



MAKPITZA LABAGRUT

Holistic Educational Empowerment Program for Bedouin Girls and Young Women

Activity Report | 2025–2026

Organization

The Association for the Improvement of Women's Status

CEO: Rina Al-Sana Alhazeel

1. Program Overview

“**Makpitza Labagrut**” is a holistic educational and social empowerment program established to support Bedouin girls and young women in the Negev in achieving full matriculation certificates and building pathways toward higher education, employment, and leadership.

The program operates in communities facing ongoing social, economic, and geographic marginalization, where many girls encounter barriers to educational success, limited access to support systems, and high risks of dropping out from formal educational frameworks.

Our approach combines academic tutoring, emotional support, mentorship, empowerment workshops, parental engagement, and personal guidance. The program views education not only as an academic achievement, but as a tool for long-term social change and community transformation.

2. Program Activity During 2025–2026

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the program supported 120 active students from Bedouin communities in the Negev.

This year represented a major milestone for the project with the successful completion of the program's first graduating cohort. Despite extremely difficult circumstances caused by the ongoing security situation and war period in Israel, the program continued operating consistently throughout the year.

Due to emergency conditions, many activities were adapted to remote and Zoom-based learning formats in order to ensure educational continuity, emotional support, and safe access for participants during periods in which physical meetings were impossible.

The war period created significant emotional, educational, and economic challenges for the students and their families. In addition, the security situation severely affected the organization's fundraising capacity and created financial uncertainty regarding future expansion opportunities. Nevertheless, the program continued supporting participants with resilience and commitment.



3. Main Achievements

The 2025–2026 year marked one of the program's most significant achievements since its establishment:

- * Completion of the first graduating cohort of “Makpitzza Labagrut.”
- * Approximately 73% of graduates achieved full matriculation certificates, a highly meaningful accomplishment for students from underserved communities.
- * Continuous academic and emotional support provided to 120 active students throughout the year.
- * Successful adaptation of activities into emergency and online learning formats during wartime.
- * Strengthening participants' self-confidence, educational aspirations, leadership abilities, and future academic opportunities.
- * Deepening community trust and parental engagement in girls' education.
- * Establishing a sustainable long-term empowerment model in which graduates continue receiving support beyond graduation.

4. Long-Term Impact and Sustainability

One of the most meaningful developments for the coming year is the integration of graduates back into the project as scholarship recipients and mentors for younger participants.

Through this model, the program does not end its relationship with students upon graduation. Instead, graduates continue their journey within the framework while becoming role models and leaders for the next generation of girls.

This creates a sustainable cycle of empowerment, belonging, leadership, and community responsibility among Bedouin young women.

5. Evaluation and Lessons Learned

The program's evaluation process included educational follow-up, matriculation outcomes, attendance monitoring, mentoring sessions, feedback from students and families, and ongoing assessment by the educational staff.

The results of the first graduating cohort demonstrate the effectiveness of combining academic support with emotional and social empowerment.

At the same time, the past year highlighted the vulnerability of educational initiatives operating during periods of war and emergency. Remote learning adaptations, emotional distress among students, and financial instability posed significant operational challenges.

Despite these obstacles, the program maintained continuity and achieved meaningful educational outcomes, reflecting the dedication of both staff and participants.



6. Looking Forward – Challenges and Future Uncertainty

At this stage, the organization is still unable to fully determine the operational scope of the upcoming 2026–2027 academic year. While our intention is to begin the school year in September 2026 and continue supporting the students, the continuation and scale of the program remain financially uncertain.

The ongoing economic crisis in Israel, alongside the impact of the war and the continuing fear of renewed escalation, creates significant challenges for long-term planning and operational stability.

Our work takes place primarily in unrecognized Bedouin villages, where many communities still lack basic protection infrastructure such as shelters, protected spaces, and in some cases even warning sirens.

These realities make educational continuity extremely complex during emergency periods. At the same time, relying solely on Zoom and remote learning is neither fully accessible nor sustainable for many of the students and families we serve.

As a result, the 2026–2027 academic year currently remains under conditions of financial and operational uncertainty, and the future continuation of the program will depend greatly on securing sustainable funding and emergency-adapted resources.

Despite these challenges, the organization remains fully committed to preserving educational continuity for girls in marginalized communities and continuing to build long-term social change through education, empowerment, and leadership.

7. Participants and Community Impact

- * 120 active participants in the program during 2025–2026.
- * Over 250 individuals indirectly impacted, including families, teachers, and community members.
- * First graduating cohort successfully completed.
- * 73% full matriculation success rate among graduates.

Closing Note

The Association for the Improvement of Women's Status would like to express its deep appreciation to the Matanel Foundation for its trust, partnership, and support. Your contribution has enabled young Bedouin women to continue believing in their educational future even during one of the most difficult periods our communities have faced. Together, we are creating opportunities, resilience, and lasting social change.

Submitted by:

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CEO

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