



In cooperation with

## Dealing with the Past

*To increase acceptance and mutual respect within communities in Lebanon*

The Ta'if Agreement (1989) provided the basis for the ending of the civil war, and the period following is often described as collective state-sponsored amnesia hoping to return to political normalcy. However, old conflicts continued to smolder and new ones erupted. Processes of Dealing with the Past which incorporate the diverse perspectives of Lebanese communities remain controversial. Inclusive ways of Dealing with the Past would, however, enable people to relate to each other's fears, anxieties and suffering.

### Our approach

Working with local partners, forumZFD aims to increase acceptance and mutual respect within communities in Lebanon, and the recognition of roles and responsibilities in regards to dealing with the past. In order to foster non-violent alternatives to treat conflict and differences, we support communities to examine and reflect upon multiple and diverse narratives of past and present violence. Furthermore, forumZFD works with different partners to develop alternative approaches on learning about the past.

### What we do

Lebanon's recent history remains heavily contested and politicised, and is not featured in the history curriculum taught in schools. To offer an effective and conflict sensitive approach for engaging with the memory of war, forumZFD and its partners developed the handbook "The Memory of the War". This handbook is now used to train teachers from public and private schools and NGO staff to address past and present violence and its memorialisation with youths from the age of 14. The training is delivered



<b>Programme Area</b>	Dealing with the Past
<b>Partner Organisations</b>	Lebanese Association for History (LAH), Fighters for Peace
<b>Duration</b>	2014 - ongoing
<b>Budget (BMZ)</b>	120,000 Euro (annually)
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with a number of partners, such as Fighters for Peace (FFP), and also engages the participants' own relationship with the civil war. To further engage with the various narratives of the civil war, forumZFD and the Lebanese Association for History (LAH) also train teachers in alternative learning approaches, such as engaging with the civil war history with their students through exploring sites of commemoration.

Despite the collective and state-sponsored amnesia, civil society, the art and academia has been actively engaging with the past, yet are often not aware of each other's efforts. To provide an overview of activities and to strengthen stakeholders' networks in the respective field, forumZFD developed an online database on initiatives addressing war and conflict since 1990. The database is accessible to the public on forumZFD partner Lebanon Support Civil Society Knowledge Centre (CSKC) website.

### Our theories of change

If we provide Lebanese communities with alternative and conflict sensitive approaches to engage with the memory of the war, this will deepen the understanding of past and especially present violence, and increase acceptance and mutual respect.

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