

Steven Keller
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Steven (“Steve”) Keller was recently appointed Interim Vice President for Exchanges at Amideast after having served since January 2006 as Amideast Country Director in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. He began his nearly 20-year tenure with Amideast at the organization’s headquarters in Washington, DC, heading up the organization's new business and program development, which included work on proposals for Amideast’s role in the Fulbright Foreign Student program, the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, and other international exchange programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other donors, as well as the USAID-funded Palestinian Faculty Development Program, which provided opportunities for faculty at Palestinian universities to pursue master’s and doctoral degrees and short-term professional development in the United States. As country director for the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, Steve oversaw Amideast’s role in the Ford Foundation’s International Fellowships Program (IFP), the Open Society Foundations’ Palestinian Rule of Law program, the Ireland-Palestinian Scholarship Program, and other international scholarships and exchange programs for Palestinians.

Steve’s interest in and focus on education, training, and development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region began in Tunisia, where he served as a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps during the early nineties. His experience also includes working as an independent contractor for USAID in Washington, DC, as well as a year-long graduate internship at the Galilee Society for Health Research and Services in Israel, which strives to achieve equitable health, environmental and socioeconomic conditions for the approximately 20 percent of Israel’s citizens who are Palestinian Arabs. Steve holds a master's degree from Georgetown University’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, where he was a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholar, and a bachelor's degree from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech.

Steve has served in an informal, voluntary advisory capacity for R-Shief (<https://www.r-shief.org/>) and the Palestine Design Academy / PalDA Online (<https://en.paldaonline.com/>).

Born and raised in Severna Park, Maryland, Steve recently relocated back home after having been posted for more than 15 years in Ramallah on the West Bank.