileged to host director Stephen Apkon and Tuly Flint, one of the film's protagonists, for a panel discussion following the viewing, alongside Eran Etzion, a senior Israeli diplomat and strategist. This setting allowed for a deeper, more personal conversation about the film's themes, the moral and emotional stakes of nonviolent resistance, and the lived realities faced by peace activists on the ground. Across these engagements, B8 of Hope played a convening role, helping create spaces where nuanced dialogue could take place within a highly polarized moment.

CEREMONY SCREENING & REFLECTION: 20TH ANNUAL JOINT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY—GENEVA (APRIL)

On April 29, B8 of Hope co-founders David and Mehra Rimer hosted a satellite viewing of the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony in their home for members of B8 of Hope Next Gen and the broader community. The gathering created an intimate space for shared reflection and conversation around the meaning of joint remembrance.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the ceremony, which has become the largest Israeli-Palestinian peace event jointly organized by both communities. Held on the Israeli Memorial Day, the ceremony offers an alternative to traditional observances by creating space for Israelis and Palestinians to grieve together and collectively call for an end to violence. Through shared mourning, the ceremony affirms each community's loss while nurturing compassion and hope rooted in shared humanity.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, B8 of Hope continued to strengthen its international engagement and strategic partnerships from its Swiss base, recognizing that sustainable peacebuilding requires coordination across geographies, sectors, and communities. These activities focused on deepening relationships with aligned organizations, participating in strategic convenings, and supporting cross-border dialogue aimed at imagining and preparing for future pathways beyond violence.

STRATEGIC MEETING: RON FINKEL (ROZANA)—GENEVA (JANUARY)

In January, Executive Board member Arun Chandrasekharan and Executive Director Mehra Rimer met with Ron Finkel, Founder and Chair of Rozana, during his stay in Geneva. Rozana is an international organization with headquarters in Australia, Europe, and the United States, working to enhance Palestinian healthcare while fostering cross-border relationships between Israelis and Palestinians at institutional, professional, and grassroots levels.

The meeting was particularly valuable given that B8 of Hope and Rozana share an important mutual grantee, Greenland Society for Health Development. The exchange provided space to compare approaches, reflect on shared challenges, and brainstorm ways to better support overlapping partners operating under increasingly difficult conditions. These conversations reinforced the importance of coordination among funders and allies to ensure that critical work on the ground remains effective, resilient, and responsive.

STRATEGIC CONSULTATION: ELI BAR-ON (MENA 2050)—GENEVA (FEBRUARY)

In February, B8 of Hope co-founders David and Mehra Rimer met with Eli Bar-On, founder and director of MENA 2050, joined by mediator, author, and former war correspondent Pierre Hazan. MENA 2050 brings together experienced policymakers, strategists, business leaders, scientists, media figures, civil society actors, and entrepreneurs from across the Middle East and North Africa to develop policy proposals and concrete projects addressing long-term regional challenges and opportunities.

The meeting offered a broader regional and strategic lens on questions of development, stability, and cooperation beyond the immediate Israeli–Palestinian context. Engaging with MENA 2050’s work allowed B8 of Hope to situate its grassroots peacebuilding focus within wider conversations about the region’s future and the role of civil society alongside political and economic actors.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENINGS: UNITING FOR A SHARED FUTURE (USF)—GENEVA (APRIL & OCTOBER)

In 2025, B8 of Hope participated in two Uniting for a Shared Future (USF) convenings in Geneva, in April and again in October, as an international supporter of the initiative. Founded by B8 of Hope Advisory Board member Hiba Qassas (Principles for Peace), USF brings together Israeli and Palestinian leaders from across sectors—including peace activism, academia, media, security, diplomacy, business, and civil society—around a shared vision grounded in mutual recognition, dignity, equality, security, inclusion, agency, and trust fostered through healing.

The April Geneva meeting took place simultaneously with parallel gatherings in Tel Aviv and Ramallah. Despite geographic separation, participants across all three locations reached strikingly similar conclusions, underscoring a shared sense of urgency and alignment around future-oriented thinking.

The October convening, the fifth since USF's founding, deepened these conversations at a particularly fragile moment. Participants focused on strengthening joint efforts for “the day after,” including the need for a political process that recognizes both peoples' rights to peace, security, and self-determination. As of 2025, the USF network includes more than 500 leaders committed to advancing this vision through sustained, cross-sector collaboration.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS: A LAND FOR ALL—MOROCCO (JULY)

At the beginning of July, Executive Director Mehra Rimer and board member David Rimer traveled to Morocco to meet with May Pundak and Roula Hardal, co-executive directors of A Land for All (ALFA). The meetings were designed to introduce ALFA's shared political vision to influential stakeholders with the potential to support the initiative at a diplomatic level.

While details of the conversations remain confidential, the discussions were described as both strategic and deeply encouraging. Time spent with May and Roula also offered an opportunity for reflection on the evolving role of political imagination and partnership in times of prolonged conflict. The trip was made possible through the support of a B8 of Hope donor whose sponsorship and connections enabled these high-level engagements.

FIELD VISITS: GRANTEE MEETINGS IN ISRAEL–PALESTINE—(JULY)

At the end of July, Deputy Director Elie Pritz traveled to Israel–Palestine, creating an important opportunity to meet directly with many of B8 of Hope’s grantee partners. As someone newly stepping into this leadership role, the visit provided essential grounding through firsthand exposure to the realities facing organizations on the ground.

During the trip, Elie met with representatives from 15 B8 of Hope grantee organizations, as well as one additional organization on B8 of Hope’s radar. She also connected with B8 of Hope co-founder Jean-Marc Liling, who lives between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. These in-person encounters strengthened relationships, informed internal strategic thinking, and reinforced B8 of Hope’s commitment to remaining closely connected to the people and communities it supports.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIP BUILDING—LONDON (NOVEMBER)

In November, Executive Director Mehra Rimer spent a full week in London, where filming continued for a documentary following her personal journey—from her Swiss–Iranian background to her engagement in Israeli–Palestinian peacebuilding.

During her stay, Mehra attended a fundraising dinner for Parents Circle UK Friends (Parents Circle Families Forum) and met with several partners and allies working in conflict transformation. A highlight of the visit was a dinner she co-hosted with David Rimer, bringing together a diverse group of UK-based friends and supporters with roots in Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Iran, Israel, South Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Two special guests, Mor and Mahmoud—an Israeli and a Palestinian who each lost loved ones to the conflict and now work together for reconciliation—shared their personal stories. Their testimonies created a deeply moving space for connection, underscoring the human stakes of peacebuilding and the power of shared grief transformed into joint commitment.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening internal capacity, strategic clarity, and long-term sustainability

In 2025, B8 of Hope invested in internal reflection and professional development to strengthen its organizational effectiveness and ensure long-term sustainability in an increasingly volatile context. Recognizing that peacebuilding requires not only external engagement but also continuous learning and alignment within the organization, B8 of Hope dedicated time and resources to strategic reflection and capacity-building.

STRATEGIC RETREAT: AMAL-TIKVA FIELDBUILDING—ONLINE (MAY)

In May, B8 of Hope held a fieldbuilding retreat with its strategic partners from Amal-Tikva (Jerusalem). The retreat was originally planned as an in-person gathering but was moved online due to travel disruptions following the missile strike on Ben-Gurion Airport. Despite the change in format, the session provided a valuable space for focused internal work and collective reflection.

The retreat built on the Fieldbuilding 360 process initiated in 2022, offering an opportunity for B8 of Hope's team and board to take stock of how the organization has evolved, how the broader ecosystem has shifted, and where recalibration was needed. Together with Amal-Tikva, participants revisited core assumptions, reflected on changes in roles and operating models, and explored how to remain adaptive while staying anchored in shared values.

The session resulted in renewed strategic clarity and alignment across the organization. It reinforced the importance of flexibility, collaboration, and intentional reflection as essential components of sustaining peacebuilding work over time—particularly in moments of heightened uncertainty and strain on civil society actors.

STRENGTHENING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEACEBUILDERS

B8 of Hope continued to invest in emerging leaders through youth engagement, mentorship, and hands-on learning opportunities. Currently we have 94 members in our Next Gen youth group. In 2025, this work included student-led writing and a strengthened internship program, renamed the Educational Immersive Experience (EIE). These initiatives reflect B8 of Hope's commitment to ensuring continuity in peacebuilding by equipping young people with knowledge, relationships, and lived exposure to the human realities behind the work.

EDUCATIONAL IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE: ALIYA CHANAN—GENEVA (MARCH)

In March, B8 of Hope welcomed Aliya Chanan as an Educational Immersive Experience (EIE) intern. Having completed high school in Geneva the previous June and taking a gap year, Aliya dedicated a month to B8 of Hope during an exceptionally busy period. She engaged closely with the team's work, connected with peace activists who visited throughout the month, and made a practical contribution by cataloguing and organizing B8 of Hope's book collection, significantly improving the library system.

EDUCATIONAL IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE: GABRIEL MINOR—GENEVA (MAY)

In May, B8 of Hope welcomed its second EIE intern, Gabriel Minor, for a short but immersive internship. Gabriel joined us during his gap year after graduating from high school in Kenya, where he lived since the age of five. With Swiss-Israeli-Canadian nationality, Gabriel maintains deep connections to Israel-Palestine—his birthplace and home for his first five years of his life. The program offered Gabriel a deep dive into B8 of Hope's work, the broader context of Palestinian-Israeli peacebuilding, and the specific grassroots leaders and organizations B8 of Hope supports. Gabriel's learning combined independent research, mentorship, and firsthand encounters with visiting peace activists, giving his experience both intellectual grounding and human immediacy.

EDUCATIONAL IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE: ILENIA WILLMERT—GENEVA (AUGUST)

In August, B8 of Hope welcomed Ilenia, our third EIE participant, from the University of Edinburgh. Originally from the United States, Ilenia spent the summer interning with B8 of Hope grantee New Story Leadership in Washington, DC, where she met with an Israeli and Palestinian cohort promoting the Phoenix Framework on Capitol Hill. She then joined B8 of Hope in Geneva for an intensive week of guided and self-guided learning about B8 of Hope's work and the broader civil society landscape in Israel-Palestine. Her program included a meeting with mediator Pierre Hazan and an exchange with Shir Yerushalmi of Standing Together, offering exposure to both high-level mediation perspectives and grassroots organizing approaches.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, media engagements provided additional channels for visibility—both for B8 of Hope’s mission and for the broader “third narrative” of Israeli–Palestinian peacebuilding voices working outside polarized frames.

PODCAST APPEARANCE: UNAPOLOGETIC: THE THIRD NARRATIVE—JULY

In July, [Mehra Rimer was featured on Unapologetic: The Third Narrative](#) in conversation with host Amira Mohammed. Mehra shared her personal story and reflected on how her identity as an Iranian woman shaped the founding of B8 of Hope and continues to inform its mission. Following the episode, she joined a private Zoom conversation with the podcast's Patreon community, exploring the complexities of her role as an Iranian peacebuilder supporting Israeli and Palestinian civil society in the wake of the June escalation.

PRESS RECOGNITION: LE TEMPS—SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER

In September, Le Temps named Mehra Rimer among the 100 most influential people in French-speaking Switzerland in 2025, reflecting her sustained commitment to supporting grassroots initiatives working toward dignity, equality, and self-determination.

Following the earlier recognition by Le Temps, Mehra attended a ceremony in Lausanne honoring all 100 nominees. This marked a moment of public visibility for her leadership and the broader community of Palestinians and Israelis who continue to work toward a more hopeful and just future.

BROADCAST INTERVIEW: RTS (DRÔLE D'ÉPOQUE)—OCTOBER

In October, Mehra Rimer was invited as a guest on [RTS](#) (Drôle d'époque). In conversation, she reflected on her personal journey—from her childhood in Iran to her life in Switzerland—and shared the founding story of B8 of Hope, her long-term commitment to supporting Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations, and her belief in grassroots movements as essential actors for peace and mutual understanding.

CONCLUSION

B8 of Hope's activities in Switzerland illustrate how an international base can play an active and meaningful role in peacebuilding. By hosting activists, engaging Swiss society, convening partners, and supporting learning and exchange, B8 of Hope used its Swiss presence to amplify grassroots voices and create spaces for encounter that are increasingly difficult to sustain elsewhere.

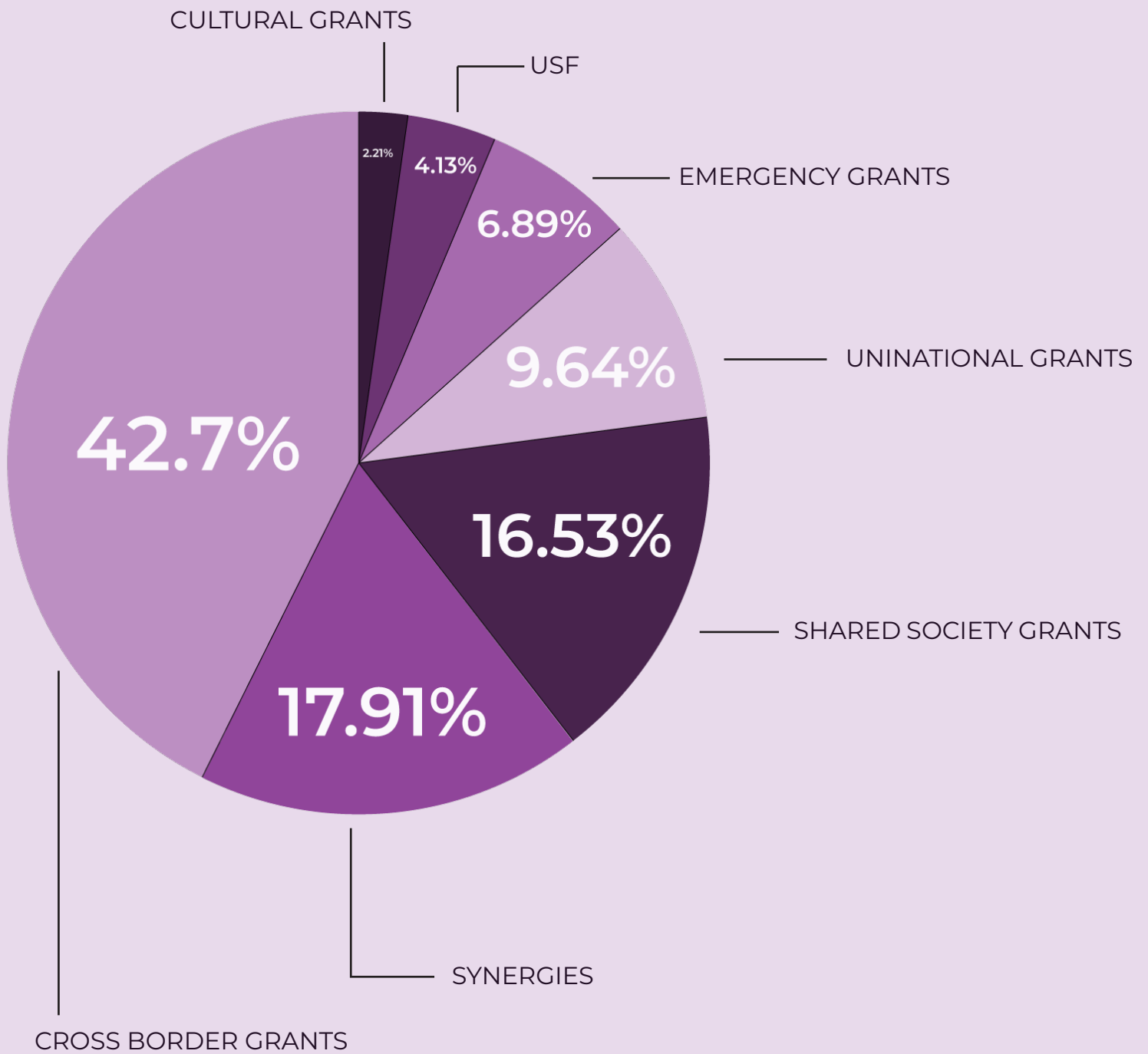
These efforts enabled Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders to connect with students, civil society actors, diplomats, and the public, while offering Swiss audiences opportunities to engage with complexity beyond polarized narratives. Educational programs, cultural events, and media engagement helped foster informed dialogue and long-term relationships rooted in empathy and responsibility.

Building peace from Switzerland, as shown throughout this section, is about maintaining connection, visibility, and continuity—ensuring that civil society voices remain heard, supported, and linked to international networks at a time when civic space is under growing pressure.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

All donations to B8 of Hope are matched by the David and Mehra Rimer Foundation



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.

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LOOKING FORWARD

As B8 of Hope marks its tenth year, the work described in this report highlights both how much has been built and how much remains unfinished. Over the past decade, B8 of Hope has accompanied Israeli and Palestinian civil society through moments of possibility and profound crisis. In 2025, that long-term commitment proved especially vital, as partners continued to operate under extraordinary pressure while refusing to abandon the pursuit of dignity, equality, and shared futures.

Looking ahead, B8 of Hope will remain focused on supporting initiatives that balance urgency with endurance. This includes responding to emergency needs, strengthening collaboration across organizations, investing in cultural and narrative work, and nurturing the next generation of peacebuilders. From grassroots organizing and professional development to international engagement and public education, the organization will continue to prioritize approaches that are grounded in lived realities and oriented toward sustainable change.

None of this work is possible without a community of supporters who have stood with B8 of Hope over time. The organization extends its deep gratitude to the individuals, foundations, advisors, and partners who continue to place their trust in this mission. Your support enables B8 of Hope to remain present, flexible, and responsive—standing alongside grantees in moments of crisis while maintaining a long-term horizon for peace.

As B8 of Hope enters its second decade, it does so with humility and resolve. The challenges ahead are significant, but so too is the collective commitment reflected throughout this report. Guided by experience and sustained by partnership, B8 of Hope looks forward to continuing this work with care, perseverance, and a steadfast belief in the power of civil society to shape a more just and shared future between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Photo: It's Time Coalition

