



## Sustainable Development Application Form

Submitting Partner: Date Submitted: October 5, 2023  
**Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches (DSPR) with focus on DSPR Nazareth International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI)**

Address: <b>Al Bishara Street</b>	City: <b>Nazareth, Israel</b>	State:	Zip Code:
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Name of Contact: <b>Hussam Elias</b>	Title: <b>Executive Director</b>
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Project Name, Local Partner, and Location: **“Galilee Educators Empowered as Ambassadors for Change”, Sakhnin College (Sakhnin), Galilee**

Person at DOM responsible for and accountable for this project: Peter Makari, Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe

Partner’s History/Relationship with the Project: **For many years, DSPR Nazareth / ICCI has promoted peace and conflict transformation. Since 2021, the organization has developed a new pilot model that targets school educators on ideas of tolerance and reconciliation to become ambassadors of change through learning about and being open to others. DSPR has been a partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ for decades. Our churches have been deeply engaged in the issue of Palestinian refugees, and specifically with DSPR, since the 1960s, and has accompanied DSPR in several ways over the years. DSPR has received grants for previous proposals from Week of Compassion, which have been well-implemented and for which DSPR is grateful.**

DSPR Nazareth, also known as the International Christian Committee in Israel, was established in Nazareth in 1974; the organization serves more than 2,000 beneficiaries annually. The main office is in Nazareth with work extending to many Arab cities and villages in the Galilee region such as Shafamer, Haifa, Nazareth, Akko and Me’elya. DSPR Nazareth targets young Palestinian citizens living in Israel - especially those from marginalized groups - as well as students, educators, Muslims, Christians, Druze, and others. DSPR Nazareth focuses on three main programs:

- Positive Youth Engagement: This includes projects that develop youth leadership and life skills and an empowerment program for the vulnerable and socially marginalized girls in the high-risk areas of Akko.
- Promoting peace and conflict transformation: This includes projects that promote tolerance and reconciliation in schools in the Galilee area by empowering staff and teachers of Christian, Muslim, and Druze schools. This focus area also includes projects that promote dialogue on creating frameworks that bring together people from different groups, professional backgrounds, and fields.
- Economic Empowerment: This includes small loans to cover university costs for students and to develop small businesses in the Galilee region.

### Description of Project

A brief description of the project (agricultural, health, water, micro-credit, education, community development, etc.):

This is a six-month project, from December 2023 to May 2024, to be implemented through a local community college for educators across Galilee. The educators will enhance their facilitation skills to become ambassadors for change in their schools, communities, and families. The core of the course will emphasize tolerance and acceptance through reconciliation and dialogue. The project will focus on two components:

- Building educators’ capacities. We will utilize a fixed academic curriculum of theoretical sessions that will occur on consecutive weeks. These sessions include but are not limited to:
  - o Reconciliation
  - o Understanding others

- Bridging the gap
- Countering violence in the community and schools
- Shared learning groups. Once the course is completed by participants, each educator will be required to apply the learnings and experiences to the community. They will lead groups that focus on empowering other people in similar philosophies and concepts.

Each educator will conduct special planned initiatives, group work, and other strategies so they can pass along what they have learned to others to promote a culture of reconciliation and understanding. With violence spreading daily in the Arab community, the ICCI and Sakhnin college believes that we must start somewhere and positively influence educators to promote acceptance of the other. The strategies must start with some form of dialogue, which hopefully leads to reconciliation. This project is also supported through the generous funding from Bread for the World Germany. With this contribution, it is hoped that DSPR Galilee can reach more beneficiaries and conduct other important initiatives that otherwise would not be possible to implement.

Palestinians inside Israel face several challenges; however, for this concept, here is a summary of some of the biggest social challenges:

- **Entrenched discrimination** in all fields of life. In recent years, the prevalent attitude of hostility and mistrust towards Arab citizens has become more pronounced. Large sections of the Israeli public view the Palestinians inside Israel as both a fifth column and a demographic threat.
- **Violence:** The Abraham Initiatives publishes its Mid-Year (2023) Monitoring Report on Fatalities: 111 victims have lost their lives due to incidence of crime and violence in the Arab sector in the first half of 2023. This is a 134% increase compared to the same period last year. If the current situation continues, we expect to reach 222 fatalities by the end of the year.
- **Separation:** While there is no institutional segregation, Jews and Arabs have chosen to live separately in all but a handful of cities. Israelis recognize that Arab villages have historically received less funding than Jewish areas, which has affected the quality of Arab schools, infrastructure, and social services. Arabs are also underrepresented in higher education and most industries. Anecdotal data also shows that while Muslims, Christians, and Druze might live together in a locality, they tend each to live separate lives within the locality.

As such, the **“Galilee Educators Empowered as Ambassadors for Change”** presents an opportunity not to solve these challenges but rather to open channels between people, to highlight the conflict transformation, and dialogue as an alternative approach to deal with conflict and disputes. The main target group for the project are educators especially those who work in Arab communities. We will build their capacity on several topics to encourage them and empower them to become ambassadors of change; this change that will be planted as seeds among generations of children to make a difference in countering violence.

Target Population (children, women, farmers, urban poor, etc.):

- **Men and women educators from across the Galilee localities**
- **Young men and women (School age / University)**

How many persons are/will be served? (Please give as specific a figure as possible)?

**20 educators**

**Muslim, Christian, and Druze educators and educators-in-training who are interested in facilitation, dialogue, and reconciliation through interfaith topics. Those who are from the Galilee area and willing to attend the course through the local college.**

**100 school students**

**Muslim, Christian, and Druze children, youth, and adults who are interested in the topic, willing to participate in group discussion, and share their knowledge with other community members.**

Key Objectives:

**A step towards a more peaceful co-existence for Palestinians in Galilee is achieved.**

Building educators' capacities towards becoming active ambassadors for change in their communities.  
Educators share their learnings and experiences towards enhanced community action and social cohesion.

Key Activities:
<b>Conduct 100 hours of interfaith college courses for school educators, which include teachers, principals, and social workers, to develop group facilitation of interfaith dialogue skills.</b>
<p><b>Selection of educators through an application process. An announcement will be published through the ICCI's communications channels. This process also includes screening and short-listing of members through a project committee.</b></p> <p><b>Criteria include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>A certified educator in Israel</b></li> <li>- <b>Comes from Arab communities (Muslim, Christian, Druze) - preferably from communities where more of the religious categories are present.</b></li> <li>- <b>Presently teaching in one of the schools in Galilee</b></li> <li>- <b>Passionate about learning about the other</b></li> <li>- <b>Very interested in learning and sharing knowledge within the school and community.</b></li> <li>- <b>Identifies with ICCI's and the program's values.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Conduct 10 total community interfaith dialogue groups or initiatives in the educators' communities.</b>
Duration of Project: <b>6 months: December 2023- May 2024</b>
<b>Project Budget</b>
Total Budget: <b>\$22,800 USD</b>
Amount Requested from Week of Compassion: <b>\$12,500 USD</b>
Is this a one-time request or an on-going request? <b>One time</b>
Is this specific proposal financially supported by ecumenical or outside partners? If so, what percentage does it cover for this project? <b>45% Covered by ecumenical partners. 55% is requested from Week of Compassion.</b>
Please list partners who are funding this project: <b>Bread for the World Germany</b>
Does this project/partner receive funding from UCC OGHS, if so how much? <b>No</b>
What is the overall percentage of fund requested that will be used for administration/overhead? <b>\$1,650 USD – This represents 55% (the percentage of funding requested from Week of Compassion for this project) of the total administration costs of \$3,000. This figure is 13.2% of the \$12,500 requested from Week of Compassion.</b>
Please attach a detailed, itemized budget and cost breakdown for the requested funds.

Item code	Budget Item	Total budgeted expenditure (in USD)
1.	<b>1.Project Cost</b>	<b>13,500</b>
1.1.1	<b>10 community interfaith / dialogue groups</b>	3,500
1.1.2	Educators Empowerment and Capacity Building In Galilee (Training Course (100 Hour Per Year for 20 Educator )	10,000
2.	<b>2.Personnel</b>	<b>6,300</b>
2.1	<b>Salaries program</b>	<b>6,300</b>
2.1.1	Group Coordinator /Galilee (\$250 monthly)	1,500
2.1.2	Executive Secretary/ Galilee (\$800 monthly)	4,800
3.	<b>3.Administration</b>	<b>3,000</b>
3.1.	Office utilities, telecom, supplies and other related exp	1,500
3.2	Financial and Administrative Monitoring CO	1,500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,800</b>

Dates and project names of previous proposal submissions:

How do you plan to monitor and evaluate the project and its objectives? Additionally, please provide a report back to Week of Compassion on the project. *(Please note that future funding is contingent upon reporting. In addition to reporting, please provide stories of transformation and photos.)*

**Monitoring is performed mainly by the program manager and field staff under the supervision of the executive director. Periodic reports are shared by the field staff with the DSPR project manager who in turn shares progress with the Board. The project activities will be closely monitored by DSPR management at the central office in addition to the internal auditor. ICCI has developed an internal balanced scorecard called planning and reporting as a tool of monitoring and evaluation and utilizes the following to ensure the proper monitoring. The tools used in the monitoring phase include a standard monitoring form highlighting who is to perform what task and at what level with clear indication of report dissemination. ICCI also conducts bi-annual community meetings in each area and involves people from the served areas and usually includes women and men from different backgrounds and different characteristics. Also, beneficiaries' feedback is systematically monitored and usually reflects positive attitudes as the satisfaction assessments.**

If granted, is there a deadline by which to receive funding? **NO**

If granted, please provide full information for how (wire transfer, check, etc.), where, and to whom funds should be sent:  
 Global Ministries  
 PO Box 1986  
 Indianapolis, IN 46206

Designation: DSPR Galilee Educators Project

