

The Strategic Partnership (SP) "Towards a Worldwide Influencing Network" is a Lobby and Advocacy programme with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme enables global and local influencing work on three thematic areas: 1) Right to Food; 2) Greater Responsibility in Finance for Development; 3) Conflict and Fragility. The ambition of the SP is to achieve policy changes by governments and the private sector to the benefit of groups facing poverty and injustice, and to strengthen civil society's capacity to demand for such change. The SP is implemented over a period of 5 years by an Alliance consisting of Oxfam Novib and SOMO.

#### Project: CFTA - Conflict & Fragility

CFTA - The Culture and Free Thought Association) in Gaza will contribute to targeted outcome of the project: International community holds the PA and Israel accountable and advocates for meaningful inclusion, and protection, of women in gender sensitive peace and security processes. CFTA's contribution will entail building capacity of 40 key local journalists on women's rights including different resolutions of the UN, CEDAW, women's rights in Islam. The skills development will include critical analysis of current reporting on women's issues in mainstream and social media. The findings will be the main guide for improvement of clear and straightforward messaging supporting women's rights but most importantly to create positive perceptions on women's role in society.

#### Actor: Culture and Free Thought Association

The Culture and Free Thought Association is a community-based organization that was established in 1991 by opening Al Shruq Wal Amal Center for children between the ages of 6 to 12. CFTA came as a response to the socio-political situation in 1991 and especially its effect on women and children. The programs initiated at the time aimed at providing secure places for children where they could get social and psychological support as well as enjoy recreational activities. CFTA's program was the first of its kind in the Gaza Strip and still is unique especially with the quality of services provided to the target groups.

CFTA was initiated by 5 women who at the time represented 5 different political parties who are all members of the PLO. In 1991, CFTA was an initiative, even the name was not yet assigned for the association, and it was like a movement that is advocating for better change in the life of children and women.

The work of CFTA grew and expanded every year. By 1995, CFTA was running 4 centres: Shruq Wal Amal Center, Bunat Il Ghad for teenagers, the Women Health Center and the Gaza Women's Loan Fund. The team expanded from 13 staff to 25 employees.

It was in 1996 when CFTA moved from being a community initiative to being an organisation. It was registered with the Ministry of Interior in Gaza and new management, account and administrative system started to build up to become today one of the most professional organizations in Gaza Strip.

Today, in 2010, CFTA runs 8 different programs:

- 2 children centres
- One teenagers/ adolescents centre
- Two women centres
- Youth/ cultural program
- Mentoring program
- And a network for CBOs from the south

CFTA 1991 to 2008

- 1991: Opening of Al Shruq Wal Amal Center
- 1993: Opening of Bunat Il Ghad Center
- 1995: Opening of both the Women's Health Center and Gaza Women's Loan Fund
- 1997: Opening of the Palestinian Cultural Center
- 2000: Start of the Youth program
- 2006: Initiation of the Wessal Network
- 2007: Opening of Al Nawwar Center

Mission: The Culture and Free Thought Association is a Palestinian pioneering institution which always seeks to concentrate on and further the values of civil society through implementing a set of programs and activities aimed at advancing societal awareness in all relevant fields; including the cultural, sociological, recreational, educational, health and economic fields, and, through its activities and projects, to provide vital services to society's children, youth and women. CFTA, in accomplishing its mission, relies on a highly-qualified and creative staff, on its trust in the ability of the society it serves, and on its close relationship with such society.






#### Financial

Total Budget		135,600 EUR	
Past expenditure	Netherlands Dutch SP D&D Lobby&Advocacy	2016-09-01	25,331 EUR
Past expenditure	Netherlands Dutch SP D&D Lobby&Advocacy	2017-06-01	27,183 EUR
Past expenditure	Netherlands Dutch SP D&D Lobby&Advocacy	2017-11-01	2,815 EUR
Past expenditure	Netherlands Dutch SP D&D Lobby&Advocacy	2018-06-01	74,746 EUR
Past expenditure	Netherlands Dutch SP D&D Lobby&Advocacy	2018-07-01	3,020 EUR
		2,505 EUR	

#### Related 8

ID	Projects
A-04861-02	CO-C&F Program Facilitation & Cap Bldg
A-04861-03	BIMKOM - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-04	Gisha - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-05	Yesh Din - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-06	HaMoked - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-07	CFTA - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-08	WCLAC - Conflict & Fragility
A-04861-09	MIFTAH - Conflict & Fragility

#### Project Information

AIM	    
Country	Palestinian Territories
Start date	2016-04-01
End date	2018-12-31
Status	Active
Grant	1000988

#### Images 0

#### Achieved Outcome

- 0 cases of influentials endorsing gender sensitive policy asks of Oxfam/partners towards women inclusive security provision and peace building

#### Realised Output

- 4 campaigns in which Oxfam Novib and partners participated
- 1 alternative policies/approaches presented by Oxfam Novib and partners to duty bearers in and influencers of governments, global governmental actors and the private sector