The Arab Citizens of Israel

— The Arab society constitutes 20% of the Israeli population
— Over 50% of the Arabs in Israel live under the poverty line
— 2 out of 3 children in Israel grow up in poverty
— 90% of the Arab population live in separate communities
— The numbers have risen since the COVID-19 outbreak
The Education System in Israel

— Students in Israel study in 4 separate education systems:

- Arabic
- Haredim
- Religious Zionism
- Secular
Difficulties

— The Israeli education system is characterized by national and economic disparities
— Despite the additional budget allocated in recent years, there are still significant gaps in resource allocation between the Arab and Jewish education systems
— Gaps in student achievements
Meitzav Test Achievements: 5th Graders

Math

- Arabic Speakers
- Hebrew Speakers

English

- Arabic Speakers
- Hebrew Speakers
Meitzav Test Achievements: 8th Graders

Math

English

Science and Technology

Arabic Speakers

Hebrew Speakers
“Bagrut” Matriculation Eligibility

— Increase in Bagrut eligibility for both female and male Arab students

— The gap between Arab and Jewish students has narrowed drastically among females but remained wide among males

— Nevertheless, female Jewish students still have better scores on their high school diploma, academically speaking
## School Dropout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Arab</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget and Infrastructure

— The Arab education system suffers from great budget disparities

— In recent years, the government has acknowledged the importance of investing in Arab education, and is gradually implementing steps for differential budgeting

— Yet, disparities in budgets from the ministry of education, the local authorities, parents and civil society organizations result in very big resource gaps between the Arab and Israeli education
Infrastructure

— Deficiency in classrooms and slow pace of classroom construction
— Crowded classrooms or studying in portable buildings
— East Jerusalem- 2500 classrooms are lacking
— Gaps between the Arab and Jewish education in the computers, libraries and sports facilities per student
Education in Times of Corona

— All the previous data was collected before the outbreak of covid19, which added and uncovered additional difficulties and disparities

— Among which, the subject of remote learning was prominent
Remote Learning in The Arab Society
Difficulties in Remote Learning

— Severe shortage of computers (140,000-150,000)
— Internet connection
— Lacking high speed internet
— Low levels of digital proficiency
— Lack of contents in Arabic for remote learning
— Weak local Arab authorities
Challenges

— Need to map infrastructure and equipment needs
— Allocation of resources for closing the gaps in remote learning – short and long term
— Creating a discourse and a work process between the government and the Arab society in order to find the most suitable solutions
Short Term Solutions

— Upgrading infrastructure to meet the basic needs
— Supplying computers and other necessary equipment
— Training teachers in digital proficiency
— Instructing parents and students in remote learning
— Providing content in Arabic
Long Term Solutions

— Construction of necessary infrastructure
— Reinforcement of the education departments in Arab authorities
— Strengthening the level of digital literacy
— Content in Arabic for remote learning
Possible Initiatives

— Appointing a national project manager for education in Arab society
— Providing digital equipment with internet connection in public buildings for the use of students
— Personal mentoring for students who do not have a computer at home
— Broadcasting courses in Arabic on a dedicated television channel
— Providing simple cellphones for remote learning using audio
— Developing learning applications that will be accessible through smartphones, or using existing applications
Opportunities

— Strengthening the Arab education system
— Narrowing the gaps between the Arabs Jews in education and employment in Israel
— Strengthening the relations between the state, the education system and Arab society