

2012

Annual Report



***Visit Palestine** – Israelis visiting Bethlehem and learning about Palestinian society and culture as well as the effects of the occupation on the city.*

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Letter from IPCRI's CEO's

2012 has been a transformative year for IPCRI. After 25 years of Gershon Baskin's leadership and 8 years of Hanna Siniora's, a new generation has taken over leadership of IPCRI. We started off with two projects and this number has now grown to eight projects, with even more planned for execution in 2013. Three new projects starting with the turn of the year.

When we took office, we initiated a strategic planning process to establish how we can and will continue to make a difference. IPCRI has adopted three guiding principles in all that we do: A. challenging perceptions; B. involving new groups in the discourse; C. no more of the same. Furthermore, we see different needs in the Israeli and Palestinian societies. In Palestine, empowerment and capacity building is most needed, while in Israel, greater awareness is called for.

Innovation, creativity and out-of-the-box thinking is what we are most interested in. Admittedly, these are concepts most known in the business world but we believe they are no less relevant for the NGO world in general, and IPCRI in particular. This is how we evaluate our projects. We have also given serious thought to the important issue of anti-normalization and have developed a policy paper that has been guiding us, as well as other actors and donors who have received, studied and implemented its recommendations.

This year we strengthened our think tank activities as well as our environmental projects. We have met with nearly every senior diplomat

Palestine and Israel have to offer and are seeing a growing interest and impact in our activities.

On the political level there has not been a dull moment. IPCRI has been challenged to continue the development of creative and innovative policies, projects and ideas to cope with the ever-changing environment. The re-election of President Obama, the Palestinian UN Bid, the 2nd Gaza War and the campaign for the coming Israeli elections have all taken place in the last quarter of 2012 and will evidently impact the region and IPCRI in 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Goldenblatt and Riman Barakat
Co-Directors



About IPCRI

IPCRI is an action-oriented think tank managed jointly by Israelis and Palestinians. Our aim is to engage both policy makers and the public at large in promoting a just and sustainable solution to the conflict and an end to the occupation. To this end, we develop innovative projects and strategies that address the needs of both peoples.

IPCRI concentrates its efforts on three themes:

- **Research and Information**

IPCRI is a think tank that brings together Palestinian, Israeli and international experts to discuss pressing issues and develop innovative solutions. IPCRI carries out research, publishes studies and thought-provoking papers to advocate for change among decision makers.

- **Conflict Transformation**

IPCRI engages Israelis, Palestinians and Palestinian-Israelis in projects where they can work towards a common goal, create understanding and trust and work towards a public opinion that supports a just resolution of the conflict.

- **Shared Environment**

IPCRI engages Palestinian and Israeli actors that affect the environment in joint projects because issues like water, waste and pollution are inherently cross-border. Cooperation in this field contributes to a sustainable future, while cooperation and interdependence can contribute to a just conflict resolution in the long run.

Leadership

IPCRI is managed jointly by a Palestinian and an Israeli director: Riman Barakat and Dan Goldenblatt. They took leadership at the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012 from Gershon Baskin and Hanna Siniora.

Riman Barakat
Palestinian co-director

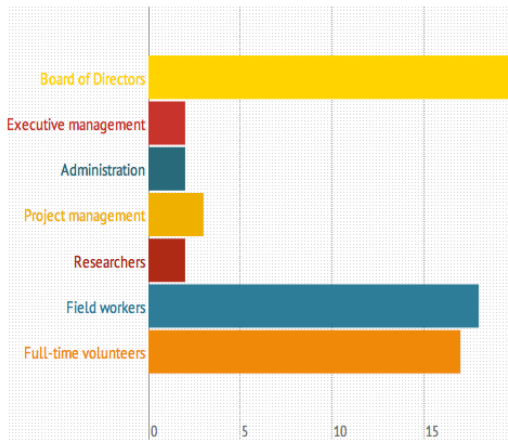
Riman is a Fulbright scholar specialized in the Middle East. She is committed to the prosperity and aspirations of the Palestinian people and believes that dialogue combined with a human rights approach is essential for delivering a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Dan Goldenblatt
Israeli co-director

Dan is a lawyer, former parliamentary aide, MBA and former CEO of a clean-technology company. His personal mission at IPCRI is to challenge conventional ideas and stimulate innovation that can bring about a resolution to the conflict.

Facts & Figures

Staff

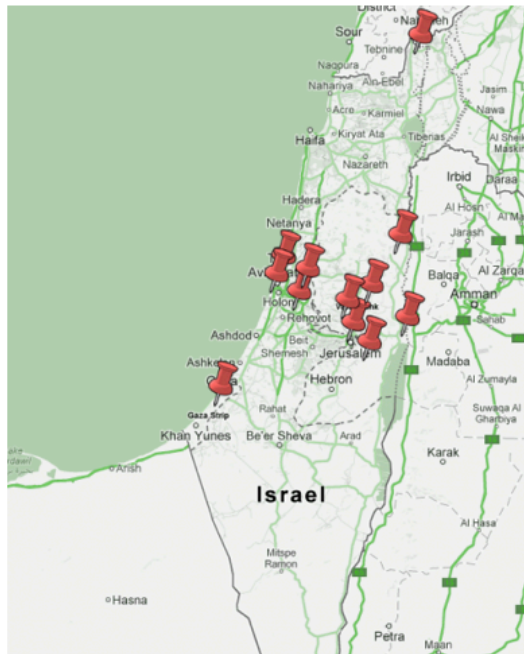


approx. 4000 hours of management and administration

Approx. 8000 hours of field work and research

Approx. 8000 hours of volunteering

Location of IPCRI's activities



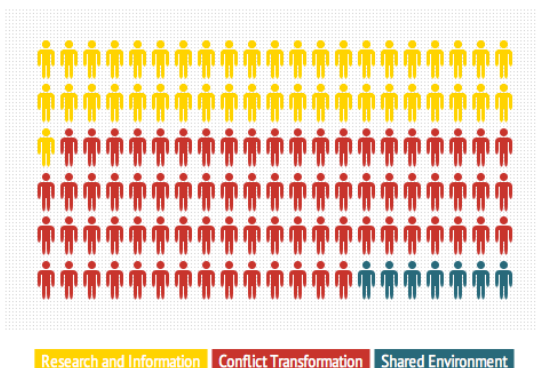
Israel: West Jerusalem, Tel Aviv/Jaffa, Ramla, Lod, Kiryat Shmona, Tira, Petakh Tikva, Ra'anana, Kafr Qasim

Palestine: East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jericho, Taybeh, Bardalah, Gaza

"IPCRI is unique in many respects: It is one of the very few existing bi-national institutions of Israelis and Palestinians, and it stands alone as a bi-national think-tank. This is an achievement in itself. And it is increasingly becoming a symbol of courage and character at a time when institutions of that kind are denounced as "left-wing NGOs" on one side, and as "normalisers" on the other. Furthermore, IPCRI brings together an enormous variety of people ... IPCRI is a Middle East player, not a Middle East watcher."

Mr. Michael Mertes,
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
Israel. Nov 2012

Participants

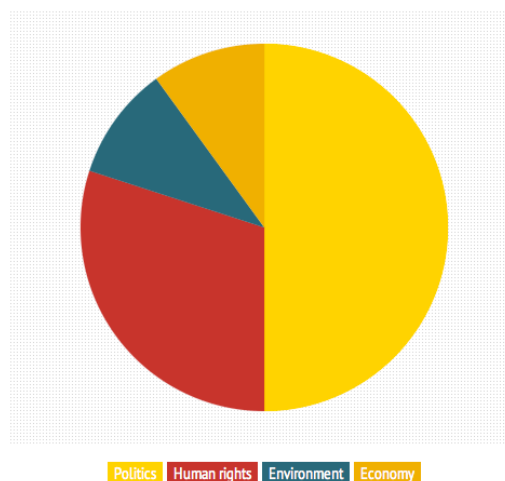


>300 participants in Research and Information activities

>500 participants in Conflict Transformation activities

>45 participants in Shared Environment activities

Publications



Activity Report

Research and Information

This year IPCRI managed three funded projects with regard to research and information. In all of our projects we are including new people. We are transferring the engagement and knowledge of older generations of experts who have been involved in conflict resolution work for a long time to a younger generation of professionals. In addition, we are reaching various target groups by diversifying the locations in which we work.

IPCRI is one of the world's think tanks with the most innovative ideas.

*Global Go To Think Tank Report.
University of Pennsylvania. Feb 2012*

Our main think tank project - the **'Strategic Thinking and Analysis Team'** (supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung) – has been running for ten years and has continued this year as well. Every six weeks, Palestinian, Israeli and international experts come together to discuss both pressing issues and innovative ideas for a new vision for a just resolution to the conflict. As a result of these meetings, five papers have been published. In the meetings, we engaged young professionals and experts who have not previously been active in think tank efforts relating to the conflict.

IPCRI continued the public panel discussion series - **'Afternoons with IPCRI'** (supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands). These public events bring Palestinian and Israeli experts together with an audience of the general public to discuss issues pertinent to the conflict in both Israel and Palestine. As a result of our focus on including a broad range of audiences in

our activities, we have made an effort to hold these meetings in locations other than Jerusalem, for example Kiryat Shmona in the north of Israel. We will continue to expand our activities to new communities in the coming year.

IPCRI started a new research and empowerment effort in East Jerusalem - the **Downtown East Jerusalem Business Empowerment project**. This project maps the needs of small and medium-sized businesses and engages them in a joint effort to identify how their position can be improved in the city. This study will conclude with a report in February 2013, and the project will be followed up by training opportunities for the target business community based on their identified needs.

Lastly, in 2012, IPCRI published and provided commentary in over 100 interviews and articles. IPCRI's directors have started a process of revisiting the current roadmaps for peace and developing a vision that is both just to both peoples and pragmatic with regard to the current reality on the ground. These preliminary ideas have been discussed with many Palestinians and Israelis from all sides of the political spectrum. IPCRI will continue this effort and present a new roadmap for peace in 2013.



IPCRI hand-over event – public event about the past and future relevance of joint Israeli-Palestinian peace work.

Conflict Transformation

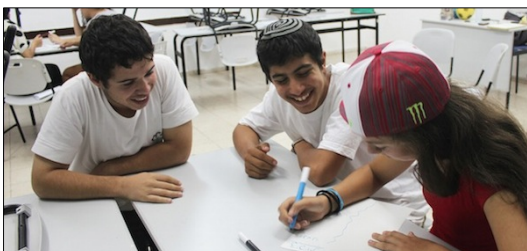
In 2012 IPCRI managed two projects with the aim of transforming the conflict. In these projects IPCRI aims to include participants that are not usually involved in peace projects and to ensure that the activities stimulate participants to reflect upon their perceptions of 'the other' and the conflict in general.

"[IPCRI is] awarded an Honourable Mention for the highly-esteemed work on intercultural dialogue for the promotion of freedom and citizenship."

*Mr. Andree Claret
Anna Lindh Foundation
& Mr. Michele
Capasso. Fondazione
Mediterraneo. Oct
2012*

IPCRI's largest project, funded by USAID, is the **'Young Leaders – Partners for Change'** project. This project engages 300 Jewish and Palestinian/Arab teenagers living in mixed cities in Israel. The project aims at creating a sense of shared citizenship and at engaging the participants in civil activism toward community improvement and inclusiveness. By its very nature, the project also deals with perceptions of 'the other' and of the conflict at-hand. In three phases, the participants go through a process of first reflecting on their own identity, stereotypes and perceptions; moving on through a process of learning about each other; and in the final stage, the participants carry out a joint community project.

The project runs until August 2013, but mid-term evaluation has shown that the project has positive impact on the participants' perception



Young Leaders – Partners for Change participants (Jewish and Palestinian) are designing a community project together.

of, and their willingness to cooperate with, the other. This project engages the participants in a process where they do not only need to co-exist, but to cooperate and actively work towards a shared citizenship. Situated in less developed cities such as Ramla, Lod, Tira and others, the project includes teenagers who are not part of the existing Israeli elite but rather a diverse group of youth from different sub-groups such as Israelis of Ethiopian descent.

The second project that aims at transforming conflict through trust building and creating a public opinion in favor of peace is **'Visit Palestine'**. This project brings Israelis to cities and locations in Area A (under Palestinian security and administrative control) in the West Bank via organised tours. Guided by a Palestinian guide, the tour combines sightseeing with political exposure to the cultural, social and economic situation in cities in the West Bank. A special focus is put on the effects of the occupation activities - such as the wall and settlement expansion - have on the day-to-day life of Palestinians. Israelis from diverse backgrounds join these tours and self-finance it through their contributions. The project was started by a group of Israelis and Palestinians who met during an IPCRI project and decided set-up tours to show the life of 'the other' and to humanize the conflict in response to the intensifying separation and de-humanization of both sides.

Most of the people are Israeli, listening to a Palestinian tour guide. I don't think all of them completely changed their views after that day but at least they have a better understanding of what it's like to be a Palestinian.

*Udi Goren, participant
Visit Palestine.*

Shared Environment

Towards the end of the year, 2012 IPCRI's environmental work achieved significant breakthroughs. The first resulted in IPCRI being asked to take a major role in coordinating an ambitious new initiative aimed at establishing a regional climate change center. If all goes as planned, the proposed center will involve the governments of Israel, Jordan and Germany, together with the Palestinian Authority. The German government has provided funds for a preliminary exploration of the feasibility of the project and its role. The environment director, Robin Twite, has for the past five years been acting as a consultant to a major German government financed project (GLOWA Jordan River). The project saw teams of scientists working on the impact of climate change on the Jordan Basin. It ended in June 2012 when the results were publicized at an international conference in Cyprus.

The second breakthrough took place in September at a meeting held in Jerusalem attended by environmentalists, mostly from the non-Governmental sector. As a direct result of this meeting, a group of leading environmentalists from Israel and Palestine met in November to discuss the establishment of a 'Joint Israeli-Palestinian Environmental Forum' which would enable representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian environmental movements to meet regularly, discuss their concerns and promote effective cooperation. The meeting and initiative is funded by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and was held at the conference center of the Stiftung at Lake Como, Italy. It was agreed to proceed with the establishment of such a Forum and plans were made for what it should attempt in the near future. The Forum will be managed jointly by

those directly involved. IPCRI will provide the secretariat.

The year saw the return of IPCRI's work on promoting agricultural cooperation. A project has been prepared which will give practical assistance on postharvest treatment of crops and on marketing to the Farmers Association in the West Bank villages of Bardalah and Kardalah. Funds have been secured for the project, which will begin in February 2013 with the active involvement of Israeli experts. Funds have also been secured for the introduction of sustainable domestic food production systems (aquaponics) in two West Bank Palestinian communities that are at risk of food and water insecurity. The project will begin in the summer of 2013.

IPCRI has continued working with 'Comet Middle East', an NGO that has installed small-scale solar energy units in villages in the Southern West Bank. In the wake of threats by the Israeli Authorities to demolish the units, IPCRI has lobbied to stop those demolitions.



Promoting agricultural development in the West Bank

Outreach

Mailing list

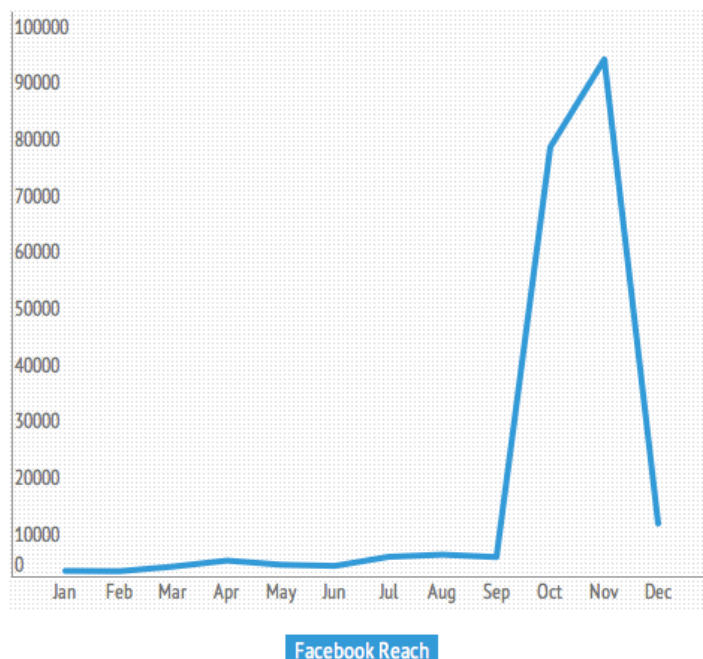
At the end of 2012, IPCRI had approx. 17,500 people on its mailinglist, with an average of 10 new subscribers per week. Subscribers receive monthly newsletters, reports, event invitations and campaign updates.

Facebook

IPCRI has a highly active facebook community. We share on average 3 posts a day via our page, focussing on current events, information about the conflict, event announcements and reports. In 2012, the IPCRI page went from 1,774 to 4,912 likes and had a total reach of almost 200,000 individuals.

Facebook reach

Our facebook page is reaching more and more people, with a peak during the Gaza war. But also a steady rise from about 1000 a month to about 9000 a month. Total number of people reached: 197,667



Website

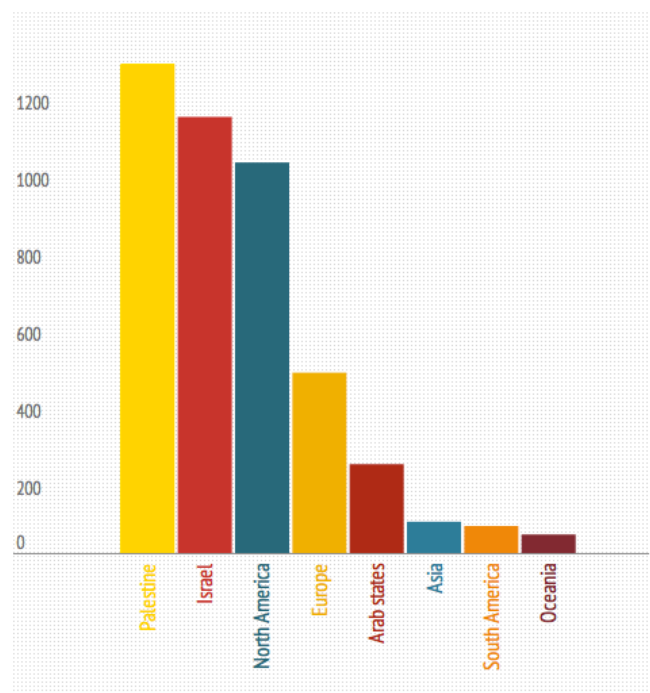
In the last months of 2012, IPCRI started to build a new website with the support of Mercy Corps. This new website will enable visitors to freely browse and download all publications (over 150), sign up for events or participate in projects and find information about all of IPCRI's projects. The website's launch is planned for February.

YouTube

IPCRI publishes recordings of public events on YouTube. In 2012 the videos had 2,397 unique views.

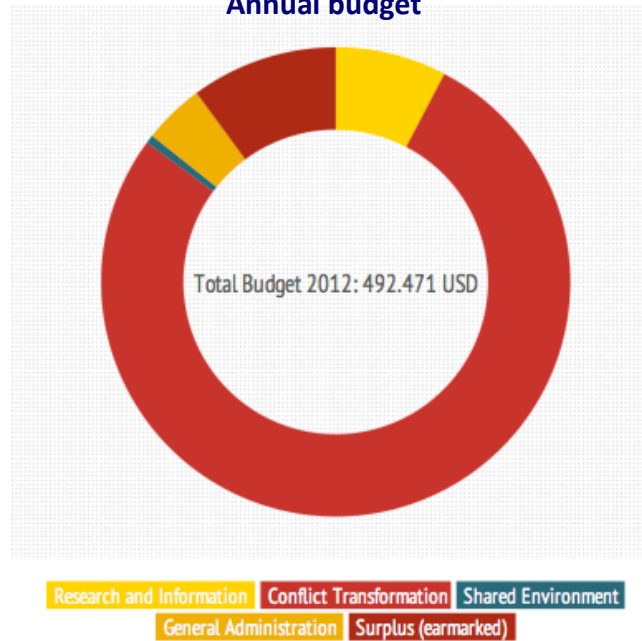
Origin of facebook followers

Total 4912 'likes' of IPCRI's Facebook page distributed according to the residence of the Facebook users that follow our page.



Financial overview

Annual budget



Total Budget 2012: 492.471 USD

Surplus (earmarked for projects): 49.720 USD

Total expenses: 442.751 USD

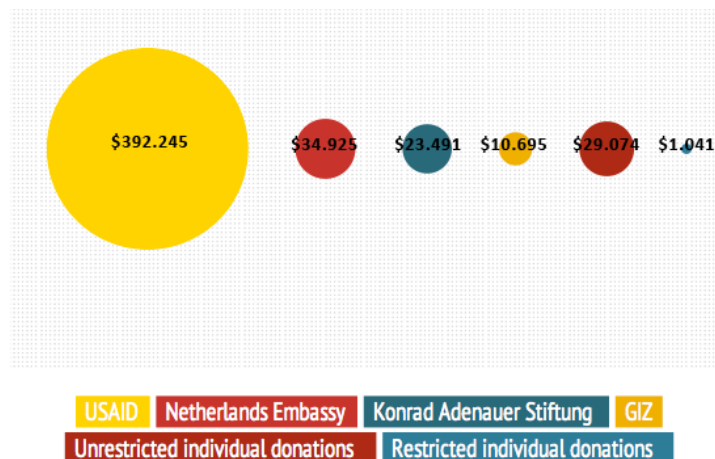
Research and Information projects: 37.823 USD

Conflict Transformation projects: 381.450 USD

Shared Environment projects: 2.832 USD

General Administration/Overhead: 20.646 USD (4,6%)

Donors



Outlook 2013

“This spirit of persistence, of stamina, of being prepared to start again and again from square one, has been a hallmark of the cooperation between IPCRI and KAS from the outset. Granted, our cooperation has not achieved the great goals to which we aspired – for the reason that the rifts between Israelis and Palestinians were too big. But our working groups were more successful than the opponents of any dialogue would have liked them to be. For that reason alone this kind of work has to be continued.”

Mr. Johannes Gerster, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Israel. Nov 2012

Our outlook for 2013 is full of challenges. The situation on the ground is not expected to improve but the need for positive and hopeful impact, challenging the situation, is going to be even more in demand. 2013 is going to see a continued growth of IPCRI's activities. We already have three projects funded and nearly ten being considered by funders. However proud we are of this expansion of our activities, most importantly, this coming year is going to see IPCRI leading a new and strategically important project focused on developing a new formula for resolving the conflict. It is still in the founding stages and it is still very much a two-state solution, but it does suggest a new roadmap and replaces the separation paradigm with one of sharing. This may seem far-fetched to some but 25 years ago, when IPCRI started bringing Israelis and Palestinian together (in secret) so did the 'Oslo type' two-state solution.

We would like to thank first and foremost our staff and our dedicated interns. They work tirelessly, with low or no pay and without them IPCRI could not exist. We would also like to thank our friends, supporters and donors for their continued interest and support.

2013 is a year in which we intend to increase our impact. The goal is to end the occupation and bring about a just, viable and sustainable resolution to the conflict. Nothing less will do and giving up is not an option.

Sincerely yours,

Riman Barakat and Dan Goldenblatt
Co-directors