

Activity Appraisal Document ODA below € 250.000

Dutch contribution under € 250.000 / Increase commitment up to 25% of the original amount

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I REQUESTED DECISION CONCERNS

Explanation of the policy data can be found in on [Rijksportaal](#). For a more detailed description you can find additional information in the [OS-Gegevenswoordenboek \(Dutch\)](#).

For the **highlighted** subjects in table below the [OS-Gegevenswoordenboek \(Dutch\)](#) and [Rijksportaal \(English\)](#) give further explanation.

Application number	4000001602
Short name application	Breaking the Silence
Long name application	Breaking the Silence bilateral support 2018
Description application	Bilateral support towards execution of the 2018 Work Plan
Budget holder	RAM
Date of receipt of application	25/04/2018
Business Partner	Breaking The Silence
Number business partner	30055617
Implementing organisation(s)	Breaking the Silence
Legal relationship	Contribution
Commitment in foreign currency (if applicable)	USD 218.000
Corporate rate	0,88 (USD/EUR)
Commitment in euros	EUR 191.840
Funds centre	0501U02040057 – HR ODA
Activity start date	01/01/2018
Activity end date	31/12/2018
Contract start date	01/01/2018
Contract end date	31/12/2018
Aid modality	Non-earmarked contributions
Donor role	Lead or active donor
Technical assistance	TA=0 0% of the activity budget

<u>Beneficiary's country/region</u>	Palestinian Territories		
Countries within the region (if applicable)	Palestinian Territories		
Location within the country (be as specific as possible)	Territory	Name of location(s)	West Bank and Gaza
<u>CRS Code</u>	15160 Human Rights		
<u>Policy marker weight is 'principal'</u> (no minimum or maximum amount)	10.2.24 Democr PD/GG		
<u>Policy marker weight is 'significant'</u> (no minimum or maximum amount)	10.2.29 Ondrzk		
<u>Special pledges made by the Minister or State Secretary / and/ or special marks regarding sensitive information</u>	<p>Minister has announced bilateral support to Israeli and Palestinian human rights NGO's active in oPT during parliamentary debate of 19 April 2018.</p> <p>D'66 (Sjoerdsma) has specifically requested Dutch support for BtS in a parliamentary debate in November 2018, which has been positively responded to in general terms by M.</p> <p>Project does not contain sensitive, non-public information.</p>		

II. APPRAISAL OF THE ACTIVITY

Overall considerations to the project

Bilateral strategic support for the organizational work plan 2018 of **Breaking the Silence** (BTS), as part of bilateral support to a total of seven Palestinian and Israeli human rights NGO's active in the Palestinian Territories, succeeds Dutch support, until December 2017, to human rights NGO's through the Secretariat for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law ('Human Rights Secretariat'). In the HR Secretariat, four donors (Switzerland, Sweden (lead), Denmark and the Netherlands) supported 24 organizations (23 after termination of support to WATC), through a mechanism of pooled funding, implemented by a third party (Niras Natura AB in cooperation with Birzeit University). Due to diverging positions of the four donor countries, the HR Secretariat was not extended or renewed after the end date of 31 December 2017. Upon finalization of the HR Secretariat, there was no political will amongst a minimum of three donor countries to continue in a pooled fund. Opportunity to do so continues to be explored over the next months, but as the deliberations take much time, 2018 was defined as a bridge year, in which each donor would support a number of organizations in a –as much as possible- coordinated manner, to provide stability and continuity to the human rights sector.

Coordination amongst the four donors -who to support which organizations in 2018 - and the approval process in The Hague has only recently been concluded (April 2018). For this reason contracts can only be entered into starting May 2018, but will be backdated to cover all of 2018 (January- December).

2.1 Contribution made by the activity to BZ policy objectives (policy relevance)

2.1.1 General

The budget holder has drawn up an annual plan, on the basis of its MASP, in the context of the annual planning cycle.

BTS has drawn up a multi-annual strategic plan and an annual plan, in the context of the annual planning cycle. The strategic plan runs from 2017-2019.

2.1.1 Description policy relevance

See below

2.1.2 Appraisal policy relevance

The proposed activity is fully compatible with the Human Rights Policy letter (2013) and the MASP 2014-2017 of the NRO, which extends into 2018.

Human Rights Policy letter

Human rights are the cornerstone of Dutch foreign policy, in which three priorities have been set: Human Rights defenders (HRDs), equal rights for LGTB and equal rights for women. The other points of attention are the most serious violations (like torture and the death penalty), freedom of expression online, freedom of religion, human rights and (economic) development, human rights and the private sector.

With regard to HRDs, focus of Dutch policy is on the shrinking space for them to operate in (both

through legal means or intimidation and obstruction) as well as support for 'change agents'. Furthermore, capacity building, innovation and protection are central elements.

In the context of Israel/oPt, the situation of HRDs, rights of women, the most serious violations and freedom of expression are all under pressure. Breaking the Silence's (BTS) mission - to "employ testimonies from soldiers who have served in the oPt since 2000, to stimulate public discourse on the reality of the oPt" - feeds in very well into the Dutch priority of supporting 'change agents', especially in situation of (armed) conflict. One of BTS' strategic goals is to "strengthen a valued based approach to the occupation in the Israeli public agenda through the use of soldiers' testimonies", a goal it has been working on since its foundation in 2004.

Broader political instability in the Middle East and the potential for further countries and regimes to crumble, are elements that cultivate a 'fear of change' among the Israeli public when it comes to the occupation and human rights violations that go with it. Combined with a general indifference to the everyday consequences of HR violations in the oPt, the occupation is accepted as a 'necessary evil'. In a political climate that is dominated by right wing politicians and with strong influence from the pro-settler camp, the responsibility of resisting the occupation rests mainly on the shoulder of Israeli HR- and civil society organizations. As a consequence, BTS has seen increased attempts to silence and even shut its work (as did other Israeli HR anti-occupation organizations), which included -according to BTS- attacks from the highest political echelons, physical and personal attacks, cyber attacks and legal restrictions. Being a group of former soldiers, BTS was specifically targeted. These developments forced the organization to review its strategic plan and add a new strategic goal to their plan, on "... ensuring the ability of a valued based opposition to the occupation to operate within the reality of a shrinking democratic space". In this context, it can also be concluded that BTS' activities tie in very well with the Dutch HR policy goal to support the freedom of expression.

NRO MASP (2014 -2017, extended into 2018)

According to the current MASP, NRO interventions "are tailor made to meet the priorities contained in the Human Rights Policy Letter (2013), in the context of the occupation and the improvement of public administration by the PA", with support for HRDs as one of its focal areas. Human rights support is one of the foreign policy instruments in the MASP.

The work of BTS fits very well into the support for HRDs, as explained above.

Nr.	Criteria policy relevance	YES/NO/N.A.
Applicable to all budget holders		
2.1.1	The activity ties in with the operational objectives in the Explanatory Memorandum and the related policy memorandum (policy theory and <u>intervention logic</u>).	YES
2.1.2	The activity ties in with the ODA result areas and spearheads.	YES
2.1.3	The proposed activity/intervention is relevant to the crosscutting themes of women's rights and gender equality / climate / PSD / coherence and strengthening of civil society organisations*.	YES
Only if applicable to the budget holder		
2.1.4	The activity / intervention ties in with the annual plan.	YES

2.1.5	The activity/ intervention ties in with the result chain of the MIB/ MASP.	YES
Only for activities to which specific policy criteria are applicable		
2.1.6	The activity/ intervention ties in with the policy objectives of the policy instrument.	YES

* 2.1.3: With regard to the relevance of cross cutting themes, BTS activities relate to the coherence and strengthening of civil society organisations.

2.2 Objectives (outcomes), results (outputs) and activities according to the SMART principle

BTS works with an annual work plan and a logical framework, in which the strategic goals are broken down into objectives, outcomes and target groups, outputs, indicators, sources of verification and activities (for the full 2018 logical framework, see annex 1).

A summary of the goals and objectives reads as follows:

Goal 1: To produce materials based on soldiers' testimonies about the nature of Israel's occupation of the oPt.

Objectives:

1. An up to date internet-based testimony database that provides access to soldiers' testimonies on IDF activities in the oPt.
2. Production of testimony collections that shed light on specific military practices and events in the oPt.

Goal 2: To strengthen a value-based opposition to the occupation in the Israeli public through the use of soldiers' testimonies.

Objectives:

1. To contribute a strong, value-based, anti-occupation voice in the Israeli media.
2. To cultivate a cadre of Israeli opinion shapers that are motivated to promote a value-based opposition to the occupation.
3. To expose the Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp to the ongoing HR abuses inherent in the occupation through educational activities.

Goal 3: To increase opposition in the international arena to Israel's prolonged occupation of the oPt based on global shared values.

Objectives:

1. Key international public figures are challenged to respond to the prolonged nature of the Israeli occupation of the oPt.
2. The international public is made more aware of the reality of the ongoing occupation and human rights abuses in the oPt.
3. To encourage diaspora Jewish communities to voice their opposition to the occupation.

Goal 4: To ensure the ability of a value-based opposition to the occupation to operate within the reality of a shrinking democratic space in Israel.

Objectives:

1. To provide a safe environment for BtS to carry out its mission.
2. To cultivate a public and political environment more receptive to HR and anti-occupation messaging.

Goal 5: To strengthen BTS organizational capacity.

Objectives:

1. BTS staff members and activists acquire the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement the work of the organization.
2. Organizational memory and data are preserved and leveraged.
3. The financial sustainability of the organization is strengthened through a strong and diverse funding base.
4. A diverse and strong political and managerial leadership is developed and implemented, which will guide the organization.
5. Training and evaluation mechanisms, regulations and materials for tours and lectures are developed for organizational use.

You should always consider gender aspects when assessing the objectives, results and activities.

Appraisal with regard to gender

With regard to the gender aspects of the activity, assess the following:

- The objectives refer specifically to women/men, girls/boys and gender equality. **no**
- Relevant gender-specific performance indicators have been formulated for each outcome. **no**
- Relevant gender-specific performance indicators have been formulated for each output. **no**
- Baseline values, target values and verification methods have been established so that gender-specific data can be collected. **no**

Explanatory note:

BTS, as a group of former soldiers advocating to end the occupation, is not working with beneficiaries but with target groups, which are selected on the basis of their relevance for the strategic goals. A break down in gender-specific performance indicators would not add any value in this context. BTS' does have a gender mainstreaming policy and its strategic plan does include gathering testimonies from female soldiers. It is regarded as an important addition to the majority of male voices. The strategic plan sets a target of a 15% increase, even though female soldiers only represent a small number of those serving in combat units of the IDF.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Budget

See below.

5.3 Monitoring

5.3.1 Narrative and financial reports

Use [the performance assessment decision tree](#). Give a short explanation with the result of the decision tree.

Outcome 7: narrative and financial reports.

In the case of additional requirements: specify what conditions must be set (e.g. *greater frequency, criteria relating to content, etc.*). Also indicate if there is some other means of oversight of activity implementation (e.g. via Board of Donors).

5.3.2 Annual plans and other reports

Reporting will take place against the submitted and approved annual activity plan (reports include but are not specific for Dutch funds).

5.3.3 IATI – International Aid Transparency initiative

Financial support is < 250,000 EUR, meaning IATI is not mandatory. BTS will not be requested to report according to IATI standards. NRO is executing a pilot with a number of projects, of which BTS is not part. BTS has multiple donors, and to minimize administrative workload, NRO aligns itself with the reporting requirements of other donors (over execution of the activity plan of 2018), who do not require IATI reporting.

5.3.4 Monitoring calendar

Set out the reporting requirements in the table below, to ensure they are accurately incorporated in the contribution agreement.

Report type	Any specific requirements*	Period	Submission by
Annual plan	<i>n/a</i>		
Narrative*	<i>n/a</i>		
Financial	<i>n/a</i>		
Field visit			
Final narrative**		01/01/2018-31/12/2018	31/03/2019
Final financial		01/01/2018-31/12/2018	31/03/2019
Auditor's report	<i>n/a</i>		
Others to be included			

* Narrative: reports on the *contributions by third parties (inputs), outputs, outcome, sustainability* and the spending of the Dutch contribution in accordance with the latest approved budget. If a financial report is submitted separately, please insert a line.

** See also the results given in section 5.3.1; if any additional criteria are desirable, insert them here.