

Report back to The Funding Network

1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:

The British Shalom –Salaam Trust (BSST)

January 2016

2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?

What are its aims and objectives? Have these changed since receiving TFN funding?

To fund 'Min El Bahar – Sea Holidays for Palestinian Children. The aim was to arrange to take at least 1000 children and their mothers from deprived communities in the West Bank to the seaside for a day of fun and interchange with Israeli Jewish volunteers – crossing borders for peace and leaving them with positive and happy memories.

3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation? What evidence do you have for the success or failure of the funded project?

Yes, we carried out the work: the letter from Min El Bahar eloquently expresses the success (attached below)

4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?

Can you quantify any changes? Eg ...expanding number of employees, number of projects, geographical scope.

N/A

5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work? What actual change did the funded project generate? What proportion of the project/work did TFN fund (eg all/x%)?

We guaranteed 20% of Min El Bahar's funding for 3 years. They were able to increase the number of children and to engage translators and their own lifeguard

6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;

- new subscribers to your mailing list Yes
- new volunteers to your organisation No
- further funding from individual donors Not yet
- further funding from institutional funders No
- an introduction that benefited your organisation (e.g. to an individual, business or other organisation) No
- other benefit (please describe) It has helped us focus on our presentation and marketing strategies

7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?

1200 children and their mothers plus a very positive experience for Min El Bahar's 400 local donors/volunteers

8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?

The attached report below speaks for itself as do the photographs on the website www.minelbahar.com and [facebook page](#)

9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).

The application process and presentation greatly increased our confidence in making applications to other organisations

10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?

Much gratitude and appreciation from both BSST and Min El Bahar: in the current situation in Israel/Palestine, this is of inestimable value.

11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.

Please see www.minelbahar.com and [facebook page](#)

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See attachment on Page 3.

LETTER FROM MIN EL BAHAR COPIED AND PASTED IN

Dear Bsst,

September, 2016

The Sea Days of summer 2016 came to a happy and successful ending on the 31st of August. This season our "Sea Days" project celebrated its 10th anniversary, therefore, we would like to make some special reckoning in addition to that which we did over the years. As the Seasonal Holidays are approaching, this is also a great opportunity for us to wish each and every one of you, our dear donors, and volunteers **SHANA TOVA** and to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking an active part in our project, which without you could not have happened.

Thanks to you dear friends, the idea behind the sea days, and the human encounter with the Palestinian children and their mothers could grow beyond the small group we created together, into the hearts of a greater community, and hopefully melt suspicion and fear which exist between Israelis and Palestinians.

This year we put special emphasis on encounters with women. For that purpose, and in order to overcome the gap of languages, we invited for each encounter Israeli Palestinian women to guide and translate women circles, which were organized as part of our afternoon activity. We learnt that there is still a long way to an open and sincere dialogue, burdened by cultural gaps and the heavy cloud of the occupation with its daily consequences, which limit the horizons and prevents the intimacy. The idea of women on both sides joining hands for peace has still to overcome many obstacles. However we continue working with the profound belief that the Sea Days are not merely days of fun but a significant encounter between communities, who crave for normal routine of peace and good neighborhood, which needs to be cherished.

This year, we had 20 groups (out of 23 scheduled), a total of 1200 children and their mothers. Approximately 400 generous donors and volunteers helped organize, swim and played with the children, guided the afternoon art and crafts activities, made sandwiches, and translated.

The local people on the Tel-Aviv Beach were hospitable, as well as curious and enthusiastic about the project, and some even joined as volunteers. The public lifeguards cooperated in a most exceptional manner and did their best, while children and parents were splashing happily in the surf.

This year we decided to have a life guard of our own to ensure the safety of the children and mothers and also put our minds at ease.

The Community Center "Rabita" in Jaffa generously opened its heart and doors to welcome our guests for the fifth year in a row.

Despite the fact that it was a very successful season, we still hope for the day that our neighbors will be able to enjoy the sea as citizens of a free nation, without checkpoints, permits, or any other restrictions and our services will be no longer needed.

Shana Tova

Sincerely yours, ^

The Women of the Sea: Tzvia Shapira, Rachel Afek, Amira Ityel, Riki Shaked-Trainin

www.minelbahar.com [facebook page](#)