



# Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

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## POLICY MEMORANDUM: *Sustainable Trust Through Education Program (STTEP)*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Sustainable Trust Through Education Program (STTEP)* proposes a track two, three-year pilot project aimed at building both intergroup trust and environmental leadership capacity in Arab and Jewish youth in order to reduce intergroup tensions, refocus dialogue on shared concerns, and equip future leaders with the environmental and political knowledge to contribute constructively to their societies. This project will consist of an intensive series of workshops and trainings designed to address identity, the environment, social justice, and public policy for high school youth. This initiative will also offer preparation and support for applications to other higher-education level programs such as MEET (Middle East Education through Technology) and Water Sector Capacity Building in Palestine through UNESCO-IHE, Institute for Water Education.

### RATIONALE FOR STTEP

In protracted conflict battlefield deaths and immediate suffering are not the only consequences; there are also devastating opportunity costs. With energy and resources focused on being adversarial, there are key sectors of society that could benefit from cooperation that are neglected. The environment, in particular, tends to suffer as it falls lower and lower down the priority list and is continually degraded by acts of vandalism on olive groves or by using water as a political weapon, for example. It should be Canadian policy to help refocus the considerable energy that may be spent on entrenching negative relationships into a positive and constructive experience of working together to explore identity, environmentalism, and policy. This exploration, as well as the study and creation of tangible solutions will help youth realize their potential as activists, team players, and problem-solvers *together*. This will simultaneously increase the cross-cultural empathy, professional development and practical skills, which will help provide a peaceful and prosperous future for future Israeli and Palestinian states.

### THE DETAILS

This project will engage three groups of approximately eighty youth that either have a particular vested interest in the environment (first hand knowledge of agriculture, experience in a potable water deprived area, etc.) or have shown interest and aptitude in areas related to the environment and public policy. Another group will serve as a control and be surveyed before and after the project's conclusion about their attitudes of tolerance, constructive community engagement, environmental knowledge, and academic indicators. In total 240 youth will follow the program for the last three years of high school education. Particular attention will be paid to promoting the attendance of girls in the program, in order to help redress issues of gender inequality and female underrepresentation in positions of leadership and politics.

### INITIATIVE TIMELINE

0-3 Months	3-6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	-PROGRAM EVALUATION  -TRANSFER TO JOINT ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN CONTROL
-Stakeholder Identification and Consultation. -Expert recruitment. -Test and Control Group Selection	-Training Curriculum Drafted -Workshop curriculum drafted -Venue selection -Selection process begins	-Round one workshops commence with a focus on identity and environmental issues	-Round two workshops commence with a focus on environmental, social justice, and public policy issues	-Round three workshops commences with a focus on skills training, career counselling, and planning for the future	

### ENVIRONMENT

No significant environmental costs foreseen as project will not require construction of new facilities. Significant gains in knowledge of environmental issues and skills needed in order to redress them are anticipated in the intervention group.



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### GENDER EQUALITY

The promotion of education, capacity-building, and skill training in women is a priority of the Canadian government. Through this initiative the intent is to give equal access to all genders to stepping stones relevant to their success in academia, the environmental sectors, technology sector, or public policy and governance. Educators, trainers, and facilitators will also seek to promote gender equality and provide positive role models to youth of all genders.

### GOVERNANCE

Israeli and Palestinian local authorities will be consulted in the operationalization of the project. Unofficial observers to monitor the workshops and learn best-practices. DFATD personnel and Canadian diplomats will make official representations on behalf of this project to their appropriate counterparts on the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

### SUSTAINABILITY OF RESULTS

At the end of the project if there is no prospect of continued funding, relevant Israeli and Palestinian local educators will be encouraged to cooperatively continue the workshops under Canadian guidance. The final project evaluation report will consider the project's ultimate result in transforming intergroup relations and increasing personal capacity among the test groups and consider the project's applicability to other international contexts.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PROJECTED TOTAL COST: \$20,000,000.00 (CND)

<b>Human Resources</b> (Selection and compensation of training and workshop personnel, identifying and compensating participants)	\$10,000,000.00 (CND)
<b>Venue Rental</b> (Costs associated with finding and renting a venue for the workshops and training)	\$7,000,000.00 (CND)
<b>Program Implementation and Evaluation</b> (Costs associated with the hiring of researchers and the allocation of DFATD personnel to research, organize, execute and evaluate the program.)	\$3,000,000.00 (CDN)

### ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY RELEVANT TO THE INITIATIVE

Canada has been extensively involved in development projects in the Palestinian Territories; whether through its involvement in OPERATION PROTEUS (a training programme under overall American command to professionalize Palestinians security forces) or as a result of its ongoing development contributions to the Palestinian security, judicial, economic, health and education sectors, DFATD, the Department of Defence, and the Department of justice all have personnel on the ground and with local governmental and non-governmental contacts. Canada's special diplomatic relationship with Israel, and its increasing ties with the Palestinian authority, means that it has the leverage, manpower, and resources to operationalize this pilot project.