

recruit participants. However, a good strategy in Palestine and Jordan would be to focus on organisations and established structures such as schools, clubs, mosques, and neighborhood groups that already have their own mass constituencies in place. Since many of these grassroots organisations tend to be conservative with respect to dialogue with Israel, it would be useful to conduct an initial phase of projects on a unilateral basis (intra-Arab). These projects may involve a range of activities that both encourage the participants to express their fears of normalization, and learn about the other side and its reality in order to debunk negative images and monolithic stereotypes. These activities would then promote the positive aspects of engaging in peace activism. After this initial reorientation phase, Palestinian and Jordanian participants may be more open to dialogue with Israelis.

- (2) Another way to reach the grassroots would be to focus on projects that take place outside the urban areas of Jerusalem and Ramallah, and focus instead on smaller villages and refugee camps in rural areas where people from lower socio-economic backgrounds tend to reside. In these contexts, it is also important to focus on children and youth, those impressionable groups that may not as yet have deeply-rooted views and may have a greater capacity than older generations to change their views. For this reason, CFDD must continue to reach into the public school systems (not only private schools) and find teachers that are willing to reorient their curriculum, texts, and topics to support peace.
- (3) A third recommendation is that CFDD must fully recognize that Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians have different interests in dialogue, and different stakes when participating in joint programs. For example, Israelis can generally dialogue without fear of retribution and are thus generally more interested in the social aspects of joint programs, i.e., getting to know the other. However, Palestinians are more interested in political change because of their more immediate problems, and thus they focus on trying to convince their Israeli counterparts to pressure the Israeli government. It is essential for CFDD to ensure that expectations of the joint programs are not presented unrealistically. Joint facilitators of the CFDD-funded "Double Perspectives in the Teaching of History" at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, School for Peace, suggest that CFDD should include projects that focus not only on commonality, but also on difference. The reason is that "while the former sustains the status quo, the latter helps the weaker groups".¹⁵ Due to the high risk for Palestinians and Jordanians engaged in dialogue, it is necessary for CFDD as an institution to seek confidentiality for participants by pressuring governments and legal systems to democratize and ensure freedom of movement, expression, and association.
- (4) The more direct focus on final status issues planned for Phase 3 of CFDD funding should be reconsidered. The main reason is that the purpose of these small projects is to widen the circle of people interested in peace. In order to change public opinion and reach large numbers of people, it is necessary to focus on the dissemination of information. As mentioned, this step may be accomplished by continuing to focus on projects involving media, journalism, and education, rather than foreign policy options such as the final status negotiations. CFDD may want to invest

¹⁵ Sigalit Givon and Ahmed Hijazi, Project Facilitators, in interview with Jacoby, August 2, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, School for Peace, Israel, in Hebrew.