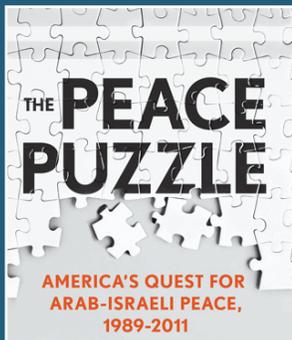




# USIP's Work in Israel and The Palestinian Territories



Student Artwork at the Hand in Hand Shared Society and Bilingual School in Jerusalem



## Examining the Peace Process

USIP's publications distill expert research and lessons learned to advance peacebuilding. Informed by interviews with more than 120 policymakers, diplomats, academics, and civil society figures, "The Peace Puzzle" provides an objective account of U.S. influence on the peace process and guidance for future engagement. A sequel that brings the analysis up-to-date is currently in progress.

## CURRENT SITUATION

For 70 years, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has affected the Middle East landscape. A comprehensive diplomatic solution has evaded international efforts, leaving some disillusioned about the prospect of peace. Large-scale violence ebbs and flows, leaving communities insecure and enabling the conflict to persist as a rallying tool for extremist actors, thereby demanding continued U.S. and international attention.

Despite this short-term outlook, progress toward peace between Israelis and Palestinians remains possible. An established Israeli and Palestinian civil society ecosystem works to advance prospects for a just and lasting peace, and regional geopolitical shifts may offer new openings to forge progress toward Israeli-Palestinian and broader regional conflict resolution.

## USIP'S WORK

For three decades, the U.S. Institute of Peace has worked on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Arab-Israeli relations. Through dialogue, analysis, and joint action at the grassroots and policy levels, USIP works to strengthen diplomatic peacemaking efforts, enhance community security for Israelis and Palestinians, empower Palestinian and Israeli civil society actors to build trust within and between their societies, and build institutional capabilities that prepare the ground for a just, peaceful, and sustainable solution to the conflict.

USIP has also supported over 200 grantees and more than two dozen fellows to conduct innovative work on the conflict. Recent work includes:



**Convening Experts and Informing Policy.** USIP convenes American, Israeli, Palestinian, and international experts to jointly develop analysis and actionable recommendations to inform the policy community. This work builds on two decades of peacebuilding research and analysis, including:

- ▶ **The Study Group on Arab-Israeli Peacemaking**, which since 2008 has developed a set of best practices for American diplomacy, has produced two publications: “Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace” and “The Peace Puzzle: America’s Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace 1989–2011,” and is developing a third volume of lessons learned from American efforts to bring about Israeli-Palestinian peace.
- ▶ The initiative on **Changing Regional Dynamics and Prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace**, in partnership with the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, convenes American and international experts to evaluate Israel’s evolving regional relations and generate recommendations for leveraging the current context to prevent deterioration and promote progress toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian and broader Arab-Israeli conflict.
- ▶ The bipartisan **Senior Working Group on Middle East Peace**—co-chaired by former National Security Advisors Stephen Hadley and Samuel Berger—provided ongoing policy advice to U.S. administrations between 2009 and 2014.

**As a result of USIP’s work with the Middle East Quartet:**



The number of West Bank Palestinians with no access to police services **DROPPED BY 97%**.



**1.8M PEOPLE NOW HAVE ACCESS TO POLICING—INCLUDING 200,000+** who have the benefit of law enforcement for the first time in two decades.

**Enhancing Community Security and Institutional Capacity.** Through ongoing partnerships with local leaders, U.S. government representatives, and the international community, the Institute works to improve conditions on the ground for Palestinians and Israelis.

For example, in partnership with the Office of the Quartet, USIP mapped police movement and community access realities in the West Bank, enabling the most extensive expansion of Palestinian police movement and Palestinian communities’ access to their own policing services in 15 years.

Leveraging its expertise, the Institute works closely with senior Palestinian and Israeli security authorities and the U.S. security coordinator to ensure coordination that bolsters safety and security for Palestinians and Israelis, enhances prospects for developing the Palestinian economy, and builds confidence and trust between both sides to foster diplomatic progress.

**Fostering Religious and Interreligious Peacebuilding Engagement.** Faith leaders can be crucial to diplomatic processes by using their influence to promote peace. But too often these religious voices have been excluded from Israeli-Palestinian diplomatic and grassroots efforts.

USIP is working to make the peacebuilding process more inclusive and effective by supporting local partners who facilitate dialogue, problem solving, and joint action among Israeli and Palestinian religious leaders. The Institute funds and guides work that encourages faith leader cooperation to bridge divides, mitigate violence, and provide a model for collaboration that protects holy sites and their visitors.

**Over the past five years:**



Through a USIP grant, 35 Palestinian Muslim religious leaders **EDUCATED 550 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT TOLERANCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION.**



Another USIP grant project **TRAINED 250 ISRAELI POLICE OFFICERS AND 180 COMMUNITY MONITORING VOLUNTEERS**, who worked with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders to reduce violence around Mount Zion.



A USIP-supported project enabled Israeli and Palestinian religious leaders to **ENGAGE IN A DISCREET PROCESS TO JOINTLY OUTLINE A PEACEFUL FUTURE** for the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif—a flashpoint of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Bridging Divides, Promoting Youth Engagement.** USIP works to strengthen the capacity of Israeli and Palestinian youth to build trust across divided communities and promote a culture of peace and nonviolent action within and between their communities. Through grants and trainings, the Institute provides Israeli and Palestinian youth with the resources and skills to engage in constructive dialogue, develop leadership skills, identify shared challenges, and design and implement joint action projects that prepare the grounds for peace.