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## INJAZ - Center for Professional Arab Local Governance

**Injaz Center for Professional Arab Local Governance** is a dynamic non-profit organization working to strengthen the capacity of Arab leadership within local authorities, towns and villages in Israel in order to advance social and economic development for Arab citizens. Promoting principles of democracy, public participation and transparency, Injaz aims to achieve Arab municipal governance that initiates processes of social change, creating the conditions for dignity, development and a sense of belonging. Through training, research, strategic planning, and pilot projects on the ground, Injaz Center contributes to transforming the local authorities from mere service providers to a driving force, working to improve the lives of citizens in Israel, thus contributing to the overall development of the state, and to the creation of a shared society.

Following an in-depth analysis of the current reality of both the Arab local governance, and the Arab community as whole, Injaz Center consolidated its working methods and strategies in such a manner, which would enable us to address the issues facing those groups optimally. Thus, Injaz Center works on three main tiers:

### 1. **Central governance – Local governance:**

The current relationship between Arab local governance and central governance has been long characterized by mutual distrust and miscommunication. Government officials lack understanding to the particular needs and challenges of Arab local authorities, which are fundamentally distinguished from those faced by Jewish local authorities; while Arab municipal leadership lack the necessary capacities to work vis a vis the central governance, and are incompetent to do thus efficiently.

Injaz experience indicates that processes, which bring together two conflicted sides with the goal to discuss particular issues in an objective and professional manner, are remarkably effective in facilitating mutual understanding between them. Thus, through roundtables, we provide municipal and government officials with a professional platform to discuss major issues and overcome particular problems and challenges.

Needless to say, this requires us to accompany the Arab municipal leadership prior to and during those meetings, and to provide them with vital tools and skills to work vis a vis the central governance, and better present their needs.

Injaz Center undertakes intensive processes to facilitate mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation between both sides to affect the government's implemented policies and catalyze procedures that would benefit the Arab local authorities in Israel, and consequently, the Arab citizens.

### 2. **Within Arab local authorities:**

As Arab municipal leadership constantly demand just policies, equality in land allocation and access to national resources, and transparency in operation; it is only most plausible that they ought to uphold those principles and espouse similar philosophies themselves. Thus, Injaz Center works diligently to promote and assimilate values of good governance, transparency, equality, and public participation among the Arab municipal leadership, to grant justification to their demands from the central governance.







hiking path. This will provide them with a much-needed space for sports and leisure activities, and would serve citizens of neighboring towns as well.

**Kudoman:**

**9. Establishment of an Academics Association in Tura'an**

During 2014, Injaz Center worked with 4 groups of young people (Mghar, Tamra, Kafr Qassem, and Tura'an). The highly motivated group in Tura'an held a public conference on the role of the academics in the social development and growth of their town. As a result, Tura'an mayor turned to the group to establish the first Academics Association to ever operate in the town. The Association's initial step was to conduct a mapping of the Academics in the town and to identify their needs. Following the mapping, the Academics Association is currently considering possible actions to address those needs in cooperation with the local authority.

**Research and publications:**

- **The Municipal Agenda Document** – An in depth analysis of the role of Arab local governance institutions in affecting their citizens' lives, and a joint vision and strategy for comprehensive socio-economic development in Arab towns.
- **From Deficits and Dependence to Balanced Budgets and Independence** – A joint research with Sikkuy Association analyzing the disparities in revenues sources of Arab local authorities in comparison to those of the Jewish local authorities.
- **Obstacles in Obtaining Funding for Environmental Issues** – A joint research with Heschel Center for Environmental Sustainability. The research identifies sources of government funding and budgets allocated to deal with environment related issues, and which are available for Arab local authorities; in addition to obstacles hampering Arab local authorities from obtaining those budgets.
- **Land Use and Urban Planning** – A research identifying and analyzing major obstacles and hindrances facing Arab local authorities in preparing outline plans and obtaining its approval. This research is based on two study-cases in Arara and Baka El Gharbiyya.