Annual Report 2005

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Introduction

It is with pleasure that we submit the 2005 Annual report to Crossing Borders (CB) partners and supporters. The report details the activities implemented by Crossing Borders in the period between 1 January and 31 December 2005. The report comprises narrative report of Crossing Borders activities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Germany, Turkey and Denmark.

Acknowledgements

As the year 2005 matures into a new year of 2006, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and warmly thank all Crossing Borders partners, friends, donors and networks. Crossing Borders is grateful to the partnership with Givat Haviva in Israel, Peace and Democracy Forum in Palestine, the Arab College for Education in Haifa, Israel, Masar Centre in Jordan and dialogue lab in Germany. The team work and dedication of the partner organisations and their respective coordinators, youth and teachers have been the very backbone for CB to carry out its activities.

The generous support received from, to name but a few, the EU Partnership for Peace, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish Ministry of Education’s Cirius Programme, the UNESCO Participation Programme, and the Office of Public Affairs of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Danish Hermod Lannungs Foundation and the Danish Daily Politiken’s Foundation. CB also extends warm thanks to the CB Advisory Board, the Executive Board, Parliamentary Support group and CB members and subscribers. Without your support, CB would not have managed to carry out all the activities described herein.

Summary of main activities of 2005

For Crossing Borders the year 2005 has involved increased number and diversification of activities as well as expansion of networks. Here is the summary of the main activities carried out from January through December 2005:

1. Crossing Borders reunion workshop, Haifa, January
2. Production of CB pilot Documentary film, January
3. Crossing Borders seminar-preparation visit to Kurt Löwenstein International seminar Centre at Werftpfuhl and Georg Eckert Institute, Germany, January
4. CB Teachers Workshop in Istanbul, March
5. CB Youth follow up seminar in Berlin, March
6. Crossing Borders participation in the EuroMed Civil Society Platform, Luxembourg, April
7. Publication of CB magazine editions number 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29
8. Crossing Borders visit to the Norwegian Newspaper in School, Oslo, May
9. CB teachers Workshop in Marmaris, Turkey, June
10. Crossing Borders feasibility study tour for the development of CB youth Clubs, Israel/Palestine, July
11. Publication of External evaluation report, Jerusalem, July
12. Development and publication of Crossing Borders Teachers manual, August
13. CB Youth Capacity Building Training Course in Elsinore, Denmark, August
14. CB participation in the launching conference at the Anna Lindh Foundation, Alexandria, September
15. Crossing Borders 6th anniversary celebration, Willy Brandt Centre, Jerusalem, September
16. Opening of Crossing Borders club, Haifa, October
17. Crossing Borders participation in the Global Security conference in Pecs, Hungary, November
18. Crossing Borders participation in Crystal Night Commemoration, Copenhagen, November
19. Crossing Borders research tour to Israel, Palestine and Jordan, November/December
20. Crossing Borders Cross Borders Club activities, Aqaba-Eilat, December

CB member, Liat Margalit, presents CB at Christianshavn gymnasium, Copenhagen 2005
Reunion meeting

The first major activity of Crossing Borders in 2005 was a reunion meeting of 40 Palestinian, Israeli Jews and Arab Israeli youth, teachers and coordinators in Haifa, on 14 January. The Arab College for Education hosted the reunion meeting. The programme included an official welcome by the Director of the College, Professor Najeeb Nabwani and the Arab Israeli Coordinator, Mr. Andre Kaldawy, a lecture entitled "Conflict Analysis and Resolution in the 21st century" by Dr. Ofer Grunzberg, a lunch and a Haifa tour. The reunion meeting was an excellent occasion for the youth to reunite after the previous October seminar in Istanbul. It also served as a good venue for the teachers and coordinators to put their heads together and develop a plan of action for the following months.
### Crossing Borders Pilot Documentary film

The documentary was developed and produced by the Danish film director, Jorn Faurschou. The filming was made in connection to summer course preparation visit by the CB director to Israel, Palestine and Jordan in August 2004. The voice narration was made by CB Advisory Board Member, Greg Newbold, Australia and the editing by Claudio Celis, Chile. The film comprises interviews and statements by the CB youth, teachers and parents. It also contains some of the sessions during the summer course in the same month in Elsinore and at the Danish Parliament. The film is available in DVD and CD-Rom formats. The plan is to develop the documentary into a complete film, which can be used as a teaching material.

### CB contribution to a book entitled “Multicultural Counselling-Foundations and Best Practices in Europe.”

The book was published in February 2005 by the Centre for International Mobility and the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Garba Diallo wrote the CB contribution for the book. The title of the article was “Demystifying the Other - Intercultural Conflict Management through Crossing Borders activities.”

In the opening chapter Garba Diallo asserts that: As the genesis of conflicts seems to stem from a deep fear of the stranger, it is vital that people meet, interact, demystify and discover the human nature of one another. In this way, the “other” will mirror our own self. In addition to fear as the source of human conflict, the deep- rooted straightforward interpretations concerning monotheistic concepts of “good versus evil” and that the former will prevail over the latter, is another dangerous source of permanent search and need for an enemy.

This narrow perspective builds on either us, or them, rather than us and them together. Here lies the very importance of meeting, interacting, learning to live and to accept the necessity and beauty of cultural diversity, which could be as important as biological diversity. The full article is on: [www.crossingborder.org](http://www.crossingborder.org), under publications.
Teachers’ seminar I on developing a CB manual, Istanbul, March

This seminar was the first of two teachers’ seminars on developing the teachers manual for Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian and Jordanian teachers, headmasters/mistresses and school inspectors as well as the four coordinators. The seminar was organised by Crossing Borders Director and Assistant Director, Garba Diallo and Nina Maria Klok, respectively. Garba Diallo and journalist Søren Søgaard planed and implemented the training sessions. Suheir Hashimeh (Palestine), Olga Paz (Israeli Jewish), Khaled Shorman (Jordan) and Andre Kaldawy (Arab Israeli) recruited and coordinated the four groups which participated in the seminar.

The seminar’s main objectives were to

- Provide Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian and Jordanian teachers with space and skills to develop a manual on how to use Crossing Borders in the classroom
- Discuss and develop lesson plans and theories on how to use CB in the classroom
• Exchange pedagogical ideas, methods and skills towards mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.
• Enhance cooperation between Israeli (Jewish and Arab), Jordanian and Palestinian educators
• Provide the teachers with media knowledge and skills to enable them to use the media with consciousness in educating peoples.

**Seminar content**

After a brief welcoming session we watched the film “Promises”, which is about Israeli and Palestinian youth. The teachers discussed and thought about the reality of the film. Søren Søgaard, veteran journalist and author who have worked with several projects on how to use the newspaper in education, gave a lecture on how newspapers could be used as a pedagogical tool. The lecture provided the teachers with tools to engage their students to write. It also gave them ideas on interesting class exercises for their students. The session generated lively discussion, comments and questions.

The seminar achieved its objectives due to the following: the participants were happy to reunite and further share their ideas and experiences; the participants have gained new inspiring materials from the sessions to work with their students; the participants’ evaluation of the seminar was positive. However, both the participants and organisers felt that the time was too short to work on the manual and to see Istanbul.

The success of the seminar and the making of a CB teacher’s manual are results of the visions and courage of the participants, coordinators and facilitators.
Crossing Borders follow up Seminar for youth, 17\textsuperscript{th} - 21\textsuperscript{st} of March 2005, Berlin

Crossing Borders Director Garba Diallo, Assistant Director Nina Maria Klok and intern Rosa Dich planned and organised the seminar. Vera Maeder, Jonathan Kriener from the Georg Eckert Institute of School Book Research, and Garba Diallo implemented the training sessions. Two Sociology students from Copenhagen University also participated in the seminar to collect data for their bachelor thesis.

CB youth touring the ruins of the Berlin Wall, March 2005
The seminar’s main objectives were

- to follow up on the last seminar
- to discuss and learn about difference between historical narratives, and the effect these differences have on our thinking and attitudes.
- Provide further training on journalism
- Write articles for the upcoming edition of the CB magazine
- Provide the youth with the possibility to meet and renew relations, while sharing experiences of the latest regional developments.

Themes and content

The theme of the seminar was reflections on the different narratives which guide knowledge and behaviour in the Middle East as well as other places. This was done through sessions, workshops as well as relevant excursions around Berlin.

For example the youth visited the German Foreign Ministry and had the chance to discuss the European role in the ME conflict with Mr. Ingo Herbert, Deputy Head of the Middle East department of the Ministry. This debate raised some serious issues, and led several of the youth to request an open dialogue session on the following day to further discuss these topics and other related matters. It was noted how dialogue can help one empty out his/her own storages, and how it can also generate understanding among parties.

The question for the open dialogue was: the situation in the ME seems to be improving – what is your opinion? The discussions here got heated, and some of the new participants, who had not been to other seminars, felt uneasy to participate in this kind of discussion and worried about disagreeing with their newfound friends. Participants who had been to other meetings assured them though, that they would still be friends regardless of differences of opinion.

This turned out to be true, as demonstrated by level of personal trust that has been established among the youth. Some of the experienced participants pointed out that they found this discussion to be much more respectful and nuanced than previous discussions during seminars at IPC or in Turkey. This demonstrated again how the continued contact between the youth can encourage further respect and understanding. The following are some evaluations of the participants about the open dialogue: Enjoyable, good, learning, informative, enlightening, arguments best way of reaching peace, weird, and funny, relaxing, short, which made me feel bad.

The youth were separated into two groups to write articles for the next edition of CB magazine. One group, facilitated by Garba Diallo, focused on the European dimension in the process to peace. Here, a point was made that the youth should make an effort to separate opinion from information, and - when writing journalistically – leave out the opinionated writing. The other group, facilitated by Vera Maeder, explored creative writing.

A guided tour of the ruins of the Berlin Wall was given where they also visited the Reichstag. They interviewed people on the streets of Berlin about their opinion on the role
of the EU in the Middle East Peace process. The interviews were the central topic of the articles they wrote afterwards. Many of the youth found it difficult to complete an interview since most of the Germans they interviewed did not have sufficient English skills. Some of the interviewers were also surprised to find that some of Germans they interviewed have a low level of knowledge about the Middle East situation.

Jonathan Kriener from the Georg Eckert Institute facilitated a workshop on the differences between the Arab and Israeli historical narratives. In mixed groups, the youth discussed examples from history books from both sides, and presented their opinions on the truthfulness or manipulative character of the texts.

At the end of the seminar the evaluation questionnaires were handed out and the youth expressed their positive experiences of meeting and having good times with friends.
Crossing Borders Club in Aqaba

A group of CB teachers opened the first CB club in the Red Sea town of Aqaba in Jordan on March 17, 2005. Run by the teachers Roopa Ghoso and Paul Beagley, the club started with 30 young members. The activities included Sunday sessions, exchange with Eilat across the sea, sports, discussion of current issues and workshops on writing articles. The club publishes an English Newsletter. For more information, inquire to contactclub2005@hotmail.com

CB editions

In 2005, Crossing Borders magazine edition number 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 were published in hard copies and online and distributed to schools in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Denmark and to various individuals and organisations in the Middle East, Europe and USA. All the issues can be read and downloaded from: www.crossingborder.org
CB Participation in the EuroMed Civil Society platform April

CB Director Garba Diallo was invited to participate in the EuroMed Civil Society Platform held in Luxembourg between 31 March and 3 April. The seminar was held as part of the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. Several hundred representatives of civil society organisations and officials from across the Euromed region participated in the programme. CB was part of the youth workshops. The event provided an excellent forum for meeting, exchanging of ideas, networking, as well as finding partner organisations in the region.

Teachers’ seminar II on developing a CB manual, June at Marmaris, Turkey

The second of the two teachers’ seminars to produce the CB teachers manual was held at Marmaris, Turkey for 20 Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian and Jordanian teachers, headmasters/mistresses and school inspectors and the four coordinators. The seminar was organised by Crossing Borders Director, Assistant Director and Intern, Garba Diallo, Nina Maria Klok and Rosa Dich, respectively.

A Danish film director, Jørn Faurschou also participated in the seminar to make interviews and collect materials for the Crossing Borders documentary he was working on.

The programme of the seminar concentrated on editing the manual, various educational activities/simulations and one afternoon study tour. Garba Diallo and journalist Soeren Soegaard planned and facilitated the sessions.

Suheir Hashimeh (Palestine), Olga Paz (Israeli Jewish), Khaled Shorman (Jordan) and Andre Kaldawy (Arab Israeli) recruited and coordinated the four groups which participated. The seminar was held at the Grand Azur hotel at Marmaris.

The seminar’s main objectives were to

- Finalise the Crossing Borders manual for teachers
- Provide Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian and Jordanian teachers with space and skills to develop a manual on how to use Crossing Borders in the classroom
- Discuss and develop lesson plans and theories on how to use CB in the classroom
- Exchange pedagogical ideas, methods and skills towards mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.
- Help plan future activities of Crossing Borders’ youth and teachers programmes
Teachers developing the CB manual, Marmaris, June, 2005
**Seminar contents**

The activities of the first session consisted of welcome remarks, presentation of seminar objectives, programme, methods and other practical information. In one session the participants were divided in groups and each group was given a part of the manual text to read, comment on and provide suggestions. The groups continued to type in the corrections they deemed necessary. The coordinators had sessions with Soeren Soegaard on how to improve the quality of the Crossing Borders magazine.

The participants were interviewed on camera on what they individually considered to be the most important issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how they as educators could deal with it. Jorn Faurschou made the filming. The participants watched and analysed the opinions of everyone about the issue. This prompted lively and deep discussions. The participants found the method of using video film to express their viewpoints and watching the film afterward very challenging and educational. The interviews were copied into DVDs for the teachers to take with to use in their teaching. The participants continued working on the manual for the following days and enjoyed a tour consisting of a boat trip at the scenic sea, swimming, listening and dancing to music and taking photos.

Another session included the ball games called inclusion and exclusion. The participants were divided into 4 groups and each was instructed to pass the balls around while they stood in a circle. A blindfolded person was brought into the group every now and then. After the activity, the participants sat in a circle and debriefed one another about cooperation within the respective groups and their attitude toward new comers. The participants found the activity very educational and some said it was an interesting exercise to apply to their teaching.

At the end of the seminar each participant was asked to individually describe in writing their experience with participating in Crossing Borders activities. Also, they were asked for their visions and recommendations for Crossing Borders.

From the points of view of both the organisers and the participants, the seminar achieved its objectives: the participants were happy to reunite and their share ideas and experiences; CB was able to finalise the manual and plan future activities; the participants’ evaluations of the seminar were positive and many of them went home determined to continue dialogue and peace work in their professional and private life; the teachers agreed to help develop the planned Crossing Borders youth clubs; they also agreed to help the Israeli and Palestinian teachers to visit their colleagues in Aqaba, Jordan in Fall.


Two external consultants were hired to review and assess the overall validity of the Crossing Borders concept in the Middle East context and its achievements, impact on target groups, outreach, quality, strategy and sustainability.
The consultants were Dr. Ifat Maoz, Social Psychologist and Senior lecturer at the Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Mr. Abdel Fettah Darwish of the Palestinian Media and Development Institute, Jerusalem. Dr. Maoz, the project evaluator, conducted the review in the Israeli Jewish and Arab sectors while Mr. Darwish conducted the review in Palestine and Jordan.

The reviews took place in the period between 1 May and 30 June 2005. The positive findings of the report confirmed what already have been stated by the youth, teachers and coordinators about the benefit of participating in CB activities. The report was submitted to all CB stakeholders and it can be downloaded from www.crossingborder.org/publications.

**Crossing Borders teachers’ manual**

The aim of the manual was to encourage and assist Arab and Israeli teachers to use the Crossing Borders youth magazine as a framework for teaching mutual knowledge, understanding and cooperative coexistence in the Middle East. Another important aim of the manual was to inspire teachers and educational institutions in the Middle East to develop the concept of Crossing Borders as an integral part of the education systems.

The concept of Crossing Borders is defined as learning to live, study and work together on issues of common interest and concern with tangible and useful output. Such a direct experience of living under the same roof, eating at the same table, learning useful skills and producing something relevant and interesting for the participants help demystify the “other”.

**CB Club Feasibility Visit to the Middle East**

CB Assistant Director, Nina Maria, Klok and Staff Member, Maja Gildin conducted a feasibility study on the development of CB clubs in the region. The visit took place on 26 July-5 August. Nina and Maja visited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Haifa and Amman. The visit’s result was used to prepare a proposal to the Danish High School Organisation, Operation Day Work in November for developing 5 CB clubs in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. During their stay in the region, Nina and Maja were hosted by CB youth and teachers.

**CB Capacity-Building Course in Elsinore, 14-21 August, Denmark**

The course trained 25 youth aged between 20-25 years from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Germany and Denmark. The participants were part of the Crossing Borders network. Most of them had participated in Crossing Borders activities and written articles for the magazine. The objective was to train the participants in capacity-building, communication, media and project development. This was aimed at enabling the youth to improve and transfer their experience and skills to other youth in their communities and to develop and implement their own projects.
CB in journalism session, capacity building course 2005
The programme of the course consisted of group dynamics, teambuilding, workshops on communication, media and project development combined with presentations to IPC students to test the youth’s communication skills, a whole day event with Danish gymnasium students at Christianshavn high school, with panel debate by the representatives, exhibition and group work with the Danish youth on youth visions for Middle East 2015 and the needed support. In addition, the participants were divided into seven project groups to make interviews in Copenhagen for the following: the Ministry of Integration, Blågaardplads, the Jewish faith Society, HC. Andersen’s footsteps, Politiken, EuroMed Human Rights Network, Jyllandsposten. The course was concluded with a formal presentation of the seven project groups before a jury committee of experts on project development.

In brief the activities consisted of keynote lectures, workshops and assignments on the themes of media, communication and project development. The participants also enjoyed being the centre of media attention: DR1 news as part of their reportage of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Youth program Rundfunk, articles in daily Information, Jyllandsposten, Helsingør Dagblad, Copenhagen Radio. The participants also had the chance to interact with IPC and Danish gymnasium students and explore Copenhagen’s multiple faces. Individually written reviews and the plenary evaluation session showed that the course achieved its objectives.
**Achievements**

From the point of view of both the organisers and participants, the course achieved its objectives. The participants received training in communication, media skills and project development. During the course, the participants got the unique opportunity to live with fellow youth and trainers from other countries, eat at the same table, work together on joint projects and make joint presentations to Danish youth at Christianshavn gymnasium and apply their media skills in a joint reportage tour in Copenhagen to the Ministry of Integration, Politiken, Euromed Human Rights Network and many more. The participants also got an excellent media exposure. As the course took place during Israel’s evacuation of the Gaza settlement, what the CB youth said to the media was in sharp contrast with all the violent attitudes and behaviours of the warring parties back home.

The youths were both realistic, more hopeful and willing to work for a more peaceful Middle East. The participants went through a monitored process of selecting and developing a dialogue-project. The participants had the chance to encounter Danish peers at Christianshavn High School, where they discussed the conflict and the need for more active role of youth in the search for sustainable peace in the region.

*Razan, Jordan, Eliran, Johannes, and Rawiya, in group work.*
The participants received training in journalism and communication, and were encouraged in finding and developing their own projects, while receiving training and feedback on their results. Furthermore, they had the chance to encounter other youths from the other side of the conflict, as well as from Denmark and Germany, which helped them gain new perspectives on the conflict and new motivation and ideas for activism.
Participation in the Anna Lindh Symposium September

Crossing Borders’ Director was invited to participate in the Launching symposium of the Euro-Mediterranean Schools Programme, Alexandria, Egypt, 21 to 25 September 2005. More than 100 teachers representing UNESCO ASP.net schools, civil society organisations and officials across the EuroMed region attended the event.

Crossing Borders was presented in a speech as an example of good practice projects. Benefiting from the seminar inputs, Crossing Borders also sieged the opportunity to make contacts, forge friendships and networks with like-minded individuals and organisations. As a result of participating in the meeting, CB developed a partnership project with the Finnish ASP.net schools which since then joined the CB Teachers Programme.
6th Anniversary of Crossing Borders Celebration at the Willy Brandt Centre in Jerusalem

On the 30th Sep 2005 Crossing Borders held its 6th anniversary at the Willy Brandt Centre for Encounters and Communication at Abu Tor, Jerusalem. The event was sponsored by Peace and Democracy Forum (Palestine) and the Willy Brandt Centre. There were 53 youth and teachers as well as many other distinguished guests.

CB 6th anniversary party, Jerusalem
The reception started at 12 o'clock with speakers such as Heike Krat, Head of the Centre, Garba Diallo, Director of Crossing Borders, Saman Khoury, Palestinian National Council Member and General Manager of PDF Jerusalem, Ron Cohen, Member of Knesset for Meretz-Yachad, Hanna Siniora, Chairman of the European Palestinian Chamber of Commerce and publisher of the Jerusalem Times, and Mossi Raz, Deputy Executive Director of Givat Haviva and Mr. Amir Gissin, Israeli diplomat.

CB teachers and youth spoke about their experiences with the conflict and Crossing Borders as well. After the speeches and a lunch with a big anniversary cake decorated with the CB logo, the participants had a workshop on organizing activities they themselves were interested in implementing in their own regions.

Among the suggestions the youth came up with were to spend a day fasting together during the Ramadan, go together to weekend camps, organize photography workshops and use the Brandt Centre to develop a joint pilot club. Plans of actions were agreed upon and the youth and teachers continue to work on the implementations.
Opening of Crossing Borders youth club in Haifa

On Oct 1st 2005 Crossing Borders held its inauguration party of the first CB youth club in Haifa, a charming model city for coexistence. CB youth from Haifa and guests attended the event. The CB Director Garba Diallo and assistant Director Nina Maria Klok attended the opening and the event started at 16.00 with a welcome speech by the CB Director, and the Arab Israeli coordinator Angham Sakar.

The programme included speeches and music composed and played by the CB youth on this very special occasion. Some performed songs, and the youth decided to make a special song for Crossing Borders. The participants enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Dr. Alya Sakar and her neighbors.
CB Participation in Global Security conference, Hungary

As part of its growing contacts and networks, CB was invited to participate in Global Security Conference at the Central European University at Pecs, Hungary. CB was represented at the conference by the CB director, Garba Diallo also presented a paper on African Renaissance for Glocal (global and local) security. The conference took place at the Europe House and was attended by scholars, global security experts and students mainly from Hungary, but also from other European countries. CB pointed out that restoring order in the failed African states such as Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and so on would directly contribute to the efforts for an African revival which is a precondition for the achievement of local African security without which their could hardly be global security. The paper and lecture were well received. The paper is due for publication as part of the symposium proceedings book.

Never Again, A Crystal Night

During the commemoration of Crystal Night on the 9th of November 2005, Crossing Borders member Mozhdeh Ghasemiyani spoke on behalf of Crossing Borders in front of hundreds of people representing various civil society organisations in Denmark. In her speech, Mozhdeh reminded the public that "Never again" are words that have been said time and time again throughout history with reference to the atrocities that took place during the second world war.

These words gradually lose their meaning as we repeatedly close our eyes at the inhumane way individuals from minority groups are treated. Looking back at the events of WWII, we might have asked ourselves the same question: how could it happen then that many spectators did not do anything when millions of people were executed for the sole reason of being of a different race? And now sixty years later we ask ourselves the same question when the same killing based on race happens in Sudan, Kurdistan, Rwanda, Chechnya, Liberia and Bosnia.

The full speech can be read on: [www.crossingborder.org/event](http://www.crossingborder.org/event).

CB researcher to the region

Rosa Dich who has been intern in the CB head office, went to Israel, Palestine and Jordan to carry out her research on CB. The purpose of the trip was to meet the CB teachers and to see how and to what extent has the CB teacher Manual been used in teaching. The trip was part of Rosa's MA thesis for the University of Roskilde, Denmark. The visit took place from 25 November to mid December. During her visit Rosa got all the support she needed from the teachers, CB youth and partner organisations.
Challenges

The year 2005 has been another productive year for CB in fulfilling its aim of generating international peace and understanding. Looking back, the biggest challenge CB has encountered has been in relation to mobilisation of funds. In addition to the funds CB had received from the EU and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, grants were received from UNESCO participation Programme, the Danish Ministry of Education’s Cirius Programme and the Hermod Lannung Fund.

While many individuals and organization have significantly helped CB realize its projects for 2005, financial support still does play a crucial role for the acceleration of these projects in the following years. In order sustain the flow of funds; CB is adopting a new funding strategy to meet the growing demands for activities. Thus, CB is, on the one hand, expanding its contact network, anchoring itself both locally, nationally and globally, and on the other, diversifying its funding sources. Contacts are being made to public, private and multilateral sources.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I am pleased to state that in spite of the continued political stalemate in the region and increasing difficulty to obtain funds, Crossing Borders has been able to implement many important activities and expand its cooperation network and activities. The capacity-building course was something new and with the success of the first course, another course has been planned to take place in August 2006.

Cooperation with Middle East and European partners have also been cemented and expanded. The publication of the teacher’s manual has added quality to the programme. We look forward to continue doing and improving the activities of Crossing Borders in line with its mission to provide impartial dialogue space and useful skills for youth and educators that will enable them to effectively participate in the developmental processes of their societies.

Toward this end, CB looks very much forward to increased and continued cooperation, in 2006 and beyond, with our partner organisations, youth, educators and as well as individuals and groups that work for international understanding and cooperation on equal terms.

Garba Diallo

Crossing Borders