



July 24, 2016,
18th of Tamuz, 5776

To:

Jewish Diaspora Leadership: Director-Generals of ENP Partner Organizations
Jewish Federations of North America, Jerry Silverman
Jewish Agency for Israel, Alan Hoffman
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Alan Gill
UIA-Keren Hayesod, Greg Maisel

Dear Sirs:

Following the adoption of the "New Way" Initiative, the Government of Israel has recently concluded a two-year process of a comprehensive strategic plan regarding the learning needs for Ethiopian-Israelis children.

As you probably know, we, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, have made a change in perception of the overall policy of Ethiopian community absorption. Following our long process of considering how to make this change evident on the ground level, we found in the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) a partner that shares our policy's vision. ENP has proven its ability to oversee and implement critical work, on behalf of the Government of Israel and its partners, and delivers superior programs in full coordination with the Diaspora Jewish organizations and the Ethiopian-Israeli community. We believe the ENP would embrace and implement this policy shift and act as a true partner in implementing an integrating policy in heterogeneous classrooms together with the equally important parental work.

As ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program delivered by ENP has demonstrated its ability to bring Israeli schoolchildren to high levels of performance, the Government of Israel has decided that ENP will provide after-school scholastic assistance program for Ethiopian-Israelis nationwide, to include the majority of Ethiopian-Israelis in 7th through 12th grade identified by the Government as in need of scholastic assistance, with an additional 20%-30% of non-Ethiopian-Israelis included, ensuring a heterogeneous program, according to the new policy that the government has decided upon. Integration with non-Ethiopian children is one of the fundamental pillar of New Way policy and has essential value towards optimal integration into the Israeli society.



Having accompanied this process throughout, including the round tables that led to this decision, and following our decision mentioned above, , that the Government of Israel will commit to ENP the following: 17.8 million NIS per year for four years, towards the implementation of the programs, thereby reaching approximately 8,750 participants, plus 0.6 million NIS for four years for intervention with parents groups at schools, plus 1 million NIS one-time additional funding for the youth centers for an additional six months, until February 2017. This sums up to a total of – 18.4 million NIS per year for 4 years plus 1 million NIS one-time.

As a shared partnership with Diaspora Jewry by decision to which you are party, this investment requires matching from the Diaspora Jewish organizations. We look forward to your fullest cooperation so as to achieve our shared goal of ensuring the full and successful integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

Respectfully,

Ehud Praver
Deputy Director-General
Prime Minister's Office

Gila Nagar
Deputy Director-General
Ministry of Education

Habib Kassab
Director-General
Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption

Cc: Robert Goldberg
Roni Akale
Michal Cohen – Director-General, ministry of Education
Eli Gruner - Director-General, Prime minister's office

Raviv Zoller
Fentahun Assefa-Dawit

Rebecca Caspi

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