

COVID-19 RESPONSE REPORT



When the world changed earlier this year, we at ALLMEP were still on a high, having just watched Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer announce his support for our landmark legislative campaign. But we were already beginning to realize that the emerging pandemic would challenge and transform the lives and work of ALLMEP's 125 member organizations.

The virus shares the exact same theory of change as our members; namely, people-to-people. It instantly inhibited their ability to deliver programs, and its economic effects plunged already fragile organizations into a deep crisis.

Within days, ALLMEP launched a COVID-19 rapid response plan to triage the needs of the field. We convened the two largest member-wide calls in ALLMEP's history. We mapped the challenges facing our community and conducted round-the-clock consultations. We connected our members with experts and resources to help them adapt to this new, rapidly-shifting reality.

We founded four distinct working groups, allowing us to focus both narrowly and deeply on the most pressing field-wide concerns. Founded on the principles of cooperation and collective benefit—and informed by global experts—ALLMEP's working groups have provided best-in-class services, enabling our members to cultivate new skills and build capacities. They have also provided a forum for our members to strategize and organize around the other great threat of the moment: annexation.

Crises bring communities together, and the ALLMEP network is now more united than ever. Every day, we are providing collective resources that strengthen our community's resilience and draw them closer together. Over the last six months, the logic and necessity of a network like ours has become undeniable, and as you will see below: so is the collective impact being achieved as a result.



We know that our community will emerge stronger and fundamentally transformed on the other side of this crisis.



John Lyndon
Executive Director
ALLMEP

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

We convened the largest fieldwide video conferences in our history, focused on practical steps that members could take to reduce costs, deliver programming via online platforms, and maximize organizational efficiency.

WORKING GROUPS

We created four distinct working groups for members focused on programs, visibility, resource development, and operations. Representing over 100 member organizations, these working groups are rooted in a culture of partnership and aimed at building collective capacity.

ONLINE PLATFORMS

We featured global experts. Our members received training on media engagement from a New York Times and Ha'aretz-published journalist; a social media workshop from the team advising the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; a fundraising deep dive from an author on philanthropy; and a monitoring and evaluation review from the team that conducted USAID's latest Israel-Palestine reporting.

GLOBAL EXPERTS

JOINT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

We partnered with our members Combatants for Peace and Parents Circle-Families Forum to support their 15th annual Joint Memorial Ceremony, leveraging our global network on their behalf. While last year's ceremony reached a then all-time high of 30,000 participants, this year's event peaked with over 250,000 global viewers, making it the most well attended joint Israeli-Palestinian peace event in history.

We led the campaign for the release of our members, the Gaza Youth Committee, who are detained by Hamas for the "crime" of holding a Zoom call with Israelis. Our advocacy has resulted in worldwide media coverage—in the New York Times, The Guardian, France 24, and a Human Rights Watch report—and ensured that the issue was raised at the UN Security Council.

GAZA YOUTH COMMITTEE

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

At the outset of the twin crises of the pandemic and annexation, we feared for our members on the ground. But we used our unique perspective and bird's eye view of the field to assess the damage, working to help rescue, repair, and renew their efforts to the greatest extent possible. Through this deep and concentrated work with our members we learned that we will come out of this period—as an organization and a network—stronger than ever.

We initiated dozens of donor consultations, securing commitments from major foundations to sustain their funding commitments into the current year, and successfully petitioned field funders to amend their monitoring and evaluation criteria to take account of the current disruption.

We consulted with more than 80% of our members, guiding them through difficult issues relating to budgets, programs, operations, and long-term structuring.

We spearheaded conversations with key governmental stakeholders in the United States and Europe to ensure essential funding for peacebuilding is sustained, and arranged a roundtable hosted by the United Nations, who then presented our members' vital work to the Security Council.

Though Our Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF) moved its meetings online, its impact was nonetheless also felt on the ground with Zoom workshops delivered by international partners such as the United States Institute of Peace. ALLMEP also led the development of the Ramadan Kareem campaign with three ALF members, resulting in vital foods and medicine being safely provided to at-risk families during Ramadan.

I felt the working groups are helpful on multiple levels. This has been a great networking tool, especially that we are not seeing each other. I am inspired by the general conversation. I hope that by being here I can make the connection between the people here and the right people back in the YMCA.



Dr. Aviva Goller
Development Director,
Jerusalem YMCA

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Thanks to ALLMEP's advocacy, the House has passed the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA), which is poised to inject at least \$250 million into the region over five years to support economic and people-to-people partnerships, representing the single biggest investment in our field in the conflict's history.

In addition to MEPPA, ALLMEP has submitted our Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations request to Capitol Hill, urging Congress to appropriate at least \$15 million towards USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation dedicated to the work of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders. We submitted Congressional testimony reinforcing this request in early June, while also working with key European governments to increase their funding for the field.

With the threat of annexation of the West Bank, diplomacy stalled, and attitudes hardening, there has perhaps never been a greater need for a well-resourced and highly-networked peacebuilding field. With your support, that is precisely what we are building. Thank you.

Our community has faced a number of challenges, but none of them is as intense as this time. This is the time for us to show resiliency and creativity. Our responsibility is to hold our communities together while navigating this uncertainty. This is the time to show our partnership in its best form, to work together as a unified front against discrimination, inequality, and dehumanization. This is the time for us to lead the way out of this darkness.

Thank you for your support. Your investment is essential to our work supporting peacebuilders in Palestine and Israel.



Huda Abuarquob
Regional Director,
ALLMEP



DONATE