Five Year Plan for Socio-Economic Development in the Negev Bedouin Localities 2017-2021

Socio-Economic Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture
Local Government Administration, Ministry of Interior
Budgets department, Ministry of Finance
• The Bedouins constitute 35% of the Negev population.
• About 160,000 Bedouin live within 9 local authorities, and about 80,000 in settlements outside the blue lines.
• All the Bedouin authorities, and only them, are in the lowest socio-economic cluster (1 out of 10).
• The gap between the Bedouin population in the Negev and the rest of the Israeli population is increasing.
• Only about 64% finish high school, and only about 30% of high school graduates are eligible for matriculation (compared to 48% in the non-Jewish population).
• Only about 4.9% have an academic degree.
• Infant mortality - more than 3 times the Jewish population.
• Life expectancy - about 8 years lower than the Jewish population.
• Very low employment rates: 24% of Bedouin women, compared to 32% of all non-Jewish women; 56% of Bedouin men, compared to 74% of all non-Jewish men.

• The average wage of a Bedouin employee is 5,200NIS, 2,400NIS less than the average wage of all the southern localities.
Barriers to integration in society and the economy

- Land claims
- Barriers of culture and language
- Education gaps
- Accessibility difficulties
Government Resolution 3708 (2012-2016) 

Achievements

Establishing and operating employment centers in all Bedouin communities in the Negev

The Idan Negev industrial zone is developing and absorbing new businesses

Transportation: additional public transportation lines and stations; development of transportation infrastructure

Education - Programs to prevent dropout and improve scholastic achievements

Informal education - establishing youth centers, encouraging youth movement activities, reducing computer gaps, activating sports teams, and more.

First swimming pool – being built in Rahat, fully funded by the state. Sample project for community development.
New Government Resolution 2397 (2017-2021)

- Focusing on specific issues
- Focus on the Bedouin Local Authorities
- Greater budgetary allocations
- Consultation with heads of Bedouin localities and the wider public
- Defined goals and measurable outcomes
Government Resolution

Main Spheres

- Enhancing employment
- Education and social services
- Empowering local authorities
- Investment in infrastructure
Scope of 5-year plan 2017-2021: Around NIS 3 billion

Budgets per sphere (millions of NIS for the 5 years)

- Edu. And social services: 768
- Employment: 760
- Infrastructure: 339
- Local authorities: 1,143

Budgetary sources for the five year plan (millions of NIS for the 5 years)

- Additional: 1,371
- Ministerial: 119
- Resolution 922: 1,519
Enhancing the responsibilities and authorities of the Bedouin localities

Allocating directs budgets for ongoing management and for housing

Strengthening local structures

Transparency and representation
Implementation and Oversight

- Governmental Steering Committee headed by the Minister of Agriculture
- Public Steering Committee – with reps. of Bedouin local councils and public
- Monitoring company to assess results
- Ministry plans to be formulated in cooperation with council heads and presented to them
- Coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Social Equality regarding Resolution 922
Focus on Local Authorities

- A team of MOAG, MOI and the Budgets Department at the MOF will oversee NIS 500 million over the 5 years.
- Budget allocation will be based on projects selected by each locality from a set basket of options.
- Allocation will depend on the approval of a detailed plan with clear goals.
- If a local authority does not meet the goals, the team can decide on lowering/revoking budgets.
- Unused budgets will be invested in the sphere of education.
- The mechanism will also include reformulation of balancing grants formula.
- Organizational change in the local authorities.
Focus on Local Authorities
Budgets will be allocated to local capacities and services

Main spheres:
- Women
- Leisure and welfare
- Online services
- Economic Dev.
- Oversite
- HR
- Cleanup, gardening
Focus on Local authorities

Questions for the Bedouin localities

- What are the missing local capacities?
- What are the characteristics of a successful locality?
- What are the services required by people relying on the authority but not living within it?
- How to encourage public participation of the Bedouin population?
Possible partnerships

- Cooperate with Bedouin localities on capacity building and matching funds
- Assist civil society organizations on community development and partnership with government
- Assist in spheres not covered by the Government Plan
- New initiatives on the ground
Thank You!!