



# Haraba 2025

Organizational Activities Report

# Introduction

**Haraba is a community-based organization** focused on improving the social, educational, and economic well-being of Bedouin communities in the Naqab. The organization was founded in 2017 and was officially registered as an NGO in 2020. Haraba's name is taken from the Arabic word for "well" as it is a symbol of resilience, sustenance, and life in the desert. We chose this name, because of the importance of water for life, for indigenous communities, and to build a sustainable life in the desert.

**The idea of establishing Haraba** in the Naqab stemmed from the great needs of our community. Our specific focus is on promoting our rights, building resilience, strengthening education, and promoting economic development in a way that benefits our people. We are a group of young men and women, Naqab sons and daughters, who believe in the young generation's ability to change and work to improve society. We have the skills, commitment and aspiration to build a better society for all.

**We believe that change is rooted in the heart of communities** and that, despite differing opinions and perspectives, we all share a common goal to improve our lives, communities and society for the welfare of all. Our development goal is to facilitate and strengthen the role that Bedouin youth in the Naqab play in promoting the full recognition and respect of their fundamental rights of the Bedouin indigenous population.

## Haraba works on three main aspects



### Rights

**Promote the resilience** of the Naqab indigenous people, who are not recognized by the Israeli government, and support their struggle for justice and the full recognition and respect of their fundamental rights.



### Economy

**Develop skills and economic opportunities** that contribute to the economic resilience of Bedouin communities.



### Education

**Support young Bedouin generations** to access and attain quality education and life-long learning opportunities.

Over two years of intense conflict, the profound suffering experienced by the people in Gaza, the rising assaults in the West Bank, and the stringent security measures imposed by the Israeli authorities on our community, along with a notable surge in violence throughout the region, have made a lasting impact. Nonetheless, we have accomplished significant milestones. This year called for extraordinary adaptability and resilience in the face of these challenges.

## Key Activities and Achievements

**Throughout 2025**, Haraba implemented a wide range of initiatives including community outreach programs, educational workshops, and collaborative projects with local and regional partners. Notable achievements encompassed the opening of the Beit Al-Talib Youth Centre in Rahat, the successful execution of several large-scale events, the launching of new platforms to enhance member engagement, and the introduction of innovative solutions to address emerging needs within the community, among others. This report presents a summary.

### Democratic and Political Activism

**Critical Thinking Training** - In the year 2025, we held four courses on Critical Thinking for a total of 100 Bedouin youth. The participants were young men and women between the ages of 16 and 30. In some cases, women made up nearly 70% of the participants, highlighting our commitment to gender mainstreaming.

**Through the critical thinking course, the first of its kind in the Negev, we have contributed to developing the skills of the participants in several areas, including:**

- Ability to conduct a dialog and develop communication skills.
- Ability to analyze and solve problems.
- Ability to adapt to change and face challenges.

Participants highlighted the training as "life-changing," especially amid the ongoing societal trauma. After the training we encourage participants to use the skills and tools provided to promote democracy, human rights, equality and resist the oppressive system they face. This activism includes a gender lens.



## Youth-led Activities

**Complementing the training,** we planned for youth-led activities taking place where participants can put their newly gained skills and tools into practice to promote democracy, human rights, and Bedouin heritage and identity. Throughout the reporting period, a number of activities were organized and led by youth. These initiatives included various events, such as scheduled film screenings. The following youth-led activities took place during this time:

### Visual Arts and Painting Workshops

(May 25 – July 27, 2025)

Youth participants met weekly to practice visual arts, painting, and creative expression. They also prepared and equipped the Young Artists Studio inside the Beit Al-Talib Youth Centre. The process culminated in an art exhibition on July 27, displaying dozens of youth-created paintings celebrating Bedouin heritage and daily life. About 25 young men and women (ages 16–30) from Rahat, Laqiya, Hura, and Shaqib Al-Salam participated, fostering dialogue, cooperation, and a sense of shared identity among Bedouin tribes.

### Public Lecture - Ethics and the Issue of Violence

(August 15, 2025)

A large community lecture on ethics and violence, held in partnership with local scholars, religious leaders, and educators from the Negev and the central region. Bedouin youth coordinated the event, handled invitations, and moderated the discussions. Over 120 attendees, including youth, parents, and community representatives from various Bedouin tribes and localities, fostering inter-tribal dialogue and collective responsibility.

### Lecture - “Self-Discipline and Emotional Regulation”

(August 30, 2025)

This youth-led workshop focused on self-awareness, emotional regulation, and fostering positive social interactions. About 25 participants attended, mainly youth leaders from Rahat, Laqiya, and Hura. The program helped build young people's capacity for reflection and peaceful conflict resolution, reflecting Bedouin traditions of respect and communal harmony.

### Media Production Project

(May–August 2025)

Youth produced three short media materials promoting Beit Al-Talib Youth Center and its values. From concept development to filming and editing, all stages were youth-led. A diverse media team of 10 young men and women from multiple tribes developed strong communication skills, teamwork, and proudly promoted Bedouin youth culture.

- Short videos ([here](#) and [here](#) in Arabic) as part of a campaign to introduce the activities of the youth center to their peers.
- [Short video](#) (in Arabic) promoting community values.

## Youth Art Exhibition "A Week of Art at the House"

The exhibition was organized to feature artworks created by the center's youth. The exhibition showcased diverse artistic expressions addressing themes of identity, society, and youth experience, and provided a platform for young talents to present their work to the public.

## Theatrical Performance "Ghabra"

The political play addressed the differences in lived realities and political persecution between Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship and Palestinians from the West Bank. The event was attended by more than 100 participants and served as a critical space for dialogue and collective reflection.

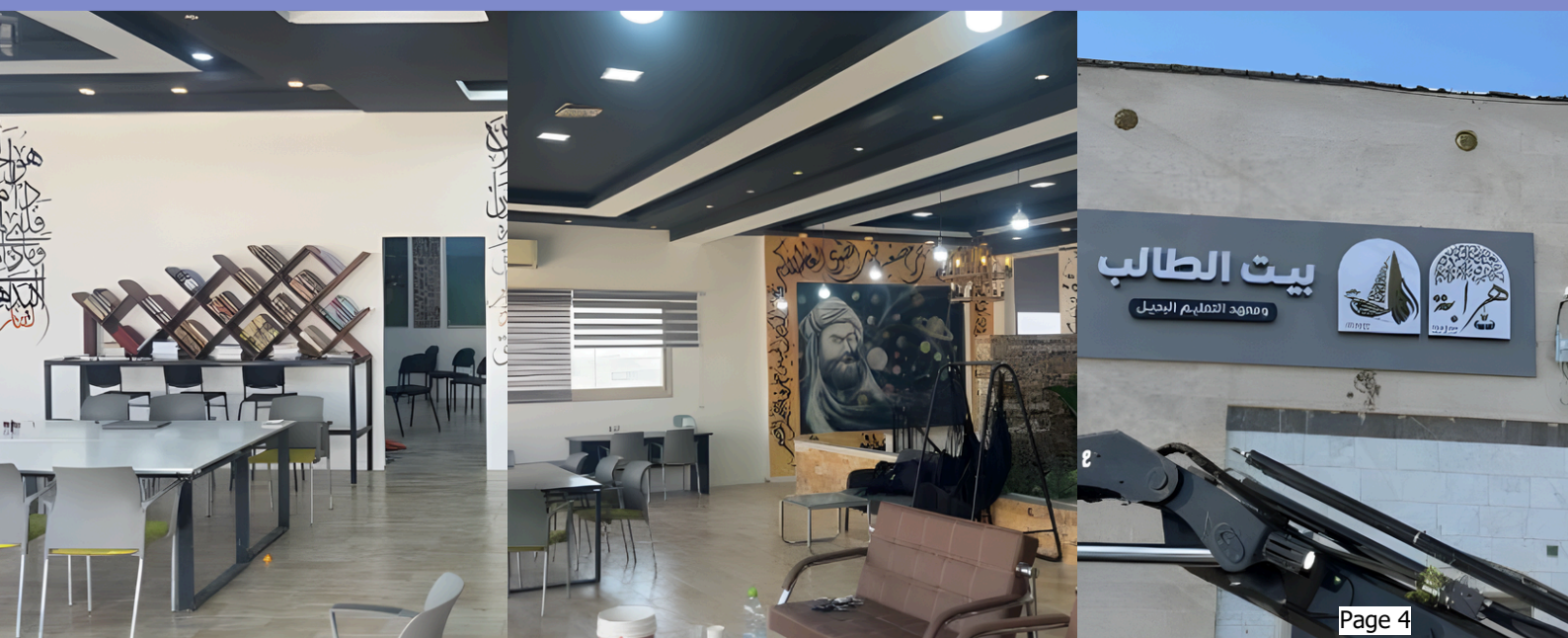
## Community Cinema on Tuesdays – Weekly Film Screenings

We launched a weekly film screening, held every Tuesday at Beit Al-Talib Center. The films address contemporary social and political issues and aim to encourage open discussion and critical cinematic engagement. During the reporting period we screened four films, creating a space for reflection and informal discussion among participants. The four films addressed key issues such as democracy, belonging, human rights, and acceptance of diversity and "the other".

## Stand-Up Comedy Show "A Bedouin in America"

The show combines humor with social and cultural reflection, attracting more than 100 participants. Link to a [short clip](#) (in Arabic). The show was shown in many other areas afterwards.

All activities during this period were designed, managed, and implemented directly by the youth, either through content delivery, team coordination, or voluntary role division. These initiatives strengthened their leadership, communication, and organizational skills, while promoting community engagement and cultural expression.



## **Beit Al-Talib Youth Center - Strengthening Social Cohesion and Bedouin Identity among Bedouin Youth from the Naqab**

**A notable milestone was achieved with the opening of the Beit Al-Talib Youth Centre** in Rahat. This center provides a safe environment for Bedouin youth from various tribes throughout the Naqab region to foster unity and a sense of belonging. By consolidating resources, we established our primary youth facility in Rahat as a comprehensive hub, featuring classrooms, learning spaces, internet access, and multipurpose areas. Although budget constraints limited the immediate development of a second location, the Rahat center functions as a regional focal point, attracting participants from across the Naqab. It has already become an active and secure meeting space for youth throughout the region, and serves as a platform for political, cultural, and educational engagement.

**After its opening,** we focused our efforts on strengthening the Beit Al-Talib Youth Centre. All activities mentioned above (training and youth-led activities) were held at the center. Since the center's inauguration, the activities have seen a robust turnout, with more than 700 participants in all events (not unique participants, as several individuals took part in various events). Many participants were young people, men and women aged 16–30 from different Bedouin towns and villages and from different tribes and families.

The center deliberately arranges activities that include participants from diverse social backgrounds in order to **enhance social cohesion**, mitigate tribal divisions, and foster a unified Bedouin identity based on creativity, ethics, and collective advancement. Every activity held at the center has played a pivotal role in reinforcing social cohesion, promoting Bedouin cultural identity, and encouraging collaboration among youth representing different tribes and communities within the Negev.

Activities included:

- **Public Lectures:**
  - "Humanity and Self-Cultivation," focusing on ethical values, personal development, and the importance of nurturing humane principles in both individual and collective life attended by 25 participants.
  - "Religion, Thought, and Acceptance of the Other" attended by more than 150 participants.
  - "Walk the Land You Own" focusing on land pathways, identity, and the human-led relationship, attended by over 40 participants.
- **Open Art Workshops and Women's Dialogue Sessions:** We conducted three open artistic workshops for women, combined with facilitated women's dialogue sessions. These workshops included activities such as embroidery, textile work, and mosaic art, providing a safe and creative space for expression, dialogue, and mutual support.
- **Hosted the National Chess Championship** with more than 100 participants.



## Partnerships and Collaborations

**In 2025, Haraba expanded its network** of partnerships and collaborations with local, municipal, and national organizations. These partnerships were essential in enhancing program sustainability, broadening community outreach, and strengthening the cultural and educational identity of Bedouin youth in the Negev.

**We established a transformative three-year partnership** with the Disrupt Foundation, securing not only funding but a shared vision that will provide stability and continuity in the years ahead.

**In 2025 we also established collaborations with a diverse range of partners**, including the Municipality of Rahat's Youth Department, academic institutions like the University of Haifa, local community centers, religious leaders, women's empowerment associations, and professionals such as educational counselors and psychologists. These partnerships supported activities such as youth program coordination, integration into municipal service frameworks, joint arts and educational projects, empowerment and training programs, and the promotion of youth activities through media.

**Collectively**, these efforts strengthened institutional ties, expanded educational and cultural opportunities, fostered inter-community cooperation, promoted gender inclusion, facilitated professional mentorship, and increased public visibility and engagement for youth-led initiatives in the Negev region.

## Gender and cross-cutting issues

**All our initiatives are designed with gender inclusion at its core.** All training groups were mixed gender, with women comprising up to 70% of participants in some cohorts. Activities promoted equal participation and created safe, respectful spaces for dialogue and leadership, especially for young Bedouin women. Internally, Haraba continues to promote gender equity, with women in leadership roles and a new strategic plan that integrates gender and youth as guiding principles.

**Our programs also prioritize inclusion**, bringing together youth from diverse Bedouin communities (Rahat, Kseifa, Lakiya, Tel Sheva), fostering cross-tribal cooperation and strengthening social cohesion.



## Challenges and Lessons Learned

**Haraba achieved significant successes in 2025**, but also faced several challenges, including limited resources, logistical difficulties, and inconsistent participation. In response, we adopted flexible strategies such as streamlining operations and expanding outreach to boost engagement. Key lessons from this period included prioritizing clear communication, adaptable planning, and ongoing assessment to maintain momentum and strengthen Haraba's resilience for future initiatives.

**The project took place against the backdrop of the war in Gaza**, with Israeli security forces exerting control over most initiatives in the Naqab, making it difficult to pursue political or cultural endeavors. Specific obstacles included:

- The arrest of some course participants, which created anxiety among others and forced organizers to cut contact with one individual for his safety, as he was threatened with prosecution if he continued involvement.
- Financial restrictions, particularly banking limitations imposed by authorities on Palestinian organizations with constant monitoring that sometimes led to interrogations.
- Communication and punctuality issues among volunteer staff, necessitating new hires during a financial crisis.
- The restoration and outfitting of the youth center were more demanding than anticipated, consuming both time and resources. Budget adjustments were needed due to rising prices caused by the war.

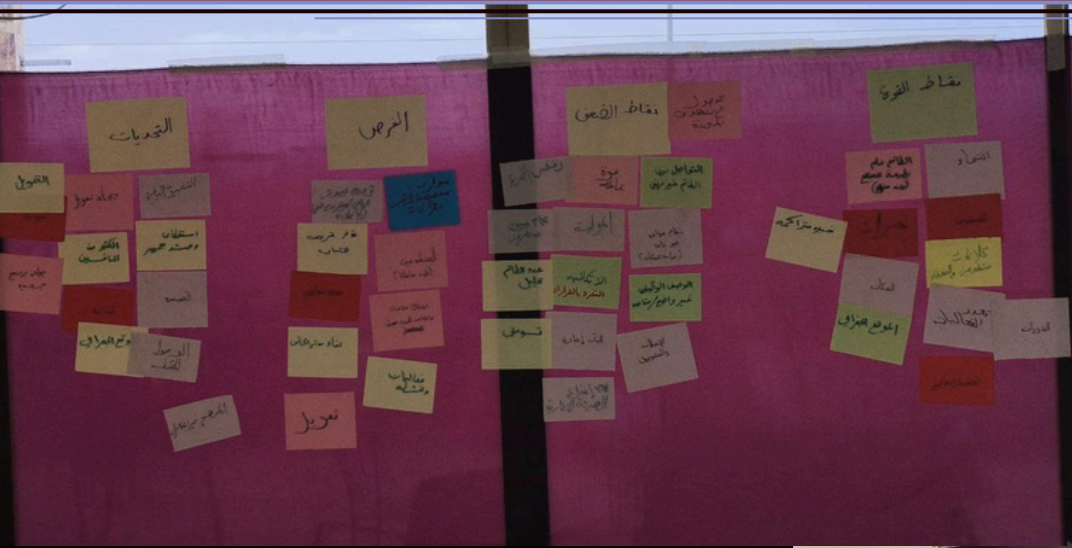
**One major lesson** learned was the need to carefully plan budgets, scrutinize every item against local market realities, and consult experts when necessary. Furthermore, there is a vital need to expand our work, particularly cultural activities that raise awareness about volunteering and how it contributes to a healthy, connected society. We observed a strong desire among youth for opportunities that help build their confidence, enable self-expression, and equip them with life skills.

**We have incorporated thorough risk assessment processes into our planning cycle, ensuring future projects are grounded in local reality and better prepared to address security unpredictability.**

## Financial Overview

**Throughout the year, Haraba continued to prioritize sound financial management.** The organisation used its resources wisely, directing spending towards strategic goals and ensuring clear, transparent reporting.

Most funding supported programme delivery, member services, and infrastructure upgrades. Haraba regularly sought ways to diversify its income and make spending more efficient, helping to secure long-term sustainability. Frequent financial reviews and oversight also helped safeguard fiscal stability and reinforce accountability.





To our funders and partners , we couldn't have done this without you.

EUROPEAN  
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

DISRUPT FOUNDATION



Thank you!

