

## **COVID-19 | MENA**

### **Musalaha | Palestine/Israel**

The local communities and Musalaha participants are increasing their efforts to stay in touch with each other more than ever before, but now through social media and online platforms. They are finding creative ways to support each other by delivering food and medical supplies and helping each other through daily life, especially in Bethlehem. We are encouraged by their initiation of an organized support system.

Our Musalaha staff is split between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We are shifting to online platforms for meetings. We are curating workshops, daily blogs, and social media input targeted at specific groups and pertaining to the current situation. Our goal is to provide resources on how to respond to fear and conflict amid this crisis. In this sense, the situation is in fact an opportunity to spread the message of reconciliation, peace, and conflict resolution.

We have worked out a concept to launch our new “Musalaha Academy.” This includes video tutorials, online trainings, etc. As people are stuck at home, Musalaha’s expertise may be especially needed in communities facing local crisis and conflict. However, we lack skilled volunteers and funding for video productions.

As the Coronavirus continues to isolate people across the world, it has literally separated Israeli and Palestinian women who are now on lockdown. Our March meeting for our Women’s Program had to be cancelled. There is also a possibility that our Desert Encounter in April will need to be postponed. Please pray for an acceptable way to meet regardless.