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| **SOCIAL CHANGE DOMAIN** | | | | | | |
| **STRATEGIES** | | | | | | |
| **Strengthening Palestinian-Israeli civil society (Nasij)** | **Contending with Crime and Violence in Arab Society** | | **Jewish-Arab Partnership** | **Gender Equality & Religious Freedom** | | **Equality and Partnership in the Negev** |
| **Safeguarding Human Rights  and Democracy** | | **Future Vision** | | | **Miscellaneous** | |
| Put in here the Map of Programs AND Pie of Program Including Other | | | | | | |
| **The organization was established in:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **NIF Funding Type** | **Past Years of Support** | | General Support |  | | Project Support |  |   **DA Support (in 2022):** $0,000  **Rapid Response Support (in 2022/23):** $0,000  **Link to Organizational Website:**  **Link to Proposal:**  **Link to Interim Reports:** | | | | | | |
| **INTRODUCTION** | | | | | | |
| **The grantee uses strategies of:** Advocacy, legal activity, community organization, public campaigns | | | | | | |
| **These are the goals of the organization and then some relevant benchmarks outcomes on the way to achieving the goals:**  The overarching goal of the organization is to promote a government policy of broad public housing that provides a solution not only to the most disadvantaged groups but also to the ever-expanding group of young middle-class people who find it difficult to purchase an apartment.  Intermediate goals to achieve the goal include:   * Increasing the stock of public housing apartments * Expanding the eligibility criteria for public housing * Amending the housing companies’ procedures in a way that improves tenant rights * Preventing evictions of public housing residents | | | | | | |
| **Main Indicators for the grant include** (among others, the total list of indicators and targets can be found in the Salesforce):   * The number of new public housing apartments approved by the government * Success in legal proceedings against the housing companies * The number of meetings of Forum activists with decision makers * The scope and quality of media exposure of the Forum's activity | | | | | | |
| **Added value of this grant (for the project and in general) include that:**  The Forum is the only organization in Israel whose main mission is the promotion of public housing. The Forum is based on activists who are themselves residents of public housing who have undergone training and carry out effective advocacy activities. The organization positions itself as an address – for decision makers and for the media – in everything related to public housing. The Forum collaborates with a growing number of organizations and bodies with complementary capabilities (for example, the Adva Center – an NIF grantee – which makes available its research capacity and legal clinics that deal with public housing and assist the Forum in legal proceedings against the housing companies) | | | | | | |
| **For organizations receiving support 5 or more years) Significant PAST achievements - relevant to this program or not - of the grantee since NIF began support include:**   * In 2015, following advocacy activities by the Forum, the then Minister of Housing (Yoav Galant) made a decision regarding the construction of 5,650 new public housing apartments to be designated for the elderly. Currently, the construction of 1,394 apartments has been completed and another 415 apartments are still under construction, which will be completed at the end of this year. * In 2016, the Forum was involved in writing the law that regulates urban renewal procedures. The Forum managed to add sections into the law that protect the rights of public housing residents in the urban renewal process. * In 2016, the Forum was a partner in writing a plan for the Ministry of Housing that stated that every year the government should approve 7,000 new public housing apartments. The plan also established the necessary mechanisms to implement construction. The plan was approved by the ministerial committee for legislative affairs, but was not implemented due to the fall of the government. | | | | | | |
| **PROGRESS** | | | | | | |
| **Overall Progress Evaluation:** Fully Met Expectations  **Explanation re. Score:**  In the wake of the events of October 7, the Forum adapted its activities to meet the new needs that had emerged: protecting the rights of public housing tenants and renters in receipt of government assistance who had been evacuated from their homes in the south of the country. At the same time, the Forum also continued its regular activities, including providing individual assistance to public housing tenants, legal work, and advocacy work with housing corporations (mainly Amidar), and advocacy vis-à-vis the Ministry of Housing and the Knesset.  **Main Progress in 2023/24:**  **Outcomes:**   * As part of advocacy efforts vis-à-vis the Ministry of Housing to safeguard the rights of public housing tenants who were evacuated from their homes in the wake of October 7, the following achievements have been secured:   - The obligation to pay rent has been canceled, as long as tenants remain evacuated.  - Eviction orders for families whose members were harmed on October 7 have been canceled.  - A command center has been established within the Ministry of Housing to handle individual cases of public housing tenants who have been evacuated from their homes.   * The Forum successfully petitioned the High Court of Justice against Amidar. The petition argued that Amidar had not followed due process when appointing lawyers to represent it in cases against tenants. The Court accepted the petition, and also ordered Amidar to pay the Forum’s legal costs. One of the outcomes of the successful petition was the postponement of tenant evictions by Amidar, on the grounds that Amidar currently lacks legal representation until such time as it appoints lawyers through due process. * As part of claims filed by public housing tenants against Amidar in the Small Claims Court (details provided below), four claims were accepted by the Court. * As a result of ongoing advocacy work by the Forum, the budget for renovating Amidar apartments was increased this year. * The Forum raised $11,000 from an Israeli donor for work in support of public housing tenants affected by sexual violence.   **Outputs:**   * Over the course of the year, the Forum handled around 1,000 individual requests from public housing tenants. * In collaboration with a forum of legal clinics and organizations established by the Forum for Public Housing, about 30 claims were filed by public housing tenants against Amidar in the Small Claims Court (with the assistance of an emergency grant from NIF). * Over the past year, the Forum has undertaken several social media campaigns. These include: a campaign calling for the renewal of the Sales Law (which allows public housing tenants to purchase their apartments), a campaign advocating for public housing eligibility for women affected by violence; and a campaign addressing Amidar’s failure to follow due process when appointing legal representation. The number of followers on the organization’s page reached 22,000 (a rise of 3,000 followers compared with the previous year). * New public housing tenant groups have been established in Kiryat Bialik and Kiryat Haim (in addition to the existing groups in Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Dimona, Kiryat Shmona, and Beersheba). Tenant conferences have been held in Kiryat Shmona, Kiryat Haim, Kiryat Bialik, and Haifa. A local forum was established in Haifa as an umbrella for social organizations, welfare services, and activists. A training course for activists was held. * Forum activists participated in discussions in Knesset committees, including the Negev and Galilee Committee, the Immigration Absorption Committee, the Committee for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors and the Elderly, and the Committee on the Status of Women. | | | | | | |
| **Particular challenges and/or significant program or organizational changes:**  Danny Gigi, who previously managed the Forum’s lobbying activities as part of his role at Shatil, and who later took on the role of the Forum’s manager when it transitioned to independent management a few years ago, will be participating in the Mandel Program for Fellows over the next two years. He will continue to manage the Forum’s advocacy and communication activities on a voluntary basis. Riki Kohan Benlulu, a public housing resident and central activist in the Forum, will manage on a parttime basis the Forum’s fieldwork with public housing residents affected by sexual violence. The Forum is also looking for an additional staff member (one-third of a position) who will be responsible for coordinating the Forum’s regular meetings and working with local groups of public housing residents.  The main challenge facing the Forum continues to be the expansion of its fundraising sources. Another organizational challenge is introducing long-standing and experienced activists to lead the organization as paid members of staff. In this context, the two-year study leave taken by the organization’s manager creates a window of opportunity, since it will open up his position (and salary) for activists, while at the same time he will remain very involved in the Forum and will continue to manage its advocacy and communication activities. | | | | | | |
| **2023 Organizational income:** $80,00  **2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $111,000 | | | | | | |
| 2023 RECOMMENDATION | | | | | | |
| **202**3 **Grant: $ 75,000**  **202**4 **Staff Recommendation: $ 80,000**  **% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 72%  **Explain Staff Recommendation:**  The Forum continues to operate effectively – as the sole organization that deals with public housing – despite the challenging circumstances in the wake of October 7. The Forum successfully tackles specific issues (such as preventing tenant evictions, and changing the policies of the Ministry of Housing in light of the events of October 7). However, the Forum has not managed to advance strategic changes, such as a significant expansion of public housing stock and the broadening of eligibility criteria for public housing. The lack of success is not a result of the Forum being ineffective, but rather due to government policy and the Minister of Housing. The issue of land and planning is not currently a priority for NIF (the NIF project that worked in this area in recent years has been canceled). However, NIF has a principled commitment to the Forum, given that it was established and managed by Shatil until 2021. In light of this commitment (which was not defined in terms of the number of years of support), NIF’s shifting priorities must be taken into account. In this context, the team recommends renewing the grant for this year, and evaluating whether support should be continued in the following year. The grants team has communicated to the Forum that NIF’s long-term support is not guaranteed and therefore additional funding sources need to be found. One of the strategies for developing fundraising is to obtain Section 46a, which allows donors to receive income tax credits for the Forum of Immigrant Families in the North, the formal organization that manages the Forum’s finances. The team therefore recommends a modest increase in the grant to enable payment for a law firm that will assist with the application process for obtaining the aforementioned Section.  **Recommendation of Board/Grants Committee 2023:** | | | | | | |