

# OPERATING TOGETHER: ATLS Course For Palestinian & Israeli Physicians



SUPPORTING UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



## Evaluation of the Rotary-sponsored joint Palestinian-Israeli medical training program

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**PROJECT  
ROZANA**

פרויקט רוזנה مشروع روزانا

# SUMMARY



**Period Evaluated**  
October 1, 2022 –  
January 31, 2023



**Budget**  
US\$87,000



**Reach**  
50 Palestinian and  
50 Israeli physicians



**Source of Funding**  
29 Rotary Clubs  
6 Rotary Districts  
Rotary International

## Project Description



### Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Course

- Reliable method for assessing and managing trauma patients
- Internationally-recognized
- Mandatory qualification in over 80 countries, including Israel
- Previously unavailable to Palestinian doctors



### Rotary - Project Rozana - Wolfson Medical Center

- 50 Palestinian and 50 Israeli physicians in joint training
- Delivered by leading international and Israeli trauma surgeons
- Focused on practical team learning and social opportunities
- Provided a platform for ongoing, real time consultation between Palestinian and Israeli physicians

#### Israeli Hospitals:

- Hadassah - Jerusalem
- Meir - Kfar Saba
- Rabin - Petah Tikva
- Rambam - Haifa
- Shamir - Beer Yaacov
- Sheba - Ramat Gan
- Soroka - Beer Sheba
- Ichilov - Tel Aviv
- Wolfson - Holon




#### Palestinian hospitals + # of participants:

- Al Ahli - Hebron (9)
- Al Mezan Hebron (2)
- Al-Yamamah Hospital - Bethlehem (6)
- Arab Hospital Group - Ramallah/Jenin/Nablus (6)
- Augusta Victoria Hospital - Jerusalem (1)
- Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (6)
- H Clinic - Ramallah (9)
- Palestinian Medical Complex - Ramallah (6)
- Saint Joseph - Jerusalem (5)

# Goal

To provide joint training in ATLS for Palestinian and Israeli physicians, improve trauma capacity in the region, while cultivating empathy between participants.

## Objectives

-  **1. Provide access to professional development for Palestinian physicians in the trauma field.**
-  **2. Improve skills and increase knowledge of Palestinian and Israeli physicians in the field of trauma medicine.**
-  **3. Increase cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian health professionals, creating a sustainable professional network.**

# Impact

*An Israeli Physician: "Its my first time working with Palestinian doctors and I feel very comfortable talking to them in the future."*

*A Palestinian Physician: "We share common interests and the same diseases, therefore, we have to work with each other."*

**Proportion of participants who report having increased professional skills and knowledge as a result of participating in the program.**

Palestinian	Israeli
<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>

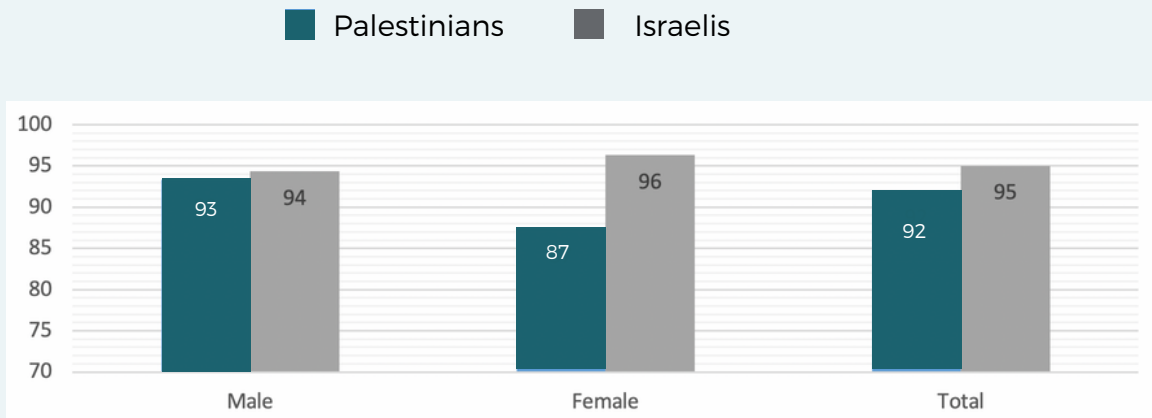
**Proportion of participants who evidence 'cognitive empathy'\* for "the other".**

Palestinian	Israeli
<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>

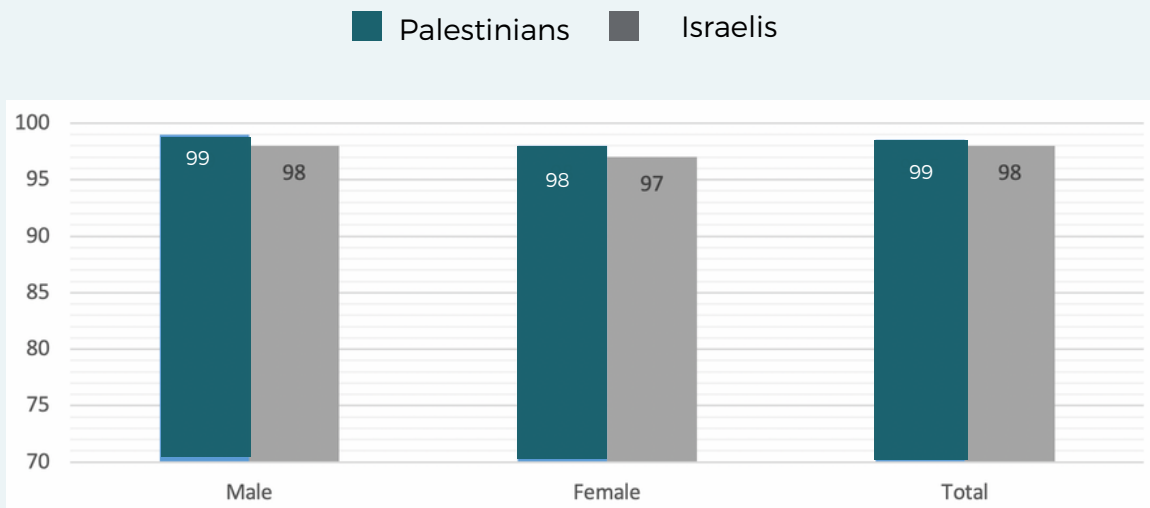
\*Cognitive empathy consists of four distinct but linked components: affective response, self-other awareness, perspective taking, emotional response.

# RESULTS

## LEVELS OF EMPATHY



## NEW TOOLS AND SKILLS



- All figures are in percentages
- 44 participants - 24 Palestinians, 20 Israelis
- Methodologies: Survey comprising 41 questions, 4 focus groups, 4 observation sessions
- Level of empathy was measured using 9 survey questions on the level of cooperation, 7 survey questions on contextual understanding, 10 survey questions on perspective taking and 9 long answers in focus groups

# RESULTS

This section highlights the key findings and insights that surfaced from the evaluation data and its analysis. The findings are grouped under specific measures of impact.

## EFFECTIVENESS



The professional capacities of all physicians significantly increased



Palestinian and Israeli physicians evidenced high levels of **professional** cooperation and coordination during a modeled emergency



Cooperation was built on the **individual** level among physicians from Israel and Palestine

## RELEVANCE

# 100%

of Palestinian physicians agreed or strongly agreed that:



The course was relevant to their medical role and important to their daily work



They feel better able to meet the needs of their patients as a result of the training



Working on health projects together is an important avenue for larger collaboration on health issues across Palestinian and Israeli communities

## SUSTAINABILITY

# 100%

of Israeli and Palestinian physicians agreed or strongly agreed:



That they would keep in touch with physicians from the other side



That they intended to continue working with physicians from the other side



That the cooperation between the Ministries of Health (Israel, Palestine) is important

## Key Challenges



The widespread lack of hope among Palestinians about their future is feeding a powerful anti-normalization call to stop all cooperation with Israel.



Years of heightened conflict have seen a sharp spike in fear among both Palestinians and Israelis for their safety. This strongly discouraged cooperation.



There were difficulties in obtaining Israeli permits for all the Palestinian participants.

## Key Learnings & Opportunities

- A higher-order principle to which all parties relate, is a tremendous facilitating factor
- Appealing to health issues enabled contact between and engagement with the participating groups and was key in encouraging personal involvement of the participants

- Add at least another day to enhance personal networks
- Create an Alumni program for participants with a potential online platform as a professional and personal means of communication and consultation

## Acknowledgment

”

*We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.*

“

Quoted from [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**Project Rozana is deeply grateful for the Rotary Organization's global commitment to peacebuilding and equitable access to healthcare.**

**This project would not have been possible without the generosity of the Rotary Foundation and the many Rotary Clubs and Districts listed below, who so graciously supported our work.**

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