

Good Governance and Strategic Planning in Laqye: Strengthening the Abilities of the Local Authority

This project, which began in 2018, is currently receiving EU support. It represents a partnership between the Bedouin Local Authority of Laqye (one of seven Bedouin Townships in the Negev), the New Israel Fund-Shatil, and Bimkom: Planners for Planning Rights. The guiding principle of the project is for the Bedouin professionals in Laqye to take the lead in the project.

Like many weak and peripheral local authorities, Laqye lacks the human and financial resources to invest in strategic planning, and entrenched interest groups divided along family lines have historically dominated its decision-making processes. Laqye is one of the poorest townships in Israel, and suffers from a lack of adequate planning and infrastructure. This has led to a dearth of services and employment, as well related environmental, social and economic problems. NIF-Shatil and Bimkom believe that the ability to plan strategically is fundamental to successful economic, social and spatial development. It is a tool for building consensus among stakeholders, facilitating transparency and public participation, making efficient use of resources, and guarding against corruption. By building Laqye's ability to contend successfully with these challenges, this action will create the long-term capacity for strategic planning and managing complex processes in the future. Therefore, the overarching goal of the program is to help Laqye's professionals and officials in their local authority learn to think strategically and lead complex economic, social, and spatial planning processes customized to the specific needs of residents, which will help maximize available resources for their ongoing development.