



Program: Strengthening Women Peacebuilders, International Training Institutes (ITIs) A Rotary Global Grant Model with Mediators Beyond Borders International

Summary

The International Training Institute (ITI) builds capacity to resolve and prevent conflict that threatens the lives and livelihood of millions around the world and undermines the work of governments and civil societies such as Rotary. It supports the implementation of **UN Security Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, and UN General Assembly Resolution 65/283**, to strengthen the role of women in conflict transformation, peaceful dispute settlement, and conflict prevention.

The ITIs are dedicated to preparing women to accept new roles and to thrive as leaders in peacebuilding. *This is a unique model of VTTs that involve multi-country participants with multi-national trainers.*

The Program has four key elements:

- ▶ A five-day introductory residential training for a cohort of 25 -30 women peace builders from 5 -6 countries in a region
- ▶ A five-day advanced residential training 8-12 months later. Together they include: mediation, dialogue, global context and peace processes, leadership, trauma informed peacebuilding skills and restorative justice perspectives.
- ▶ Monthly coaching and mentoring sessions (between the two residentials) provided by the MBBi trainers.
- ▶ Connection to an international network of other ITI participants from different regions of the world to create an international working group sharing lessons learned and best-practices in order to increase the on-going impact and success of the group members' projects.

Additionally, host Rotary Clubs have designed components unique to their region and need: Focus on 'Peace Begins at Home' in Jakarta, 'Community Oriented Policing Skills' in Lagos. MBBi's wide range of skills has created these opportunities to meet identified needs in communities and maximize the grant's impact.



**Southeast Asia Regional Cohort Participants
International Training Institute, July 2016
Partially funded by a Rotary Global Grant**



**Andean Regional Cohort
International Training Institute
May 2017
Partially Funded with a Rotary
Global Grant**



The Growing Global Network:

- ▶ The first ITI graduate cohort of 20 women leaders came from: Turkey, Armenia, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Kenya, Liberia, and Nepal, in the Middle East and North Africa.
- ▶ The second cohort of 25 women came from: Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, and Thailand in Southeast Asia.
- ▶ The third cohort of 24 participants is from: Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.
- ▶ The fourth cohort of 28 participants is from the six Andean countries: Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama.
- ▶ The fifth is planned for five West African countries: Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Benin, in Lagos, in Spring 2018



**Middle East & North Africa Regional Cohort
International Training Institute, 09/2013**

MBBI has also secured additional foundation support. As a result of this partnership an additional benefit has been that supporting and hosting clubs **increased awareness of peace and conflict prevention as a pillar of Rotary's mission, as well as their own initiation of additional activities in this area of focus.** To date six self-funded Rotarians have participated as trainees.

Impact of ITI – Monitoring and Evaluation reports are available (template created by PRID Phil Silvers)

- ▶ Growing numbers of women in these regions of the world are enabled to lead a range of conflict resolution and transformation processes
- ▶ Participants are prepared to contribute to peace negotiations and to lead civil society efforts to hold institutions and non-state actors accountable for sustainable peace and development
- ▶ Women are transforming their communities by capitalizing on the successes of nations that have emerged from conflict.
- ▶ Peacebuilding projects increase in the women's home countries that improve conditions and involve more women in creating social change
- ▶ The participants undertake a range of projects that include: facilitating interfaith dialogues, creating youth violence prevention programs, training farmers in mediation to resolve land disputes, creating cross border programs, convening dialogues between armed groups and communities, serving on Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, mediating development-related disputes and training thousands of others in their communities.
- ▶ Increasingly, participants are linking up with local Rotary Clubs to enhance the impact of their work.

So far, 29 individual and joint projects have been launched or expanded in the trainees' home communities. Their collective efforts have reached over 10,000 people. The partnership with Rotary on these Institutes offer a vehicle for expanding P and CR/P work and connects Peace to the other Rotary areas of Focus.