



JDC – THE FIRST THOUSAND DAYS MAY 2019

Bedouin Israelis living in the Negev are by far the poorest and most at-risk community in Israel. Nearly 80% of the over 250,000 Negev Bedouins live in poverty, and close to 100,000 people live in villages that have no legal standing, electricity, running water, daycare or easy access to healthcare. The over 50,000 Bedouin children are by far the country's most vulnerable and at-risk citizens.

Developed in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties and the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, The First Thousand Days initiative seeks to improve the health, safety and education available to all 35,000 of the youngest, most at-risk Bedouin children in the Negev, thus promoting their optimal cognitive, emotional, social, and physiological development. The program serves even the hardest to reach Bedouin infants and young children (birth to age 3) and their parents while working in close partnership with local daycare, education, and healthcare professionals. The program is in its early pilot stages and this year will have a direct impact on some 1,400 Bedouin children, parents, and caregivers this year.

Program

The First Thousand Days utilizes the Collective Impact model to achieve buy-in from all major stakeholders in Bedouin early childhood (including 4 government Ministries, 9 municipalities and over 15 NGOs) and together all partners identified five strategic areas in which this systemic change will take place:

- **Parent-Child Bond** – Help parents learn and develop the tools needed to provide the best care and strengthen their bonds with their children
- **Daycare Settings** – Significantly increase the number of young children in high quality daycare settings adapted to the unique cultural realities of Bedouin society
- **Community & Environment** – Develop a supportive community and a safe physical environment
- **Professionals** – Train early childhood professionals from within the community to create lasting change
- **Developmental Disabilities and Delays** – Expanding diagnoses of disabilities and developmental issues and improving quality of care for these most hidden and at-risk Bedouin children

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