

PARTNERS

f o r D e m o c r a t i c C h a n g e

SEPTEMBER 2008 UPDATE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the last few months **Partners for Democratic Change** has embarked on a new era, undertaking exciting internal developments and creating new opportunities to expand Partners' central mission of building capacity for change and conflict management throughout the world. To keep you abreast of these changes we are pleased to send you this update on Partners for Democratic Change.

New Staff

Partners is pleased to welcome two new staff members: **Julia Roig**, Executive Director, and **Dina Dukhqan**, Director of International Programs.

Julia joins as Executive Director of Partners, returning to the U.S. after substantial field experience in the democracy, rule of law and conflict resolution fields based out of the Balkans and Latin America. She is a licensed attorney, and a skilled mediator, facilitator and trainer who has been involved with the promotion of the conflict management field both professionally and personally for over 10 years. Partners is pleased to add her broad expertise and creativity in international program design, management and evaluation to our global team. Julia is responsible for the overall development and strategic planning of Partners' network as well as the management of Partners' day-to-day activities.

Dina was the first Director of the Partners-Jordan Center for Civic Collaboration for the past three years, growing it from infancy to a robust, leading civil society organization in Jordan. Now based in Washington, D.C. Dina is guiding Partners' expansion in the Middle East and overseeing all international program development. Dina has extensive experience in civic engagement, coalition-building, policy development, and youth job creation programs. She maintains close coordination with the international network of Partners' Centers and other collaborating organizations.

We also have two interns this Fall: Anne Hainer, who is finishing her MA in International Development at American University, and Tamar Zalk, who has just begun her MA in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University.

Partners' New Office

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Raymond Shonholtz, Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Partners' President Raymond Shonholtz will serve as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC, for the latter part of 2008 focusing on recommendations to the new Administration on democracy and civil-society foreign assistance related to the concept of social investing and long-term civil society sustainability. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>



PARTNERS' NEW STAFF MEMBERS: DINA DUKHQAN AND JULIA ROIG

New Programs

Partners for Sustainable Leadership

The General Electric Foundation recently awarded Partners for Democratic Change a substantial three-year grant to support the new *Partners for Sustainable Leadership* initiative, which will allow Partners to **build new Partners' Centers for Change and Conflict Management** in six countries over the next three years.

Over our 19-year history, Partners has seen that a lack of leaders with skills to manage interactions between government, market and civil society actors can arrest development, thwart good governance and hinder market performance. The growing movement to identify and support leaders in emerging democracies, or social entrepreneurs, has only recently recognized the importance of an institutional underpinning to make the impact of local leaders sustainable. Leadership capacity, competency, and confidence are dramatically enhanced when there is a physical context within which to work, congregate talent, build a body of knowledge, and achieve sustainability. Thus, any effort to support and develop leaders needs to be coupled with an initiative to support their work through a sustainable institutional base. This concept has been the foundation of Partners' organizational philosophy and the resulting 14 local Partners' Centers throughout the world, which demonstrate the longevity and impact of our model.

With the generous support of the GE Foundation, Partners has created the *Sustainable Leadership* Fellowship Program to support, train and mentor one carefully selected social entrepreneur from each of the target countries as they establish a local Partners' Center in their country. Building

on our experience of creating successful local organizations, Partners will help each Leader conduct a country-assessment, design a business plan, create an organizational structure and board of directors and begin to offer high-quality, democracy-focused facilitation, training and consulting services.

Leveraging the resources of the Partners' network of 14 national Centers, each Leader will receive individualized mentoring and technical support from his or her peer Centers for the duration of the two-year *Sustainable Leadership* Fellowship. The resulting new local Partners' Center will then become a member of Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI), the legal association of Partners' Centers based in Brussels, Belgium, and will continue to take part in the on-going knowledge sharing and collaboration within the Partners' network. **Colombia, Serbia and Yemen** have been chosen as the first countries to participate in *Partners for Sustainable Leadership* in 2008.

Catalysts for Democratic Change in the Americas

Partners proudly announces a new initiative, *Catalysts for Democratic Change in the Americas*, supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, to support the Organization of American States' Inter-American Democratic Charter in Latin America. Working closely with the Partners' Centers in Argentina, Mexico and Peru, Partners will begin the initiative at the end of 2008 to work directly with civil society leaders in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela to design and implement a comprehensive training program and advocacy materials to translate the Democratic Charter into an advocacy tool to promote compliance with the Charter's Democratic Principles. The new initiative will not only offer a broad training program to civil society leaders throughout the region, but will convene a series of inter-sectoral Coalitions to determine collaborative advocacy strategies to tackle key threats to democracy in each target country. This initiative expands Partners' long-term commitment to Latin America.

Partners' International Network: Focus on Jordan and Peru

Partners-Jordan

Partners-Jordan Center for Civic Collaboration continues to serve as an important link between government and civic organizations in Jordan. With support from the Forum for the Future, Partners-Jordan has been working closely with the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Political Development, municipality leaders, and youth organizations to help implement new municipal laws that were passed in 2007 that require increased public participation in local decision-making. Partners-Jordan closely cultivates a neutral role in the country in order to convene and work directly with local government officials, training them in good governance and community participation techniques and methods, as well as working with youth-oriented civic organizations to train them in effective Cooperative Advocacy strategies.

As part of this initiative, Partners-Jordan conducted a social-mapping process with local working groups in the target municipalities that revealed that there are many parallel efforts by municipal government and civic organizations working on similar problems, but with very little overlap or synergies. The various sectors have little knowledge or recognition of each others operations, strengths or goals. Building on the skills from the previous trainings, Partners' staff helped facilitate dialogues to construct social maps in each municipality that distinguished crucial relationships, determined development obstacles and identified joint strategies between municipal officials and civil leaders to launch new joint initiatives. Obstacles that the groups identified ranged from **relational**, (difficulty working together because of lack of trust) **economic**, (unemployment and scarcity of resources) to **political** (decision-making structures and accountability).

Partners-Jordan is now working within the target municipalities to help implement some of the solutions reached during the dialogue processes, including new Town Hall meetings to assist the municipalities' Development Units to coordinate with civil society groups, increase networking with the private sector, and create a joint database of projects to support future fundraising for local development initiatives.

For more information on the Partners-Jordan's municipal initiatives, please contact director@partners-jordan.org.

Partners-Peru

Partners' affiliate Center in Peru, *Socios Peru*, is one of twelve founding organizations of a new project "Social Responsibility: All of Us!" (*Responsibilidad Social: Todos*). The project brings together high-level members of the private sector, government and civil society to discuss, analyze and make recommendations to improve corporate social responsibility and good governance in Peru. *Socios Peru* helps to convene and facilitate the various subject-matter roundtables, including Social Responsibility of the State, and Responsible Fishing. The Roundtables have received attention and support of the highest levels of government as evidenced by the recent attendance of Jorge del Castillo the Peruvian Prime Minister, pictured here in the *Socios Peru* office in August 2008 with Carlos Salazar, Center Director.

For more information on the "Social Responsibility: All of Us!" project, please contact *Socios Peru* at csalazar@sociosperu.org.pe.



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (PARTNERS-JORDAN)



PRIME MINISTER OF PERU JORGE DEL CASTILLO WITH CARLOS SALAZAR, DIRECTOR OF PARTNERS CENTER IN PERU (*SOCIOS PERU*).