

Foreword

This document summarizes the conclusions of the Working Group on the Socioeconomic Development of Arab Society in Israel, which operated at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in 2008 as part of a multi-year strategic project on the advancement of Arab society in Israel, with the focus on education, civil-society organizations, leadership, and socioeconomic development. The fourth and last in the series that presents the project's conclusions, it is based on working papers written by the members of the group at the end of its deliberations and synthesizes their insights, positions, and recommendations. It begins with a brief summary of the socioeconomic condition of the Arabs in Israel. This is followed by a list of the basic assumptions that guided the members of the working group, and then a description of the main issues and areas on which they focused. Finally, the group's recommendations and practical steps it envisions are presented.

The working group on the Socioeconomic Development of Arab Society in Israel is the last of the teams set up as part of the project for the advancement of Arab society in Israel. Its goal was to further analyze and understand the factors that impede the social and economic development of the Arab sector and to offer ideas and practical steps for dealing with them. The group had twelve members, all of them Arab citizens of Israel. Academic and logistical support was provided by the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. The group's professional composition was diverse, including academics and scholars, government officials, and experts from civil society organizations that deal with economic and social issues relevant to the Arab minority in Israel. Their work combined open discussions with the writing of working papers (see the list at the start of this document).

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