

in 1992 as a means to support the Middle East Peace Process through Israeli-Arab dialogue. Since 1992, over 70 short-term projects involving Israelis, Palestinians, Egyptians and Jordanians have been funded. Phase 1 of the CFDD ran from 1992 to 1994. Phase 2 ran from 1994 to 1999. And Phase 3 was scheduled to commence in May, 1999 but was frozen for administrative purposes, in particular after difficulties arose in assessing results of the programs within the framework of CIDA's "results-based management".⁸

The particular challenge for dialogue posed by the Middle East is a region marred by over fifty years of protracted warfare through which generations have grown up in an atmosphere of hatred and intolerance. The idea behind the CFDD is that these attitudes are deeply rooted and cannot be eradicated by the official political process between states. Rather, the CFDD seeks to provide opportunities for former warring peoples to come together at the grassroots level, and attempt to dismantle long-standing psychological barriers, jealousies and enemy images through dialogue. To this end, the CFDD has funded a large series of short-term, cross-cultural activities in its first two phases, ranging from leadership training seminars in conflict resolution, a theatre project, a solar energy conference, media and journalism programs, and environmental summer camps for youth. These projects have been highly successful and reflect an appreciation for the role that civil society plays, particularly through education and media, in support of the diplomatic process. The participants, ranging from women's groups, sports clubs, and youth activities, are intended to represent this grassroots constituency. However, questions have arisen about the impact of these programs beyond the experiences of the immediate participants.

(4) Issues and Policy Recommendations for the CFDD:

A case study of the CFDD in Israel/Palestine and Jordan reveals a series of challenges necessitating further consideration, in terms of administration, project design, impact, recruitment, and participation. From 1993 to 1996, during the initial period after the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestinians (1993), with the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (1993) and the Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel (1994), many locals were willing to participate in joint projects. However, since 1997, the ebb and flow of the Peace Process has caused public opinion, particularly Palestinian and Jordanian, to retreat. This development presents a serious challenge to the CFDD. The following are a series of reasons given by participants for the limitations on dialogue in Israel/Palestine and Jordan.

- (1) While many of the programs funded by CFDD have been successful, particularly in the area of education, media, journalism and governance, one of the major issues raised by participants of dialogue is that many projects funded by the CFDD have been limited largely to intellectuals, professionals, elites, and people in positions of political power. For example, of the four projects funded by CFDD in Jordan, one was conducted by the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy (an institution established by royal decree with Prince Hassan acting as

⁸ Ms. Manon Dumas, Second Secretary and Vice Consul, Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv, in interview with Jacoby, July 18, 2000, in Jerusalem, in English.