יד ביד: המרכז לחינוך יהודי ערבי בישראל (ע"ר)
يداً بيد: مركز التربية العربي اليهودي في اسرائيل
Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel

HAND IN HAND
2015-16

The Hand in Hand (HIH) mission is to create vibrant and inclusive shared society in Israel through a network of integrated bilingual schools and organized community activities bringing together Jewish and Arab citizens. Founded in 1998 with two classes of 1st graders in Jerusalem and in the Galilee, Hand in Hand now operates a growing network of schools, and has developed a proven model of bilingual integrated education and community impact. We are now located in 6 locations, with more than 1,300 Jewish and Arab students in our schools and more than 5,000 parents and adults participating in our community activities. Waiting lists are long and we have more demand to start in new locations than capacity to accommodate those who want to be part of our inclusive frameworks. Over the next ten years, Hand in Hand aims to create a network of 10-15 integrated bilingual schools, supported and enhanced by organized community activities, altogether involving more than 20,000 Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens.

Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, comprising 80% and 20% of the population respectively, live separately from each other in many aspects of daily life. This separation starts in the education system in Israel which is tracked according to language (Hebrew and Arabic), and religious observance (Jewish religious and secular). While this reflects the major population groups in Israel and in many ways intends to respect communal differences, it also perpetuates communal divisions, with the lack of interaction between the groups increasing stereotyping, fear and misunderstanding.

Hand in Hand believes that the day-to-day living experience of its students, teachers, parents and others who participate in its schools and community activities creates mutual respect, recognition and understanding in our otherwise divided society. Each Hand in Hand school and community influences its local surroundings, and the network as a whole, provide a robust example of the viability of civic equality and inclusiveness for Israeli society.

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BILINGUAL INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

Hand in Hand schools are located in Jerusalem, the Galilee, Wadi Ara, Haifa, Jaffa and Bet Berl (Hasharon/Triangle area). The Jerusalem school, the largest and our flagship school, extends from Pre-K – 12th grade, while our schools in the Galilee and Wadi Ara extend through elementary school. The Jaffa, Haifa and Bet Berl schools are in the early stages of development, starting as pre-schools expanding annually into older grades. Hand in Hand's goal is that ours are governmental schools with full support and recognition from the Ministry of Education. Currently each of our schools is recognized with the exception of our newer schools in Haifa and Bet Berl where we are in the process. Government recognition provides standard core funding, curriculum and supervision, to which we add the bilingual and multicultural components which characterize our schools. This includes:

- Both Hebrew and Arabic are primary languages of instruction (often with dual teachers in a single classroom);
- The curriculum and pedagogical approach is multicultural, including the traditions, history, values, holidays, and culture of all students (Jewish, Christian and Muslim); and
- Specialized guidance and mentoring is offered to help students, teachers, and parents express empathy and mutual respect in the most difficult of circumstances.

SHARED COMMUNITIES

During 2012, Hand in Hand established active integrated communities of adults to support and amplify the impact of its schools. With core funding from the US Agency for International Development, Hand in Hand launched communities in six locations, the three where it had established schools and the three new locations where the communities then established new schools. These communities engage in the "being" and "doing" of community. This includes a wide variety of activities which both increase social ties and address reasons for social tensions: from sports, cultural activities and excursions; to participating in adult education programs focused on learning each other's language, culture and traditions; to inter-group dialogue and social action. Hand in Hand seeks that these visibly integrated shared communities will not only help its schools succeed, but will also show the broader public that inclusive social ties and structures are viable and scalable.

THE FUTURE

In the coming years, HIH plans to continue and expand its two-pronged approach to building support for social inclusion and civic equality in Israeli society:

- HIH current schools will continue to grow year-by-year, in grade levels and numbers of students, while new integrated bilingual schools will be established in appropriate locations over time. The 10-15 Hand in Hand schools will form a strong network of integrated bilingual schools and communities across Israel.

- Active shared communities are initiated and sustained in every location where there is a school. In 10 years, these communities, alongside students, parents and teachers directly involved in the schools, should include some 20,000 individuals who have chosen to live their daily lives as part of institutions that embody the values of a shared, inclusive and equal society. These frameworks are not meant to only create social safe havens for individually interested citizens but, more broadly, alternative structures for involved, engaged Jewish and Arab citizens who reject the dominant norm of separation and are committed to creating a vibrant reality of mutual understanding, acceptance and equality. As is already apparent, this movement of citizens will take an active part in public discourse and be mobilized for to further inclusiveness in Israeli society.

HIH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel (HIH) acts as the umbrella organization to the Hand in Hand school and community network, providing programmatic, pedagogical, financial and administrative support to the school and community activity. To fulfill these tasks HIH has the following departments:

- **The Education Department** is responsible for the pedagogical oversight and training of the bilingual and multicultural aspects of HIH schools, working closely with the principals and teachers in developing leadership, conducting teachers training, and developing innovative curricula which fulfill the HIH mission.

- **Schools and kindergartens** function in close cooperation with HIH but have their own internal structures in accordance with government standards and supplemented with staff to enable us to implement our bilingual multicultural model.

- **The Community Department** works closely with the schools, parents and broader community in each school location and new location to mobilize community activists, and facilitate the establishment of the community leadership infrastructure and activities.

- **Financial and administrative support, as well as resource development and communications** are based primarily within the HIH organization and service all HIH schools and communities.

OUR PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

We cannot – and do not – do this alone. Hand in Hand schools are a shared venture operated in a close partnership consisting of the Ministry of Education (MOE) and local educational authorities; the Hand in Hand organization; and parents. MOE provides core support towards provision of the standard core curriculum, teaching hours, administration, facilities and maintenance as per the standard of MOE. The HIH model requires resources towards additional teaching staff; curriculum development and supervised implementation; pedagogical training and guidance; and leadership development of the school principals. This requires that MOE core resources are supplemented by parents' fees and philanthropy. On average the cost share between the Ministry of Education, philanthropy and parents is 40-40-20%. Philanthropic resources come from private donors in the US, UK, Europe and Israel; US and European foundations; USAID; American Jewish Federations; Israeli businesses; synagogues and churches; and so forth.

We hope you will join us in building a vibrant future for all of Israel's citizens.

For more information please contact us at info@handinhand.org.il. Go to our website at www.handinhandk12.org and Facebook.