



KEREN HAYESOD קרן היסוד  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL  
*Celebrating with Israel*

## PROJECT PROPOSAL



# STRENGTHENING A NEW GENERATION BY RENOVATING THE NEVE MIDBAR AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL FOR BEDOUIN YOUTH

Keren Hayesod-Supported Neve Midbar Youth Village:  
Giving At-Risk Bedouin Youth a Chance to Succeed

May 2023

Keren Hayesod-UIA (United Israel Appeal), in partnership with global Jewry, works to further the national priorities of the State of Israel and Israeli society, with special emphasis on advancing weaker communities; nurturing disadvantaged and marginalized youth; encouraging aliyah; implementing rescue operations, and connecting young Diaspora Jews to Israel and Jewish life.

Together with its strategic partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Hayesod is committed to improving the status of the Bedouin community by strengthening its educational system and increasing access to higher education. It helps to elevate the plight of Bedouin youth by supporting Neve Midbar Bedouin Youth Village at the Jewish Agency's Nitzana Educational Eco-Village in the Negev, the first-of-its-kind boarding school that provides Bedouin youth from poor socioeconomic backgrounds with the education needed to realize their potential.

## SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

**Your donation to Keren Hayesod of CHF 460,000 will support and strengthen at-risk Bedouin youth at Neve Midbar Bedouin Youth Village at the Keren Hayesod-supported Jewish Agency Nitzana Educational Eco-Village in the Negev, as follows:**

- **Renovate the Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth, transforming it into a state-of-the art facility for a new generation of 21st century students.**
- **Procure a prefabricated, multipurpose compound for the School that will consist of four (4) classrooms and office space.**

**In grateful recognition:**

- **You will be honoured with exclusive naming rights to the renovated school building, with an inscription in individual letters on the building's facade, as well interior signage displayed at a prominent location.**
- **You will be honoured with exclusive naming rights to the adjoining, multipurpose compound, with an inscription in individual letters on the building's facade, as well an interior signage displayed at a prominent location.**



## ABOUT NITZANA EDUCATIONAL ECO-VILLAGE

The Keren Hayesod-supported Jewish Agency Nitzana Educational Eco-Village in the Negev (in the distant periphery of the desert, on the border with Egypt) is a cutting-edge desert community and educational centre that fosters environmentalism, tolerance, and self-confidence through a wide array of social activism programs. It is a thriving community of young families and new immigrants of diverse backgrounds.

### Nitzana's groundbreaking educational components include:

- **An absorption centre for young immigrants** from the former FSU
- **The Neve Midbar Bedouin Youth Village**
- **A regional agricultural farm** specializing in desert agriculture
- **A rehabilitation farm** for injured farm animals treated by Nitzana students in general and by Bedouin trainees in particular

## THE NEVE MIDBAR BEDOUIN YOUTH VILLAGE IN NITZANA

The Neve Midbar Bedouin Youth Village is located in Nitzana, an educational community established in 1986 by the Jewish Agency.

The Village, which teaches respect for humanity and its place in developing the arid wilderness, has succeeded in turning the once uninhabited sand dunes into a model educational village that embodies Zionist values, science, technology, pluralism, personal empowerment, the environment, and a love of man.



THE BEDOUIN YOUTH WHO ARE EDUCATED AT THE NEVE MIDBAR BEDOUIN YOUTH VILLAGE CONSTITUTE THE FUTURE OF THE BEDOUIN COMMUNITY AND WILL SHAPE ITS CHARACTER IN THE COMING YEARS.

## THE NEVE MIDBAR AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL FOR BEDOUIN YOUTH

The Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth was established in Nitzana at the start of the 2015-16 school year in cooperation with the Bedouin community. Its student body is comprised of 140 boys from all over the Negev -- from different tribes, permanent villages, and unrecognized villages – the school prepares them for full matriculation.



The Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth, as it appears today.

This four-year high school (grades 9-12), which includes a boarding facility, aims for full matriculation for its pupils. The school curriculum is based on the education ministry's program for the Bedouin sector, **with special emphasis on agriculture and environmental studies as major subjects.**



The first year (9th grade) constitutes a preparatory year dedicated to teaching Arabic and Hebrew to prepare students for learning in a bilingual school. It also includes heightened emphasis on English and mathematics. Other subjects include:

- Civics
- Geography
- Physical training
- History
- Islam
- Judaism
- Introduction to environmental studies and agriculture
- Vocational technology tracks in welding and metal work



Classes are held from Sundays to Thursdays from 8 am to 4 pm, and consideration is given to Jewish and Muslim holidays alike. Classes are comprised of small groups of 25 pupils. Most subjects such as math, English and (local) language are taught in groups of 10-15 students, who enjoy close, personal support. The school provides additional tutoring at the learning centre until 7 PM.

In addition to the core subjects, the Village also focuses on personal independence. It helps pupils to develop the ability to cope with challenges and provides them with the tools required for good citizenship and leadership. These qualifications will serve them in the future and help them realize their personal capabilities as well as strengthen the Bedouin community and the fabric of life in the Negev and strengthening society in Israel in general.



The entire program is based on preserving Bedouin heritage while exposing the pupils to Israeli society and fostering a more in-depth mutual understanding between the two sectors and good citizenship among the school graduates.

Pupils can also enjoy after-school enrichment activities in the boarding school. These include social activities given by social instructors and Year of Service volunteers, individual booster lessons and leisure activities such as physical training, swimming, navigation, soccer, ceramics, etc. This allows students to develop in a holistic framework that accompanies them 24/7. Here they receive full support from a dedicated team of instructors, as well as a platform that helps them develop broad life skills in a large number of fields. They will also be exposed to art, music and other subjects.



Bedouin students at Neve Midbar Village during agricultural activity.



## WHY?

## THE NEED

The Arab Bedouin population, which constitutes over 25% of the Negev population, is the poorest and weakest population in Israel. Bedouin youth at risk need intervention to overcome learning gaps, finish high school and be able to integrate into society. More than any other population in Israel, the Bedouin population suffers from dire economic problems, high unemployment rates, high crime rates, inferior infrastructure, a low percentage of academics and significant distance from public services such as welfare, education, health, and culture .

The quality and access to education in Israel's Bedouin sector is much lower than among Israel's other population sectors. At the same time, levels of poverty and crime are much higher. As a result, many young Bedouin youth have problems integrating into the workforce or in institutions of higher learning. They develop a deep sense of frustration and find it difficult to envision their future as an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society.

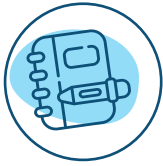


Bedouin students at Neve Midbar Village.

Enhancing the Bedouin community's standard of living, which includes providing young Bedouins with access to opportunities, is essential for advancing and developing the Negev for all its residents and for the State of Israel in general. By strengthening the educational system and increasing higher educational opportunities, this process can begin.

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, the region is ranked at the bottom of the socioeconomic scale and many of its residents live in severe poverty. More than half of the Bedouin population in the Negev is under the age of 18. All Bedouin settlements are at the bottom of the socioeconomic ranking in Israel. Most local schools suffer from a serious shortage of trained workers, proper infrastructure and resources and are unable to provide their students with services such as special education, informal education or enrichment programs that are necessary for children to develop and thrive.

In addition to the impact on the welfare of the Bedouin community, their situation also impacts their relationship with Jewish communities in the Negev region. It is important to note in this context that in Nitzana there is a joint community of young Jews and Bedouins who are learning how to live together and who will become leaders in their community to bring the different sectors closer together.

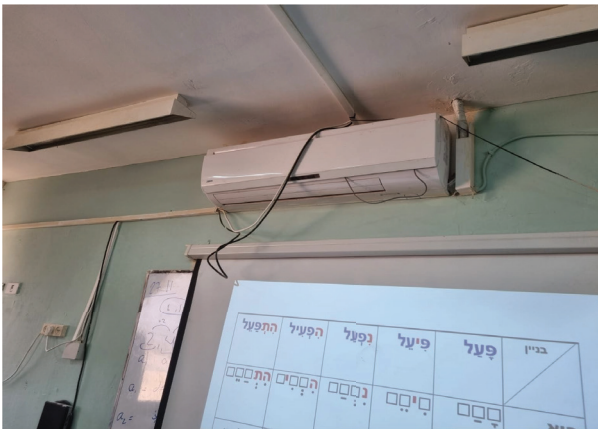


## THE PROJECT

Your generous donation will:

- **Renovate** the Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility for a new generation of 21<sup>st</sup> century students.
- **Procure a prefabricated**, multipurpose compound that will consist of four (4) classrooms and office space.

Present state of Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth:



Following renovations, classes will be similar to these learning spaces (for illustration purposes only):



Artist's rendering of the renovated of Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth.





**Artist's renderings of prefabricated compound adjacent to the school that will consist of four classrooms and office space.**





## BUDGET

(1 EURO = 3.5558 ILS)

Item	Cost in ILS	Cost in Euros
<b>Expenses</b>		
Prefabricated compound with 4 classrooms + office	1,400,800	393,948
Renovating existing school	760,000	213,735
Equipment	225,500	63,418
Unanticipated	216,080	60,768
VAT (17%)	442,405	124,418
Planning and measuring	304,478	85,629
Subtotal A	3,349,263	941,915
Management & Supervision (3.6%)	120,573	33,909
Donor signage	30,000	8,437
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>3,499,836</b>	<b>984,261</b>
<b>Matching (projected)</b>		
Ministry of Education	450,000	126,554
Atid Educational & School Network	400,000	112,492
Nitzana Eco-Village	90,000	25,311
Keren Hayesod Holland	1,422,320	400,000
<b>Total Matching</b>	<b>2,362,320</b>	<b>664,357</b>
<b>Total Amount Requested for Renovation of/ Naming Rights to Neve Midbar Agricultural and Environmental School for Bedouin Youth</b>		<b>CHF 460,000 (468,000 Euros)</b>

\*Donation includes support services covering the cost of financial guidance, cash flow availability, legal advice, banking and access to loans, insurance, and IT services.

**Note:** Figures represent initial estimate of expenses and matching funds and will be investigated further.

The renovation plan reflects the existing amount at the present time. It will be possible to expand the renovation in the event of a larger donation.



## TIMELINE

- Estimated time for implementation is 30 months from the time the donation is received.
- This estimate is subject to change.





## DONOR RECOGNITION

In grateful recognition of your donation to Keren Hayesod of CHF 460,000 to support and strengthen at-risk Bedouin youth at Neve Midbar Youth Village at the Keren Hayesod-supported Jewish Agency Nitzana Educational Eco-Village in the western Negev:

- **You will be honoured with exclusive naming rights** to the renovated school building, with an inscription in individual letters on the building's facade, as well an interior signage displayed at a prominent location.
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## IMPACT

The long-term impact of the Neve Midbar Bedouin Youth Village will ultimately change the face of the Bedouin population in Israel and their role in the State. The success of this program will ensure a strong educated Bedouin community for generations to come that will proudly stand alongside their Israeli brethren in support of Israel and have a significant impact on the future of the Bedouin community and contribute to the welfare of the State of Israel.

This is the first experimental program of its kind. Its success will result in its replication and can therefore serve as a catalyst for a new educational model for many hundreds of Bedouins in Israel.

\*All photos courtesy of Neve Midbar Youth Village, Nitzana and the Jewish Agency.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL



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Keren Hayesod was first established in London in 1920 to serve as the fundraising arm of the Jewish People and the Zionist Movement and has gone on to be an integral force in shaping Israeli society.

For further information, please contact your local Keren Hayesod - UIA emissary or Projects Department.

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