



July 2021

MATANEL FOUNDATION – Activity Report 2020-2021

Name of the Program: Raidat Women's Leadership Program

- a groundbreaking program that locates and empowers talented young Bedouin women with leadership potential. Raidat develops pro-active social awareness among the women and helps them apply their skills to a life of leadership roles.

Year of activity: 2020-2021

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Number of active participants in the program: 26 started, 18 graduated.

Estimated number of impacted participants: 1000+

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

The selective Raidat program opened in early October 2020 with 26 participants, and ran until the first week of July 2021. Raidat is managed by Ms Khitam Bader from Laqiya town, and she has one deputy manager and two counselors on staff. During national lockdowns, the program went online, and all content was delivered virtually. We chose to focus heavily on academic preparation as these courses were easier to complete online. We returned to full in-person activity between each lockdown and resumed full in-person activity by March 2021.

Raidat activities were again organized into 4 main modules:

- Identity, Values and Community Module
- Life Skills and Entrepreneurial Leadership Module
- Career and Academic Preparation Module, and
- Preparation for 'the real world' Module.

All 18 graduates completed the four modules successfully.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

This past year was one of the most challenging, due to the Covid-19 directives across the country. We delivered some of our content over Zoom and WhatsApp, however, when the young women came together as a group great things took place.

The program kicked off with an Outdoor Training course where the young women participated in abseiling activities and a rope course. They all had to overcome fear



of heights and use their teammates' help to overcome obstacles. During the national lockdowns, the participants completed 140 hours of academic Hebrew, 140 hours of academic English, 200 hours of Math preparation for academia and a mediation course.

Raidat participants **volunteered more than 120 hours** over the program duration: on a vaccination campaign for Covid-19, our participants called hundreds of people from the Bedouin community and prepared food parcels for families gravely impacted by the Covid crisis. In the weeks leading up to the month of Ramadan, Raidat participants helped welfare departments across the Negev to handle inquiries from families who were unable to afford food and basic needs. The Bedouin community has been adversely affected by the global pandemic. Our young Stars quickly organized themselves into groups and every day for a whole week they volunteered many hours at various community centers, helping families fill out forms for food stamps and requests for provision of basic needs. Thanks to our help and the joint effort in partnership with other organizations, the welfare departments were able to process over 10,000 applications for assistance. The young women also helped to run daycare centers for children of healthcare workers during lockdowns and also helped as auxiliary staff at a school for special needs children.

Over the past year, **Raidat participants visited a number of different communities** across the country. They began the journey of exploring their identity with a 'Bedouin Week' seminar, meeting influential leaders in their communities. Thereafter, the young women visited with a Hareidi community in Bnei Brak, met asylum seekers, and influencers in the art and culture scene of Tel Aviv. Later in the spring, the young women spent a few days in Jerusalem, meeting with representatives from all major religions, visiting national monuments and getting to know Israel's judiciary. Following the wave of racial violence throughout the country, Raidat participants traveled north to meet with communities that live in micro shared societies – Acco and Haifa – and met with local activists promoting egalitarian cities in both places.

Through a highly successful **entrepreneurship module** a number of inspirational initiatives were started in the Bedouin community:

Firstly, following a research project they conducted themselves, the young women discovered that there were very large disparities between the Jewish and Bedouin populations of the Negev with regards to health awareness. Levels of obesity and diabetes are alarmingly high among the Bedouin community – and climbing. Raidat participants decided to design a project for **school vegetable gardens**, to educate children from a young age on how to appreciate where their food comes from and teach them about healthy eating. Together, they planted vegetable gardens at three schools and are monitoring the growth and continuation of their project.

Following the bout of racial violence that swept through the country recently, Raidat participants initiated a **roundtable event with Bedouin and Jewish students at Ben-Gurion University** of the Negev. Students met one another, and got to know each other through discussion circles – all in aid of breaking down barriers between



the sectors. The event included airing personal feelings and concerns; but the students all shared one thing in common and that was their optimism. Together as a group they came up with practical ideas of what could be done to unite Bedouins and Jews in the Negev, and create meaningful, lasting dialogue. This small project was a resounding success, and the first of many more meetings to come.

Another meaningful project was **a meeting between two worlds**: children from Kibbutz Shoval met with 1st and 2nd graders of Al'Hakhma school of Rahat. The two places are adjacent to one another, however, as far as these young children are concerned, they are worlds apart. The kibbutz children may grow up never having met anyone from neighboring Rahat and the opposite can be said for children from Rahat. Raidat participants designed activities that were not language-dependent, and the children spent an afternoon together, playing and participating in fun activities. The children taught each other words in Arabic and Hebrew, and realized that although we may speak different languages, we can still be friends. The young women presented this project at the Raidat Entrepreneurship competition night, and won first place. We know this to be the way of the future and will support our young graduates to enable these kinds of projects to continue beyond what they have achieved within the yearlong gap-year program.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

The Monitoring and Evaluation department conducts ongoing evaluation for all Desert Stars programs. Evaluation of the Raidat program and participants is conducted via questionnaires. Assessment criteria include attitudes and viewpoints, quality of the program and performance. The results are measured against our 'Graduates Profile' that is used by all programs and comprises 5 categories (motivation, values, personal strengths, personal skills and knowledge) and 28 characteristics broken down into sub-characteristics.

Our current **organizational Measures of Success** assess the following: (1) Bagrut Eligibility (2) Academic Enrollment and Vocational Training (3) Sense of Belonging to Israeli Society (4) Contribution to Israeli Society -ie. volunteering.

**Please see attached report for results.*

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Since completing 2 successful cohorts, the program will continue next year in the same format as the current year. Hopefully without Covid-19 restrictions. We hope to gradually scale the program to 40 participants over the next 2-3 years.