



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE CENTERS

The U.S.-Palestinian Partnership was launched by the U.S. government and private sector leaders in December 2007 to facilitate progress toward a two-state solution, wherein Israel and Palestine live side by side in peace, security and prosperity. The Partnership promotes economic opportunity for the Palestinian people and helps prepare Palestinian youth for the responsibilities of citizenship and good governance. One of the Partnership's key areas of focus is to **support the strategic development of opportunities for Palestinian youth** in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) by expanding four youth centers in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah to inspire, educate and prepare youth in the West Bank for full and productive participation in Palestinian society.

Youth Development and Resource Centers (YDRCs): The Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), the State Department, and USAID have selected four currently operating youth centers to be targeted for significant enhancement of both programs and infrastructure. These centers will be part of a network of more than 60 ministry-affiliated youth centers, which will also benefit from revised standards, network-wide professional development and internet connectivity. The youth centers, which will be community-centered but primarily focused on youth, will be operated and supported through powerful partnerships with the public and private sectors.

Program Operations: The Partnership is working with USAID and MOYS to create a framework for the youth centers, securing necessary programmatic partners to conduct new programs at the youth centers, and securing necessary private-sector partners to fund youth center programs. International and local NGO partners on the ground are already working closely with USAID and the State Department and running effective programs. The centers will be developed to serve a wide range of youth, both young men and women, and will provide English language training, training in IT skills, athletics, youth leadership and service learning. Executive Directors have been hired to manage each of the YDRCs and traveled to the U.S. along with board members and MOYS officials to participate in a study tour and training on facility management.

US Government Support: USAID has pledged up to \$12.5 million to support the Partnership's youth center efforts. Nearly half of these funds will be used for rehabilitation, renovation and/or construction of the four YDRCs. The remaining budget will be used to support programs implemented in the YDRCs (by current USAID partner Ruwwad and other local NGO partners) and to cover the recurrent costs of youth programs, including staff expenses, Internet service and maintenance.

Private Sector Support: The Partnership is seeking broad support from the U.S. private and nonprofit sectors to bolster USAID's \$12.5 million commitment, ensuring the successful launch and long-term sustainability of the youth centers. Renowned organizations with a demonstrated track record of success, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Cisco, and Intel, are the first to commit significant resources to the YDRCs. Their remarkable generosity will provide for staff training and standards development, sister club relationships between Palestinian YDRCs and American youth centers, Internet connectivity, information technology programs and software.

Governance: Each YDRC will be operated by local NGOs using paid and volunteer staff that has received specialized training. Through the Ruwwad program, a network of youth leaders and volunteers will assist center operations, programming and outreach to the surrounding networked clubs. Each center will have a community advisory board, including local officials and businessmen, youth, civil society representatives and other stakeholders. A larger committee, consisting of the MOYS and other selected ministries, U.S. government officials and possibly Palestinian civil society and private-sector leaders, will set policies and oversee all program operations.