

Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

**Ethiopian National Project  
2013-14 Update  
Presented to the ENP Board  
June, 2014**

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## Ethiopian National Project

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### ENP – Providing Children with Critical Support

The Ethiopian National Project for the Ethiopian Community in Israel (ENP) works tirelessly to ensure the full and successful integration of Ethiopian-Israelis. It carries this out by providing scholastic and social assistance to Ethiopian-Israeli youth, risk prevention and empowerment programs.

ENP's SPACE Initiative (School Performance and Community Empowerment) operates in 27 communities throughout Israel, in the form of three key initiatives:

- **ENP Scholastic Assistance Programs**, delivering supplementary hours of academic assistance to students in small groups. Scholastic Assistance addresses students' social and personal barriers to academic achievement, and is designed and implemented according to the individual needs of each child in the program.

Scholastic Assistance Programs provide critical support to 3,906 students and operate in 112 schools throughout Israel, working to improve children's grades, increase the percentage of community students who graduate from high school, reduce drop-out rates, and ease the transition from junior high to high school.

- **ENP Youth Outreach Centers**, providing a safe, positive haven for at-risk Ethiopian-Israeli youth while offering a range of enriching, extra-curricular activities for all community children. ENP's 18 Youth Outreach Centers in 17 communities throughout the country are staffed by teams of professionals and trained volunteers, and are open during after school hours. As is the case with the Scholastic Assistance Programs, they cater to youth from the ages of 13 to 18.

These primary initiatives are complimented by additional programs that are part of a holistic package designed to meet the needs of the community, including empowerment programs, parent workshops, and educational and social mediator programs.

- **ENP Empowerment Programs**, work on a grassroots level with parents and community leaders to ensure they have the tools required.

Following is a summary of ENP's achievements in the 2013-14 academic year to date:

- ENP operated its programs in 27 different communities throughout Israel, from Beit Shean in the north to Beersheva in the south.



- 3,527 participated in ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance, receiving a holistic response including scholastic, social, emotional and nutritional assistance.
- 112 high-potential students received special enrichment through the ENP-Pre-Atidim program.
- 267 at-risk, lower-achieving teenagers participated in special, remedial scholastic program in the ENP Vocational School Program.
- 18 Youth Outreach Centers in 17 Israeli communities opened their doors to 1,424 teenagers throughout the country, providing them with a warm and supportive atmosphere and confidence-building seminars and activities, after school and into the evening.

### **A Clear National Need**

ENP prides itself on obtaining the most recent data, from sources including the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, to understand the most current state of the community. Latest data reveals the following, all of which point to the necessity and relevance of ENP's work:

- Large, young families: Nearly 75% of Ethiopian-Israeli families have children under 18, as compared with some 40% of all Jewish families. Ethiopian-Israeli families are larger than average, with nearly half having 3 children or more, compared with less than one-third of all Jewish families.
- Poor Families: 44.7% of Ethiopian-Israeli families with children live in poverty, compared to 17.8% of all Jewish families.
- Child Poverty: 49% of Ethiopian-Israeli children live under the poverty line, more than double that of the overall Jewish population.
- Poor Nutrition: For many Ethiopian-Israeli families, healthful eating is a luxury. Public schools rarely have regular school lunch programs as is the case in United States schools.
- Dual-Breadwinner Poor: 12.7% of Ethiopian-Israeli families are dual-breadwinner poor—nearly five times that of the general Jewish population in Israel.
- Uneducated Parents: 45% of Ethiopian-Israeli women have no education or certificate in contrast to just 2% of all Jewish women; maternal education often is deemed a leading factor in a child's future achievements.
- Lowest Tracks: 47.3% of Ethiopian-Israeli children are placed in the lowest tracks of school, resulting in their inability to study the material that will provide eligibility for entrance to college.

Additional community risk factors include:

- Supplemental investment in children's education by other Israelis: 46% of Israelis pay for supplementary tutoring for their children during their high school career. Most Ethiopian-Israelis are unable to afford this additional investment. (Ministry of Education)
- Low aspirations result in self-fulfilled prophecies of underachievement: Few Ethiopian-Israeli children aspire to reach elite professions. ENP professionals encourage children to aim high while providing them the skills, tools and experiences to reach these goals.
- Negative environs may lead to criminal behavior and truancy. The majority of Ethiopian-Israelis live in densely populated neighborhoods, in which risk situations are prevalent. SPACE operates in schools with high concentrations of Ethiopian-Israelis, and ENP Youth Centers operate in the late afternoon and evenings, providing positive role models that serve as an example to children.

### **ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance Programs**

ENP SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance Programs are threefold: SPACE Scholastic Assistance, ENP-Pre-Atidim, and the Vocational School Program.

ENP executes an individual mapping of each child's needs with a three-tiered response to those needs (remedial, average, excellence) and didactic testing if required. In addition to four hours of weekly instruction, a nutritious lunchtime meal, an Ethiopian-Israeli community counselor, a pedagogic counselor and school-based coordinator are provided. Extracurricular activities, including visits to universities, field trips to museums and leadership-building exercises, are among the supplementary activities offered to complement the holistic program, while comprehensive work with parents ensures they are full partners in their child's progress.

There are four implementers of ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance Programs: Branco-Weiss Institute, Edusystems, the Israel Association of Community Centers, and ORT-Israel.

### **ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance**

ENP's largest and widely implemented program is the School Performance and Community Empowerment (SPACE) scholastic assistance program. Currently, SPACE operates in 112 schools in 24 communities throughout Israel.

The objectives of the program are:

- Reduction of the academic performance par between Ethiopian-Israelis and others
- Increase in the number of students earning academic matriculation
- Reduction in the drop-out rate for school-aged children



SPACE Study Group

- Development of strong study skills
- Cultivation of students' positive self-image and confidence in their own abilities

Specific program goals include:

- Increasing number of students studying top-level English and Mathematics
- Increasing number of 9th graders advancing to high-quality academic high schools
- Increasing percentage of enrolled students attending program classes
- Raising number of high-school students taking matriculation exams in all subjects
- Increasing number of students eligible for matriculation through improved grades
- Increasing number of students taking high- and highest-level matriculation exams
- Helping students who did not complete their exams achieve matriculation

ENP understands that a hungry child will find it difficult to concentrate on his or her studies, especially in the afternoons, and that good nutrition contributes to increased productivity and higher performance. Accordingly, ENP provides each child that participates in the SPACE program during after-school hours with a nutritious and balanced lunchtime meal. For many children in the program, this is the most important meal they will have all day.

The following table lists the communities where SPACE is offered, and the number of children enrolled in SPACE for each community:

	Community	Students
1.	Afula	188
2.	Ashdod	260
3.	Ashkelon	300
4.	Beersheva	400
5.	Beit Shean	30
6.	Beit Shemesh	150
7.	Gedera	100
8.	Hadera	290
9.	Jerusalem	152
10.	Karmiel	65
11.	Kiryat Bialik	74

	Community	Students
12.	Kiryat Gat	110
13.	Kiryat Malachi	45
14.	Lod	180
15.	Netanya	300
16.	Pardes Hanna	74
17.	Petach Tikvah	470
18.	Ramle	150
19.	Rosh Ha'ayin	40
20.	Segula	24
21.	Tirat Hacarmel	75
	Total	3,527

**The primary effort of ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program is to help students in the three core subject areas of English, Mathematics and Hebrew Composition.** Yet when students and teachers identify a need for help in other subjects, ENP responds and provides scholastic assistance for additional topics. Following is a table showing the breakdown of assistance according to subject area. Note that some students receive assistance in more than one subject area.

Subject Area	Students
English	2,741
Mathematics	2,574
Hebrew Composition	1,745
History	287
Literature	174
Hebrew Bible	129
Citizenship	107
Physics	43
Biology	38
Other	208

### **Scholastic Assistance Highlights**

The first weeks and months of the program were typified by tasks of planning and execution to bring the program on line. Following are some of the program activities:

- Recruiting and training teachers and program coordinators
- Coordinating introductory meetings between the program staff and the regular school staff
- Arranging meetings with parents and students to obtain written parental permission for children to participate in the program
- Mapping children to the proper learning groups that meet their particular needs
- Identifying children who have a high risk of dropping out of school and directing them to learning groups tailored to their special needs
- Establishing community leadership groups
- Planning and implementing special ice-breaking activities as part of the program
- Planning and implementing cultural activities and field trips to take place throughout the year
- Conducting an opening ceremony for all students and staff

### **ENP-Pre-Atidim Gifted-Student Scholastic Assistance**

A smaller but no less-significant component of ENP's scholastic assistance programs is the ENP-Pre-Atidim Assistance program for High-Potential Students, delivered to 112 students, up from 90 students in the past year. The program identifies Ethiopian-Israeli children in need who demonstrate outstanding scholastic aptitude and motivation, and provides them with scholastic assistance designed to prepare them for select positions in the army and universities. Following is a table showing participation in the ENP-Pre-Atidim Program by grade:

School Grade	Students
Grade 7	37
Grade 8	39
Grade 9	23
Grade 10	2
Grade 11	7
Grade 12	4

The gender composition of the program is: 39% males, 61% females.

The program's objectives are to ensure that program participants earn advanced matriculation certificates that enable them to be accepted in prestigious university study programs. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate independence and maturity in their studies and in relationships with their peers and teachers of the program.

Specifically, participants are encouraged to:

- Develop the will to be part of and give back to society
- Improve their scholastic achievements
- To prepare themselves for options for the future, including: The *Atudah* Program, Pre-army preparation, or a year of national service.
- Achieve full eligibility for the matriculation certificate.



Visit to the University of Haifa

The program goal is 100% matriculation eligibility for program participants.

### **Vocational School Scholastic Assistance**

In addition to the SPACE and ENP-Pre-Atidim Scholastic Assistance Programs, ENP provides scholastic assistance to children on the other end of the spectrum, those who are marginally connected to the school system and are in danger of dropping out altogether.



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The ENP Vocational Scholastic Assistance program is presently offered in four cities:

Community	Students
Ashkelon	50
Hadera	52
Lod	65
Netanya	100

And four school grades:

School Grade	Students
Grade 9	15
Grade 10	64
Grade 11	81
Grade 12	107



Sigd Holiday Presentation

In this program, 159 participants are boys, and 108 girls.

The objectives of ENP's Vocational Scholastic Assistance Program are similar to those of its SPACE and the ENP-Pre-Atidim Programs, but adjusted to reflect the special needs of its audience. Children in the program exhibit less motivation to study, and the program teams must plan and work harder in the social and emotional realm to encourage students to apply themselves. The first goal of the program is to ensure that students remain in the program, and take an active role in its lessons and activities. Another goal is to prepare children to move from lower class-groups in school to higher, more demanding classes that will help them advance in their studies. Finally, immediate improvement in grades is a third and basic goal of the program.



Youth League Soccer Team

### ENP Youth Outreach Centers

The second major component of ENP's work with the Ethiopian-Israeli community is its network of 18 Youth Outreach Centers throughout Israel. The purpose of the Centers and their programs is to provide a supportive second home to Ethiopian-Israeli youngsters, giving them a place to go to after school that allows them respite from the pressures of school and home life. The team of trained counselors and volunteers who staff the Centers, many drawn from the Ethiopian-Israeli community itself, function as role models to the teenagers.



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A range of staff - including coordinators, counselors, volunteers, soldiers and Israeli National service personnel - are present and on location at the Centers. Staff members are chosen for their ability to identify with their charges, to be able to discuss problems and offer friendly advice on a wide range of issues and challenges that face Ethiopian-Israeli youth. They have the patience and listening skills necessary to intervene in minor issues, while being able to identify and flag those that require additional intensive intervention by their superiors.

During 2014, ENP operated 18 Youth Outreach Centers in 17 different communities throughout the country. In most cases, Centers are open for all neighborhood children free of charge weekdays from 4:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 at night. From cooking classes to movie nights to homework tutoring sessions and birthday celebrations and more, the Center staff guides students to positive, healthy interactions with their peers and their families. These activities are shaped to give the Center youth increased self-awareness, self-confidence, and the positive outlook they need to be active and informed members of Israeli society.



Youth Center Students, Staff and ENP Volunteers

There are five implementers of ENP's Youth Outreach Center program: Almaya, Dror Batei Hinuch, Hiyot, FIDEL, and the Gedera Community Center, each of which sculpts its program to address the specific needs of the children in each of the cities it operates.

### **ENP Community Empowerment**

The third part of the triad of ENP's services to the Ethiopian-Israeli community is its programs for community empowerment.

As part of its commitment to collecting and implementing the input of the community itself in the design and implementation of its programs, and with the goal of helping community leaders to better represent the interests of the Ethiopian-Israeli community to Israeli society, ENP has established special municipal steering committees to offer oversight of its programs. In addition to elected community members, representatives of the municipal offices charged with education, immigration, and welfare for each city meet regularly on a periodic basis to analyze and offer policy suggestions for ENP's activities. In addition, ENP conducts:

- A nationwide athletics program that teaches teenagers the positive values of physical fitness, teamwork, self-discipline and the art of working together towards a common goal;
- Parent support groups, where parents take seminars in the Amharic language that stress the importance of education to their children's future. The goal is to cultivate support for the children's scholastic efforts at home. Furthermore, classes are given in the basics of home computer use;

- Leadership training programs that provide ways for community adults to serve as bridges between the Ethiopian-Israeli community and the existing school system and administration.

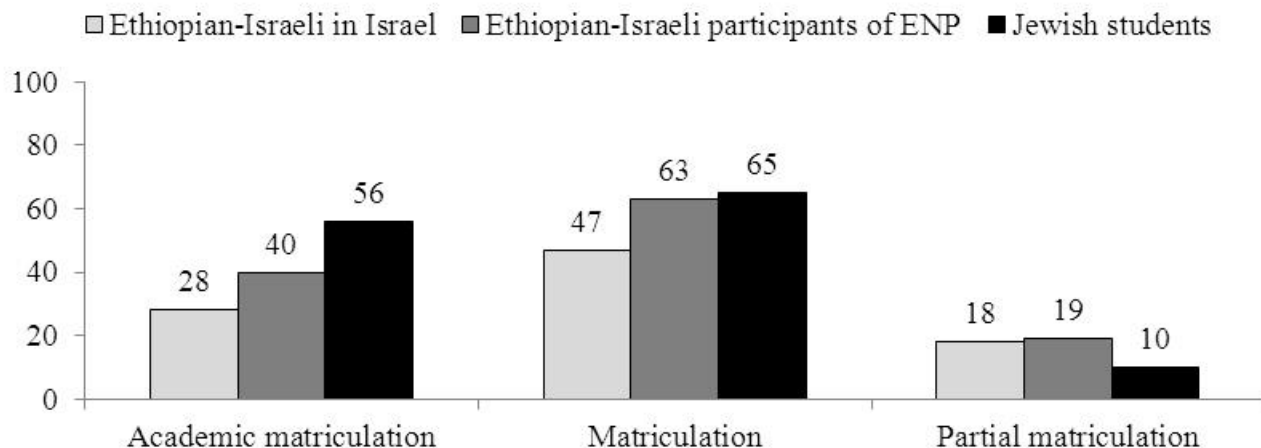
### Demonstrated Positive Impact

In its April 2014 report, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute's Engelberg Center for Children and Youth published the results of their most recent study of the effectiveness of ENP's SPACE program. Two charts illustrate the program's success in a concise and clear manner.

Among the trends revealed by the most recent data:

- The matriculation rate among ENP participants has nearly reached the national Jewish average of 65%. At ENP's launch in 2005, matriculation eligibility for Ethiopian-Israelis was 36% and reached 47% in 2012, including ENP participants. Thus ENP participant performance has significantly contributed to the overall matriculation rate of all Ethiopian-Israelis. For ENP participants the matriculation rate reached 63%:

### Comparison of 12<sup>th</sup> Graders' Matriculation Examination Achievements



- Significant increase in academic matriculation eligibility among ENP participants. At ENP's launch, a mere 18% of Ethiopian-Israel 12<sup>th</sup> graders passed the academic-level matriculation exams that enable university entrance, in contrast to 52% of the general Jewish population. This rate reached 28% in 2012, including ENP participants, significantly narrowing the gap. ENP participant performance significantly contributed to this improvement: among ENP participants the academic-level matriculation rate reached 40%.
- Far greater numbers of ENP participants are close to full matriculation, even in contrast to the general Jewish population. A full 82% of ENP participants have reached 14 points on matriculation in contrast to just 75% among Jews students nationwide and a mere 65% of the general Ethiopian-Israeli population.

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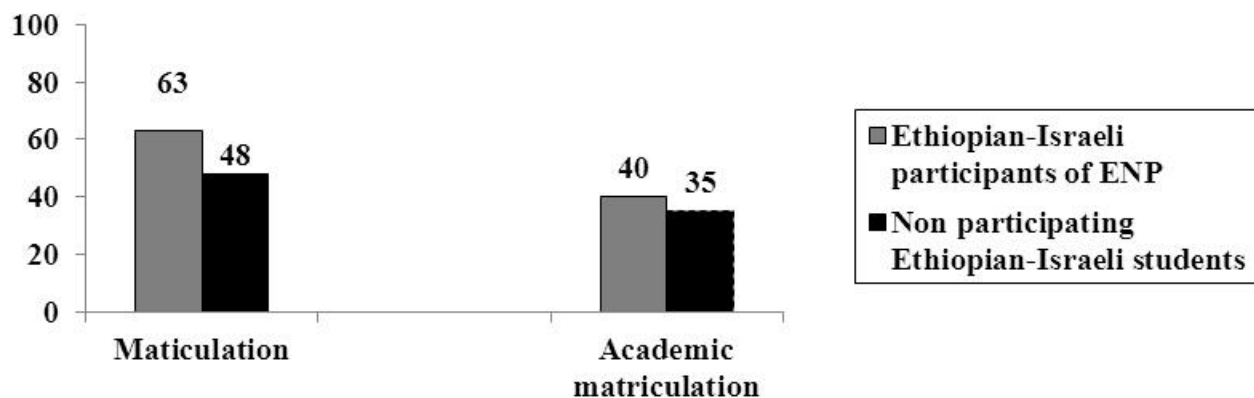
- Superior performance of ENP participants in contrast to comparison group of similar background. The percentage of eligibility was 63% for program participants vs. 48% for the comparison group, an advantage of 15 percentage points (an improvement of 31%), with a significant advantage also in elite matriculation eligibility.
- ENP effectively reaches Ethiopian-Israelis at the highest risk. The average demographic of an ENP participant includes 5 siblings and mothers with little or no education (51%), in schools densely-populated with Ethiopian-Israelis (17% average density).

Additional impacts of ENP include:

- ENP SPACE also has reversed negative trends for its participants, such as low tracking levels and expulsion to poorer-performing boarding schools, in many of the schools and cities it operates.
- Evaluation has shown a clear and evident impact on self-esteem, self-confidence and aspirations, both self-reported by ENP participants and as reported by school principals.

### **Measuring Against a Control Group**

In order to better measure program success, Brookdale researchers created a comparative group of similar Ethiopian-Israeli 12<sup>th</sup> graders who had NOT participated in ENP's SPACE program. The results were again striking: ENP's program makes a statistically significant difference.



1. With respect to standard matriculation, 63 percent of program participants passed as compared with 48 percent of non-participating students, a difference of 15 percentage points, which represents a 31% improvement in performance.
2. Regarding academic matriculation, program participants outperformed non-participants by 5 percentage points, a 14% improvement rate.

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### Social Media – Getting the Word Out

ENP recognizes the increasing need for and value of social media to inform the public of its mission and activities. Accordingly, it has worked to develop a complete and comprehensive on-line presence with the goal of reaching new audiences with its vision.

ENP's full-service multimedia website, designed to help those who do not know about ENP and its efforts understand quickly who ENP is and what they do. It is a fully-multimedia site, laid out in a structured fashion so as to make access to information easy and logical. It contains text, images, video-clips and even links to an Amharic-language radio broadcast.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are other high-visibility arenas that reveal ENP's work on a regular basis.

ENP is constantly utilizing the skills of young volunteers that dedicate their time and efforts to further expand the reach of ENP in all areas of social media.

ENP invites you to access ENP's media for a wide variety of stories, photos, videos, articles, resources and more.



### Volunteers

ENP is proud to have an extensive and creative volunteer program. Volunteers come to work either in ENP's office or in the field for both long- and short-term assignments. Men and women, young and old, from all over the world have proved instrumental in helping ENP achieve its goals.

Currently, ENP has over 30 volunteers hailing from throughout North America and the world. Among them:

Amber Massey hails from Suffolk, Virginia. She received her undergraduate degree from Vassar College, and a Master's from the American University in Washington, DC. Shares Amber about her decision to volunteer with ENP:

“Contributing to social change and cultural inclusivity is turning out to be a life passion. Volunteering with the ENP leverages this passion. I am not only using my skills to help Ethiopian-Israelis, but I am also helping the world understand the beauty of Jewish and Israeli diversity. We're one, big, diverse family!

“Why this is important to me: I relate to Ethiopian-Israelis' call for change and inclusivity. In the mosaic that is American culture, I am a member of both the Jewish American and Black American community. Both communities have faced



significant social barriers. The Black community in particular continues to overcome limited access to education and employment. I've seen first-hand how good, culturally-appropriate education programs and 'bottom-up' advocacy can help turn these negative trends around."

### **Personal Stories of Success**

ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance is true to its name: not only a focus on the scholastic, but on empowerment of children, parents, staffs, schools and community alike.

Among the stories of impact:

Yehudah (his name has been changed to protect his privacy), a ninth-grader in Ashkelon who had severe scholastic performance and behavioral problems, was told by school administration officials at the end of 2012-13 that if he did not improve his grades dramatically in the first month of the new school year, he would be asked to leave his school. Unfortunately, there was no academic framework that was ready to accept him. School officials discussed Yehudah's situation with his parents, who emphatically refused to allow the boy be expelled from school. The school turned to ENP for help.

The ENP Scholastic Assistance Program staff met with Yehudah's parents and administrators and developed a solution. As a condition for Yehudah's continuing at the school, they drew up a formalized contract stipulating ongoing overview of Yehudah's performance for the first quarter, combined with Yehudah's own personal commitment to approach his studies with full responsibility and seriousness. By the end of the quarter, Yehudah registered improvement in a majority of his subjects, and demonstrated recognizable progress in changing his attitude toward his studies. Yehudah was able to continue his studies thanks to ENP, its dedicated staff, and is becoming a boy who is learning to believe in himself.

### **Towards the Future**

With thanks to the ongoing financial support of Jewish Federations, individual donors and Foundations throughout North America and the world, as well as the government of Israel, local municipalities and Israeli philanthropists and corporations, ENP is transforming the lives of thousands of children from the Ethiopian-Israeli community all over Israel.

ENP's work is incredibly impactful—and it is thanks to your support that it is able to carry out these programs. ENP looks forward to sharing its progress of helping to ensure the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel reaches- and even surpasses- its full potential.