



Gratitude and Community

Friends,

This month we celebrated the Sigd holiday. Though many celebrated Sigd individually or with family at home due to preventive health regulations, I happily share that it feels that Sigd has never been more celebrated as this year. Each year more and more Israelis become exposed to- and commemorate Sigd as a national holiday, making it part of their Jewish calendar. And just as in Israel more Israelis mark Sigd, ENP invites you to explore this special holiday and understand how its beauty and meaning can be part of your Jewish year. We invite you to be in touch with us to further explore how the beauty of the Ethiopian Jewish community can inspire your community, as well. And in this spirit of community, ENP is excited to continue lifting up and empowering Ethiopian-Israelis through programs such as SPACE and sharing with you the fruits of our joint labors.

Read more about Sigd and this month's highlights, below.

With deep respect,

Roni Dessie Akale
Director-General, ENP

"Sigd Is Very Meaningful in My Work"



The holiday of Sigd, celebrated this year on 16 November (29th of Cheshvan), plays a major role in ENP's work in empowering Ethiopian-Israelis and strengthening their sense of pride in their heritage. Each year, many participants of ENP's SPACE program celebrate the holiday in school with traditional food, garb, and other Ethiopian-Jewish traditions. "Sigd is very meaningful in my work," says Rachamim Melaku, one of ENP's regional supervisors. "In schools

where SPACE operates, our participants lead Sigd holiday events as part of school-wide celebrations, which is a very meaningful experience for them. The celebration includes an explanation about Sigd and the meaning of the prayers, usually by a spiritual leader, as well as traditional food and garb. As a regional supervisor, I have noticed how empowering this day is for our teens, especially seeing as they are the ones to organize and carry out the event."

[To read the full article, click here](#)

[Get To Know Rachamim](#)

Every year, coinciding with the Sigd Holiday which falls 50 days after Yom Kippur, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) releases data on the Ethiopian-Israeli population. According to the CBS, there are currently 155,300 Ethiopian-Israelis living in Israel, of whom 87,500 are Ethiopia-born. Among other insights, the data reveal the deep and enduring socioeconomic gaps between Ethiopian-Israelis and the general Jewish population, namely in the areas of employment, welfare and education. For instance, one in every three Ethiopian-Israelis is listed in Israel's Social Services, 2.5 times more than among the general Jewish and other foreign-born population. ENP closely follows these and other CBS statistics and prides itself on always being up to date on the most current data in order to better understand the needs and the current state of the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

האכלוסייה ממוצא אתיופי¹ בישראל - לקט נתונים לרגל חג הסיגד
The Ethiopian Population in Israel

- בסוף שנת 2019 מנתה האוכלוסייה ממוצא אתיופי בישראל 155.3 אלף תושבים. 87.5 אלף ילידי אתיופיה ו-67.8 אלף ילידי ישראל שאבותיהם נולדו באתיופיה.
- בשנת 2019 הגיעו מאתיופיה לישראל 818 איש.
- כ-63% מהאוכלוסייה ממוצא אתיופי מתגוררת בשני מחוזות עיקריים: מחוז המרכז (כ-38%) ומחוז הדרום (כ-25%). בסוף שנת 2019, מבין היישובים העירוניים, היישוב שבו מספר התושבים ממוצא אתיופי הגבוה ביותר היה נתניה (כ-12 אלף איש), ואילו היישוב שבו אחוז התושבים ממוצא אתיופי הגבוה ביותר מכלל אוכלוסיית היישוב, היה קרית מלאכי (16.0%).
- לידות חי - בשנת 2019 נולדו 3,950 תינוקות לנשים ממוצא אתיופי. באותה שנה, מספר הילדים הממוצע שאישה ממוצא אתיופי צפויה ללדת במהלך חייה היה 2.92 ילדים.
- בחינוך היסודי והעל-יסודי למדו בשנת הלימודים תשע"ט (2018/19) 31,890 תלמידים ממוצא אתיופי שהם כ-2.4% מכלל התלמידים בחינוך העברי.
- שיעור הנישנים לבחינות הבגרות בקרב תלמידי כיתות יב יוצאי אתיופיה ב-2019 היה 92%, לעומת 95.1% בקרב כלל החינוך העברי (ללא פיקוח חרדי).

[To read the full article, click here](#)

[Read the full CBS report here \(Hebrew\)](#)

More on Ethiopian-Israelis

ENP's BBYO Bridges Buddies: Bigger and Better



ENP's BBYO Bridges has started another season, and is bigger and better than ever! Following the resounding success of the pilot started last summer, ENP has relaunched this unique project in not one but two BBYO regions and their Israeli partner cities. This November, teens from Ashkelon reconnected on Zoom with their friends in Baltimore while a new group in Migdal HaEmek got its first taste of online meetings with BBYOers in Detroit. In a recent highlight, Detroit teens got to hear first-hand the inspirational Aliyah story

of Esther Asseye, mother of one of ENP's Migdal HaEmek participants. The story sparked powerful discussions among the teens about courage, conviction and tenacity and the tremendous personal powers we all possess. ENP is working to expand the project to other cities, giving more Ethiopian-Israeli and Jewish American youth the opportunity to engage, learn from each other and make lasting connections. Would you want your community to become part of our initiative? [Contact ENP!](#)

[Read the full article here](#)

Learn More About Bridges

Want to make a huge impact on a child's life?

SPACE provides the holistic empowerment and support that will allow our students to thrive and prepare them for future success. Every gift counts!

Send a student to SPACE and make a difference in their life today!

**Donate
Now!**

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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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