

The Department of National Defence also contributes to Canada's ODA. In 2017-2018, the department continued deployments of Canadian Armed Forces members to the West Bank and Gaza for Operation PROTEUS. Operation PROTEUS promotes peace in the region and provides capacity-building support to the Palestinian Authority. Canadian Armed Forces members have also been filling a variety of key roles within the Office of the United States Security Coordinator. The deployed personnel comprise Task Force Jerusalem. This task force works closely with other Government of Canada personnel in the West Bank and Gaza region. Their goal is to develop the Palestinian Authority's ability to provide a safe and secure environment for its citizens and promote peace in the region. In 2017-2018, Task Force Jerusalem provided the Palestinian Authority Security Forces with training support, helped the security forces develop logistics capabilities and supported the construction of security infrastructure for the Palestinian Authority. Even on issues that are not usually of military interest such as borders and crossings, and movement and access, the Task Force Jerusalem has played a key role in facilitating cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Canada.

SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE VIOLENT-CONFLICT PREVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

Achieving sustainable economic growth and supporting poverty alleviation are necessary but insufficient on their own to build peace. Peace and security efforts, including an emphasis on political inclusion and access to justice, must be pursued directly, aligned with other international assistance efforts and tailored to the country context. This is because many factors contribute to effectively managing conflict and building sustainable peace.

In 2017-2018, Canada supported important programming on the ground in fragile and conflict-affected states. The programming helped build the capacity of affected populations and local institutions to prevent and stabilize conflict situations, and build sustainable peace. A particular focus has been placed on the inclusion of marginalized groups and persons at risk. Inclusion is based on identity factors such as gender, age, race, sexual orientations or physical and mental capacity.

Through the United Nations Development Programme's Funding Facility for Stabilization, in 2017-2018, Canada's PSOPs supported small-scale projects in areas of Iraq liberated from Daesh. The projects have helped to resolve property disputes among the Iraqi returnees before the disputes escalate into conflict. The projects have aimed to re-establish systems for identity and property registration, and facilitate the complex work of reconciliation and dispute mediation, focusing particularly on empowering affected women.

In 2017-2018, PSOPs also supported a project in liberated areas of Iraq to increase women's engagement in decision-making processes relating to national reconciliation. The project has sought to build the capacity of female activists to identify and transform conflict dynamics, and solicit women's priorities on how best to achieve reconciliation. It has also attempted to build cross-community alliances aimed at convincing key decision makers of the importance of strengthening the role of women in reconciliation processes. To date, 42 women leaders have received training and capacity building. Of these women leaders, four were engaged as candidates and 13 as organizers in the May 2018 parliamentary elections.

Canadian programming through PSOPs in 2017-2018 also supported women's engagement as drivers of peace. For example, in Mali, in collaboration with existing locally led networks and initiatives, PSOPs helped to empower youth, women and other key community stakeholders to become active peace ambassadors. These individuals were also empowered to build avenues for constructive engagement between authorities, institutions and citizens for durable peace in the country.



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