

Sefitu Ezra

Ethiopian National Project SPACE Alumna, Beersheva



Sefitu Ezra and her family of seven fulfilled their family's generations-long dream of returning to Jerusalem when Sefitu was just 7 years old, in 2004. Sefitu, which means "plenty" in Amharic, was born in a small village named Sekota in the Wollo region of Ethiopia. The fourth child of five siblings, and the first daughter after three sons, from a very young age Sefitu's primary responsibility was drawing water from the nearby river for drinking and cooking.

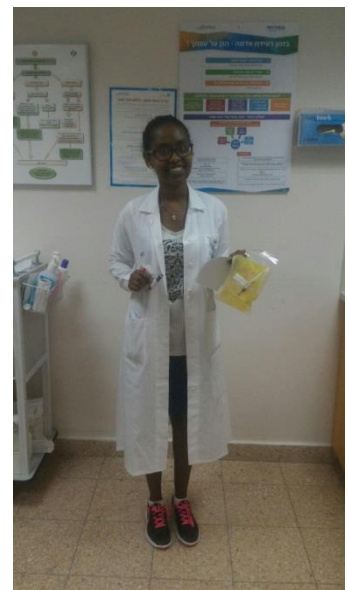
Though her family prospered in village life as owners of cows and other livestock with flourishing crops, once the news arrived that they had the opportunity to leave for Israel, they set out by foot for Addis Ababa, where after just two weeks they were flown to Israel.

Sefitu and her family were placed in the Absorption Center in Beersheva, where they lived for almost two years until they purchased a small apartment in the same city. Once they moved from the absorption center, Sefitu entered third grade, side by side with her other Israeli peers, though she never went to school in Ethiopia.

The quantum leap from drawing river in a well at the age of seven to drawing blood at 19 as a National Service Volunteer at Soroka Hospital was made possible with the six-year participation of Sefitu in ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance Program. From 7th to 12th grades, ENP provided Sefitu with all the after-school supplementary support she needed to help her achieve success in school.

In fact, Sefitu is part of a legacy of SPACE graduates: "Four out of the five of us children were so fortunate to have SPACE. Two of my three older brothers were in SPACE. Thanks to SPACE, we all passed our matriculation exams: one brother is studying Engineering at Ben Gurion University after serving in Nachal in the IDF, and my other brother, who was a Paratrooper, is studying to become a nurse,. My younger sister also is in SPACE—she's in 11th grade, and loves it."

Sefitu not only treasured her time in SPACE, but, upon deciding in tenth grade that she dreamed of becoming a doctor, ENP helped her get even closer to that dream:



Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

“I love to help people, and want to make people feel better. I also want to give back all I have received, and know I can make a difference. SPACE helped me in math, English and the sciences. ENP helped me believe I can do whatever I set my mind on doing. And that’s what I’m doing today.”

Through SPACE, Sefitu, her brothers and sister, and thousands more SPACE graduates will fulfill their dreams and build bright futures as they make Israel truly a light unto the nations.

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