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| **DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATION DOMAIN** | | |
| **STRATEGIES** | | |
| **Public Mobilization** | **Vision, Ideas, and Policies** | **Leadership and Networks** |
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| **The organization was established in:** 2000   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **NIF Funding Type** | **Past Years of Support** | | General Support | 2002-2013 | | Project Support (Housing Project) | 2014-2022 | | Project Support (Qadaya Project) | 2021-2023 |   **DA Support (in 2023):** $252,222  **Rapid Response Support (2023/24):** $162,500 (2023), $54,000 (2024)  **Link to Organizational Website:** [www.ac-ap.org](http://www.ac-ap.org/)  **Link to Proposal**: <https://nif.my.site.com/Portal/a0NSb000002Acin?srPos=1&srKp=a0N>  **Link to Interim Reports**: <https://nif.my.site.com/Portal/a0NAb000000RuLw?btdid=0012000001Buwnq> | | |
| **INTRODUCTION** | | |
| **The overall current expected impact of the program as a strategy for advancing NIF’s overall mission of a just and democratic Israel:**   * Development and capacity-building of leaders to network, effectively engage politically, and align with the progressive vision and camp. * New practical models and strategies for political change and engagement will be developed, piloted, and more widely circulated to existing and potential partners. * New and existing effective educational materials (including syllabi) that reflect progressive values and ideas will be proactively shared with and used by diverse educational frameworks. * The capacities and potential impact of activists and organizations affiliated with sectors and communities where there is no current significant progressive presence will be widened and strengthened. | | |
| **The grantee uses strategies of:**   * Political education for young people via a youth movement was established as part of the project, and student groups were formed in major universities. * Activities to encourage voting among Palestinian Israeli citizens. * Public campaigns during times of crisis and tensions aimed at preventing escalation between Jewish and Palestinian Israeli citizens. | | |
| **These are the goal(s) of the project and then some expected relevant benchmark outcomes on the way to achieving the goals.**  The Qadaya Project, which is supported by NIF, involves establishing student groups in major universities. The project's overarching goal is to create a cadre of young Palestinian-Israeli leaders who will take on leadership roles in civil society as well as the political sphere and who will operate as a network.  Interim benchmark outcomes on the way to achieving these overall goals include:   * Long-term: Integration of program alumni as leaders in civil society and the political sphere. * Short-term:   -- Expansion of the program to additional universities and colleges.  -- Influencing policies related to shared society in universities where groups established by the project are operating.  -- Official recognition by the administrations of universities where the project operates of the student groups as representing Arab students.  -- Involvement of the project’s national student network in issues relating to Palestinian society in Israel. | | |
| **Main Indicators for the grant include** (among others, the total list of indicators and targets can be found in the Salesforce):  The number of universities in which groups are established as part of the project are operating, and the number of students in each group.  The number of project alumni and the extent of their involvement in civil society activities and political engagement.  The scope and quality of representation of students participating in the project in the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel.  Positive changes in university policies regarding Palestinian students, and regarding shared society principles, in line with the project’s advocacy work.  The scope and quality of cooperation between student groups participating in the project with Jewish and Jewish-Arab groups.  . | | |
| **Added value of this grant (for the project and in general) include that:**  In view of the current situation, in which government policies and tensions between Jews and Arabs following the events of October have precipitated a lack of motivation for political engagement among Palestinian-Israeli citizens, particularly young people, the organization’s work is of particular importance.  Qadaya is the leading player in the field of young leadership in Israeli Palestinian civil society. | | |
| **PROGRESS** | | |
| **Overall Progress Evaluation:** Partially Met Expectations  **Explanation re Score:**  The events of October 7, which generally disrupted studies and student activities at universities, affected the ability to implement the planned activities fully. Further, the harassment of Palestinian-Israeli students and their feelings of insecurity on campuses – which caused some students not to return when universities reopened – also made it difficult to run the program. Program leaders had to dedicate time and resources to address these feelings of insecurity (further details are provided below).  **Main Progress in 202**3**/2024:**  **Outcomes:**  Further to discussions with the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel, the Committee has agreed in principle that representatives from Qadaya’s student groups will be included among its members. At this stage, student representatives attend the Committee’s meetings as observers only, with permission to actively participate in discussions on topics directly related to them. Further, student representatives are members of two subcommittees of the High Follow-Up Committee – one dealing with educational issues and another established after October 7 to address the emergency situation.  **Outputs:**   * Five student groups were intended to operate during the academic year – at Ben-Gurion University, the University of Haifa, Safed College, Tei-Hai College, and the Technion. In practice, the Technion group did not launch due to difficulties in recruiting students. The Tel-Hai group moved its activities to Zoom due to the war but later suspended its work. Because of the war and the delay to the start of the university academic year, student recruitment to the groups was lower than planned. Instead of 25 students per group, the actual numbers in the three active groups were: Haifa – 17, Ben-Gurion – 22, and Safed – 12. The scope of activities in these three groups was less than originally planned. Further, the opening seminar for all group participants, scheduled for October 2023, was canceled. * The groups of students went through a series of lectures with experts and political activists around the following issues: the history of the student movement, the political situation of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, the legal status of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, minority rights and civil rights, leaders, the Arab youth in Israel. * In the framework of the project, a conference was held at Haifa University to commemorate 30 years of Tawfiq Ziad’s passing. Students from various student groups participated in the conference, and students were also involved in organizing the event. * In light of the understanding that personal development is very important to Palestinian-Israeli students, a pilot workshop on resume writing was held at Haifa University, with 15 students participating. * In response to Palestinian-Israeli students’ feelings of insecurity, several actions were taken as part of the project:   -- Meetings were held with the administrations of several universities.  -- Two researchers were engaged in writing a policy paper with recommendations regarding how universities should engage with Palestinian-Israeli students. The policy paper was presented to members of the Council for Higher Education and Palestinian-Israeli faculty members in a Zoom meeting.  --Due to the absence of Palestinian-Israeli students from classes, the student group in Haifa started tutoring sessions in statistics. Three sessions were held, with 40 students participating.  The project’s steering committee held a two days seminar (21 participants). The seminar aimed to understand the decline of the student leadership movement in Israeli universities, address the current situation, and explore the optimal way to reorganize the Palestinian student movement in Israeli universities. Key questions included whether conventional organizing movements are effective and what other unconventional platforms might be used to address specific issues. | | |

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| **Particular challenges and/or significant program or organizational changes:**  Beyond the specific challenges that arose after the events of October 7, the project – which completed the third year of its pilot this summer – encountered several unforeseen challenges:  1. The demand for the program among students was lower than the project’s initiators had expected. One reason for this, as noted above, was the students’ desire also to advance their personal development. This need was not sufficiently addressed in the project model.  2. Some Arab political parties viewed the project as a threat. Another challenge is creating networking between the various groups. Changes to the work model are planned for the upcoming fourth year of the project (2024-25). These include integrating workshops on personal development, creating collaborations with Jewish student groups and Jewish-Arab groups that share liberal democratic values, and advocacy activities directed at university administrations to promote the transformation of the university space into a shared space and to protect Palestinian students’ rights. At the beginning of the year, a joint opening seminar will be held for all project participants (to boost networking and help participants get to know each other). During the upcoming academic year, groups will run at Ben-Gurion University and Haifa University (including students from the Technion), as well as at Safed and Tel-Hai colleges. Further, the evaluation of the first three years of the project, which has been delayed as a result of the war, is planned to be completed by the end of 2024. |
| **2023 Project Income**: $170,000  **2024 Project Expected Income**: $**405**,000 |
| **2024 RECOMMENDATION** |
| **2023** **Grant:** $85,000  **2024 Staff Recommendation:** $200,000  **2024 Additional Grants:** $100,000 for the Alef-Ba project (see docket)  **% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget**: 50%  **Explain Staff Recommendation:**  Qadaya is the main organization leading political education and leadership development activities among Palestinian-Israeli young people. Alongside the university project, Qadaya established a new Palestinian-Israeli youth movement in 2023, now having 52 branches and 1,300 members nationwide. The first three pilot years of the project were years of trial and error, involving unforeseen challenges that the organization had to address.  The events of October 7 significantly hampered the full implementation of the project during its third year. However, it seems that Qadaya’s leadership has learned lessons from the pilot years and plans to operate an updated and upgraded model for the project during the upcoming academic year. It is important to note that the project remains high-risk, as the current political situation in Israel, particularly the government’s attitude towards the Palestinian-Israeli community, is resulting in a decline in motivation among Palestinian citizens of Israel, in particular young people, to be politically engaged. However, the political engagement of young Palestinian-Israelis is crucial for democracy in Israel, both in terms of values and practical impact. Therefore, the team recommends continuing support for the project and significantly increasing support to facilitate the upgrade of its model.  **Recommendation of Board/Grants Committee 2023:** |