



Project Summary

Title of the project:	Creating Religious Dialogues for a Unified Syrian Civil Society
Proposed start date:	October 1, 2014
Proposed end date:	July 31, 2015
Location(s):	Jordan and Turkey
Which of the outcomes of the Religious Freedom Fund will this project support?	<p>This project will support all three outcomes of the Religious Freedom Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the rights of religious communities whether they are threatened or violated • Strengthen institutions' and civil society's response to specific violations of religious freedom and for the promotion of tolerance and pluralism • Increase the effectiveness of organizations, including national and international stakeholders, to act against violations of freedom of religion
In point form, brief description of your project's objectives and activities. (What will you do?)	<p>Project Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build leadership development in inter-religious communities by advancing interfaith dialogue and civil society capacity among Syrians • To educate Syrians in interfaith awareness, conflict management, and peacebuilding to create sustainable skills and knowledge needed to promote religious freedom • To enable an interfaith dialogue and religious coordination that allows diverse actors to imagine a common, prosperous future <p>Project Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop curriculum on conflict prevention, religious tolerance, and human rights • Train Syrian religious leaders by conducting interfaith seminars • Host virtual networking meetings between religious leaders/activists and local Syrian participants • Create Communication and Consultation Support Base to support activists and experts • Support religious leaders to conduct workshops in their communities teaching the values of interfaith cooperation and religious freedom
Brief description of the immediate outcomes you plan to achieve by the end of the project (at least one outcome per activity listed above)	<p>Our curriculum on religious tolerance and religious freedom will teach Syrian participants how to work within an interfaith framework, mobilize their religious communities to participate in interfaith dialogues, protect the rights of religious minorities, and provide viable alternatives to radical religious movements in Syria. We will conduct four religious freedom workshops – two each in Amman, Jordan, and Istanbul, Turkey. These workshops will provide leadership training and create a safe space where civil and religious leaders can enter dialogue that will lead to greater religious tolerance across sectarian groups. This project will also host virtual networking meetings to strengthen networks between sectarian and religious groups. By creating a Communication and Consultation Support</p>



	Base, the project will improve dialogue processes between civil and religious groups on interfaith issues and peacebuilding efforts.
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1.0 Rationale for the project

- Why is this project important for the religious communities in the country?
- How will communities benefit from the project?
- What support is there from religious communities in the country for this project?
- How have beneficiaries been involved in planning this project?

Rebuilding interfaith communities is crucial for the future of civil society and democracy in Syria. However, many factors prevent interfaith dialogues and efforts to build religious tolerance and pluralism from gaining momentum. On both sides of the conflict there are forces at work cynically using religious extremism as a mode of conquest, or a method of dividing and conquering. There is an effective tool against such insidious use of religion, and it is increasingly essential to the prevention and management of global conflict: giving religious and secular people, as well as minorities, adequate tools to understand each other and find common ground in order to resist the logic and manipulations of religious and sectarian division. The more that outside forces use religion as a galvanizing force, the more necessary it becomes for religious tolerance and interfaith relationship building to become a competing philosophy and a competing methodology of social organization. The methods of this intervention are specifically designed to generate the requisite skills and values that formulate a competitive philosophy to the extremist groups, and to resist insidious ways in which outside powers are stimulating endless fragmentation of Syrians. This is designed to recover the coexistence of religions and minorities that have held together Syrians for centuries prior to this war. To this end, the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) proposes **Creating Religious Dialogues for a Unified Syrian Civil Society (CRDUSCS)**, which will promote religious tolerance and education to create a national interfaith dialogue, prevent further escalation of religious conflict, and facilitate the transition to a united, democratic Syria.

The overarching goal of CRDUSCS is to contribute meaningfully toward de-escalation of religious conflict and protection of religious minority rights by engaging Syrians across religious lines with positive communication that promotes tolerance. Because this project derives from a pressing need to provide a venue to cultivate interfaith dialogue and religious cooperation, it will steer Syrians away from radicalized groups and promote religious tolerance through educational seminars and workshops on religious freedom and interfaith awareness. The conflict resolution strategies will also provide Syrians with the skills to successfully negotiate with radicalized groups if needed. CRDUSCS will unite Syrians locally and globally by bringing together Syrians from inside Syria and Syrian refugees to discuss the challenges of religious injustice and violence.

The CRDUSCS project will serve as an investment in the Syrian people, with an eye towards creating freedom of religion and building bridges of inter-communal trust sustainably over the long term. As such, the project intends to realize the following **programmatic objectives**:

- (1) *To build leadership development in inter-religious communities by advancing interfaith dialogue and civil society capacity among Syrians;*
- (2) *To educate Syrians in interfaith awareness, conflict management, and protection of religious minorities' rights to create sustainable skills*



*and knowledge needed to promote religious freedom;
(3) To enable an interfaith dialogue and religious coordination that
allows diverse actors to imagine a common, prosperous future.*

Over the course of ten months, this project will increase religious tolerance by conducting four six-day workshops (two in Istanbul, Turkey, and two in Amman, Jordan), lead by religious and community leaders, that focus on interfaith communication, how to work with people of religious minorities, conflict resolution, and how to deal with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other radicalized groups through negotiations or within the community. These workshops will provide Syrians with access to a university-level education and resources, which is important given the educational problem many Syrians currently face. Moreover, the project is focused on practical approaches that will give the participants the opportunity to put these skills directly into practice in their communities. At the conclusion of each seminar, participants will produce project proposals related to implementing religious tolerance and freedom within Syria at the local and national levels. After each seminar concludes, outstanding students will conduct workshops to transfer their knowledge to their own community and to other community and religious leaders with the support of CRDC staff and funding.

This project will select 80 Syrian participants from four regions: (1) South Damascus and suburbs (Daraa), (2) Northwest (Idlib, Lattakia, and Aleppo), (3) East and Northeast (Deir el Zor, Rakaa and Hassakeh), and (4) West (Homs, Hama, and Tartous). This diverse group will include leaders and members of different religious and ethnic groups, including Alawites, Christians, Druze, Kurds, and Sunnis.

Special emphasis will also be given to the recruitment and active participation of **women and ethnic and religious minorities** in the capacity building phase of the project using targeted recruitment and implementation techniques to address the marginalized groups. Equal inclusion and participation of women is critical in the mobilization and development of priorities and policies in Syria, as they are in the strategic position to build alliances across various religious and ethnic groups and can help mitigate differences and conflict across these groups.

CRDC will call upon on its extensive ten-year engagement in Syria and tap into its existing mobilized social networks across the country. This strategic design gives CRDC's project extensive agility in not only anticipating any risks and potential sensitivities that may arise, but also in finding solutions to counter and/or overcome challenges in a culturally-sensitive, effective, and timely manner. CRDC has already received support for implementation of this project from many religious leaders and experts in Syria, Jordan, and Turkey, including Christian and Alawite activists. CRDC will collaborate directly with Sheikh Mouaz, a moderate Muslim cleric and leader of the new unified Syrian



	<p>opposition.</p> <p>The Opposition and Syrian religious and civil society are in need of skills that improve their ability to conduct conflict prevention through interfaith work and amplify both the willingness to work together and advantageousness of existing alliances across religious communities. Through the CRDUSCS project, CRDC will have a unique opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of Syrian religious leaders who embrace nonviolence and religious freedom and who will be active during and after the critical transition period that lies ahead. The completion of the CRDUSCS project will result in the prevention of religious conflict escalation through the transition period, as well as a reduction in violence between sectarian and religious groups in Syria.</p>
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2.0 Results-Based Management and Risk Management

2.1 Results-Based Management

It is important to see that planned activities are successfully completed. Completed activities are referred to as outputs in the table below. Once completed, these outputs should lead to changes (DFATD refers to these changes as outcomes) and asks that these be measured with indicators to ensure that expected objectives have actually occurred.

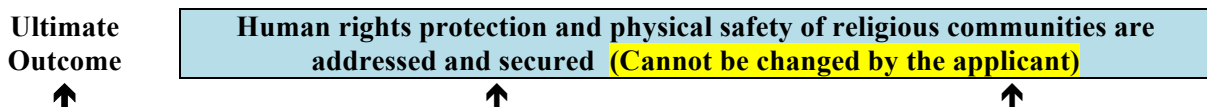
Measuring progress towards results during your project helps you to see if changes are occurring the way you expected and allows you to take corrective action if necessary. Measuring changes at the end of your project will tell you whether your project made a difference in the lives of people the way you expected. Also, this will provide you with evidence of your project's results which can be used to report to DFATD.

In answering the questions below, you should see a logical progression in your answers from one question to the next.

Note the following:

- The Ultimate Outcome statement **cannot be changed by the applicant.**
- The Intermediate Outcomes statements **cannot be changed by the applicant.** Please identify which Intermediate Outcome(s) from the template below will be achieved through your project by checking the appropriate box(es). The selected Intermediate Outcome(s) should be replicated in the Performance Measurement Framework in section 2.1.2.
- Only the Immediate Outcomes, Outputs and Activities **must be completed by the applicant.**
- The boxes in the template are there for illustration purposes only. The number of boxes can be adjusted by using the “split cell” and “merge cell” functions to suit the needs of the project. It is not the number of boxes that is important, but rather the logical link among result levels.

2.1.1 Logic Model





Intermediate Outcomes

✓ Enhance the rights of religious communities whether they are threatened or violated. (Cannot be changed by the applicant)	✓ Strengthen institutions' and civil society's response to specific violations of religious freedom and for the promotion of tolerance and pluralism. (Cannot be changed by the applicant)	✓ Increase the effectiveness of organizations, including national and international stakeholders, to act against violations of freedom of religion. (Cannot be changed by the applicant)
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Immediate Outcomes

<i>How will the products or services you produced or provided immediately benefit/affect the people who received them? (Must be completed by the applicant)</i>				
Create greater religious tolerance across sectarian groups and provide a safe space where civil and religious leaders can enter dialogue	Improve dialogue processes among religious groups on interfaith issues and religious minority rights	Increase knowledge and skills in conflict resolution, interfaith conflict management, religious freedom, and tolerance	Strengthen networks between sectarian and religious groups	Broaden the reach and capacities of religious leaders through skills-based seminars



Outputs

<i>What specific products or services will be produced or provided once your activities are complete? (Must be completed by the applicant)</i>				
4 six-day seminars conducted; 80 Syrians participate in interfaith dialogues and submit project proposals; over 15 women-led dialogue sessions	1 Communication and Consultation Support Base established	1 package of interfaith curriculum created	Over 20 virtual networking and coalition-building meetings organized and facilitated	20 religious leaders conduct 55 one-day workshops in their communities (refugee areas and in Syria) to transfer their knowledge of religious freedom





<i>What activities will you do as part of your project? (List the same activities here that you list in the project summary. (Must be completed by the applicant))</i>					
Activities	Conduct interfaith seminar	Create Communication and Consultation Support Base to support activists and experts	Develop curriculum on conflict prevention, religious tolerance, and minority rights	Host virtual networking meetings between religious leaders/activists and local Syrian participants	Support Syrian religious leaders in workshop development

2.1.2 Performance Management Framework

A performance measurement framework (PMF) is a plan to collect data and report on results during implementation. Do not fill in the remainder of the PMF template at this time. A full PMF will be required only in the case that DFATD decides to fund the proposal (this application). For each intermediate outcome, identify no more than two indicators (quantitative or qualitative). For each indicator provide targets. For each output, identify no more than two indicators and the target.

When developing your preliminary PMF, please consider the following:

- Expected results are taken from the Logic Model.
- Where possible, include environmental sustainability (to measure progress of measures to manage environmental effects) and gender equality indicators.
- Where impacts on people are to be measured, indicators and targets should be gender-disaggregated.
- Gender equality outcomes must be measured by gender-sensitive indicators.
- Ensure units of measure are consistent between indicators and targets.
- Ensure you can collect information on the indicators.
- Where applicable, include governance-related indicators; for example, indicators related to measuring capacity of government and/or civil society, and/or equity issues.

Complete only the white cells in the DFATD performance measurement framework (PMF). Shaded cells need to be completed should funding be approved.

Expected Results	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Data collection methods	Frequency	Responsibility
ULTIMATE OUTCOME						
Human rights protection and physical safety of religious communities are addressed and secured. (Cannot be changed by applicant.)						
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES						
Enhance the rights of religious communities whether they are threatened or violated	Improved relationships between the members of various sectarian, religious, and regional groups	75% of participants report improvement in relationships across religious and sectarian	Beneficiary records, partner organizations	Post-workshop survey; interviews with participants; staff reports		



		lines				
Strengthen institutions' and civil society's response to specific violations of religious freedom and for the promotion of tolerance and pluralism	Participants using interfaith and conflict resolution knowledge and skills in their communities	90% of participants report using these skills in their community after the seminar	Beneficiary records, partner organizations	Post-seminar survey, interviews with participants, staff observation		
Increase the effectiveness of organizations, including national and international stakeholders, to act against violations of freedom of religion	Development of a strategic plan for religious freedom and nonviolent transition to a united civil society	85% of participants agree on a strategic plan on increasing religious freedom in Syria	Beneficiary records	Post-seminar survey, mid-program report		
IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES						
Create greater religious tolerance across sectarian groups and provide a safe space where civil society activists and leaders can enter dialogue	Increased safe space where civil society activists, women, and leaders can engage in interfaith dialogue	4 workshops held and 25 virtual meetings between various religious groups	Beneficiary records, partner organizations	Pre- and post-seminar surveys, workshop discussions, staff observations		
Improve dialogue processes between civil society groups on interfaith issues and peacebuilding efforts	Development of a strategic plan for coordination and communication on religious tolerance among various sectarian groups	85% of participants agree on a plan for religious freedom in Syria	Beneficiary records, partner organizations	Post-program survey, mid-program report		
Increase knowledge and skills in conflict resolution, interfaith	Level of interfaith awareness and knowledge in conflict	90% of participants show an increase in interfaith	Beneficiary records	Pre- and post-seminar surveys, participant interviews,		



conflict management, peacebuilding, and dispute mediation in Syrian civil society	resolution increased	awareness		seminar discussions		
Strengthen networks between sectarian and religious groups	Participants making connections and building coalitions for religious tolerance after the seminars	75% of participants build coalitions for religious tolerance	Beneficiary records	Post-program survey, participant interview		
Broaden the reach and capacities of religious leaders through educational programs	Increased ability to understand and mediate conflicts and build interfaith alliances	90% of participants show increased religious understanding and	Beneficiary records, partner organizations	Post-seminar survey; staff observations; seminar discussions		
4 six-day seminars conducted; 80 Syrians participate in interfaith dialogues and submit project proposals; over 15 women-led dialogue sessions	Number of people participating in interfaith dialogue sessions	80 Syrians from different sectarian and religious groups participating	Partner organizations	Program report		
1 Communication and Consultation Support Base established	Number of contacts between activists of various sectarian groups (during workshops)	5 contacts per seminar group; total 20 contacts	Partner organizations	Program report, staff observations		
1 package of interfaith curriculum created	Increased knowledge sharing	90% of participants exchange ideas on religious freedom	Partner organizations	Staff observations, program report		
Over 20 virtual	Increased	20 virtual	Beneficiary	Seminar		



networking and coalition building meetings organized and facilitated	networking among activists and leaders from four regions in Syria	meetings held between activists and religious leaders	records, partner organizations	discussions, staff observations, post-seminar surveys		
20 religious leaders conduct 55 one-day workshops in their communities (refugee areas and in Syria) to transfer their knowledge of religious freedom	Number of people trained in conflict resolution and interfaith dialogue	55 workshops are organized and held with the support of CRDC staff	Partner organizations	Program report, staff observations		

For further information on how to complete a logic model and the PMF for DFATD, please see [Results-Based Management \(RBM\) tools](#).

2.2 Risk Management

It is critical to the success of projects that risks are assessed. Effective risk management will mean improved achievement of objectives. Consider risk when reviewing your project in order to see if you have the capacity to respond if a risk materializes.

In the table below, please identify the one (1) greatest risk that could prevent or stop you from meeting the results of this project, for each of the following categories: operational, financial, and situational. Please show how you will respond to these risks.

Type of Risk – identify the relevant risks for your project		Rate the likelihood* as high or low	Risk Response – what will you do to reduce this risk?
<p><u>Operational risk:</u> Potential risks experienced because of organization’s internal activities.</p> <p>Questions to consider: Do you have the right people, skills to carry out the project? Do you have the right tools?</p>	<p>Because CRDC is an independent center within the university, it has limited support from university administration.</p>	<p>Likelihood: Low</p>	<p>To ensure projects receive full support, CRDC hires its own administrative support.</p>
<p><u>Financial risk:</u> Potential risks experienced related to funding,</p>	<p>The budgeted costs may change after</p>	<p>Likelihood: Low</p>	<p>CRDC’s staff will use their previous experience with managing financial aspects for the current</p>



Type of Risk – identify the relevant risks for your project		Rate the likelihood* as high or low	Risk Response – what will you do to reduce this risk?
<p>misuse/mismanagement of funds or fraudulent activities.</p> <p>Questions to consider: Do you have the right financial flexibility to do this project? How do you make sure the money goes to the right place?</p>	<p>starting the project.</p>		<p>grant training Syrians to revise the budget and offset costs without sacrificing desired results.</p>
<p><u>Situational risk</u>: Potential risks related to the work carried out in the country.</p> <p>Questions to consider: What are the circumstances that could prevent you from achieving the results of your project- political (bureaucratic), social (strikes, elections, etc.), natural disaster (earthquake, floods, etc.). What risks could prevent or stop your local partner from achieving the results of this project?</p>	<p>Because of the civil unrest and violence in Syria and along its borders, target participants may have trouble crossing Syrian borders to attend workshops in Jordan and Turkey.</p>	<p>Likelihood: High</p>	<p>In the event that the political or security situation on the ground changes and it is not possible to bring certain participants to the workshops, CRDC is prepared with a highly flexible operations contingency plan that will work to revise the dates or locations of the workshops to accommodate changing dynamics. For this reason, this project will hold two workshops in Istanbul, Turkey, and the other two workshops in Amman, Jordan; having the two locations will provide this project with flexibility in terms of scheduling or relocating workshops.</p>

*Likelihood: the probability that the risk will actually occur (low or high).

3.0 Environmental Sustainability

DFATD’s Environmental Integration Process (EIP) requires an environmental analysis to be undertaken for all international development projects, unless they are in Category C of the [EIP Screening Tool](#) (negligible environmental risk or opportunity). In this section, describe the key elements of your environmental analysis and clearly demonstrate how measures to manage environmental effects (both positive and negative) are incorporated into the project's design, implementation, and follow-up. The depth of analysis required depends on the environmental significance of your project. If your project focuses solely on the specific sectors or activities identified in the Screening Tool’s Category C, justify below in box (b) and then proceed to box (h). Otherwise respond to all questions below, providing as much detail as is known at the time of application.

a) Description of environment. Briefly describe the environment in the area of your proposed project



(e.g., relevant biophysical and socioeconomic context such as terrain, climate, water availability, soil quality, land use, human settlements, local livelihoods, resource use, important ecological or cultural features, etc.). The seminars will take place in large cities with readily available water and other resources; groups will not be in any area with ecological features that could be damaged, etc.

b) Environmental effects.

- What potential effects could your project have on the environment (negative and positive, immediate and long-term effects)? This project has no potential environmental effect because it will use existing buildings (e.g., hotels) to hold the workshops and networking events. CRDC will not be constructing, expanding, or demolishing any structures within Jordan or Turkey.
- How might the environment affect your project (e.g., natural disasters, climate change)? Due to the nature of the project (i.e., holding workshops and interfaith discussions), environmental factors will have no influence on the proposed activities.

If you determine that your project has no potential environment effects (risks or opportunities), you must provide acceptable justification and may then proceed to box (h).

c) Corresponding mitigation and enhancement measures. What measures are being integrated into the project to:

- mitigate/minimize negative effects on the environment?
- enhance positive environmental effects?
- address potential effects of the environment on the project (e.g., reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, adapting to climate change)?

d) Public concerns. What are potential concerns of the public to the environmental effects, and how will these be addressed?

e) Partner country environmental requirements. What are the partner country's(-ies') environmental policy and legal requirements and capacities relevant to your project, and how will these be addressed?

f) Environmental capacity of implementing organization. What experience and resources (e.g., environmental policy, procedures, tools, management or follow-up plans, expertise, budget) will the implementing organization(s) use to manage environmental effects associated with this project?

g) Conclusion of analysis. Once the planned measures identified in box (c) have been implemented, might there be any remaining negative environmental effects? If so, explain how significant they are and how you plan to manage them, including any plans for additional analysis.

h) ALL APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, to fulfil Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012 reporting requirements. If you respond "Yes" or "Unknown," incorporate details in your responses above.

- Are you constructing, expanding, operating, or demolishing any human-made structure that has a fixed location (e.g., buildings, roads, latrines, wells or water-supply systems, ponds, mines, etc.)?
 No Yes Unknown

Ensure that your identified measures for managing, measuring, monitoring, and reporting on environmental effects are incorporated throughout the application form, including into sections:

- 2.0 Results-Based Management and Risk Managements
- 6.0 Sustainability of results
- 7.0 Financial information, and
- 8.0 Organization ability relevant to the project.



An environment specialist will use the information provided to determine whether the proposed project meets DFATD’s environmental policy, legal, and regulatory requirements for international development assistance, and whether further environmental analysis is required.

4.0 Gender Equality

Demonstrate that you have done some research and thinking about the gender equality issues relevant to your project. Guidance is available on [DFATD's Equality between Women and Men website](#). Please briefly answer the questions below.

Please identify the specific gender issues that are relevant to your project.	Women in the Middle East, like in other countries, face gender inequalities, which lead to institutional failures to adequately address the needs of women in Syria. Women are significantly underrepresented in religious leadership and interfaith dialogues.
Explain how these issues are reflected in your activities and results.	This project will address this inequality by recognizing women as a strategic group who can build alliances and mitigate conflict across various religious and ethnic groups. This project will empower women by having them not only participate in the workshops but also lead discussions on interfaith topics they feel are important for the future of Syria. This activity will extend peacebuilding and collaboration to inside Syria’s borders and utilize women’s influence not only on other women but also on their children, husbands, and brothers. CRDC’s immediate past experience in Syria resulted in successfully training Syrian women, who made up 50% or more of participants, on conflict resolution and interfaith dialogue, which is a trend this project will continue.
What tools and resources do you have to support gender equality in your work? For example, does your organization have a gender equality strategy? If yes, please give an overview or attach the strategy in your response.	CRDC realizes that, as scientific evidence suggests, cultures become less violent when they empower women. Thus, women play a pivotal role in religious conflict prevention and problem solving. CRDUSCS will rely heavily on CRDC’s previous experience in training Syrian women on conflict resolution and the established networks of gender experts such as --- ---, former editor-in-chief of <i>Tishreen</i> newspaper. Additionally, CRDC’s staff and trainers serve as a model of gender inclusion; current project leaders --- --- and --- --- will provide core support to the CRDUSCS project.
How are the needs and interests of women and/or girls accounted for in the design of the project?	This project will carefully select participants to ensure that women are equally included in the workshop discussion. Moreover, the workshops will feature at least fifteen women-led discussions.
How will you ensure your project doesn’t reinforce existing inequalities between men and women (boys and girls), or create new ones?	This project will include women not only as participants in the workshops but also as discussion leaders, which will ensure that Syrian women have the chance to shape the direction of the conversation and challenge or expose existing religious and gender inequalities.

In order for gender equality to be considered integrated in your project, be sure to identify relevant related information in sections 2 (Results-Based Management and Risk Management) and 7 (Financial information) of this application.



If you determine that gender equality plays no role in your project, you must provide an acceptable justification in this space.

5.0 Governance and Human Rights

5.1 Promoting sound [governance](#) is essential to achieving development results and should be considered in the early stages of designing your project.

<p>How will you ensure that the funding provided for your project is used as planned?</p>	<p>The programmatic design of the project accounts for adaptability because of the ongoing conflict in Syria. In the event that the political or security situation on the ground changes and it is not possible to bring some participants to the seminars, CRDC is prepared with a highly flexible operations contingency plan that will work, in consultation with relevant government representatives, to revise the dates or locations of the workshops to accommodate changing dynamics. As existing social networks and linkages form the core of the project’s approach, having Syrian experts at the leadership of the program will create a safe environment for the participants during the program and help to ensure their safety and security upon their return home. In addition, CRDC will have at least two staff on the ground throughout the duration of the project to ensure the funding is used as planned by monitoring the results through pre-seminar and post-seminar surveys and interviews with participants. CRDC will use the information gathered from the surveys and interviews to adjust the curriculum and educational strategies prior to beginning the next seminar cycle.</p>
<p>How will you ensure that your project is accessible to all, including the most vulnerable groups?</p>	<p>CRDC believes that inclusion of different religious and ethnic groups across regions in Syria is crucial for promoting religious freedom and building a democratic, united Syria. Therefore, this project will specifically select the 80 participants from four diverse regions in Syria: (1) South Damascus and suburbs (Daraa), (2) Northwest (Idlib, Lattakia, and Aleppo), (3) East and Northeast (Deir el Zor, Rakaa and Hassakeh), and (4) West (Homs, Hama, and Tartous). In addition to selecting participants from various religious and ethnic groups (e.g., Alawites, Christians, Druze, Kurds, and Sunnis), this project will ensure that women and minority groups are included. To accomplish this aim, CRDC will allow anyone in these four regions of Syria to submit an application to participate in the seminars. CRDC’s --- --- will closely evaluate each submitted application and gather recommendations from CRDC’s local partners and experts in the area. In her selection process, she will focus on leaders who have not had the opportunity to attend trainings and workshops on interfaith dialogue and conflict prevention and will evaluate the applicants critically across many dimensions. CRDC is committed to ensuring that women make up half of the participants at each seminar and that vulnerable minority groups are well represented.</p>



5.2 Demonstrate how you will prevent your project from causing negative [human rights](#) impacts.

Outline key human rights concerns relevant to your project.	Given the religious tensions in Syria, intolerance of interfaith work will be a concern throughout the project’s duration. Also, gender inequalities could present concerns for female participants.
How will you deal with these concerns?	This project will not only advocate against conflict but also demonstrate how to build trust across religious and gendered lines to prevent intolerance and violence. In addition, CRDC staff members will consult their local partners and experts, such as --- --- ---, Chairman of the Syrian Human Rights League, in preparing workshop curriculum and materials.

6.0 Sustainability of Results

<p>If you are an international organization: In one or two paragraphs, describe how you will address local ownership opportunities and obstacles, and ensure the project is sustained after completion of activities and the end of DFATD support.</p> <p>If you are a local organization: In one or two paragraphs, describe how you will ensure the project is sustained after completion of activities and the end of DFATD support.</p>	<p>The CRDUSCS project will bring together leaders and Syrian communities both locally, making the project cost effective, and globally, and through workshop discussions, these leaders will develop substantive relationships, which will continue to shape the conversation on religious freedom even after the conclusion of the project. In addition, ongoing consultations after these trainings will support networks of trust that reach farther and farther over time.</p> <p>CRDUSCS has been designed for cost effectiveness in a way that (a) develops inter-religious relationships (b) builds capacity inside Syria, and (c) enables partnership support. Facilitated discussions and training in interfaith communications and alternate methods of conflict resolution will establish leaders trained in conflict resolution. This program will provide these Syrian leaders with the theological and technical skills needed to succeed after the project cycle.</p> <p>In a previous grant, funded by the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the US State Department, a Syrian man who trained with CRDC was able to put his newfound conflict resolution skills into action upon his return home by successfully disbanding Al-Qaeda from an area of Syria where ISIS had a strong hold. Even as this previous grant draws to a close, CRDC staff members are already seeing the continuation of the project’s work through the commitment of project participants to using their skills to help their communities.</p> <p>At the end of each CRDUSCS seminar, Syrian participants will produce project proposals for implementing religious tolerance and freedom within Syria the local and national level. Outstanding participants, approximately 5 from each session, will be supported in leading workshops in their communities that will help spread the ideas of religious freedom, interfaith collaboration, and religious minority rights that they will have learned throughout the seminar. These activities form the core of a sustainable model that will guarantee that the project continues to positively affect Syria’s religious communities and civil society long after DFATD support has ended.</p>
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7.0 Financial information

7.1 Budgets

The budgets should be realistic in providing the best possible estimate of the costs/expenses for implementing the project and achieving results.

Budgets must detail specifically all cost categories by eligible cost elements and by activity, for which funding is being sought from DFATD. To determine what represents an eligible cost consult Annex 2 of this application form.

7.1.1 Estimated costs by cost elements (use Canadian dollars)

Identify by eligible cost category estimated costs for the project (use Canadian dollars). When completing the table below, please provide a short description of each eligible cost, explaining how it was calculated. The level of detail for an eligible cost element is a matter of judgment, but it should be at a financially significant level.

Summary of Eligible Cost Elements	DFATD	Other sources of funding (including Applicant)	Total
Remuneration		-	
<i>Salaries – organization’s employees</i>	169,973.87	-	169,973.87
<i>Fees - Non-organization (Non-Institutional) Personnel/Subcontractors</i>	160,442.82	-	160,442.82
Reimbursable Costs			
<i>Travel Costs</i>	14,392.62	-	14,392.62
<i>Training/Workshops/Conferences Costs</i>	63,024.25	-	63,024.25
<i>Recipient Country Government Employees</i>	-	-	-
<i>Goods, Assets and Supplies</i>	2,158.90	-	2,158.90
<i>Other Direct Costs identified under the project (USBs and international phone calling plans – landline and mobile)</i>	4,470.89	-	4,470.89
<i>Project Administration Costs Directly Related to the project</i>		-	
Sub-Total:	414,607	-	414,607
Direct Project Costs Eligible for the Application of the Overhead Rate	312,985		312,985
<i>Indirect/Overhead Costs - 26% - university’s indirect rate – not including subcontracts over \$25,000</i>	81,376.10	-	81,376.10
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT	\$495,983.10	-	\$495,983.10



Note: During implementation, variance in any activity/category in excess of 10% must be justified and approved by DFATD. Cash flow statements must be updated to reflect changes. If the variance does not result in a change to the project cost, an informal written approval by DFATD is required

7.1.2 Estimated cost and cash flow by activity (use Canadian dollars)

In this section demonstrate that the budget is realistic by showing how it is allocated for each activity in the logic model and the project plan. Add or subtract rows to replicate the activities listed in the logic model.

Estimated cost and cash flow by activity							
	Totals	Quarter 3, 2014	Quarter 4, 2015	Quarter 1, 2015	Quarter 2, 2015	Add the number of quarters corresponding to the duration of the project	Total duration of the project
		<i>Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2014</i>	<i>Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2015</i>	<i>April 1 to June 30, 2015</i>	<i>July 1 to Sep 30, 2015</i>		<i>10 months</i>
Activities	\$CAN	Actual Amount	Actual Amount	Actual Amount	Actual Amount		Projected Amount
Curriculum development	14,717.02	14,717.02					
Seminars	185,365	91,707.69	93,664.07				
Workshops	11,992.64	2,180.92	9,813.47				
Networking meetings	10,904.60	3,271.05	3,271.05	3271.05	1090.45		
Support base	14,715.05	4,907.07	4,907.07	4907.07			
TOTAL	237,694	116,783	111,655	8178.12	1090.45		

7.1.3 Other sources of funding

<p>If you are contributing your own funds or you have already or will be receiving funds from any organization other than DFATD, including any level of government (federal, provincial, municipal) for this project, identify the source of funding, the amount in Canadian dollars, and what you will use it for exactly.</p>	<p>No, this project will not receive any other funding.</p>
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8.0 Organization ability relevant to the project

8.1 Profile of organization

Please provide information	The Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution
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about your organization that is directly relevant to the proposed project. Include information on goals, mandate, history, structure, legal status, relevant policies/guidelines/plans as they relate to the project, capacities of staff, size of organization, and number of staff in the country where your project will take place.

(CRDC) is the flagship center for conflict resolution practice at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) at George Mason University. CRDC engages emerging indigenous and global peacemakers, mobilizes support, and creates linkages between citizen diplomats, students, business people, and policy makers. CRDC operates conflict resolution and educational projects in Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and the United States, and has also led interventions in conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Turkey, Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Iran, Canada and Indonesia. CRDC and S-CAR have extensive experience in administration and management of grants from donors including the U.S. Department of State and USAID. GMU manages \$100 million in sponsored funds annually and S-CAR has managed over \$10 million in grants from donors including the USDOS and USAID, most of which have been grants awarded to CRDC. GMU's Office of Sponsored Programs and Office of Fiscal Services, as well as S-CAR's Grants Manager, all offer institutional support to the administration of the grant.

CRDC is directed by Dr. --- ---, who leads its operations with more than 30 years of peacebuilding experience in the field, especially in Israel, Palestine, Syria, and in global interfaith interventions. Dr. --- has engaged in back-channel diplomacy with religious, political and military figures with particular expertise in the Arab/Israeli conflict. As an expert on Middle East conflict dynamics and interfaith religious movements, Dr. --- has also written extensively on religion and conflict, nonviolent social change, incremental conflict resolution and power of citizen diplomacy, which constitute CRDC's core approach. CRDC has a unique interfaith and international team of conflict resolution pioneers and experts who have spearheaded extraordinary contributions to peacebuilding in other "hot zones," and it is quite adept at managing the necessary relationships with leaders in order to foster publicly and privately a spirit of constructive cooperation. In addition, CRDC as an interfaith team has cultivated friendships with Muslim, Christian, and Jewish scholars, leaders and heads of state across the globe. This is essential to demonstrating the real commitment of the world to a peaceful and just future for religious tolerance in Syria.

The goal of CRDC is to inspire and generate successful incremental steps of positive change in intractable conflict situations, steps that can also become the basis for new approaches to diplomacy and foreign policy. The work of CRDC ranges from grassroots work to policymaking, and develops and supports effective collaboration between grassroots leaders and policymakers with regard to education, social change, and nonviolent resistance to unjust structures.

In Syria, CRDC has a ten-year history of engagement through citizen diplomacy that has included public conferences, seminars, and the establishment of a CRDC branch in Damascus, Syria, which prior to



	<p>the revolution offered trainings in citizen diplomacy and peacebuilding. In addition, CRDC remains locally operational in Syria through a global network of experts, religious leaders, alumni, and trainees, who are well prepared to carefully increase support for targets of opportunity in non-violent civilian intervention. CRDC's vision, implementation skills, and diplomacy skills on the ground lead its initiatives in a direction of steady and increasing success.</p> <p>During each seminar, CRDC will have at least three staff members and multiple outside trainers at the training location. Dr. ---, CRDC Director and James H. Laue Professor of World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution; --- ---, Executive Director of Interfaith Dialogue; and --- ---, Program Officer for Syria, will lead the project on the ground. --- has many years of experience as an expert in conflict management, political engagement, and peacebuilding in active environments of conflict and war in which Arabs and Muslims are participants both in conflict and in peacebuilding. ---, a Syrian Christian whose activism in citizen diplomacy and democratization dates back almost eleven years, served as Director of Youth Involvement at the Syrian Center for Dialogue. Her existing network of youth actors extends across Syria, in every religious and ethnic group, and is crucial to the success of this project. Outside trainers will include experts on interfaith cooperation, religious dialogue, and religious conflict management and will be mainly Arabic speakers who can communicate directly with the Syrian participants.</p>
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8.2 Management of the project

<p>Briefly describe the roles and responsibilities of your organization in managing and monitoring the project activities to ensure the achievement of results and response to risks. Describe the tools and processes you will use to manage finances, personnel, procurement/purchasing, environmental sustainability and other operational functions (as applicable to the project).</p>	<p>The Office of Sponsored Programs at George Mason University will be responsible for financial management and other operational concerns. GMU's Accounts Payable department will manage payments and purchasing. CRDC draws upon the vast resources of George Mason University to provide administrative support typical of a large research university.</p> <p>Dr. ---, an expert on Middle East conflict dynamics and interfaith religious movements, will provide overall strategic direction of the project and will assure the quality of all aspects of the program. Dr. -- - will have a key role in conceptualization of the content and curriculum in interfaith dialogue, religious conflict resolution, and minority rights and will advise lead experts.</p> <p>--- will serve as the chief executive officer of the project, responsible for operation, finance, personnel, evaluation, and senior level coordination with partners, donors, and various departments of George Mason University. As an Executive Director at CRDC, --- will be the key liaison with GMU's Office of Sponsored Programs and DFTAD.</p>
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	<p>--- and --- will play a critical role in oversight of curriculum development and support for the seminars, consultations with the senior trainers and trainees throughout the life of the project, and consultations on strategies of connecting those on the ground and their needs with higher echelons of power in Syria and in the countries of refuge. --- will also select the participants for the seminars and will manage networking among participants after the conclusion of each seminar.</p> <p>---, the Program Manager, has extensive experience reporting on grant activities and has managed quarterly reports for Iran and Syria grants. She has also managed financial aspects of CRDC's current Syria grant and is a liaison with the Office of Sponsored Programs at George Mason University. --- will be responsible for operations, finance, personnel, evaluation, and senior level coordination with partners and departments at George Mason University.</p> <p>Additionally, CRDC will hire an evaluation consultant and an online platform consultant. The online platform consultant will manage the Communication and Consultation Support Base. The evaluation consultant will be responsible for completing two monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports: one mid-term report following the first two seminars, and a final M&E report at the conclusion of the project.</p>
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8.3 Local capacity

<p>Briefly describe the roles and responsibilities of your local partner (in the recipient country) in implementing, managing and monitoring the project to ensure the achievement of results and response to risks. Describe the tools and processes they will use to manage finances, personnel, procurement/purchasing and other operational functions (as applicable to your project).</p>	<p>CRDC will call upon on its extensive ten-year engagement in Syria and tap into its existing mobilized social networks across the country. Religious and community leaders within CRDC's extensive network will conduct the workshops and virtual networking meetings as well as offer advice to the CRDUSCS participants and local community throughout the project.</p> <p>Trainers selected to lead the workshops are already part of CRDC's network and have been targeted specifically for their importance and relevance to interfaith dialogue, conflict prevention, and nonviolence. CRDC will collaborate directly with --- ---, a moderate Muslim cleric and leader of the new unified Syrian opposition. His engagement will enable CRDUSCS participants to move aggressively into political bridge-building work for the creation of a unified, peaceful Syria. --- --- and --- --- are experts on interfaith collaboration and will play a leading role in project by offering advice and guidance to the workshop participants. --- ---, a Syrian Christian and expert on conflict resolution, leadership, and diplomacy in Syria, will also assist CRDC throughout the project by assisting in selecting the participants for the workshops, contributing to the educational curriculum, and offering her knowledge to participants through seminars and virtual network meetings.</p> <p>Several other leading experts and organizations have offered to</p>
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	<p>support this project by engaging their networks and contributing their expertise and knowledge to the content of the workshop. Some of these influential leaders are as follows: Dr. --- ---, a Syrian and Canadian citizen, professor, and Syrian peace activist; --- ---, President of the Diplomatic Defectors Allegiance; --- ---, communications expert; --- ---, Chairman of the Syrian Human Rights League; --- ---, member of the Syrian Council and nonviolent communication expert; --- ---, Project Director of the Syria Justice and Accountability Center; and --- ---, former editor-in-chief of <i>Tishreen</i> newspaper and a gender expert. This project will also benefit from the knowledge and networks of Volunteers Without Borders, Organization for Civil Society in Syria (C.A.A. in Syria), and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.</p>
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8.4 Relevant applicant experience

<p>Provide one specific example describing your organization's experience related to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -working with DFATD -working with the community or country where your project will take place -working in the sector your project is focusing on to achieve similar results 	<p>CRDC has previous experience training Syrian youth, women, and ethnic and religious minorities in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. <i>Transition to a United Syrian Civil Society</i> is an ongoing project wherein CRDC staff lead a series of six-day training sessions in order to provide 160 Syrian activists with skills in conflict resolution, transitional justice, and civil society building. The project, which totals \$836,643, is funded by the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the US Department of State.</p> <p>Through this previous training project, CRDC has achieved similar results to proposed outcomes for the CRDUSCS project by successfully training over 50% women in the sessions and monitoring the sustainability of the trained leaders who are using their new skills to negotiate and manage sectarian conflicts in Syria. CRDC will draw on this previous experience in preparing and implementing CRDUSCS.</p>
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