

Project: Culture and Free Thought association

The Cultural and Free Thought Association (CFTA), aims through this project to raise the voices of women to implement 1325 agenda and for women inclusion in peace and security processes as well as political participation, in addition to raise the voices of youth on issues affecting their lives in Gaza. CFTA will select 60 youth (30 male and 30 female) and raise their knowledge in Woman Peace and Security Agenda, National Action Plan to implement 1325 in Palestine in addition to Gender concepts, this knowledge will be accompanied with capacity building of their skills on radio production, social media and standup comedy, the 60 youth will be selected based on different criteria, and will be divided into three groups based on the above-mentioned skills so 20 youth will be trained on each skill. Afterwards those youth will target 300 men and women from Gaza who are members of the CFTA, to transfer the knowledge and skills they acquired, as well as to have their input on the topic of the campaign that will be conducted at the end of the project.

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 Womens 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.

Project Information

AIM	
Country	Palestinian Territories
Start date	2017-04-01
End date	2018-03-31
Status	Active
Grant	-

Images 0

Financial

Total Budget	35,000 EUR
Past expenditure	Oxfam Novib public funds
	2017-03-01
	35,000 EUR

Achieved Outcome

- 2 men act as #active citizens#: they are organised, participate in decision-making and take collective action for sustainable change in their communities and beyond, up to the global level.
- 10 women act as #active citizens#: they are organised, participate in decision-making and take collective action for sustainable change in their communities and beyond, up to the global level.
- 40 men raise their voice for women to be better protected and included in peace building efforts following Oxfam Novib/partners actions.
- 100 women raise their voice for women to be better protected and included in peace building efforts following Oxfam Novib/partners actions.

Realised Output

2 public events/spaces organised by Oxfam Novib and partners in which citizens express their needs and aspirations to policy makers.

80 men participating in public events / spaces organized by Oxfam Novib and partners

324 women participating in public events / spaces organized by Oxfam Novib and partners

6 media citations of Oxfam and partners research or products

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