



In cooperation with Permanent Peace Movement



NOVA – Non-Violent Action Project

Trainings for teachers on non-violent activism in Lebanon

1) Context

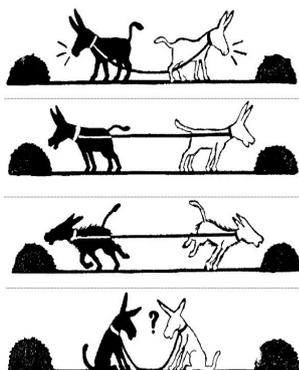
The modern history of Lebanon is marked by violence. However, it needs to be strongly emphasised that even during the Lebanese civil war, some individuals and organisations refused to make use of violence as a means of transforming conflict, resorting to non-violent activism instead. Although of high significance, these examples remain on the margin of educational as well as public interest and remain relatively unknown until today.

2) Our approach

In an effort to contribute to filling this gap and furthering the idea, the culture of and the possibilities for non-violent conflict transformation in Lebanon, the project aims at sensitizing the Lebanese public, particularly the young generation, for methods and the effectiveness of non-violent attitudes in Lebanon.

3) What we do

This project focused on education as a major entry point for changing the situation in Lebanese schools. It dealt with the reasons of violence through targeting young children from 8 to 14 years in schools and teaching them non-violent ways for managing conflict. The aim was to promote the idea that providing prevention methods is better than cure after the conflict has already occurred. The project comprised the training of over 40 teachers in 20 selected schools in five regions in Lebanon. The teachers from public and private schools were trained by using the handbook „An Eye not for an Eye“ developed by Naji Saeed, project manager at forumZFD, in collaboration with the PPM (Permanent Peace Movement) for this project.



Material of the NOVA - project

Programme area	Capacity Development
Partner organisations	Permanent Peace Movement
Duration	07/2010 - 12/2016
Budget (BMZ)	\$ 9,000 (2016)
Contact Person	Naji Saeed

The manual is in Arabic, has 47 pages and includes a documentary with examples of non-violent activism in Lebanon, supporting the message of non-violent communication and actions.

In this way, teachers obtain the knowledge to provide a different approach to conflict management. As a part of the follow-up activities, the trainees applied their skills by training their students on tools for non-violent communication and transformation. Furthermore, forumZFD supported networking between different schools across Lebanon to find a common ground for promoting non-violent action and culture. These schools work and advocate with the Ministry of Education to integrate non-violent activism into the Lebanese curriculum.

The project ended with a big ceremony in June 2015. Nearly 350 students from 24 schools presented short films, sketches, songs, performances and art work inspired by the NOVA training.

4) Our theories of change

We assume that applying non-violent methods of conflict transformation in educational institutions in Lebanon re-inforces the positive management of differences. This will lead to a society where people interact in respectful, non-violent ways.

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