

Partner Identification

1.Introduction

DUFs international project pools		
Which project pool are you applying?	MENA Pool	X
	The Project Pool	

Project Information	
Project title	Initiative for improvements in health and quality of life in Palestine
Applying DUF member organization(s)	IMCC (Internatinal Medical Cooperation Committee)
Potential partner organization(s)	Witness Center for citizen rights and community development Ibrahim Al Khalil association IFMSA Palestine
Country	The Palestinian Territories
Project Period	18-24 november
Amount applied for (max DKK 40.000)	17.266

1.1 Summary of the Partner Identification

The Palestinian organisations 'Witness Center of Citizen Rights' (WCCR) in Nablus and 'Ibrahim Al-Khalil association' (IAKA) in Hebron sought out international cooperation with IMCC Palestine to initiate and carry out youth projects. Initiative and motivation prosper despite of challenging, even obstructing circumstances, and that is a very big inspiration to IMCC Palestine. Our organisations share values and goals and we believe that many synergies could arise from partnerships. Also, a former IMCC project partner, the medical student organisation IFMSA Nablus is of possible interest.

We quickly saw eye-to-eye with WCCR and IAKA and our hope is to confirm us as a good fit and establish official partnerships. Personal relations are very important in Palestine and a Partner Identification gives our delegates and partner-organisations a unique opportunity for getting to know each other. We would like to support and urge democratic guided initiatives that generate strong encouragement for permanent change led by youth in local communities. Intentionally we have not decided on a specific area of health. Through dialogues, workshops and visits to local partners and health-care centres we wish to see how they intend to- and already carry out projects and activities.

The dream scenario is to establish a health-related project(s) relevant for the local community whit focus on project sustainability, capacity building and education.

2. Background

2.1 Background for the Partner Identification

With interest in the lives of young Palestinians, IMCC Palestines vision is to strengthen the initiative for change in the civil society through sustainable involvement in the local community and bilateral partnerships. The former initiative, Danpal (IMCC), did not suffice with general

goals for sustainable projects and bilateral responsible partnership and therefor shut down in 2014. This project is not a continuation.

IMCC Palestine is in contact with three Palestinian volunteer-based organisations trying to promote mental or/and physical health of the Palestinian population/youth. The Palestinian NGO 'Witness Center for Citizen Rights and Community Development' (WCCR) contacted IMCC Palestine following a DUF Partner seminar. It became the start of an afterwards continuous correspondence through skype meetings and e-mails. Two of our members have visited Palestine within the last year. During these visits they met informally with representatives from the organisation. A line of communication is established, but future benefits will come from knowing their organisational capacity and experience.

During the last visit contact was also established to the volunteer organisation 'Ibrahim Al Khalil association', with the intention to explore the possibility of a partnership and potential cooperation between partner organisations.

The correspondence with IFMSA Palestine have continued (the former partner from the Danpal project) through mails and international IFMSA meetings.

2.2 Vision and work of the Danish member organization

IMCC is a volunteer based student organisation, that has the vision of a *"just world where no one suffers from lack of health services and all are mentally, socially and physically healthy."* The members of IMCC perform health-promoting work in Denmark and abroad, currently in 30 different local, national and international projects. It is open for anyone interested in health, who wants to contribute in one of our 3 main focus areas; 'Development work', 'Education', or 'Exchange- and clinical stays abroad'.

IMCC Palestine will be the only project based in the middle-eastern and arabic regions hereby expanding the IMCC horizon to include Middle-Eastern projects. We intend to work with organisational development of our partner and health improvements in local communities. Defined as a group within 'Development work' the project aims to make a difference in concordance with the general vision of IMCC. A partnership between organisations can improve the way both organisations carry out projects, especially with regards to cross-cultural experiences and long distance cooperation. IMCC Palestine can share former experience, offer financial support and professional assistance when engaging in a partnership.

2.3 The capacity of the Danish member organization

IMCC is a member of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), and have extensive experience and capacity in planning, conducting and monitoring partnership projects. IMCC has carried out international projects through decades, four of these currently financed by DUF, including fx IMCC DanZania and IMCC Rwanda. The project will benefit from having a professional secretariat led by a volunteer and democratically elected board. One board-member is specifically affiliated IMCC Palestine and offers guidance and support. The 'Developmental work'-groups have a close internal network and two annual facilitated meetings, through which we discuss and share challenges and success-stories and we can rely upon this network.

General knowledge from working- and communicating with people from the Middle-east is present within the group. The co-initiators of the project Cecilie Stagstrup (working with middle-eastern refugee minors in Denmark) and Janne Johansen (linguistic officer) are the main responsible. Both are skilled in organising trainings for and in cooperation with international medicine students, building capacity of young people in Denmark and are certified trainers in leadership. Both have further attended trainings and courses organized by both CISU and DUF, (*Project management, courses in international project leadership, innovative partnership projects, civil society in fragile situations*). Further responsible is Jesper Kayser (experience from cross cultural cooperation).

The IMCC national board have the overall responsibility for the actions of this project and we will sign a code of conduct document before leaving for partner identification

2.3 Follow up on the Partner Identification in the Danish Member organization

Cecilie Stagstrup and a less experienced member (chosen from applications) will be the two members responsible for the partner identification and have the main responsibility for conducting a report evaluating further cooperation and perhaps initiation of a preparatory study or pilot project. IMCC Palestine would already in Palestine like to initiate the idea of working on a pilot project while in Palestine on partner ID, if partners are compatible. Future tasks will be delegated within the group depending on the outcome of the trip. Currently there are four active members, depending on the size of the action plan we will include more people, with many already showing interest.

The potential Partner Organization(s)

All three organisations WCCR, Ibrahim al Khalil association (IAKA) and IFMSA Palestine are democratic, non-profit and NGO organisations who aim to improve injustice based on the citizens' rights without any discrimination. Since these organisations in each their way are involved in improving health, the partner ID will be a platform for exploring if it is in line with the IMCC visions and furthermore supporting a sometimes struggling volunteer culture. Each partner serve as different platforms for local interaction.

The WCCR is the organisation we have had most contact with. It is primarily functioning due to volunteer work, but have also had an unspecified paid staff, in which we need to identify the structure- and areas of work. Approximately 150 young volunteers is active in WCCR from universities and cities across the West bank. They have a partnership with Hayat Center for Civil society development and with Palestinian Working Women Society and networking with other NGOs is highly prioritised. One of WCCR's objectives is to create a youth leadership within education and health, willing and effective enough to improve the socioeconomic situations of the marginalized. We wish to examine if we can contribute to this process and cooperation possibilities between partners. A German organisation have already established collaboration with WCCR initiating local education on socioeconomic rights through law-, media, and urban planning through students. This partner ID should therefor also give more insight to the structures and work-methods of the organisations. Responsibility for further correspondence and implementation of future projects will be co-decided during the partner ID. They organise seminars and awareness campaigns raising basic knowledge of rights and the effects of development projects in local communities. Through public opinion and social media they put marginalized groups such as women, children, young people and workers in the Palestinian community on the public agenda. They have a large group of volunteer medicine students and young doctors but struggle with lack of funding and organisational capacity to engage these in projects. As might become evident from this description, WCCR is the organisation whit whom we have closest relation and expect the most from.

IAKA work mainly to give local marginalized groups in Hebron a sense of meaning in a distressed everyday-life through fx basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (cpr) and non-violent communication for youth. The communication with IAKA is new, we further need to identify the structure of the organisation, how they work and if we could play a role in evolving the projects.

The two organisations are both extremely motivated to encourage and create change in their local community through engaging young Palestinians. Being relatively inexperienced they see the possible benefits from forming partnerships with the experienced IMCC.

IFMSA Palestine is a volunteer student organisation with local based projects aiming at increasing health capacity among youth and children. Projects range from Teddy Bear hospital to hygiene awareness in refugee camps. IFMSA Palestine have more experience with

international projects, such as summer camps in refugee camps arranged by danish students. So far the focus on sustainability and capacity building on their behalf have been minimal. IMCC Palestine wish to see if there is any interest in conducting projects focused on creating a long-term goal of capacity building and empowerment instead of relying on foreign students to do temporary projects with little visible effect for the local community.

As stated during sections above we generally wish to:

- Look into possibilities for cooperation between partners
- Explore relevant structures of organisations
- Methods of project development and project management (volunteer culture)
- Concrete possibilities for projects fx non communicable diseases (e.g. NCDs: diabetes, hypertension)
- Cooperation with health-care centres

3. Project description

Context analysis

The ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict is perhaps the most well known and most discussed conflict of our time. Despite a long-term peace process the violence and the violation of human rights are still making a major influence on the daily lives of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and in Gaza.

Within areas, including freedom of movement, poverty, women's rights, gender equality, education and health, the Palestinians are experiencing major difficulties. The political break-up of the territories is complicating the situation even further. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority are continuously being criticized by the Human Rights Watch, and the Human Rights situation causes the Palestinians to be struggling with much more than just an occupation.

Regarding the health arena:

Being part of the IMCC we will be working within the health arena composed of both private and public health-care providers with international NGO's and charities filling in the gaps. The occupation has resulted in a split health authority, which, along with decades of severe aid dependency and absence of a clear developmental direction has made it difficult to provide quality health care. As in many other developing countries the problems of NCDs are rising, highly because of lack of knowledge about proper food. This is especially visible in a lot of young people getting diabetes.

Our focus will be on improving health in the Palestinian youth. We believe that to achieve the goal of better health care, we, as a Danish student organisation should focus on the development of our partner, and not directly in carrying out the health services ourselves.

Regarding volunteer culture:

Our potential partners are part of a small, but growing volunteer culture in Palestine. Amongst the international volunteers the local volunteer culture is struggling, mainly for three reasons - social, economic and lack of awareness. Due to the lack of knowledge of the benefits and the importance of voluntary work the Palestinian youth have little motivation in participating themselves. Many will not consider volunteering because the unemployment rates are high, and volunteering has no financial incentive. We wish to increase our partners capacity in both recruitment and ways of keeping volunteers engaged in projects. From a foundation of health-care projects, local communities will benefit directly in improved health. Indirectly they benefit from youth involved in and expanding non-violent horizons in the fight equal rights.

Regarding the political culture:

The Palestinian government is split into two separate administrations; the Fatah-dominated government, ruling the West Bank, and the Hamas-government ruling the Gaza Strip.

In all arenas the political system is having democratic difficulties. Wasta (favouritism) and nepotism constitute the most common manifestations of corruption, and this is something other Danish organisations have encountered when working in Palestine. Progress is although seen reflected in corruption and governance indicators. Relatively few Palestinians experience petty bribery when dealing with public officials, still domestic surveys show that perceptions of corruption remain high.

Part of our aim will be to make agreements that continue to support and urge initiatives working against corruption. Equal rights and democratic systems are stated as integrated in the structure of our partners. Visions put on paper is not always as easily carried out in everyday life, therefor we seek to have an continuous re-evaluation of the process.

Regarding gender equality:

Equal family rights in inheritance, marriage, divorce and child custody is not legally present in Palestine today, along with laws allowing for reduced sentences for crimes committed in the name of honour. Gender-sensitive training is not established for police and court officials, and representation of women in such posts are still low. Women's labour and education are still relatively low. Opportunities should be provided for women and girls, particularly for those from rural areas and camps.

Women's involvement in political parties is increasing, still though, there is lower executive and council influence compared to men. As also visible in IFMSA Palestine, whit the contrary evident in WCCR. Part of our underlying goal could be a higher female participation-rate.

We are aware that projects, conducted in a cultural sensitive way, could be a first step towards affecting cultural norms reinforcing patriarchal structures and a subordinate position of women in society. Certain health issues (e.g. reproductive health and rights education) can, although, be hard to introduce in a religious society as Palestine, and it may meet resistance from the authorities. Education about taboo topics such as family planning, domestic violence and mental health, will therefore not be in the first line of priorities. Though it might be brought up again when the project is established.

Regarding the school system:

The European Parliament's Policy Department on Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs have described education in Palestine as being systematically obstructed by Israeli occupation policies, hence Israel is making it very hard being a Palestinian student. The students are affected by killings, injuries, arrests, incursion and curfews which caused massive losses of school days. Checkpoints are making it difficult getting to and from school, and thereby making it time-consuming and sometimes impossible getting a higher education, when the school or university is not in close proximity to where you live.

Palestine are educating slightly more men than women in general, but recent years has seen an increase in women's enrolment on the higher educations. These rates may reflect a change in the social awareness of the value of education for women, but it must also be taken into account that many younger men are imprisoned, or are forced to drop education in order to act as family providers.

The Israeli occupation as well as the political situation is a constant stressor in a potential collaboration with the schools, and our partnership identification should identify pitfalls in relation to using the schools as potential active partners in a peer-to-peer education project, especially with regards to access to schools and students/pupils allowance to attend sessions.

Regarding religion:

As in many other Middle Eastern countries religion and especially Islam plays a major role in the Palestinian society. This will of course be taking into consideration in health-promoting trainings and work in general, as mentioned under "regarding the political system". Being part of a Christian belief makes it easier to navigate through the conflict since we are neither Muslim or Jews, and are seen as more neutral.

Regarding safety:

Some precautions in the West Bank should be taken. The foreign ministry of Denmark urge visitors to be careful around Jewish settlements and to avoid demonstrations. The situation between Israeli soldiers, settlers and Palestinians can be tense and violent collisions between these can occur. Due to Israeli security the airport of Tel Aviv can be difficult traveling through with intention of visiting or working in the West Bank. This is not a potential security threat for visitors, but can delay a visit with several hours. In general it is quite safe working in the West Bank, the only part of Palestine we will be working in, therefore the situation of Gaza will not be analysed here.

3.2 Purpose

We are in contact with several organisations and have kept possibilities open for project themes (besides from health. The purpose will be to find the most suitable partner, the best project for capacity building of our partner and most importantly, which is in most benefit of the youth.

We already see many positive synergies between organisations, especially between WCCR and IMCC, and all could benefit from a partnership. This visit will hopefully develop collaboration between organisations and formalise the contact and agreement. The WCCR have never carried out health-care projects and it is therefore important to us both, that we together design the project from discussions, clarifying exercises and visits in the local community.

Several questions and aspects of partnerships are yet to be answered and we especially need to clarify in what way our competences and resources can be most beneficial to the local community.

3.3 Program and activities

3.4 Exploring the match between the Danish organization and the potential partner

There is a need for increased understanding of how the different organisations carry out volunteer health work and how they secure contact to the target groups. Therefore we need to visit children and youth clubs, health centres and other organisations that the potential partners are in contact with or wish to work with. There is already an expressed interest in working with awareness on NCDs (e.g. diabetes, hypertension) through health clinics/medicine students and we wish to explore the interest in- and possibilities for this.

We wish to do a workshop with the concept of "Do-no-harm", especially relevant when working in conflict situations. It focuses on identifying potential positive and negative outcomes from actions of a given project. We intend to discuss all the different aspects given in the analysis with our partners (see appendix 1). The approach is good for understanding each others motivations, intentions and knowledge meanwhile creating a base for conducting an agreement between partners in very equal settings. In this way we hope to lay the groundwork for a long-term project with equal sense of ownership and a shared visible goal.

Furthermore, we wish to use a SWOT analysis together with representatives from the management and the people responsible for the future project, to get a better view of the organisational strengths/weaknesses and identify the need for education within the volunteer group for a future project.

Meetings with the administrators and boards of the organisations is essential to retrieve more detailed information about structure, anchoring of the project and leadership. Hereby also assessing whether it is truly compatible with the requirements we need in a partner.

3.5 Future process

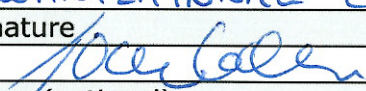
When completing the partner identification trip our hope is to have a clear insight into organisational structure, local community and the possibilities of initiating a health-care

project. If the potential partner-organisations (especially WCCR) and IMCC Palestine are compatible we wish to initiate the (small) start of a pilotproject or a 'preparatory study'. We will make use of the Duf secretariat when deciding upon the next step.

The project will be based on youth participation from a platform of sustainability, democratic principles and building of capacity. Very deliberately we have not chosen a specific subject within the health-area, because we need to first identify a meaningful purpose and need defined face-to-face together with the volunteers of the organisations.

A main goal of ours is to plan an event with three elements. 1) External facilitators giving a view of the Palestinian history and present time, 2) Our experiences, plans and hopes, 3) Open group discussions and room for questions and inquiries. This will be open to both IMCC and the public.

4. Signatures

I hereby confirm that my organization fully supports this partner identification and this project application, that we have knowledge about the DUF guidelines as well as the financial guidelines and that we are prepared to take on all obligations that an approval of the application will put on us as an organization. I furthermore confirm that I have the authority to make decisions and sign agreements on behalf of my organization.	
Date/Place	
	04.09.2015 / Copenhagen
Name	
	TOMAS GEHLERT
Position in organization	
	ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANT
Signature	
	
Stamp (optional)	



IMCC

5. Contact Information

Contact information - The Danish applicant organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization's name • Address • Telephone number • Email address • Website, if any • Name and address of other co-applicant DUF member organizations, if any 	IMCC Blegdamsvej 3b, 2200 København imcc@imcc.dk www.imcc.dk
Contact person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of contact person • Contact person's address (if different from the organization's home address) • Contact person's email • Contact person's telephone number 	Cecilie Stagstrup Skrivergangen 2, 4 tv ceciliestagstrup@gmail.com 21977257

6. Annexes

List of annexes
Obligatory annexes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget (DUF format)• Detailed program and time plan Other annexes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ` 5 first steps in 'Do-no-harm' approach in Danish