

התכנית הממשלתית לשילוב יוצאי אתיופיה
Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins

3 September 2020

14 Elul 5780

Dear Friends,

In my capacity as the Director of the Israel Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins, I have witnessed the exceptional impact of the Ethiopian National Project's School Performance and Community Empowerment (ENP SPACE) Program on the Ethiopian-Israeli population. The expansion of the ENP program over the past four years, coupled with additional intensive efforts on part of the Ministry of Education, enabled us to significantly decrease the gaps in the percent achieving full matriculation by half (from 15 to 8 percentage points) as well as to significantly reduce the gaps in the percentage achieving matriculation allowing higher education (for a gap of 26 percentage points to a gap of 19 percentage points). However, these also data indicate there is still a road ahead to achieve equality of opportunity for Ethiopian Israeli young people entering the army and employment.

In my four years as Director, ENP stands apart as an outstanding organization that effectively works with the Ethiopian-Israeli community in a grassroots fashion in the most professional way, while also working hand in hand with the government in implementing the new policies. ENP joined the New Way's efforts as an existing "Shared Initiative" created by Governmental decision in 2001 to forge a connection between Diaspora Jewry and the Israeli Government's efforts to support Ethiopian Jewry.

ENP's exceptionally high level of transparency, its intimate familiarity of detail of every child in its SPACE program and its ability to provide the Government of Israel and its partners with a swift and thorough response to every request for information is unmatched by any organization that deals with the Ethiopian-Israeli community—and even most other populations—in Israel.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ENP quickly organized and was able to provide an effective response when many others struggled to do so.

The remarkable achievements of those schoolchildren who participated in ENP SPACE and the continued and potential increase in influx of new *olim* from Ethiopia underscore ENP's continued importance and relevance and demand its continued support. Moreover, because of ENP's effective management and transparency we are also considering expanding the partnership into the area of employment, where there are many challenges.

Respectfully,

 Talal Dolev

Director, Israel Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins

Cc: Dana Post Adler, ENP Chairman, North America
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