



Sikkuy-Aufoq

2022

Annual Report

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 We work to undo the knots, break down the barriers, and advance a shared society based on a true and equal partnership between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel.



Photo: Mor Elnekave

Picture: Artist Rahmi Hamzi explores the notions of co-existence and shared society at the Opening Night of the joint art project of Beit HaGefen and Sikkuy-Aufoq.

Dear friends of Sikkuy-Aufoq

We are excited to once again share with you our Annual Report of what was in 2022 and what we expect will be in the year in front of us.

2022 was replete with success and achievements.

The Report describes our most notable achievements in terms of advancing the implementation of important government plans for economic and social development in Arab society as well as our significant achievements in promoting a shared society.

At the same time there was no shortage of difficult challenges this past year, both in the advancement of specific projects and in general as the result of the political instability and the increasingly hateful discourse aimed at Arab society and its Knesset representatives. These challenges too are described in this Report.

After the most right-wing extremist government ever seen in Israel was formed at the very end of the year, our initial analysis of the coalition agreements gave us clear warning that the overt racism and carefully planned discrimination of this government may very soon translate into dangerous and potentially devastating policy actions.

Looking forward, we are deeply concerned about the dangerous changes this new government is working hard to advance, but also cautiously optimistic that we will be able to continue our work finding ways to advance equality for Arab citizens and a truly shared society for all the citizens of Israel. We recall that throughout the entire past decade, Sikkuy-Aufoq worked successfully and effectively towards meaningful achievements for a more equal and shared society even under the previous right-wing governments led by Benjamin Netanyahu. Approval of the Economic Development Plan for Arab society in Israel for the years 2016-2020 (Government Decision 922) and of the foundation for recognizing the unrecognized villages in the Negev, and advancement of the inclusion of Arabic in public spaces even after the highly discriminatory 2018 Nation-State Law was passed were all achieved under Netanyahu's rule. Our methodology of a) intensive data-driven advocacy vis-à-vis government officials with whom we worked on a professional basis, making clear the link between Arab society's interests and the interests of broader Israeli society; and b) building broad partnerships with civil society organizations and Arab society leadership empowering us to apply meaningful public pressure on many occasions has proven effective even with right-wing governments.

We know that this government differs from Netanyahu's previous governments in that it is an exclusively right-wing government with no center or left-wing members who might balance its operations in a way that would serve Arab society. We know too that some in this new government do not hesitate to take anti-democratic and racist actions to promote their parties' and their own personal agendas.



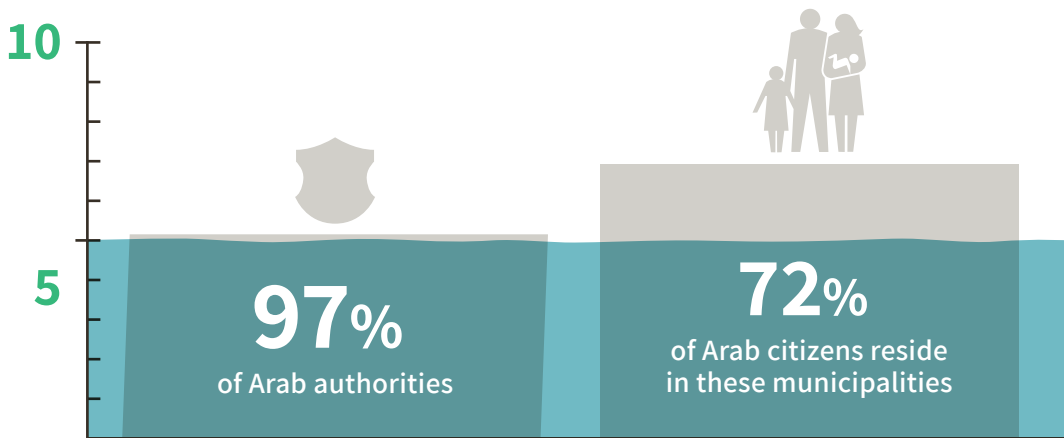
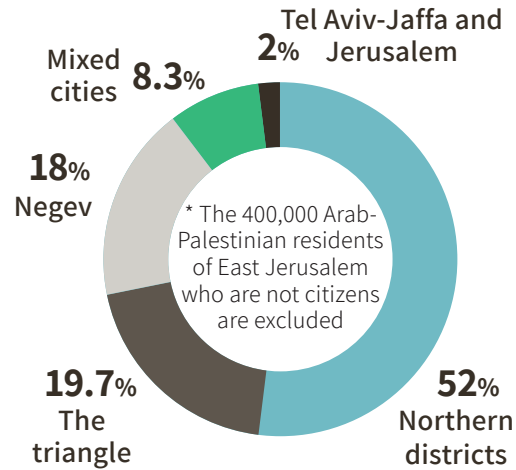
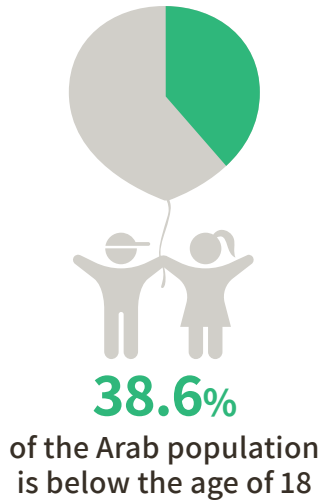
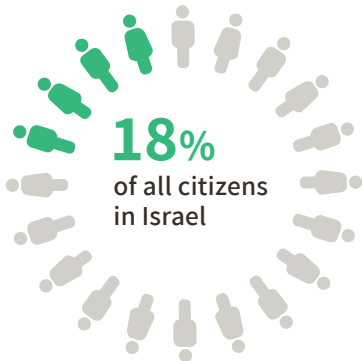
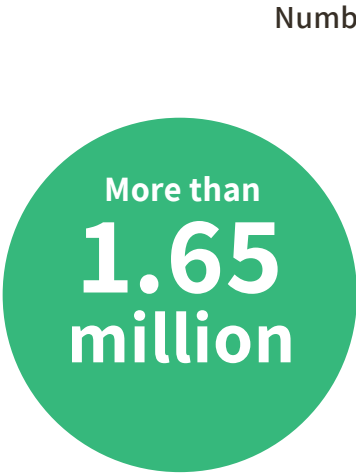
But... we are ever more determined and invested in our struggle for equality and partnership, combining and balancing professional discourse with public pressure. While this situation pains us deeply, we understand that we do not have the privilege of giving up or losing hope and therefore we are analyzing the risks and fortifying our work plans and organizational tools to address the dangers ahead. Too, we are collaborating with others in our field to enhance and strengthen the growing public awareness of the facts of Arab society, the moral imperative of equality, and the benefits of a truly shared society for all of Israel's citizens.

We will succeed on this challenging mission thanks to our many partners, friends, and colleagues, Arabs and Jews, government officials, NGOs, and our philanthropic circle. We thank you for being with us.

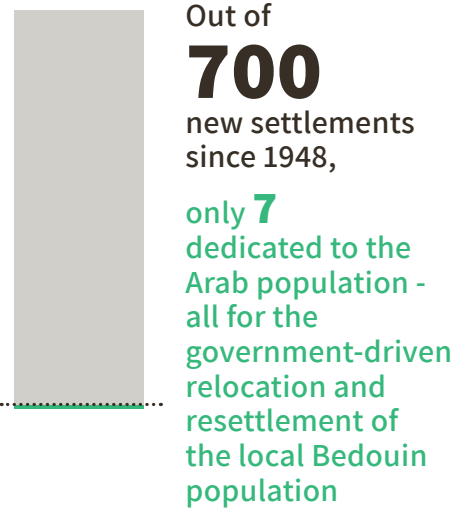
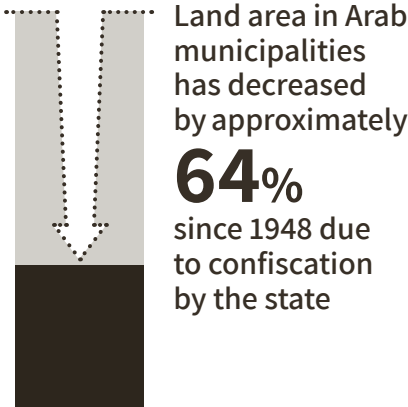
Amjad Shbita and Ofer Dagan | **Co-Executive Directors**

Statistics tell the story

Sources: Central Bureau of Statistics, Sikkuy-Aufoq, National Insurance Institute, Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel, Israeli Civil Service Commission



Belong to the lower socioeconomic percentiles



More than **29,000** structures housing **130,000** people in Arab towns are at risk of demolition due to the lack of construction permits*



A year of blood and tragedy

110 deaths



28% of all Arab victims:



age 25-18



women



under 18

* East Jerusalem is excluded



Achievements in advancing equality

1 Advanced solutions to the issue of unauthorized building in Arab towns.

In 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq continued to advance equality for Arab citizens in government resource allocation. Among our most notable achievements:

Since the establishment of Israel in 1948, Arab municipalities have not developed according to appropriate detailed master plans that would address the short- and long-term needs of their residents. Arab towns thus became severely overpopulated, with a near-total lack of public spaces and poor-quality deteriorating infrastructures. Too, the prevalence of unauthorized buildings constantly increased to satisfy the urgent needs of the growing population faced with bureaucratic and discriminatory paralysis of the building authorization process. This living situation, maintained through systemic institutional discrimination, caused anger and frustration among local residents and mistrust towards the state and especially the relevant ministries.

In 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq published the results of a significant research effort on unauthorized building in Arab towns done in cooperation with the Arab Center for Alternative Planning. The research mapped the specific number and locations of unauthorized buildings in Arab towns, providing both an overall picture and locality-specific data. This is groundbreaking research as this data was not available to any stakeholder including government ministries, and therefore its findings can serve to inform effective policy solutions. We were pleased to see that the majority of the policy recommendations included in the research were incorporated in the housing section in GD 550. One of the main findings of the research is that almost 66% of unauthorized housing in Arab localities are located in only 10 Arab towns, which means that investing intensive efforts and resources in only 10 Arab towns can lead to solving 66% of the problem. Recently, we were thrilled to learn that the Planning Administration and the Ministry of Housing and Construction decided to focus on 4 areas in Kafr Qara and

to advance authorization of the unauthorized buildings in these areas. Kafr Qara from the Triangle area in the center of the country, was the town with the highest rate of unauthorized buildings identified by our research with ~2,685 unauthorized buildings, therefore this effort by the government is expected to lead to dramatic changes on the ground in terms of the number of authorized houses in Kafr Qara. Through our conversations with senior government

officials at the Ministry of Housing and Construction, we learned that our research was among the determining factors for choosing to focus on Kafr Qara, and we hope this will be a first step in a broader process to settle the problem of unauthorized building in Arab towns.

2 Advanced solutions to transportation infrastructure and public transportation issues in Arab towns

In 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq advanced the ability of Arab Local Authorities to initiate and implement transportation infrastructure development projects with 130M NIS funding from the Ministry of Transportation.

Previously, infrastructure development was the responsibility of the ministry, which posed barriers to addressing the needs of Arab towns due to a lack of understanding of their specific characteristics and needs. This decision will enable Arab local authorities to initiate infrastructure development projects tailored to their specific needs, potentially advancing significant improvements in transportation infrastructures and public transportation services. Sikkuy-Aufoq also advanced the allocation of an additional 60M NIS in funding from GD550 for the greater growth of bus lines and public transportation services. This is the first payment out of the total 350M NIS to be allocated over the 5 years of GD550.



Yossi Zamir, Shatil Stock

3 Strengthened Arab businesses and increased employment opportunities for Arab citizens

In 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq advanced changes in the eligibility criteria for receiving capital grants from the Investment and Development Authority so that an Arab business will be defined as 1) an enterprise located in an Arab town, and/or 2) at least 50% of the control in the corporation owned by the enterprise is owned by a person/persons who lived in an Arab town prior to January 1, 2022, and/or 3) at least 70% of the workers employed in the factory and/or at least 30% of the management workers in the factory are from Arab towns. Other changes in the capital grants mechanism include 1) A subsidy of up to 30% of the investment cost for Arab businesses, compared to a 20% subsidy for businesses that are not from Arab society; 2) A 90% subsidy of the preparation costs for Arab businesses whose application has been approved, compared to a 30% subsidy for non-Arab businesses; and 3) A 90% subsidy of the cost of accompanying the implementation of the program for Arab businesses whose application has been approved, compared to a 30% subsidy for non-Arab businesses.

This will enable a larger number of Arab businesses to apply for and receive capital grants, thereby contributing to a stronger local economic base in Arab towns, and will also incentivize Jewish businesses to employ Arab citizens.



Achievements in advancing equality

4 Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is an element of poverty, and as such we believe that the only effective way to solve the problem is to take a holistic approach that considers more than just the issue of food insecurity - an approach that looks at the big picture.

In 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq continued to advance equality for Arab citizens in government resource allocation. Among our most notable achievements:

In recent years Sikkuy-Aufoq has applied our 'Barriers to Opportunities' model as the means of holistically confronting the issue of food insecurity in Arab society. After reviewing research conducted by National Social Security (2016), which revealed a lack of infrastructure for systematically addressing the issue of food insecurity nationwide as well as significant and alarming gaps between Arab and Jewish society in the area of Food Security (for instance approximately 50% of all children suffering from food insecurity are Arab however they receive only one third of the funding for school lunches) we began advocating for significant policy change while identifying the barriers contributing to food insecurity in Arab society.

These barrier are multi dimensional and include: a) the lack of adequate Arab representation in relevant decision-making mechanisms, b) the lack of sufficient information in Arabic and limited access to services that are geographically proximate or suited to the needs of Arab society, c) non-existent or inadequate government assistance tools that also lead to gaps in social rights utilization, and d) gaps in school lunch programs' funding due to regulations that discriminate against municipalities in the lower socio-economic percentiles where 97% of Arab local authorities and 72% of Arab citizens live.

Our decision to focus on these barriers is based on our belief that we have the organizational knowledge, tools, and expertise to address them effectively, and by doing so we can significantly advance food security in Arab society. Sikkuy-Aufoq works with a coalition of organizations that focus on food security together with a number of MKs in the parliamentary arena and has successfully advocated for a dedicated discussion on food insecurity at the Knesset and for the establishment of a joint parliamentary monitoring committee under the supervision of the welfare committee in the next session. We will work to ensure that this committee is established, with the goal of developing well-defined policies to reduce food insecurity in Arab society, increasing the government's accountability, and ensuring a more structured approach to this issue. Additionally, Sikkuy-Aufoq successfully advanced the inclusion of the issue of food security in

Access to healthy food - in sufficient quantities - is a basic human right.



the government's 5-year socio-economic development plan. We are advocating vis-a-vis the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs to advance the inclusion of a proportional number of geographically disperse Arab cities and towns in their pilot program Ir Mikadmet Zchuyot (City Advancing Rights) and to ensure that the services being provided are suitable to each city's population. Also vis-à-vis the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs we continue to advance the inclusion of our research-based policy suggestions into the Ministry's model of welfare and social rights so that the model addresses the specific needs of Arab society.

5 Advanced equality for the unrecognized villages in the Negev

In March of this year, the government approved a new 5-year plan (Government Decision 1279) for socio-economic development in the Negev. Sikkuy-Aufoq advocated vis-a-vis government ministries charged with the development of this plan to ensure its suitability to the specific needs of the Bedouin communities in the Negev. Our efforts helped ensure that, for the first time ever, a government decision considered the needs of the unrecognized villages in the Negev and addressed these needs in various sections of the plan. Some of our recommendations that were included are 1) Allocating NIS 20M for infrastructure development (NIS 3.5M of which will be allocated to pave access roads and NIS 4M for paving temporary access roads to educational frameworks); 2) allocating NIS 35M to map infrastructure needs for existing Essential Service Centers (ESCs) and for establishing new ESCs in the unrecognized villages; 3) NIS 15M for establishing of ESCs in 3 villages (Rahameh, Abdeh, and Khashem Zanneh); and 4) Allocation of funds to pave access road to the ESC in Tel Arad.

Sikkuy-Aufoq also advanced the **establishment of a new school in Khashem Zanneh**. Following an intensive process of data collection and identifying the school's suitable location, we cooperated with the Regional Council for Unrecognized Villages (RCUV) and the local village committee in submitting a request to establish a school in the village. We are thrilled because the Planning Administration approved the request, the establishment of the school was funded by a government decision, and the school started operating. This is a dramatic achievement because the establishment of the school was completed through approving the establishment of an Essential Service Center, which will enable the provision of additional services in the future such as health and welfare. The establishment of this school will provide a more accessible education framework for students in the village, as well as an early childhood education framework that otherwise would have remained unavailable.



Dr Kayid el Athamin, Khashem Zanneh village committee chair, Ofer Dagan, co-executive director of Sikkuy-Aufoq, at the new school in Khashem Zanneh

Achievements in advancing a shared society

Sikkuy-Aufoq continued to advance a truly shared society between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel based on mutual trust and recognition. Our achievements include:



1 Advancing shared society through the education system

Throughout 2022, Sikkuy-Aufoq engaged in an intensive process with the Ministry of Education to advance education for shared society. Sikkuy-Aufoq played a leading role in the Ministry of Education's Education for Partnership Steering Committee, along with other partner NGOs in the field. The steering committee developed both short- and long term policy recommendations for the advancement of shared society through the education system.

These efforts culminated in a ground-breaking change as the Ministry of Education for the first time ever published a directive for advancing education for shared society, which included many policy recommendations developed by Sikkuy-Aufoq and our partners. This is a dramatic achievement because it grounded the policy recommendations developed by the Education for Partnership steering committee in a ministry directive, which will result in an increased obligation among the ministry's professional level to ensure their effective implementation on the ground. The directive is wide in scope and covers several areas and issues that are critical to the advancement of shared society. The directive focuses on 1) Incorporating values of justice, equality, and respect in the education system; 2) Developing the personal identity of students, and strengthening the connection to their cultural heritage; 3) Strengthening the sense of belonging to the shared spaces while developing a sense of shared future; 4) Strengthening a perception of cultural diversity as a social asset; 5) Strengthening social solidarity and reducing the sense of alienation and fear; 6) Mitigating racism in the education system, and advancing constructive dialogue around the issue; 7) Developing a sense of equality among all students while recognizing and addressing the specific needs of each group; and 8) Ensuring that teachers view advancing shared society as a significant component of their role as educators, and providing them with the capacity, skills, and tools to fulfil their role.

We are thrilled because this achievement comes after more than 6 years of intensive efforts vis-à-vis the Ministry of Education. This is a remarkable achievement because while previously we worked intensively to advance the adoption of policy recommendations in specific areas, this process was much broader and will influence almost all educational aspects. Our in-depth involvement in providing professionally-developed and feasible policy recommendations is expected to lead to dramatically wide-scope changes on the ground.

2 Advanced Arabic language in the shared public spaces

Following intensive efforts vis-à-vis the management of Israel Railway that led to a gradual inclusion of Arabic language signage and information in static displays, we were recently informed that Israel Railway completed a process of adding electronic Arabic language signage in all train stations across the country. This is of critical importance as it will enable Arab citizens who use the train to plan their trips more easily, but more importantly, it sends a powerful message of respect and recognition to Arab citizens who will feel that their language and culture are respected.



Sikkuy-Aufoq finalized mapping research that determined the level of Arabic language services and information provided by public transportation companies. The research revealed that Egged, one of Israel's largest public transportation companies, did not provide sufficient services in Arabic language through its website, mobile application, or the national call center. Sikkuy-Aufoq contacted the management of Egged to redress this problem. As a result, Egged hired 6 Arabic-speaking customer service representatives to work in its call center, and has committed to translating its website to Arabic. Similar progress also was achieved with Dan and Electra-Afikim bus companies, allowing better access for the Arab population.

Additionally, Sikkuy-Aufoq contacted the Ministry of Transportation with the goal that a formal requirement will be created that ensures all information in public transportation will be available in Arabic. We succeeded in convincing the Ministry of Transportation to introduce a requirement to add the inclusion of Arabic language information to all tenders published for public transportation providers. One of the goals that we promoted in subsequent advocacy processes is the tightening of the regulation of the Ministry of Transportation for the transportation operators, so that the ministry will require the operators to make the information available to passengers in the Arabic language. We are happy to inform you that, following these actions, the Ministry of Transportation recently incorporated in the tenders it issues to public transportation operators an additional requirement that requires the operators who win the tender to make the information available to passengers in the Arabic language.



Achievements in advancing a shared society

Sikkuy-Aufoq continued to advance a truly shared society between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel based on mutual trust and recognition. Our achievements include:

3 Strengthening the foundations of a new public discourse

Our Fighting Delegitimization project became reality. In 2022 we took the first steps in implementation of this critical project. We conducted preliminary research to understand the work that has been done so far on this issue both in Israel and globally, in the field and in the academic arena, and who are the main players. We considered the value-added benefits of coalition building based on the understanding that the activities of a single organization cannot have the same impact as a broad collaborative effort. Finally, we began the development of a steering committee of experts - academics and professionals in the fields of social psychology and strategic communication who will help to inform our work, providing guidance for the research project to ensure that it is appropriately comprehensive and providing as well their professional insights for the development of our strategic actions in this area. The steering committee will begin their advisory work in 2023.

We worked to increase Arab activists' capacity to influence the public discourse. We developed and conducted a training course to enhance the capacity of Arab spokespersons at Arab Local Authorities, NGOs, and activists in the Negev to appear in media programs and speak to the public. This is of significant importance as the Bedouin communities in the Negev suffer from highly stereotypical media coverage, and providing them with practical tools to counter this prejudiced media coverage is critical to advancing a balanced and more nuanced public discourse. Through this training, participants gained practical tools and skills to advance a more positive media coverage of issues related to the Negev, and enhanced their interviewing and crisis management skills, thereby enabling them to develop professional tools to respond to certain media items, and develop op-ed writing skills. Participants learned how to develop a compelling story that media outlets would want to publish, how to maintain and strengthen professional relations with key figures in the media, how to prepare for a media interview, how to successfully convey the message, and how to prepare a press release.

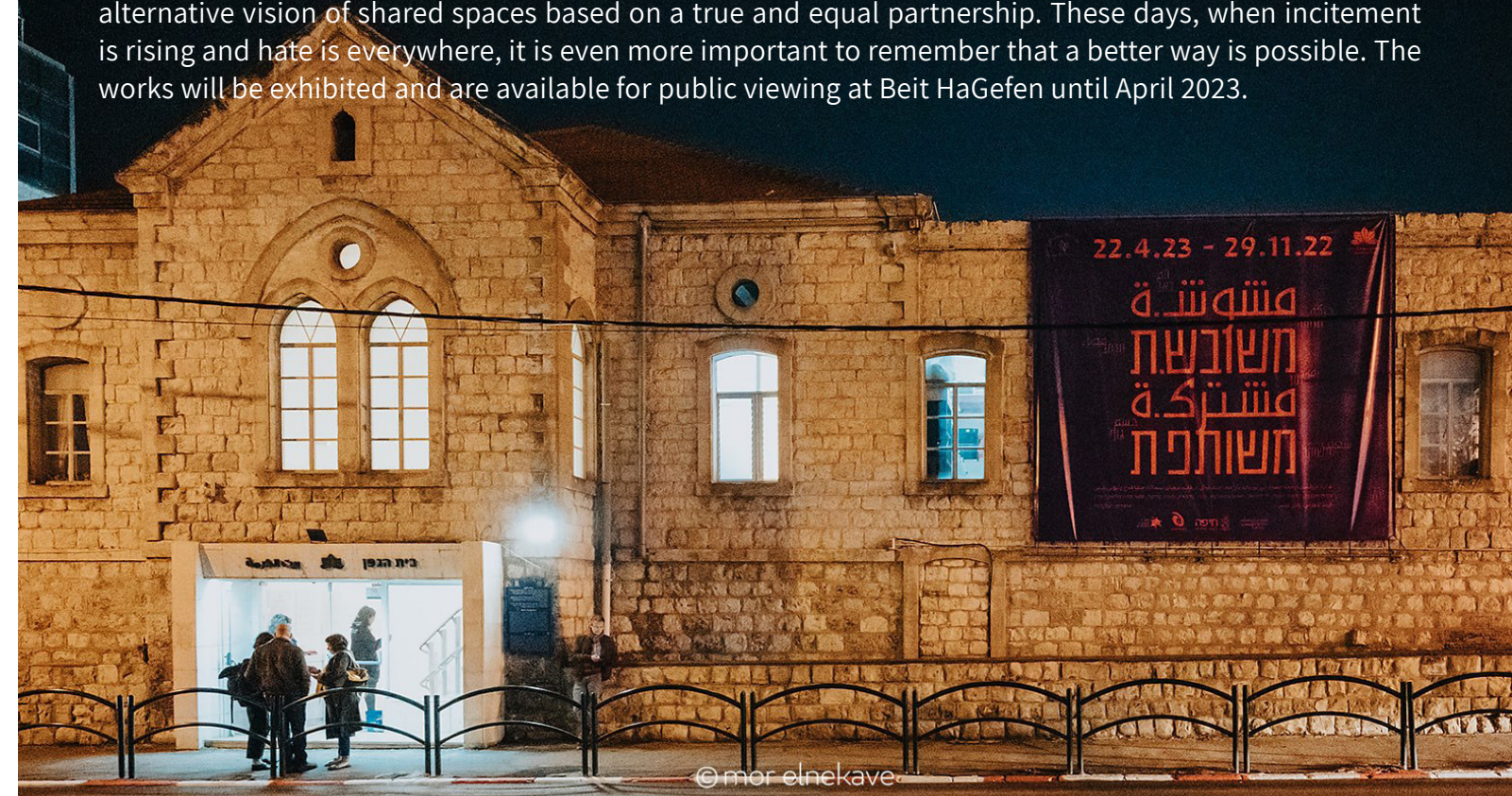
4 Art project with Beit Hagefen

🌱 Opening night at Beit HaGefen

The term 'co-existence' is heavily loaded with nuances - well-intended or not - of continued segregation, exclusion, and discrimination. In its current form in Israel, co-existence is, for Jewish citizens, all too often a comforting whitewashing notion that perpetuates the obscured and often ignored tensions hiding under the surface in daily interactions between Palestinians and Jews in public spaces. Co-existence is an alienating term for the Palestinian citizens of Israel - it describes a reality in which two societies are expected to exist side by side with no recognition, consideration, or need for resolution of the unequal power dynamics that maintain the current state of discrimination and exclusion. This reality in no way equates to our vision of a society that is truly shared between Arabs and Jews.

Over this past year 8 Palestinian and Jewish artists - Thalia Hoffman, Rahmi Hamzi, Li Lorian, Yara Mahajena, Nawal Arafat, Maayan Tsadka, Safa Kadah, Leoni Schein - participated in a shared art research project that began as part of Sikkuy-Aufoq's 30th birthday celebrations and was jointly led by Sikkuy-Aufoq and Beit HaGefen, the Arab-Jewish Cultural Center in Haifa. The project grew out of our ambition to invite artists to examine the term "co-existence" within the current reality of exclusion, and to explore through their art the wrongness of co-existence, the essence of true partnership, and the possibility of shared living within the reality of today.

Opening night of the exhibition took place at Beit HaGefen on November 29. The works include video, textile, an archival exhibit, performance, sound work, and a collection of folk tales and murals, offering an alternative vision of shared spaces based on a true and equal partnership. These days, when incitement is rising and hate is everywhere, it is even more important to remember that a better way is possible. The works will be exhibited and are available for public viewing at Beit HaGefen until April 2023.



The way we work

Today our work is comprised of:

In-depth research

that identifies the factors, the obstacles, and the issues that maintain discrimination against Arab citizens and separate Arabs and Jews in daily life, and that serves as input to our policy recommendations for resolution.

Advocacy

vis-à-vis decision makers in national and regional governmental bodies and public institutions such as museums, hospitals, utility companies, parks, and so on.

Advancing a more informed public discourse

around the issues of equality and shared society and galvanizing increased public support and demand for Sikkuy-Aufoq's advocacy goals using multiple traditional and social media platforms.

Facilitating effective collaborations

with other civil society organizations and the philanthropic community to advance change. We believe it is our responsibility to develop fruitful and effective collaborations between NGOs, Arab local authorities, and philanthropic partners, and so bring civil society actors together wherever it makes sense. Several of our strongest collaborations with successes this past year are:

- Partnering with the National Council of Arab Mayors and the various sub-committees tasked with identifying the specific needs of Arab society across all areas of social and economic life and creating policy recommendations to address those needs
- Our partnership with Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages (RCUV) and the NGO Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights to improve the government services for the unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev, advance plans for the recognition of 4-6 neighboring villages, and develop a regional municipal model tailored to the needs and characteristics of the targeted villages (new area)
- Working with Beit Berl (a leading teachers' training college) to develop a pilot for implementing the new Ministry of Education's requirement for including mandatory Education for Shared Society elements in all teachers' training programs
- Joint research with the Injaz Center on the municipal income in Arab towns and the tremendous gaps between the budgets of Arab and Jewish municipalities
- Collaboration with the Arab Center for Alternative Planning on research that explores the critical topic of unauthorized housing in Arab cities and provides concrete policy recommendations for long-term resolution.
- Art project with Beit Hagefen the Arab-Jewish Cultural Center in Haifa, as described above

Since we started as Sikkuy 30 years ago, Sikkuy-Aufoq has matured into one of the leading NGOs in the civil society arena. Over the years we have expanded the number of areas in which we advance equality and shared society, we have broadened our action strategies to increase the impact and effectiveness of what we do, and we have worked extensively to increase our collaboration with other organizations in civil society.



Strategic directions looking forward

Since 2020 decisions regarding new issues to be addressed have been guided by our newly defined strategic process and the annual review of our Strategic Plan, which enables a structured approach to the identification, assessment, and determination of each new potential issue. In 2022 this process added 3 issues for exploration:

The promotion of education for identity and shared society in the Arab education track.

Following preliminary research that will define the most appropriate target group age (preschool, elementary, high-school) and the most effective educational framework (for example formal or informal education), the activities for 2023 will be to develop the work plan including the appropriate timeframe for implementation. This issue is formally added to our Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Ensuring that the work of Sikkuy-Aufoq advancing material equality and a fair shared society addresses also the unique needs of the mixed Arab-Jewish cities in Israel where the Arab and Jewish populations of these cities experience a much higher frequency of interaction on a daily basis in most areas of life

(to date we do not work in mixed cities). As a result there is a greater than usual opportunity to build a truly shared society, however for the same reason there is in these cities a greater risk of conflict, conflict escalation, and racism. Sikkuy-Aufoq defined an initial research framework to explore the issue in more detail - most pressing problems, primary players - and identify areas for action. We shared the framework with our colleagues and partners at the National Council of Arab Mayors (NCAM) who then added a number of additional organizations (Injaz, ACAP, The Follow Up Committee On Arab Education); it was agreed that the project should properly take place as a collaborative effort under the auspices of NCAM as the umbrella organization for all Arab municipalities. A follow-on discussion with the stakeholders later this month will address specific logistics of the research effort, and the timeframe.

Taking a broader look at the GD 550 framework -

are there additional issues being funded that we should work to advance through our advocacy efforts? Recognizing that the combined expertise of several civil society organizations together with NCAM will maximize the effectiveness of this effort, we are currently working to create a collaborative partnership and a framework for the initial research with these organizations and with supporters from philanthropy. Following an initial discussion NCAM has indicated that they are very interested in pursuing this direction, as is one of civil society's outstanding philanthropic organizations. NCAM will lead this first research effort; at its conclusion the partners will determine the most appropriate work share division going forward.

The policy changes being planned by the new government add new levels of complexity and uncertainty to the coming year; our in-progress Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan will inform our work plans both for these new areas as well as for our in-progress projects. We look forward to sharing progress reports on all of our projects and programs throughout the year.



Our project challenges in 2022

Challenges for policy change

Monitoring the implementation of government decisions

In the past year and a half, the government approved 2 significant decisions - 550 and 1279 - for the socio-economic development of Arab society and one GD 549 - for the reduction of violence. These Government Decisions are complex and include very large budgets to be allocated over the next 5 years. In our experience, the implementation of major government decisions requires intensive involvement of civil society organizations to systematically identify policy barriers, develop policy recommendations to address them, and advocate for the adoption of these recommendations. However, monitoring the implementation of such large-scale decisions is a significant challenge due to the lack of regular government updates on implementation status and the limited resources of NGOs. To address this challenge, we are currently developing a new tool for monitoring and supervising the implementation of Government Decisions. This will allow us to develop an internal mechanism for systematically monitoring the implementation of the different Government Decisions in our areas of expertise. Once the tool is finalized, we will share it with other civil society organizations; this will contribute to a more effective monitoring of government decisions by a larger number of NGOs, and a more optimal implementation of these decisions.

Advancing a stronger focus on the root causes of violence and crime

Violence and organized crime are complex interrelated multi-layered phenomena. Violence and crime also have multiple causes - social, economic, short-term, and long-term discriminatory government policies in many areas over many years. It follows that the response to these phenomena must take many different forms - police intervention and enforcement may be best for immediate- and medium-term impact, but changes in social and economic thinking and government policies, and a shift in the public discourse, are needed to treat the underlying causes of violence and organized crime in Arab society and bring sustainable change. As we worked to refine our work plans for our Combatting Violence project, a significant challenge for Sikkuy-Aufoq in this area has been to distinguish and prioritize between the types and causes of violence and crime so that we can intervene most effectively. To address this challenge effectively and bring our expertise to bear, we have decided to take a more broad-based approach and are incorporating the issue of violence and organized crime into many of our other projects where relevant. Thus for example there will be consideration of violence and crime in our work on the urban and economic factors impacting Arab society e.g. advancing suitable credit schemes to reduce the reliance on grey market (non-banking) loans, and using Sikkuy-Aufoq's urban renewal tools to create safer public spaces in Arab towns, as well as in our advancement of shared public spaces and how these spaces can increase or lessen violence and crime. Our advocacy here thus not only advances the issue of violence as an integral part of critical dialogues, but also helps decision makers to see this painful topic, as well as possible solutions, from a different perspective.



Our project challenges in 2022

Challenges in advancing Shared Society

In spite of a small but steady year over year increase in the representation of Arab society and Arab citizens in the media, the challenge we faced this past year to advance Arab representation in the media was the result of feelings of futility and a deep lack of faith in the power of Arab citizens to influence the mainstream discourse and its institutionalized discrimination, caused at least in part by the tragic events of May 2021 which so completely shook people's faith. It was thus difficult to recruit a sufficiently broad range of Arab representatives and speakers to take part in our various projects so that the diverse perspectives and needs of the Arab population would be sufficiently well represented across the Hebrew language media platforms. To begin meeting this challenge Sikkuy-Aufoq initiated a project that would enhance the professional capacities of Arab spokespeople and those responsible for media communications in the Arab local authorities, specifically to enhance the participants' media appearance skills and thus enable them to effectively influence the public discourse. Skills and tools included 1) how to develop a compelling story that media outlets would want to publish; 2) how to maintain and strengthen professional relations with key figures in the media; 3) how to prepare for a media interview; 4) how to successfully convey the message; 5) how to prepare a press release. This first effort took place in the Negev, in 2023 we will assess the effectiveness of the training and will engage in an evaluation process whose purpose is to further refine the content of the training and determine whether to replicate it in additional regions.





One major challenge going forward

2023 brings a fundamental and frightening challenge: the extreme right-wing coalition government of Benjamin Netanyahu and its goal of remaking Israeli society. While our Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan is still in progress we do know that in 2023 our primary challenges, and those of our partners in civil society, will be to:

- Continue advancing our vision of equality and partnership through our projects in every way possible
- Protecting the successes we have achieved to date by closely monitoring Knesset committees and communications, and advocating vis-à-vis government officials as necessary
- Identifying damage done to Arab society and Arab-Jewish partnership, and developing mitigation plans and actions

In the coming weeks we will release our Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan which will help us navigate the way forward in these difficult times.



Sikkuy-Aufoq in the media

Our robust social media presence is central to our ability to raise awareness, educate with facts, and change the public discourse from fear and hatred of the other to a true understanding and acceptance of Palestinian Arab citizens and culture. In 2022 in addition to our Facebook posts and hundreds of items in the Hebrew and Arabic media, we focused on growing our presence on the newer platforms Twitter and Instagram. At the grassroots level we worked with Arab activists to help ensure that their voices are heard by the mainstream Jewish audiences through digital projects such as Write I am Arab (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok) and Tasharafna (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook) which promotes Arab Palestinian culture, history, and narrative. Several of our published research papers received wide coverage in the Hebrew and Arab press, with requests for interviews and lectures, including by mainstream organizations such as the Joint.

A number of our staff members have become regulars on the news:



Yanal Jabarin
Project Coordinator for Fair Media Representation at Sikkuy-Aufoq, speaks with Guy Zohar of Kan11 on his satirical show ‘From the Other Side’ where Guy lays bare the differences between reality and what is shared in the media, and how the media shapes reality as we perceive it.





Ya’ala Mazor
Co-Director of Sikkuy-Aufoq’s Shared Society department, talks with the independent media channel DemocratTV about the near total lack of Arab society representation in the Jewish education system and the near total failure of the education system to effectively teach Arabic in spite of it being a mandatory subject in middle school.





Raghad Jaraisy
Co-Director of the Equality Policy department, sharing her thoughts with Kan11 television on the critical need for better and safer public transportation infrastructure and access in Arab cities and towns.



Organizational growth

Internally 2022 was a year of growth and reflection for the organization and for the staff, with two major goals:

1 Clarify expectations and provide consistent and transparent guidance for the staff and the board regarding day-to-day functioning on core areas of organization life such as:

2 Enable shared exploration of the values we are working to advance - what does equality and shared society really mean to each of us? This exploration of issues both powerful and personal was guided by external trained facilitators and included 3 sessions throughout the year: one discussion on equality, one on shared society, and one on the way in which these values are expressed within Sikkuy-Aufoq. While each person's definition of the terms and conclusions from the discussions were unique, there was broad agreement that the process overall deepened critical understanding of the concepts. The process also deepened the level of trust between staff members and the organization as it became clear that such charged topics could be explored together, with mutual respect and honor for the opinions and sensitivities of each other. Finally, the process gave us significant insight into our organization's strengths and weaknesses with respect to equality and shared society - where do we fully embody these core values and where do we need more work?

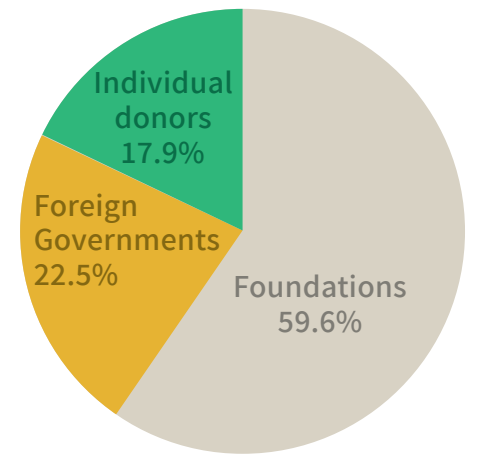


Financial data

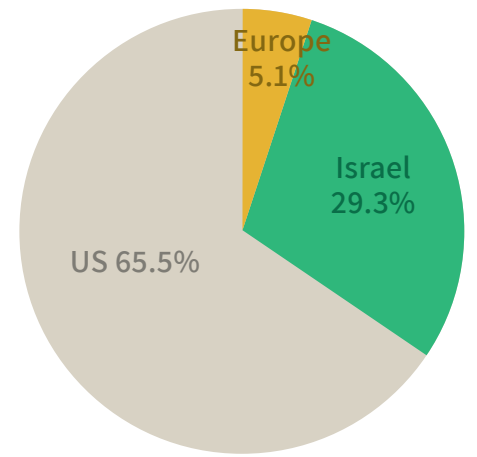
We believe in transparency!

Total revenue:
\$2,385,910

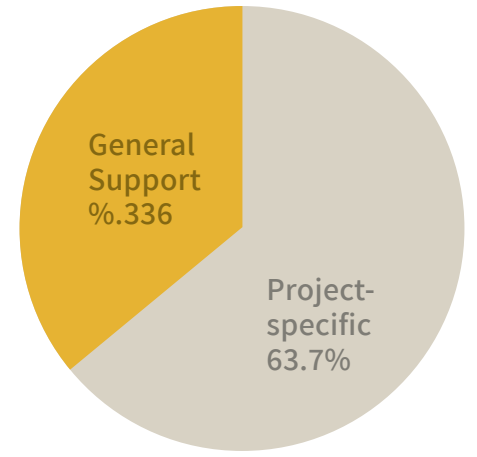
Sources of revenue



Financial resources by geographical area



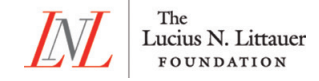
Restricted and non-restricted grants



An incomplete list of our donors



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- The Yahav Family



Together, we can create our shared future!

To donate to Sikkuy-Aufoq & join our newsletter

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 We never stop believing that blue skies are ahead.

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