Alliance for Middle East Peace

2021 Annual Report
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Letter from the Executive Team

Dear Friends,

For those of us who care deeply about Israeli-Palestinian peace, this year has felt different than most others in recent memory. The increase in U.S. assistance for Palestinians and the formation of a new government in Israel signaled the possibility of change and renewal. Yet the devastating war in May and the unprecedented inter-ethnic violence demonstrated just how urgent and necessary change now is.

For us at ALLMEP, this period also saw the most significant milestone in our history, and what we believe can be a catalyst for such change. After twelve years of ALLMEP campaigning, the $250m Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) passed into law, resulting in the largest ever investment in the work of Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilders.

Amid the racism and violence on display in May, there were also glimmers of a different reality: Palestinians and Israelis defending each other and their property, cleaning up vandalized mosques and synagogues, and holding demonstrations for peace and equality.

What if those efforts were scaled to 10, 20, or 100 times their current size? What might be different? MEPPA now offers us a chance to answer that question, devoting resources at a scale that approaches the depth of the crisis we saw unfold this summer. Yet there’s more: we are still working to expand MEPPA even further into a fully international strategy. The United Kingdom has announced its support for this International Fund project—with support from every party in Parliament—and we have seen continued progress in the European Union, Canada, Gulf States, and beyond.

This year, ALLMEP launched a suite of new programs in the region, ensuring that the resources our advocacy has unlocked can have the greatest possible impact. From our Alumni Leadership Forum that harnesses the power of the tens of thousands of people who have passed through peacebuilding programs, to Mid East Storytellers that amplifies their impact using sophisticated media content, or ScaleHub, which raises the capacity and cooperation of the field; we have never been doing more to support our growing community.

With the 150th member added this year to what is now both the largest and the fastest-growing network of peacebuilders, there is momentum and strength, as well as closer cooperation than ever before. Our expanded members services package not only ensures that the field is being equipped with best-in-class tools and insights, but that it is all predicated on a culture of partnership and collaboration.

With a dual strategy that has delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in governmental support to peacebuilders, and a sophisticated suite of programs that ensures that every dollar invested delivers the greatest possible return on investment: we believe this past year has been a pivotal one. We go into the year ahead with a conviction that we can build something better than what’s gone before, and that peace and equality—and our ALLMEP community—can be at the very core of this transformational change.

Sincerely,

John Lyndon, Huda Abuarquob, and Kari Reid
The ALLMEP Executive Team
About ALLMEP

The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) is the region’s largest and fastest-growing network of peacebuilding organizations. We envision a Middle East in which our community of Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilders lead their societies toward and beyond a sustainable peace.

With a coalition of approximately 150 organizations—and tens of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians—we foster cooperation that increases impact, add stability in times of crisis, and build an environment conducive to peace over the long term.

We secure and scale funding to expand trust-building interactions between Israelis and Palestinians. Our advocacy has created and sustained the USAID Conflict Management and Mitigation grants program, which has distributed over $130m to Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations, and the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act, which dedicates $250m over 5 years to the peacebuilding and economic development projects. Further, our advocacy has secured $3m in funding from both the UK and Canadian governments.

We provide capacity building, support, and visibility to amplify the voices and impact of our member organizations in the region. ALLMEP’s team supports our member organizations with a variety of programs and resources designed to scale their aggregated impact. The goal is to progress from transforming the fates of individual Palestinians and Israelis towards impacting entire communities and institutions. We connect individuals and groups to create a critical mass that live and act in support of peace.
Our Theory of Change

Why did peace succeed in Northern Ireland but collapse between Israelis and Palestinians? Both were considered deep, “intractable” conflicts over territory and national identity. Both saw intensive diplomatic negotiations in the 1990s. They even had some of the same negotiators. Yet, the peace process in Northern Ireland had one thing the Middle East has never had, something which the U.K.’s chief negotiator called “the great unsung hero of the peace process:” The International Fund for Ireland (IFI).

How and why did it work? Scale and leverage were certainly big factors. Combining funds from multiple donors, including the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union, enabled the IFI to deliver and unlock over $2.4 billion in total peacebuilding investments on the ground. But the structure was equally important. By concentrating funds and efforts through a single international institution, the IFI and the programs it supported gained vastly greater leverage, credibility, efficiency, expertise, sustainability, and impact as they strategically built a long-term infrastructure of peace.

As U.S. policymakers consider how best to implement Congress’ recent major commitment in MEPPA of $250 million for Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding, the lessons learned from the IFI experience are critical. This is especially true as partners in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia express interest in joining the effort.

Inspiration from a Conflict Solved: How an International Fund Helped Make Peace in Northern Ireland

The Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland “didn’t begin or come to fruition in a vacuum. There were many great things that happened before we even got to the negotiations that set the context, laid the ground, created the environments for the negotiation to succeed. One of those things was the International Fund for Ireland . . . The Fund for Middle East Peace can provide exactly the same source of stability for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as it did for the Northern Ireland peace process.”

-Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, co-signatory to the Good Friday Agreement
Background of the International Fund

In many ways, the two seemingly “intractable” conflicts in Northern Ireland and the Middle East appeared to play out in parallel on TV screens around the world. But even as U.S.-backed diplomatic efforts to end both these long-running conflicts intensified in the 1990s, only one was resolved. Different inputs yielded different outputs.

In the Middle East, diplomats negotiated the Oslo Accords in secret. Peace seemed to appear out of nowhere. Overnight, the Israeli and Palestinian publics were asked to accept sworn enemies as trusted partners worthy of historic national compromises. Without a solid foundation, peace crumbled easily in the face of opposition by violent extremists. Without resolving the core issues of trust and public support, even the most determined negotiators have not succeeded in rebuilding it.

In stark contrast to Oslo’s secrecy, the IFI catalyzed, supported, and grew an entire field of visible, locally-led efforts that helped change the public conversation. U.K. Chief Negotiator Jonathan Powell called the IFI “the great unsung hero of the peace process.” Former U.S. Consul-General Dean Pittman said, “It’s a rare opportunity for a diplomat to have a resource like the IFI . . . with a substantial amount of money to focus on projects and to move the overall agenda towards stability, a shared future, and reaching a political settlement.”

In 2009, this successful precedent inspired ALL-MEP to begin advocating for the creation of a similar International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. After a decade of legislative attempts, in 2020 Congress passed the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership Fund for Peace Act (MEPPA) to create a dramatic new investment in Israeli-Palestinian shared prosperity and peace. It creates an initial five-year, $250 million U.S. investment and calls for international partners and leverage.
Our Members

Organized in 2004, with a small group of 12 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), our coalition functions as a mechanism for building constiuencies for peace. ALLMEP works to connect member organizations, promote and support their work, and help scale their programming and optimize their impact.

Since inception, ALLMEP has grown membership to over 150 people-to-people organizations whose thematic focuses and activities range from youth in sports, to the environment, to economic development, to much more. This past year, ALLMEP marked its largest growth in membership in history, adding 28 new member organizations. This year also saw our largest growth in Palestinian participation within our membership.

As our membership has grown, so too has our internal capacities and our ability to better serve our membership and help scale the field of practice. Our members enjoy a robust suite of benefits through our membership program, including a variety of essential services and opportunities for learning, collaboration, and collective action. With offices in both Israel and Palestine, our team builds powerful partnerships to elevate Israeli/Palestinian civil society and advance their work toward a more just and equal society within Israel, and for peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

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<td>Regular all-member video calls</td>
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<td>Working Groups on communications, development, programs, and operations</td>
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<td>Annual peacebuilding conference in Jerusalem</td>
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<td>Support for alumni of people-to-people programs via our Alumni Leadership Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance on government funding opportunities</td>
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<td>ScaleHub capacity building trainings</td>
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<td>Forum for practitioners of capacity building</td>
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<td>Mid East Storytellers, a digital storytelling training and competition</td>
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<td>Workshops on innovation and media training</td>
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Our essential purpose is to raise the profile of our member organizations and increase resources available to support them, by promoting these activities to the general public, prospective funders and foundations, and government leaders. Further, we institute programming to strengthen their capacities and support their work.

If you are interested in becoming a member or learning more about membership, check our website at www.allmep.org or email our Director of Membership Operations, Doubi Schwartz at doubi@allmep.org.
Our Programs

In support of our members, ALLMEP implements a suite of programs that aim to build the capacities of our members, strengthen the field of practice, and sustain the longevity of their peacebuilding impact. Among them are Mid East Storytellers, Scalehub, Alumni Leadership Forum, and Media Trainings.

**Mid East Storytellers**

Many in the ALLMEP community struggle to tell their stories, and to challenge and resist—together, as equals and allies—the reality of continued violence and enmity. **Mid East Storytellers was created, alongside partners B8 of Hope and Pendulum, on the premise that the stories of our community’s young leaders can be a powerful medium for amplifying their work and our values.** The goal is to progress from transforming the fates of individuals towards impacting entire communities and institutions, as well as the politics that flow from them. Created in summer 2020, Mid East Storytellers is a four-part digital story-telling workshop to help participants create and leverage action-provoking digital content.

Paired with experienced industry mentors, participants amplify and further peace work in their communities through skill-building in digital communications, leadership, advocacy, and grassroots organizing. At the end of the program, participants’ completed projects are evaluated by an expert committee based on three main categories:

1. **Social Media Influence**
2. **Community Engagement**
3. **Social Impact**

The top-three leading initiatives receive grants of **$1,000 each** to scale their projects and increase the visibility of their social causes.
ScaleHub

ALLMEP unites, supports, and scales up peacebuilding NGOs to ready them for the multi-million-dollar grants that our advocacy efforts have secured via the Lowey Fund—a $250m roll-out of funds by USAID for peacebuilding and economic development projects in Israel-Palestine. In a larger sense, ScaleHub was founded to help organizations work more effectively and strategically with one another, strengthening a cooperative field-wide culture and ensuring that every dollar invested in the region by funders like USAID goes that much further.

The program has multiple components: member trainings, individual consultancies, and a capacity building practitioners’ forum. ScaleHub’s first training cohort comprises ALLMEP’s Palestinian members in the cross-border space, who have been severely affected by broken diplomacy, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a dearth of private investment. Further cohorts will include shared society and Israeli members.

Based on an initial needs assessment, ALLMEP has identified several areas of focus that fit with the field of practice and their vision for the future of civil society in Israel and Palestine. These include:

- **Trainings & Consultancies**
  A critical mass of peacebuilding organizations will hone their theories of change, governance models, leadership, monitoring and evaluation systems, and budgetary processes to secure the anticipated government funding and use the grants effectively.
  Beyond these hard capacities, Scale-Hub strengthens the identity, visibility, and legitimacy of each participating organization.

- **Peace Organizations Capacity Building Forum**
  These NGOs often have deep reach, local influence, and huge potential for success, but have been left under-resourced by circumstances beyond their control.
  The POCB Forum meets regularly to share and develop best practices, resources, and insights to maximize training resources in the field, avoid duplication, and improve synergies.

Based on an initial needs assessment, ALLMEP has identified several areas of focus that fit with the field of practice and their vision for the future of civil society in Israel and Palestine. These include:

- **Increase opportunities for collaboration within the Palestinian Peacebuilding Community**
- **Create space for grassroots organizations to lead the field of practice**
- **Empower the shrinking cross-border space and support new cross-border initiatives in the field**
- **Support enhanced planning, monitoring, and evaluation for programs**
Alumni Leadership Forum

The Alumni Leadership Forum (ALF) brings together alumni coordinators from a cross-section of ALLMEP member organizations each month to learn from each other’s best practices, maximize resources, and conduct joint activities to advance and professionalize the sphere of alumni engagement. The goal is to leverage the power and diversity of the thousands of graduates of Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilding programs by forging a community of next-generation leaders who can play a central role in shaping a more peaceful future in their respective communities.

ALF’s First Year - Participants’ Perspectives

When ALF’s inaugural year came to a close in May 2020, participants expressed that they found the program beneficial to “learn from other models of alumni programs;” “brainstorm alumni programs and workshops;” and “ask challenging questions and see where we can do better.”

Additionally, 85% of survey respondents indicated that they have reached out to other participants to partner on new projects, coordinate visits for their program alumni, or participate as guest speakers for each others’ respective communities.

Just one year later, seven organizations who had participated in the ALF program planned a joint virtual conference for their program alumni.

Over the past decades, Israeli and Palestinian peace NGOs have produced tens of thousands of program alumni who have been transformed by the experience of engaging with “the Other.” Yet too often, organizations are understandably preoccupied with the ongoing work of recruiting and training new participants rather than ensuring that those who have already graduated are leveraging their experience towards social and political impact.

Rooted in ALLMEP’s theory of change is an understanding that Israelis and Palestinians who have passed through our members’ programs form a privileged constituency who together can establish the foundations for lasting peace in the region.
Media Training

A core pillar of ALLMEP’s membership program is supporting and amplifying the work of our members. In service of this aim, ALLMEP offers quarterly media trainings for the communications and marketing staff of our member organizations. The trainings seek to enhance the strategic and technical skills of our members, so they can more effectively showcase their work to prospective donors, policy makers, and other key stakeholders.

In 2021, ALLMEP hosted media trainings on Video Production, Social Media Strategy, and Content Creation. ALLMEP has plans to host future modules on Paid Social Media, Earned Media, and Best Practices in Media Outreach.

Members’ Content Hub

As ALLMEP members continue to publish their research, theory of change, and updates about their work, ALLMEP has recently created a Members’ Content Hub. The Hub functions as a digital bulletin board, with monthly features written by our members about their work. Providing unique insights into their work and the impact they are having on the local community, ALLMEP hopes to showcase the diverse peacebuilding approaches within our membership, the deep impact that these organizations are having at the grassroots level, and the vast potential that lies within this community if scaled and properly resourced.
Groundwork Podcast: The Mixed Cities Edition

As war broke out between Israel and Gaza this past May fueled by clashes in Jerusalem, some of the worst inter-ethnic fighting in Israel’s history erupted between its own citizens. The violence showed that even in mixed cities, where people often talk of coexistence, there are strong ethnic divides.

ALLMEP, alongside the New Israel Fund, put together a podcast mini-series where we spoke with activists who work in these mixed cities to find out what it’s actually like on the ground, what are the underlying tensions, and what needs to happen to bring change. Available wherever you listen to your podcasts.

Episodes:

In this first of a three-part series on mixed cities, we talk to two Jerusalem activists, Nivine Sandouka, an expert in the field of program development, peacebuilding, and gender, and Suf Patishi, a lawyer and activist with Standing Together, to better understand what happened in Jerusalem during the recent surge of violence, their work bringing activists together in the city, and what needs to happen next.

As war broke out in Gaza, Lod became the epicenter of the worst inter-ethnic fighting between Israel’s own citizens since 1948. There were shootings, neighbors attacking one another, lynchings, cars and homes burned. Two men were killed, one Jewish, the other a Palestinian citizen of Israel. Listen in for a conversation with Rula Daood of Standing Together and Dror Rubin, a community organizer. Both see the violence as a wake-up call to change Lod.

In Haifa, many stood up to protest the inter-ethnic violence. Among them were longtime Haifa residents and activists, Jafar Farah and Merav Ben-Nun. Jafar is a civil rights campaigner who founded and directs Mossawa, a Haifa-based organization that promotes equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel. Merav is an expert in peace education and a founder of the bi-lingual Arabic and Hebrew Hand-in-Hand School in Haifa and a longtime civil rights activist in the city.

Hosted by Dina Kraft, a Jewish Israeli journalist, and Sally Abed, a Palestinian activist in Israel, the podcast covers a variety of sensitive topics related to the ongoing conflict. ALLMEP and New Israel Fund are currently exploring opportunities for continued podcast episodes, in the hopes of shedding further light on the realities on the ground, the lived experiences of Jews and Palestinians, and their shared vision for the future.
Our Advocacy

As the largest and fastest growing network of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders, one of ALLMEP’s most important priorities—and its founding mission—is to educate governments and policymakers around the world about the people-to-people sector and work with them to create funding streams that can radically scale their work in Palestine and Israel. In tandem, we conduct research and convene forums that heighten the effectiveness of this work, incentivizing innovation and a spirit of collaboration within civil society.

Successive studies have shown that people-to-people peacebuilding programs are highly effective in halting and reversing attitudes that fuel sectarian conflict and in building the trust, relationships, and civic capacity that makes peace possible. Yet the international community has never funded these important programs at the level that this game-changing potential demands. By conveying the impact and transformative potential of our community to decision makers around the world, we help to ensure that peacebuilding work has the resources necessary to reach its potential.

ALLMEP is channeling the resources necessary to create transformative change in Israel and Palestine.

- ALLMEP has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in government funding for Palestinian and Israeli peacebuilders
- ALLMEP has convened groups of private funders to coordinate and hone their support, and has encouraged new funders to move into the Israeli/Palestinian peacebuilding space.
- ALLMEP has organized forums for the Israeli and Palestinian private sectors to explore how their investments can incentivize peace through key partnerships.

To date, ALLMEP’s advocacy has unlocked:

- $250 million via The Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (the Lowey Fund), representing the largest-ever investment in peacebuilding;
- $130 million from USAID/CMM’s People-to-People Reconciliation Fund;
- £3 million from the United Kingdom’s People For Peaceful Change Fund; and
- $3 million from the Government of Canada for people-to-people programming.

“(The Lowey Fund) marries the DFC and USAID to do exactly what needs to be done, which is not only people-to-people growth but more importantly trying to use these moneys to improve Palestinian and Israeli relationships.”

US Ambassador to Israel, Thomas R. Nides
Senate Committee Nomination Hearing 9/22/2021
The International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Our flagship campaign is for an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, envisioned as a $200 million annual fund dedicated to creating the civic foundations upon which a lasting peace can be built. Based on the International Fund for Ireland, the Fund would provide unprecedented scale and institutionalization to the peacebuilding field. ALLMEP has briefed over three dozen countries around the world on the concept to build momentum for this transformational approach. Already, ALLMEP’s campaign has directly resulted in the U.S. government investing $250 million via the Lowey Fund, the U.K. government endorsing the International Fund concept, and several U.S. allies approaching the Biden administration to discuss the idea.

ALLMEP connects NGOs to decision makers. Since its inception, ALLMEP has coordinated more than 600 meetings with Congress, the White House, Israeli and Palestinian leaders, prime ministers, foreign ministers, the State Department, USAID, European and Arab governments, and the media, framing the work of our community not as “nice” but as necessary.

ALLMEP is catalyzing our members’ alumni programs, opening pathways for the next generation of leaders. We are working to ensure that the tens of thousands of alumni produced via peacebuilding programs funded through our advocacy are effective agents for peace.

ALLMEP is the leading entity in research, evaluation, and thought leadership within the peacebuilding field, ensuring that rigor and an evidence-based approach informs all programming.

- ALLMEP has collaborated with top universities and academics, including teams at Notre Dame University and George Washington University to measure the impact and innovation within the peacebuilding field, communicating the results to policymakers.

- ALLMEP commissioned an innovative youth survey to analyze the attitudes and opportunities for engagement with Israelis and Palestinians between the ages of 15-21, in partnership with Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Dr. Khalil Shikaki, and the United States Institute of Peace.

- ALLMEP conducted the first-ever needs assessment on alumni engagement, ensuring the field improves how it retains and utilizes the Palestinians and Israelis who have participated in its programming.

- ALLMEP has convened and partnered on conferences with practitioners, policymakers, academics, and opinion leaders. These forums help ensure that peacebuilding is a top-table issue—whether in Washington, Brussels, London, Tel Aviv, or Jerusalem—and that its transformative potential is understood by those crafting policy around the world.
ALLMEP is composed of a small but dedicated team of peacebuilding, advocacy, and communications professionals. With staff in Israel, Palestine, France, and the United States, the team works around the clock to support our members and increase the visibility of peacebuilding work in the region.
ALLMEP Financials

The Alliance for Middle East Peace is generously supported by a diverse array of donors, including individuals, foundations, legal services, gifts in kind, and a modest amount of staff support from government funders.

ALLMEP operates as a non-partisan, 501c3 entity with contributions from across the political spectrum. Our donor base and board are proudly made up of Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis, and international stakeholders, with diverse gender and age representation.

“Supporting ALLMEP leverages my philanthropic dollars exponentially. With its unique bird’s eye view of the regional peace building field, they help more than 150 member organizations manage everything from day to day planning and overcoming local obstacles and challenges to creating innovative collaborations to growing the scale, influence and impact of the members’ work.

Add to that the successful strategic advocacy the ALLMEP team leads in the US Congress and among foreign governments worldwide to unlock significant financial resources to invest in our members’ vital work and you can see how they’ve captured lightening in a bottle. The ALLMEP model is a winning strategy regardless of which political parties control the purse strings.”

- Joanna Goodwin, ALLMEP Board Member

Thank You!

All the activities highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors and community partners. Their generous support has helped us expand exponentially over the years and support the peacebuilding field in incredible ways.

Thank you for joining us at the forefront of a more just, peaceful reality for Palestinians and Israelis.

Donate

Visit us at www.allmep.org or email giving@allmep.org to make a gift, become a monthly donor, or honor someone with a gift for a celebration or commemoration.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact us for information about planned giving, to ensure that your gift will build a brighter future for Palestinians and Israelis. Reach out via email to info@allmep.org.