



September 2014  
Tishrei 5775



## Ethiopian National Project (ENP) E-News

Shana tovah!

Today, as I sit in Jerusalem and recall my childhood days, I never thought that same shepherd boy who did his daily lessons by moonlight and walked through Ethiopia and Sudan, would one day be leading an organization whose responsibility is to ensure the success and brighter future of the entire Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel. I take this responsibility on with the greatest sense of commitment, and know you, too, share this feeling of *shlichut*.

As the High Holidays approach and we unite in celebration and introspection, may the joy and sense of community of these holidays remain throughout the year, so that together, we can reach for the stars.

Dessie (Roni) Akale  
Director-General, Ethiopian National Project

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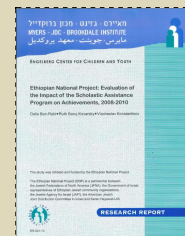
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### Facts & Figures: ENP Diminishes Gaps

ENP prides itself on its adherence to the utilization of external evaluations to help constantly improve the quality, content and direction of its programs. The most recent evaluation by the Myers-JDC Brookdale Institute found that ENP participant performance on matriculation exams has nearly reached that of the general Jewish population (63% vs 65%). In fact, a greater percentage of ENP participants (82% vs 75%) have passed the exam at a level that will enable them to enter practical engineering fields!



See more of ENP's evaluation outcomes [here](#).

### In the Field: Starting the School Year Right

**"By supporting ENP and the Ethiopian-Israeli community, we're doing our part to help ensure the full integration of this very special community into Israeli society."** Howard Jackson, Director of Citibank Israel

Of the 18,000 Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers in Israel, 3,464 will participate in ENP's Scholastic Assistance program in the 2014-15 school year. ENP's SPACE program offers intensive after school assistance with professional teachers in subjects including math, Hebrew and English, as well as social, emotional and nutritional support. This enables more and more youngsters to perform well in school so they can get into college and university and break the cycle of poverty which currently plagues the community- 49% of Ethiopian-Israeli children live in poverty.



At the start of this school year, to allay the welfare-related needs of ENP participants in advance of the school year, the Jewish Women's Renaissance Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington donated 50 backpacks to ENP participants in Beit Shemesh so the kids could start off the year on the right foot. Additional, past contributors include Citibank Israel, YVEL- which donated sales proceeds to ENP to support ENP's successful programs- and others.

**If your community, company or group want to make a difference through ENP, [be in touch today!](#)**

## ENP Visits: Sharing a Common Language



ENP hosts interactive missions and visits to ENP programs throughout Israel. Visitors from North America, Holland, Argentina, Brazil and more have experienced ENP's interactive activities: from cooking traditional Ethiopian food, to making juggling balls and even learning Ethiopian dance, knowledge of Hebrew, Amharic, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch nor even English are necessary, since ENP is a universal language.

Pictured: Dege Feder in an Instagram snapshot during a Birthright mission.

For information how you or your community can visit ENP and get an experience of a lifetime, [contact ENP](#).

## On the Front Lines: ENP and Stop the Sirens Campaign

Thousands of ENP's participants were affected by Operation Protective Edge, as was all of Israel. The Jewish Federation of North America's Stop the Sirens Campaign helped ENP serve the greatest needs of the Ethiopian-Israeli community with generous support that enabled the provision of respite camps and back to school seminars. As war broke out, 292 Ethiopian-Israeli children from eight cities were offered respite in northern Israel where ENP participants enjoyed a two-night respite, participating in a wide variety of activities, from ice skating and a boat ride on the Kinneret to discussions about their concerns and fears with Ethiopian-Israeli counselors. Later in the summer, 824 Ethiopian-Israeli children and family members were given the opportunity to relax in Eilat. And as the new school year approached, 570 Ethiopian-Israeli children participated in Back to School Workshops, getting "into the flow" of learning after the difficult summer.



Thanks to all those who supported Stop the Sirens and ENP during this difficult time.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Summer School 101



They didn't know each other before reached Israel. But by the end of the summer, not only were the children whose lives they touched were changed, but the volunteers' lives as well. Read first hand [about the summertime experience](#) of ENP's 2014 summer volunteers.

At the same time, discover how YOU can be a part of ENP too, by [volunteering in Israel](#).

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ENP is powered by the Jewish Federations of North America, the Government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Community Organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Keren Hayesod-UIA.

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