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Minutes of the Meeting of the Ethiopian National Project Council (1-14)

June 24, 2014, Sivan 26, 5774. Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

A. Attendees

Mr. Raviv Zoller – Chairperson of the Ethiopian National Project (ENP)
Mr. Ofer Lichtig – Kansas City and North New Jersey Federation
Ms. Rena Genn – representative of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Mr. David Philips – CEO, Palm Beach Jewish Federation
Ms. Hope Dunkel – Director of Israel Department, Palm Beach Federation
Ms. Betsy Gidwitz – Jewish Agency and former representative of Chicago and Boston Federations
Mr. Bobby Goldberg – former Chairperson of North America Jewish Federation
Mr. Jacob Solomon – CEO, Miami Federation
Ms. Lily Kaufman – representative of the Tampa Federation
Mr. Roni Akale – Director General of the ENP
Ms. Revital Ben Baruch – advisor to the Director General, Ministry of Immigration and Absorption
Ms. Hagit Goldstein Moyal – Absorption accountant, Ministry of Finance
Prof. Jack Habib – Brookdale Institute
Mr. Benny Zaken – Projects Director, Keren Hayesod
Ms. Ruth Baruch-Kovarsky – Brookdale Institute
Mr. Yossi Rosner-Wachs – CFO, ENP
Mr. Wonde Akale - Director-General of the Representatives of Ethiopian (Netzigut)
Mr. Fekadu Gadamo – Netzigut
Ms. Liat Vahab Ben Gal – Gedera Community Center



Ms. Michal Abra Samuel – CEO Fidel
Ms. Dafi Biran Zonger – Branco Weiss Institute
Ms. Zehavit Zaro – Branco Weiss Institute
Mr. Yasu Montesnot – Branco Weiss Institute
Ms. Malka Daniel David – Director of Hiyot
Mr. Uri Meiselman – Dror Educational Centers
Ms. Lydia Fink – Ort Israel
Mr. David Ezra – EduSystems
Mr. Sharon Tarkin – Operations Director, ENP
Ms. Grace Rodnitzki, International Relations Director, ENP
Ms. Anat Azulai – Accountant, ENP
Mr. Yisrael Rosenberg, Assistant to the International Relations Director, ENP
Ms. Keren Bezaleli – Head of Accounts, ENP
Mr. Adisu Zhayi – Supervisor, ENP
Ms. Raheli Asraf – Supervisor, ENP
Mr. Rachamim Melako – Supervisor, ENP
Mr. Elimeleh Mamo – Supervisor, ENP
Mr. Noah Montesnot – Supervisor, ENP
Mr. Daniel Nadawo – Supervisor, ENP
Mr. Shimon Yasu – Supervisor, ENP
Ms. Chani Zabriko – Office Manager, ENP

B. Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the Ethiopian National Project Council 3-13, November 14, 2013 attached herewith.
2. **Opening remarks:**
 - A. Mr. Raviv Zoller, Chairperson of the National Project for the Ethiopian Community in Israel



- B. Mr. Fekadu Gadamo, Chairperson of Netzigut (Representatives) of the Organizations of the Ethiopian Community
- 3. Presentation of programs: Scholastic Assistance, Youth Centers, community empowerment and update about the strategic program, Mr. Roni Akale, Director General**
- 4. Financial reports - 2014/2015**
Mr. Yossi Rosner-Wachs, CFO and Ms. Anat Azulai, Accountant
- 5. Presentation of the findings of the new study on the subject of ENP Scholastic Assistance 2011/2012**
Ms. Ruth Baruch-Kovarsky
- 6. Miscellaneous items**
- Discussion
 - Summary

Raviv Zoller:

My name is Raviv Zoller. I'm the Chairperson of ENP. We're about to get started. My request is that anybody that speaks during the meeting, please state your name and your position, where you're from, just to make it easier on everybody to understand the context.

Do we have translation? Because then I can speak in Hebrew. Okay.

I understand that we have translation, so what I said so far is that I ask whoever speaks during the meeting to just give their name and position, where they come from, so it will be easier for the others to understand.

In today's meeting we actually want to update you about the present situation in the ENP, the execution of our annual work plan. We also want to show you a report by the Brookdale Institute, which evaluates our educational work. We want to show you the results of their research that sums up the results for 2012. This is the most recent year for which we have the final results.

We'll begin with greetings from Fekadu, who is the Chairperson of Netzigut. Fekadu.



Fekadu Gadamo:

Good morning everyone, my name is Fekadu Gadamo; I'm the Chairperson of Netzigut. Today, Netzigut consists of 17 organizations, each of which works in varied fields.

This year we mark a decade of ENP, so congratulations. We have existed for a decade and this is really an opportunity to thank all those who have been our partners over the years and who will continue in the coming years, and ENP's wonderful staff, the professional staff that does good and important work and of course the operating bodies that do professional work, loyally and with dedication over all these years on the ground and help the community.

I want to say a few words about the situation in recent years. Yesterday the report on poverty in Israel was published. We are almost the poorest country among the members of the OECD, number two at the bottom of the list of the poorest countries and I think that the community of people of Ethiopian origin, as a minority group in Israel, is one of the poorest minority groups in Israel. The work that is done in ENP, but also in other frameworks, is important and needs to continue.

However, I also want to say that today some of the organizations of people of Ethiopian origin are in difficulties and even at risk of closing. For some reason there is a feeling of distancing both regarding the foundations and also regarding government support. These organizations do very important work and it is regrettable that we are reaching this situation. The situation, as I said, is deteriorating also from the point of view of poverty. In we have been told that because of lack of funds we are going to reduce the number of youth centers, which in fact are a way to continue the empowerment and education of these children after school and this is a great pity. Closing the centers directly harms the children, but no less important, I think that the employees are harmed because in the end they will join the cycle of poverty and unemployment when they cease to be employed.

The Government of Israel decided on a program that's called "A New Way," a strategic program of ENP that we certainly support and want to take place. Because of this decision, the strategic program is affected and is being delayed. I think we need to find a way so that the strategic program to take place. "The New Way" program is a good idea but as long as there are no decisions, no clear aims and it is only in the process stage and we don't know



how long it will take, I think it is ill-advised to close other programs on the ground and stop and say that until we make decisions we are stopping existing activity.

Again I say, it's important that "A New Way" gets off the ground and that there is rethinking.

I want to quote Albert Einstein who once said, and I quote: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them," and therefore I think "A New Way" creates an opportunity to rethink in order to see what things do work or don't work. But that doesn't mean that while we're thinking we need to stop what exists today and damage what we have already succeeded in and what we have achieved.

I'll just say again, thanks to all involved, to the federations and to all the bodies that support and continue to support us, and I wish us all a fruitful day.

Raviv Zoller:

Thank you, Fekadu. From the point of view of the schedule, we will make a small change because I would like to first present the results of the work before we relate to the present situation. Therefore, we will ask Ruth who comes to us as the representative of the Brookdale Institute to present the Brookdale Institute's findings for 2011-2012.

The last time we met we spoke about the strategic program and its significance and the programs themselves, so I just want to complete what Fekadu said and include another quotation that I didn't intend to quote. In light of what Fekadu said about Albert Einstein, I will quote Martin Luther King, whose possibly greatest saying was "If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." The problem with philanthropy, from my great experience in this field, is that one needs to be very careful not to cut off the crawling, because if you stop crawling sometimes there is no opportunity to get back to walking and certainly not to run, and we today are in a very sensitive situation. Our work is still sufficiently significant to make a change but we can do much more than we are doing with relatively few additional funds on the margins. Ruth.



Ruth Baruch Kovarsky:

Good morning to everyone, my name's Ruth. I will show you the figures of the achievements of Grade 12 students in the matriculation (*bagrut*) exams. They come to us from the Ministry of Education with a slight delay, so that we are now showing 2012. Next time we will be able to present up-to-date figures. I just want to emphasize that, in fact, ENP's program is one of the only programs that receives evaluation of matriculation exam achievements. The other programs that exist in the field hardly receive any evaluation of this order.

To begin with, the first two slides. I'll just show you the initial situation, how important was the need for the program in view of the gaps that existed. We are talking here about 2004–2005, just before the program started. These are the Meitzav [GEMS] figures, exams that the students take in eighth grade. You can see that in all the subjects there is a gap of about 15–20 points between students of Ethiopian origin and all students in Israel. A similar gap can also be seen in the matriculation achievements, both in eligibility for a matriculation certificate where we see a gap of 23 points and also in eligibility to a matriculation certificate that meets the university entrance requirements, which means a matriculation certificate with at least 4 units in English. Here the gap is extremely big, a gap of 34 points, which in fact shows the great need for a program to advance the community.

Before we go into the figures themselves, a little information about the extent of the programs over the years. We see that the program began in 2005. Until 2008 there was significant growth. In 2009 significant cuts began in the wake of the world crisis and in 2011 we see a recovery. Today 102 schools in 24 localities are active in the program and 3,900 students participate in it.

Some data about the Grade 12 students themselves who participated in the program in 2012; in 2012, 400 Grade 12 students from 43 schools participated in the program. They comprise 15% of all students of Ethiopian origin in Grade 12 and they comprise 66% of all students of Ethiopian origin in the schools in the program, that is to say, in the schools that participate in the program, two-thirds of the students of Ethiopian origin participate in practice. Most of them studied in schools that have participated in the program for at least five years, that is to say students whose schools have been in the program for a long time.



About a third of the students in the program are boys; most of them were born in Israel. We are talking about large families. On average there are five children per family. About half of the mothers did not study at all or there is no information about their education. More than half of the students study in state-religious schools and on average we see that 17%, that is nearly one-fifth of the students in the schools in which they study, are of Ethiopian origin. These are schools where significant percentages of the students are of Ethiopian origin.

Now for the actual figures; I am still showing the raw data here, I'm not yet showing the impact. We'll get to that soon. I first want you to see the figures. Let's look first at eligibility to a matriculation certificate, the line where it says "Percentage of eligibility to a matriculation certificate." If we look at the first column, this is all the students. The middle column is all the students of Ethiopian origin, and the left column is students who participated in the program. Please note that the students who participated in the program reach achievements that are identical. A difference of 2 points is really no difference from the percentage of eligibility of all students in Israel. Regarding the percentage of eligibility to a matriculation certificate that meets university requirements, the percentages are slightly lower but still we see a very big gap relative to all students of Ethiopian origin in Israel.

For the percentage of those who are eligible, we see 65% of all students in Israel and 63% of students who participated in the program. This is the gap that I'm talking about that hardly exists, compared to 47% of all students of Ethiopian origin.

Raviv Zoller:

I think that what we see here, that there is 63% eligibility for matriculation compared to 65% in the general population, and we are talking about two years ago, that means that there is a possibility that the results are even better now. Please note, 82% compared to 75%, that means more than the general population of students who are eligible to 14 units and above, that is very near to achieving a complete matriculation certificate. This is a dramatic and exciting achievement, almost impossible if you take into account the starting point and I think this is really a situation where ENP's staff deserve a round of applause.



When I say the "project's staff" I mean the extended staff, including the operating bodies, all the people who get up in the morning, and they usually are not paid enough, and do so from love and giving so that our population will succeed. Thank you.

Ruth Baruch Kovarsky:

I want to emphasize the matter of the 14+ units. These are students who do not yet reach eligibility, the weakest students and among them, please note, 82% of all students who reach near eligibility, which means that they are lacking just a little, compared to 75% in the entire country. There are many more students in the program who, if they don't reach eligibility then at least they are nearly there, that means a little more help and they are there.

A few remarks about the differences between the boys and the girls, because we've always seen that there is some kind of a gap here in the figures. We see that the girls' achievements, please note, are really similar to the achievements of all the Jews. We see 66% of the girls who participate in the program reach eligibility to matriculation and 67% of the girls in Israel. This is almost identical. With the boys we see that the gap is bigger, but also not too big. 57% compared to 63% The girls have really completely closed the gap but, of course, among all students of Ethiopian origin we see that the gaps are much greater.

Raviv Zoller:

For those of you who don't remember from the previous occasions, in the past we saw that the gap with the boys was even bigger and specifically what we see here this time is that the boys have reduced the gap compared to last time. This is a very good and important trend.

Ruth Baruch Kovarsky:

We actually see the same trend also when we look at the percentage of eligibility for matriculation. The gaps are slightly bigger. For girls, we see 46% compared to 57%, and for boys, the gap is bigger. Here we still have more work, but definitely we see a trend of improvement.



We want to talk a bit about the impact of the program, because it could be that we are seeing that some of the differences are related to differences in the characteristics of the schools and the students and this is not related to the program. So in order to learn about the program's impact we want to make two comparisons: one, we take the students who participate in the program and we compare them to students of Ethiopian origin who study in schools in which the program did not operate but who have similar characteristics. Then we want to learn what would happen if the students were not in the program, what their situation would be. The difference between the two groups we can interpret as the program's impact. It is important to remember that in schools in which the program is not active there are other programs. We want to learn about the extra influence of ENP's program. We really see that there is such an impact. We see that in eligibility for matriculation we have an advantage of 15 points, which is a lot, for students who participate in the program compared to the control group. I just want to remind you that the control group is students who are similar to them in all characteristics. We actually took students, compared their characteristics in all kinds of fields, just they simply didn't receive the program. We see also an advantage in the field of eligibility to matriculation that meets university requirements.

Another comparison that we did was to see what happens to the gap between students who participated in the program and students who are not of Ethiopian origin in the same schools. We said, maybe there are changes within the school that also need to be taken into account. Maybe they all improved. Maybe they did something in the school. We see here too, please note, the top line is the line of students who are not of Ethiopian origin. Their achievements are still higher. We still have more to aim for here, but pay attention, the gap is changing. Not only has the gap changed. Look at the percentage eligible for a matriculation certificate, which is the left one, we see that there is no change among students who are not of Ethiopian origin. 59 and 60. The percentages have not changed. There is no school change but we are seeing a change regarding the students who participated in the program. When we look at the percentages of students eligible for matriculation, we see that the rise regarding students who participate in the program was greater, which means that the gap there too has decreased, between 23 percentage points and 16 percentage points.



This is a figure from a previous study we carried out that we felt it was important to show. It shows how much, in fact, the program helps specifically the weaker students.

With regard to what we showed before with the subject of the 14+ study units, I'll go over this very briefly just to emphasize the main points. We've taken two groups of students who were examined in the Meitzav [GEMS] test in eighth grade. We took the group that got the lowest scores. In fact, they failed – scored less than 49 points, and we examined what happened to them. We saw that students who participated in the program, although in eighth grade they failed (they scored 49), they still managed more than other students who also scored 49 to achieve matriculation eligibility. Please note that 23% more succeeded thanks to the program; and also a matriculation certificate that enables registration for university, we see double the rate of students eligible for this matriculation. We really see how the program has managed to take those same weaker students and to advance them in a very significant way.

These are a few figures on the general population, just in order to see the trends in Israel. The red lines are all the Jews and the blue lines are all the students of Ethiopian origin. Overall, we can really talk about some kind of general trend that shows we are closing gaps, mainly in everything related to matriculation eligibility.

To sum up, the percentages of eligibility for a matriculation certificate of students of Ethiopian origin in the program, and mainly those of the girls, are near those of the other Jewish students. Many other students are very near to achieving a matriculation certificate. In schools that have been participating for some years in the program there is a reduction in the gap between program participants and students who are not of Ethiopian origin. The achievements of the program participants are better than the achievements of students of Ethiopian origin with similar characteristics who did not participate in the program. The effect is mainly on achieving a full matriculation certificate, slightly less on achieving a matriculation certificate that meets university requirements but we still see an impact. The biggest impact is on the students who began the program with low achievements and in recent years we see an increase has in the achievement in matriculation exams of all students of Ethiopian origin in Israel, which is the last graph I showed you. However, there are still significant gaps that require continued work and advancing the students. That's it, thank you.



Raviv Zoller:

Thank you, Ruth. Does anyone have questions for Ruth?

Zehavit Zaro:

Zehavit Zaro from Branco Weiss Institute, Director of ENP program for the Institute. I see the data, and these figures are amazing, wonderful, terrific, and I want to ask if they are published anywhere, if someone apart from us at this table knows about them? It will be hard for me to hear that it's just on the site of the Institute or . These are simply figures that must become known. I'm not sure that people know about them.

Raviv Zoller:

I think this is more a question for Roni than for Ruth.

Zehavit Zaro:

Okay, but some comment on publication of these figures. These are amazing figures.

Raviv Zoller:

Okay.

Roni Akale:

These figures are published in ENP's website and also wherever we present the program.

Raviv Zoller:

In other words, the answer to the question is that it is not publicized. This is really a challenge for ENP. I know that Roni has tried in the past. It's very difficult to get into the newspapers because this is not something that sells



newspapers. What sells newspapers is if there is criticism of something that's not done well. It's harder to get positive figures into the newspapers. He did get a PR professional who volunteered to help in this matter and I hope we will succeed. The press doesn't chase after ENP to get positive data.

Lily Kaufman:

Lily Kaufman, UIA. I have a question regarding how are the students selected for this program. And at what ages do they enter the program?

Raviv Zoller:

Okay, this is also a question for Roni.

Roni Akale:

We sit with the school principals and staff together with our operating body, and these children are chosen by the school staff and they are pointed out as being the children who need the help. The staff choose not only the strong students, but also the mediocre and weak ones, and this makes our work different from the other organizations.

Raviv Zoller:

And just the ages, seventh grade. The program is for seventh to twelfth grade. And one of the components of the strategic plan is to get to these kids earlier. We suggested fifth grade, and the Ministry of Education actually wants us to start third grade. The idea is that when you get people in seventh grade that have already gone through a negative situation where they've been tagged as slow or second-track or third-track students, it's much harder with a fixed amount of money to get them to where we want to get them. So the idea is to intervene at an earlier stage and get the population to be a lot stronger by the time it gets into seventh grade.



Lily Kaufman:

One other question. In regard to the, when I hear the discussion of college, is this going to be post-army? Where are you evaluating them for their qualification for college? At what point?

Raviv Zoller:

It's according to the matriculation. There are certain requirements from the matriculation exams that allow you to be a candidate for university in Israel.

Lily Kaufman:

And that's before entering the army? They're tested, in other words?

Raviv Zoller:

Yes. So by the time they leave the program in the 12th Grade, we have the data.

Lily Kaufman:

Okay. Thank you.

Fekadu Gadamo:

Maybe we should have the discussion later on as there is still another presentation that we want to hear.

Raviv Zoller:

Did you want something from Ruth?

Benny Zaken:

Benny Zaken, Keren Hayesod. I just wanted in continuation of what Zehavit said, to say that I think that it's very true, the subject of visibility of these



findings and of ENP. I know that now before the beginning of the school year is exactly the time to interest the media. The media cooperate very much on this matter and they do series of articles almost daily on educational subjects. In my opinion it is worth trying to get this into the electronic media at least, and it could indeed succeed, so good luck.

Raviv Zoller:

Okay, thank you, we definitely accept this and want to do this. By the way, if someone can help us in this matter, we will be happy to receive help. Anyway, we hope very much that those present, by word of mouth, will talk about ENP because it can help very much. Please.

Jack Habib:

Just one quick comment. I just want to emphasize something we said at the beginning. Unfortunately there is no other evaluation of any other program for the *bagrut*, for matriculation, for any group in Israel. So we really have no basis for comparison. But beyond that, I think it reflects the tremendous investment of the program in accountability, because they are realizing a level of accountability which really has not been, unfortunately, realized in this whole area in Israel. This is very important.

Bobby Goldberg:

Bobby Goldberg from Cleveland Ohio. I was excited to attend this committee meeting but, when I look at the room, I'm very unhappy. I see a lot of people that really know what the Ethiopian National Project is, but I don't see representatives from the federations; very few here. You have to ask yourself why. The answer is, they don't know about it. We're going to get no help from the *Sochnut*. And the Federations of North America, they do not have this as their highest agenda, because they have other agendas.

So we have to be more aggressive. The few people that are here from the federations, we should go back to our federations, explain it to us. We're looking at wonderful statistics; most of the people here know that already, but the federations don't know it, because the leadership of the Jewish Federations of



North America are not telling them. If our leadership would care, they would be here with us today. But they're not here. And what we have to do is to hit them on the head and get them to understand.

The Israeli government understands; they're willing to put up their money. But the federations and the people at the federations are not putting up their money, because they don't know about it. And you could have articles in the Israeli newspapers, but it's not going to filter down to the people who really could supply the money. And that's what we have to do.

And I'm encouraging whoever federation people is go to your execs and let them know; they should participate in it. If it's good enough for us, if it's good enough for the Israeli government, why couldn't it be good enough for the federations? And the federations, I believe there is support out there, but they don't know it because our leadership is not telling them. That's it.

Raviv Zoller:

I can only add that this is one of the most, this is one of the programs with the highest impact on Israel as a society and, I think, also on the economy's future. And I can only say that we have to do more. And we will do more. But unfortunately, one of the reasons I think that it's not as popular with the federations is the same reason that it's not as popular with the newspapers. It's not sexy when you talk about long-term programs and affecting more and more individuals and waiting for years until you see the social impact. Well, we're already seeing the social impact, but it's difficult to present.

But we definitely have to do more. And one of the things that we are doing is making sure that there's full accountability to anything that's being done here, and that's why we just made the presentation.

So with - that and it's not a closed subject; it's an open subject - we will go to Roni, who will describe the current situation, and then we will go over the budget presentation.

Go ahead, Roni.



Roni Akale:

When we talk about the Ethiopian community, we need to know the number of people the community comprises in Israel; the age-group division is as you see it. There is 0 to 5, 5 to 12, 13 to 18; when I mark out the 13–18 age-group, this is ENP's target population, 19–24, 25 to 64, 65+. Altogether in Israel there are 131,438. If you ask me now how many Ethiopians immigrants there are, add about 6,000. That means that the community numbers some 137,000. Of this group, there are 18,327 between the ages of 13–18, of whom 3,120 study in residential facilities, and about 4,000 receive help from ENP.

ENP's aim is to bring about complete integration of the Ethiopian community in Israeli society.

Now I want to show you something that people talk about all the time, so that you can understand where we stand today. When we planned ENP, the government and the Jewish people committed themselves to give equal sums. The program was supposed to start in 2002 at a cost of \$30 million and then as you see in the table the sums change and at the end of the process the cost of ENP that was supposed to be \$660 million didn't happen. What actually happened? We began the activity in 2004–2005. In 2004–2005 the government didn't fund ENP, but the Jewish people gave \$4 million. We started with this. The original plan was to work with ages 0–35 but later on it was decided to focus on ages 13–18, and therefore the budgets were reduced. Since then \$94.5 million have been invested in ENP; according to plan it should have totaled \$660 million. Please note that in 2002–2004 in the original program, the budget was supposed to total \$90 million. But that didn't happen. And the conclusion is that between the planning and the execution there is a big gap, therefore despite the reduction in the budget I think we have many, good achievements, not only in the subject of scholastic assistance, but also in other areas.

As you see in the presentation, first and foremost we focused on scholastic assistance for ages 13–18. Students who come to us in Grade 7 arrive with a low scholastic level and then we make supreme efforts to improve their achievements. Today you can see good results but there's still a long way to go. ENP doesn't only focus on scholastic assistance for the strong teens but we operate at three levels: strong, average and weaker children. We meet the needs of all of them.



ENP is engaged in setting up and operating youth centers; this is our second program for students. Students receive scholastic assistance twice a week, four hours a week, and go home. Most of them are in underprivileged neighborhoods and there is no help, and therefore the centers that have been established in areas where there are large concentrations of the community are what meet this need. In the beginning we established six youth centers and we have reached 27 centers. When we had money we met various needs in the community, for example moderating parents' groups and preventing violence in the family. If you remember, there was a time when there were murders within the community and then we recruited social workers together with the Ministry of Absorption and the Ministry of Welfare. We used our influence so that this number would disappear. I think that we reduced the murders to the minimum. It's very hard to say that, because the murder of one woman, in my view is also a lot, however today the number has decreased significantly. We also were active in the subject of athletics, preparation for IDF service, when we had the resources we invested them and we did this.

In the current school year 3,910 students participated, divided according to grades (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). These are the grades we concentrate on; last year following the decision that was taken in the board of management and the directorate, we tried to carry out some kind of pilot. I want to thank two federations that gave us backing to do the pilot, which was to go down to Grades 4 to 6 in Pardes Hanna and Beit Shemesh. These are the two places where we carried out a pilot in fourth to sixth grades. The rest is traditional. In Grade 7, I want to emphasize here, there are a number of teachers who work with those children, the total number is 433 subject teachers and 93 coordinators who work through the organizing bodies and 45 members of the community are employed by the operating bodies. In total we work in 102 schools. If when there will be a reduction in the number of children, there will also be a reduction in personnel, and this is something that we don't want to see. I think that we need to do some different thinking.

I want to tell you that many people ask me how many organizations work among the Ethiopian community and how much money is invested in projects. In order to answer the question on the subject of education, we conducted a mapping in each locality of how many Ethiopian immigrants there are, we took the figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics and we didn't take the figures of other organizations. We then took the Ministry of Education data, from Grade 7



to 12, and from them how many children participate in scholastic assistance programs altogether and in ENP specifically. For example, if I take the figures for Netanya in the 13–18 age group I have 1,685, but ENP only helps 300 children. That means the need is great and the response is limited; if we had resources we could increase the number and provide a greater response.

The other problem is in the next school year (2014–2015). In Afula for example – in total there are 401 teens from age 13–18, of whom only 100 will receive help, 80 children less than this year. Why? Because the budget that is at our disposal will decrease. From our point of view we cannot let this pass in silence. I ask all the bodies that can help us also to increase the number at least so that those who were in the same scholastic assistance framework will continue to study.

Ofer Lichtig:

Ofer, representative of the North New Jersey Federation, one of those who is involved in the program, and therefore we are around the table vis-à-vis the things that Bob said earlier.

The study that was shown consists of 400 children, out of 2,660 in Grade 12, I think, that were the reference group. 15%. Here we see numbers that are going to decline even more. So I understand that the budget is decreasing because it reflects the means that exist, but I would be glad if you could also relate to the fact that in the past months there has been more awareness in our circles about the fact that there is a historical agreement with the government, and the government is going to play a much greater part in the program. How is this expressed here and where does it stand?

Hagit Goldstein:

A comment in order to complete the question. Hagit, Ministry of Absorption accountant in the Ministry of Finance.

I just want to ask a question because ENP, with all the strategic plan that will be explained here about what is planned, ENP's budget has not been cut on the part of the State. It consists of matching 9 million with the federations. It's 18 million. ENP is 21 million with additional fundraising. The budget has not been reduced in recent years, at least in the past 4–5 years, and the number of students shouldn't decrease. Maybe this should be a question to Roni. Maybe in a



particular local authority there are students who need less help and therefore more money has been directed to other authorities. I saw here local authorities where the number of students has increased. Maybe this is the answer, the need, but I'm not giving the answer, I'm just saying that at the level of the government's budget, the money that was invested in ENP has not decreased in recent years and there is also a plan to increase it.

Raviv Zoller:

What happens is that there is a basic budget from the government in the last three years more or less, of NIS 9 million. In practice what happened was that we also received a surplus budget from the five year plan that was a kind of extra government budget for all the community's needs that turned into a bubble. In practice the only useful money was used here in ENP and this is something that we don't have as of today and therefore we can't take it into account. This is mainly budgets that were transferred through the Ministry of Education that as of today we cannot rely on, and therefore the basic budget for this year begins like it does. In addition, ENP managed to raise private donations above all expectations. These donations were entered into the budget of both the scholastic assistance and the youth centers. There was a historic decision by the government to go with ENP's strategic program. In fact all the government bodies were partners to preparing the program. This program at the moment is at the stage of being put on hold as there is the subject of the Absorption Ministry round tables that are doing strategic rethinking, and usually when you do strategic thinking, you have committees and discussions. Usually it doesn't cause work on the ground and this is the situation that we are in. As we have reached a situation where it is no longer possible to plan for the coming school year on the basis of the full program, we in fact have prepared a budget for a reduced program in the hope that we can plan for the following year. It should be noted that the government hesitation has also caused a situation where it's harder for private donors, including the federations, to complete a donation because they don't understand the full situation on the part of the government. So that means we are beginning the year in a worse state than last year, and our ability to receive supplementary donations is lower than it was. I have to share a personal story with you. One of our donors organized a million dollars from a private fund for the next three years, came at my request for a discussion with a Knesset member and explained to her that if the government will not make decisions



soon, he cannot continue his donation. He will have to make decisions to transfer the donation somewhere else. She said to him, in these words, "The donations don't worry me. When we want, we'll have donations as needed..." That's a Knesset member. That's what we have to contend with. By the way, everyone has very good intentions. That's what's sad, that sometimes the intentions are very good but the processes drag out, processes where it's very difficult to satisfy everyone's wishes and therefore the bottom line is that we begin with a basic budget that is slightly lower than last year.

Roni Akale:

Thank you. I hope that the number of children will grow later on. The problem is that we raise the money every year from the beginning; the more resources we have, the more we will be able to increase the number of participants, that's the name of the game in this program.

Prof. Jack Habib:

I want to make sure I've understood something. Let's say for a moment that the strategic program for some reason will be delayed for a year or even two, the fuller program. Does the government's commitment to NIS 9 million still stand during these years?

Raviv Zoller:

As this is not a government law, the government is sovereign to decide at any given time that it wants to increase or decrease the budget. We don't actually have any certainty. I don't think there is any body in Israel that is funded with a multi-year budget that is guaranteed in advance and therefore every year we contend again with the question of the budget. The idea was around the strategic program and to our great surprise the main supporter was actually the Ministry of Finance, because it sees also the long term influence on Israel's economy, that every shekel invested today saves 10 shekels in ten years' time. Specifically the Ministry of Finance was an enthusiastic supporter and agreed to allocate a budget for ten years in advance, but as stated, we are waiting for the conclusion of the government's "A New Way." By the way, ten years, just to clarify, the program is actually one that places emphasis on the first five years and the



following five years are run-off. The idea is that this program will bring the population to a situation that it is good enough and that equality with the general population is sufficiently high so that the program doesn't need to continue for more than ten years. We don't want absorption of aliya to take fifty years. Part of the idea of the program was to mark a line that is one where we have finished absorbing aliya and now we have reached the results hoped for.

Hagit Goldstein:

Just to complete what you said, the government's decision to set up ENP was for nine years and apparently it didn't just decide on nine years out of understanding, and the thinking now about a new strategic plan is that there are still gaps and there is a need to bridge them results from the fact that it is necessary to build some kind of new program. Of course we are not talking here about a continuous program over the years. It was [originally] for nine years, although now we are approaching our eleventh year, and in view of the fact that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Absorption and other ministries that participate, the Ministry of Education, we see the contribution. So although the government decision spoke of nine years, we continued in the tenth year and there are intentions to continue in the eleventh year, but nevertheless in the scope of the round tables, in cooperation with the public from among this population and its needs, there is a desire to hear them and see the needs that they present too and to find the right solution. Therefore the strategic program was on hold, not because of an intention to delay the program's growth or change the program but because of an intention to spend the money in participation with this population.

Raviv Zoller:

First of all you are representing the government very well. Well done. I don't want to get into this discussion. As I said, everyone has good intentions. The entire strategic program was prepared for one reason. The reason was that when the program began there was a decision to allocate \$660 million in order to carry out the tasks. As in practice less than 10% was allocated, we investigated how it would be possible to prepare an orderly, serious program, with realistic budgets, not budgets that it would be impossible to raise in order to right a wrong. Therefore I don't want to go into this, because at the moment it doesn't



make any difference. At the moment the only thing that is important is to look ahead and to think what to do, and it's good that you also sit with us on the Executive Board and you can help us in work with the government.

Prof. Jack Habib:

Is there any other program today in Israel that the government has committed to or wants to commit to for ten years, in any field?

Hagit Goldstein:

There are many fields of infrastructures that are needed. There are many government decisions in many fields that relate to the multi-year aspect, but government decisions also have to be budgeted for and as Raviv said here, this was also a government decision. It was not budgeted for, for all kinds of reasons. It's superfluous to go back and look at why not, but there are many government decisions that are for the long term in many fields of activity and not all of them are budgeted for, for all kinds of reasons, not necessarily because there is not money to fund them.

Roni Akale:

I just want to say one thing. I think that the government has made many decisions in recent years, but implementation of the decisions is the main problem. The government makes important decisions but in the end does not implement them, such as the subject of employment, where there are decisions, but there is a huge gap between the stated intention and implementation.

Another thing, I think that we are forgetting something very important. These children, they belong to the State of Israel, it's important to invest in them and help them in studies, but that's not enough because without carrying out community empowerment for their parents, it's impossible to succeed because if children go home and their parents don't know how to help or support them, their success will also be limited. Just as we as parents all know how to give help over and above the existing formal education frameworks.



Raviv Zoller:

So I can only join you and add that in the strategic program that the government strongly supports but is, as stated, on hold, there too we have not managed to harness the government to support the youth centers and programs to empower the family and the parents. It needs to be remembered that one of the big failures in absorbing the aliya was that today there is still an entire generation that doesn't speak the language. We must understand that this is a terrible deprivation. ENP was not started for this purpose, but ENP proposed solutions and, as of today, also in the strategic program all the subject of community empowerment, youth centers, care of parents is not budgeted for, and what we are doing, we do from private donations. It's not that nothing is being done. There are 19 youth centers. Michal is here with us and the Fidel organization operates several of these centers very successfully, but most of this activity is carried out through private donations to which the government is not a partner and to which it also does not intend to be a partner in the future, and we need to know that.

Roni Akele:

Thank you. I also wanted to reduce the number of questions by presenting ENP's budget at the beginning. Why? When the government decided to begin ENP, it had to provide the money necessary to carry out the program, but it didn't. At the end of the process the budget that they provided to run the program was low. I actually want to praise and thank the federations that gave more money and thereby enabled us to do more work.

Another thing, in 2013–2014, 3,910 children studied through ENP, and in Ofek some 328, and we have not yet received the Pele data. As soon as we receive the figures we will know how many children participated in scholastic assistance programs altogether.

Now, please note a very significant point. In the 13–18 age groups we have 18,328 children, of whom only 5,147 receive help. What happens to the other students? I leave the answer to you.

I know why some of the community complains about ENP. The answer is easy; we help only some of the children, therefore they rightly complain about ENP, as the government in cooperation with the Jewish people is not meeting the needs that they should, therefore I think that those people who do not see ENP as



a project for everyone, this is because only some students participate in our program. In 2014–2015 only 3,042 participated and 868 students that participated this year will not be included in the program. I hope that with time, with the fundraising that is taking place, we will reduce this gap...

ENP not only deals with the subject of scholastic assistance but we also have youth centers. We were in 27 localities and we are now in 18 localities. In the next activity year the number is supposed to drop because of the budget, however we will make an effort to deal with this matter.

In the youth centers we offer a computer course. In every center there are 10 to 12 computer stations; the children come to the center and do their homework. It helps them as these children sometimes don't have a computer at home. As a consequence of this they do their school homework in the centers. There are also other programs where we teach them PC programs, sports activities, mini-soccer, athletics, etc. Now there are the Olympics. I hope that the members of the community who have good legs can represent Israel in athletics.

Youth leadership – this is part of the empowerment that we carry out in the youth centers. I think that teens need to be allowed to lead themselves, and not just be leaders of the members of this community, but leaders for the wider community. The more they experience and advance, the further they will go.

There are art programs. There are traditional bands that take place in the centers, heritage, identity and roots so they can become integrated in society.

We also organize preparation for IDF service in cooperation with the IDF, and we ran parents' groups.

It's often asked, why do teens from the Ethiopian community stick together among themselves? I'm telling you, it's not so. The figures on the ground tell a different story. The children are in the center, it's true, the centers are in a neighborhood where there is a concentration of the community, but after we empower them, they become integrated in existing frameworks. When the children feel that they have tools and that they can blend in, then they leave us; for instance, 88 teens have joined the community centers, 174 teens have joined youth movement activities, 15 teens have joined youth councils and 71 teens have joined other frameworks. Most of the youth center graduates enlisted in the IDF.



Our youth centers make a very important contribution with regard to IDF preparation.

In the youth centers we not only run programs but we also see severe problems, for instance police records. Use of alcohol, drugs, prostitution among girls in the community, etc. In order to contend with these issues the programs are built in accordance with the problems, in order to reduce these phenomena.

Community empowerment: we work together with representatives of the Ethiopian community (Netzigut) in which 18 NGOs participate that sit and discuss and think about the community's situation. The Netzigut is a full partner in ENP, its representatives participate in ENP's different committees and they participate in ENP's PR efforts. run workshops for parents and for activists on the ground, there are activities for everyone that are carried out by the Netzigut – courses, lectures, workshops and all these things. As was asked, are they publicized? This is the answer, we published them only in the website and sometimes in discussions that we have we distribute the study. Next year we will place emphasis on this subject and we will publicize all ENP's activities to bring it to the knowledge of the public.

About strategy for 2014–2015 – according to the decisions of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. Planning an organized and detailed program that has the full agreement of the government and the federations is waiting for the conclusion of the government's "A New Way." We actually have an organized, agreed, budgeted program, which includes Grades 3-12, a total of 12,000 students. If I take the total of the children in Israel from Grade 3-12, there are some 30,000. Of these I remove those who are in residential facilities, some 3,120, the rest, about 25,000 plus and when we go to each school, we have just this number who need help, apart from that we work according to a key of 10%. Before that we gave a number according to the needs on the ground, according to the school's need, according to the need of the operating body that says to us, these are the children that need it, but there has to be some kind of key in order to meet everyone's needs.

I can emphasize that not all members of the community need help. There are many young people who are members of the community who have good jobs, who can help their children and who don't need other people's help.

Turning youth centers into community centers: last year the Executive Board and the Board of Directors took the decision to create a multi-year plan.



We presented this to the government; the government, after approval, asked to discuss just the subject of education and a strategic plan was built. The other subjects will be discussed in the round tables. We agreed to raise the subject of youth centers and community empowerment. At the moment the subject is with the round tables. I hope that a solution will be found for it soon.

We mapped students of Ethiopian origin in elementary school, from Grade 1-6; there are some 18,820 children. From Grade 3-6 we mapped 10,750 children. The number of children in the existing programs is small. There are those who say there are many programs, there's a lot of activity. I'm telling you, there are not. If there are, I would be happy to know; we found that the Moriah Fund is active in school hours and covers 680 children.

There are other localities that we are not in, therefore I carried out mapping, such as for example Rishon LeZion, Rehovot, Haifa, Yavne. Here, too, the total of ages 6 to 18 and here there are Grades 3-6 and we have the numbers. At the end of the process you see the numbers that are here.

In conclusion, in ENP last year we carried out a pilot of 98 elementary-school children in two localities. This time we will use another organization that we want to check, we have professional organizations that will do a pilot as we want to compare between the three organizations. When the government makes a decision about the big strategic program, we will point to which of these organizations is the most suitable; maybe there will be a tender. Whoever wins will run the program. The total number of children who benefit from the program is some 4,667 out of 18,820 students.

Thank you for your attention.

Raviv Zoller:

Thank you, Roni.

Wonde Akale:

My name is Wonde Akale; I'm the CEO of the Netzigut (Representatives) of the organizations of the Ethiopian Community. I previously did not want to interrupt and therefore I waited to the end. There are points that came up, first



of all the activity of the Netzigut (Representatives) of the organizations of the Ethiopian Community. The Netzigut is a partner in ENP. We also see the importance of ENP. I think this is ENP that deals with what is probably the most difficult population, from age 13 to 18, adolescence. The parents have no control either and therefore there is emphasis on this subject.

There is the subject of the "A New Way." Now they are also talking about where they want to hear the community. On the one hand this encourages me, as if we are not within the community, but we are representatives of the community. Maybe someone is thinking of creating some other kind of rival group; it won't work. We were the first that supported it, but when we look at the implementation of the activity in practice, it is not for the benefit of the community. I say here, and also I will say in other places, that I am there on the ground. The grassroots is not involved. And the grassroots is not involved. You say that we also gather people, want to bring them to meetings and someone who will also come and give an account of the program's progress. No one has time. This is an excuse for freezing.

ENP's activity is very important. We have organizations in the Netzigut. They do an amazing job and therefore we support one another, we can lead and achieve things, because if not, the results will never satisfy us and therefore we need to think if there are cutback in the youth centers, cutbacks in existing programs, we won't have us the achievements that we have had so far. So in this forum I call on the government ministries, if they want complete cooperation, involve us. We will be with you, we will work together in order to solve the problem.

We have summed up all of our work and presented it to you in a booklet. Read it at your leisure.

Raviv Zoller:

Thank you.

Yossi Rosner-Wachs:

Good afternoon, my name is Yossi Rosner-Wachs; I am the CFO of ENP and also of the Jewish Federations of North America here in Israel. Our budget for next year is something like NIS 19 million, very similar to last year's budget



that we began with. In last year's budget, sums that were approved by the federations were gradually added, and we think and hope that this year too we will reach similar sums to last year.

The changes that we can see by and large from last year to this year are changes that reflect focusing. Today we are focusing on our two main programs, the study project, matriculation and the youth centers program. The other programs receive less attention and this, among other reasons, is because of lack of donations, but also because we believe that these two programs of matriculation and youth centers are the important ones. There are endless studies, which I assume everyone is familiar with, which talk about the fact that education is the best way, the proven way to give tools to the younger generation in order to become integrated and grow in the country, and that's what we are doing. This can be seen in the budget and it can be seen in all the activities that we are carrying out on the ground. The existing situation, I must say, is very frustrating and sad and I'll tell you why. I'm not so worried by the reduction of NIS 2 million from last year to this year. As I said, I hope that it will return, but if these NIS 2 million will return, I'm saying to you, we are far from a sigh of relief, because we are all neglecting some 70% of our target audience. Our target audience is some 18,000 children. We reach, as Roni showed in his slides, something like slightly more than 5,000, this means we are far from being in a place where we can say to ourselves that we are doing a good job. We are happy that we can say about those that we reach that we are doing excellent work, and the Brookdale Institute that does the research says this, and there is no need to add another word. We are doing something that is amazing as far as its achievements are concerned, but it has a problem. It has no sex appeal. It is something long term, it doesn't make headlines, but don't forget one thing. It's the most important thing from the point of view of investment that can be done today for the future of the State of Israel and integration of this population.

This situation, as I said, is very frustrating and the key to change is the hands of two bodies only: one, the State of Israel, and the other, the federations. Regarding the State of Israel, which is the Ministries of Absorption, Education, Finance, the prime minister, I think, from my acquaintance with the activity there, that they recognize the uniqueness and the amazing qualities that ENP contains and the amazing results it brings. I rely on the people who work there, who are first-rate professionals such as Hagit, the accountant from the Ministry of Absorption, or Revital who is advisor to the Director General of the Ministry of



Absorption, that they will know how to realize our common vision and allocate significant but realistic sums as Raviv said, so that we can grow in activity and reach an even bigger audience.

I believe in this, but this is not enough, because even if they will realize this, without the help of the federations nothing will happen, as it is conditional on matching. Here I identify with what Bobby Goldberg said. He has left, but he said things in a very correct way, listen, it's not sexy, but this is one of the best programs from the point of view of cost effectiveness that there is today in the market, a long term program that is good for the population of Israel, this important population. I turn to every one of the representatives of the federations here, please, please help us to get this message across. We need your support not to complete the NIS 2 million that we are missing in this budget, but to reach a further significant sum that can serve as matching for the government. Without you we can't do this. You hold the key today.

Apart from this, the budget is very similar to last year. I don't want to take up your time. If there are questions, I will be happy to answer them, but really my message is very concise: dear federations, without you it won't happen and look what a wonderful thing we have here. Look at the results; see what an amazing thing we have here. Please.

Rena Genn:

My name is Rena Genn and I'm the representative of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation in Israel. First of all, Yossi, you're talking, if your message today is going out to those people who're already in your corner, so I think that the message has to go in a different way and not to the people who are sitting here in this room.

I would like to relate to the budget, however. NIS 2 million is in any case a substantial amount of money, at least in my eyes. And if I look at the utilization, the scholastic achievement line remains 58%, but there's a growth in two budget lines: there's a growth in general operating expense, from 14% to 15%, and there's a growth in supervisors, from 3% to 4%. Where there's a cut would seem to me the last place there should be a cut, and that's at the youth-at-risk intervention centers, which seems,



So I'm a little confused about why, if there is a cut, it's in that absolutely essential section of the budget and the operational costs are going up a bit.

Yossi Rosner-Wachs:

Thank you Rena, that's a good question. I'll begin by relating to the administrative and general expenses. Naturally most of the components of administrative and general expenses are fixed and when there is a reduction in the extent of activity, the percentage rises. I think that it is important to see that compared to last year from an absolute point of view we are reducing administrative and general costs. If we reach, as I expect, another NIS 2 million, at the end of the year the 15%, I hope, will reach 13% or something like that.

I can say to you unequivocally, our organization is small and compact. It's very small and we are checked this all the time by the financing elements, first and foremost by the government that know very well how to check and ensure that there are no unnecessary overheads and there is no waste.

Regarding the reduction in youth centers: we have five less youth centers; this can be viewed in all kinds of ways. We have three less youth centers because the analysis of the activities in them showed that the number of children who used the youth centers, compare to the costs, cost-effectiveness was simply such that it was more sensible to transfer the money to other activities. Two other youth centers closed because the earmarked donations that were received for them also ceased.

You know what, Rena; I take back what I said before. In the overall picture, honestly, what I see in the comparison between the years is the focus on our two important programs while cutting back on administrative and general costs. I think that this is actually an expression of focusing and professionalization of the management of ENP. I hope I've answered the question. If there are any other questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

Raviv Zoller:

Yes, Michal.



Michal Abra Samuel:

My name is Michal Abra Samuel, I'm CEO of Fidel, which deals with educational programs, also in formal education in school through social-educational mediators and empowering programs, and operates some of our youth centers. We have some seven youth centers; five this year were funded by ENP, two by the Greater Miami Federation and other donors.

It's been said that informal educational activity is not on the government's agenda. Regrettably the cutback this year and the informal activity is the core of the work, because in the end, if in the morning there are the school frameworks that meet the children's needs, they are in the government budget. The children finish school and they do not have a framework. The youth centers are a second home for these teens. They go there, they have a natural environment where they go and do homework, work on the computer. Most of the children do not have a computer and Internet access at home. As Roni said, not all the children need our youth centers. We also succeed here in leading them to leadership programs, to integration within the local authorities. The cutback is going to harm a large number of children who will be on the streets. In view of the repeated figures of contending with the poverty line, the subject of the police and Ethiopian teens, we contend with many things where within a short time we will see the results of the cutback. We will reduce by 30%-40% the number of children who reach us. If on average 50 children attend per day, from 4 to 10 p.m., because they don't have other frameworks, so the government or bodies that deal with this, should take responsibility. The responsibility is not that of the NGOs, of the organizations, it is the responsibility of the authorities, of government bodies. There is the "A New Way" that we also, Michal as CEO of Fidel and her staff, we participate in the round tables but these round tables were led, I'm sorry, by fear. I am voicing the needs on the ground. The needs on the ground are very acute, explosive.

I'm in favor of integration. I definitely think that integration is important. However you need to look at everything on its own merits, according to the program's merits. You need to say, we need to invest more in the program You can't say no the whole time We need to say what we do want. This freeze of the strategy, and the cutback, definitely cause harm on the ground. It harms many other organizations and to my great regret those who are harmed are, as I said, the children and teens; the children and teens that we deal with and for whom we do not have answers. If the government through the round table wants to



deal with activities like these through Facebook and through statements like these and others, then I'm sorry, but I think that someone has to be the responsible adult in order to neutralize these things. At the same time, they can't be ignored – there needs to be a responsible adult.

I also want to relate to the statement that we are no longer sexy. I think this is not the right thing to say and it is not fair to relate to a community as something sexy. I think that we lead programs for values and leadership, for success, for achievements. I think that this is what should be. It needs to be in speech and in presentation and not because it's no longer sexy.

Raviv Zoller:

Okay. Revital wanted to reply.

Revital Ben Baruch:

Hello, my name's Revital and I'm advisor to the Director General of the Ministry of Absorption. First of all I want to turn some of the attention to everything that's happening in the round tables. The round tables are operating according to the government decision of February this year. Twelve government ministries are involved in the round tables and in fact they broadly discuss the various programs that the Government of Israel runs in everything related to the Ethiopian community. This is a new process and there was nothing like it in the past. I'm very happy, Michal, that you are a partner to the process. I totally reject any statement that the tables or things said there come from fear. There is a rare partnership here between the Government of Israel with organizations, with public representatives, with the Ethiopian community that is a full partner to the process. There is mapping of programs, of budgets. We are in the middle of the process, and it's a long and interesting path. In view of the findings and conclusions of all the representatives and partners, we will present a recommendation for action to the Government of Israel. I think that this is a good process. There has been nothing like this process as far as I know. There is definitely joint action here.

I emphasize again that this is in the broad aspect, not only in educational activity or in this activity that ENP is presenting, although in the youth centers, for example, you are presenting the broadest activity – and here we are talking



also about what you spoke about, internal security, health and another 12 government ministries that are partners to the process.

Raviv Zoller:

I cannot just sum up this discussion. Apparently we cannot sum it up here. I can reassure you that I always try hard to explain to my wife what I mean, but it doesn't always influence the decision. Our situation with the government is like that and we have to accept it with love and understand that we are loved. Apparently it is for our benefit.

Jacob Solomon:

Hi. I'm Jacob Solomon. I'm Rena Genn's representative in Miami. First of all, I want to congratulate the leadership of ENP, and really everyone sitting around the table, for resilience and sticking to this issue. I think, I don't know if it's sexy or not. It's incredibly important, and I think people recognize that. It's competing both for share of mind and share of purse, in a tough environment. It's tough with the government. We read every day about the stress on the governmental budget. It's tough in federations, in terms of allocations. So it's very difficult to win over a share of mind and share of financial resources. It's good that Bobby was here, because I would feel complete unless I got yelled at by someone from Cleveland about the lack of support by federations.

Roni quoted Einstein earlier. Einstein also said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing in the same circumstances and expecting different results. And I kind of feel like that's a little bit of what we do in terms of the discussion about resources and certainly in terms of the federations. And I want to suggest maybe, as an ad hoc task force of the board or just a phone call or something, that a phone call or something, that a group of people come together, a small group, and really talk about a specific strategy for moving ahead with the right contact people and the right conversations to be had. And I'd certainly be happy to participate in that if the Chairperson wants to convene such a group.

The other thing is, there's this very mysterious process that Jewish Federations of North America has been engaged in for the last few years, called the Global Planning Table. And one of the outcomes of that is the identification of



three specific initiatives that don't necessarily represent the highest priority but represent a new direction for funding by the federation system. It's still voluntary, it still depends on individual federations and donors putting money into it, but I think it's exciting and I feel positive about it.

One of them is a project called the Israel Children's Zone, which is modeled loosely after best practices developed by the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City. And the Israel Children's Zone has, it's a geographically bound, school-centered, holistic, systemic approach to dealing with a subculture of poverty in Israel. And the first community that they've identified to pilot is Kiryat Gat. And it seems to me that that represents an early opportunity for the ENP to become relevant in the implementation of this. I'm sure there has to be a role for ENP in this; I don't know what it is exactly. But I think that that should represent an early focus of the leadership of ENP, to sit down with JFNA specifically to talk about the implementation of the Israel Children's Zone. I believe JDC has been tasked with being the lead agency. But this is a, like, I don't want ENP to miss being on the ground floor of this initiative.

So that coupled with the strategic discussion I alluded to earlier, maybe we can begin to change the arc of support from North America.

Raviv Zoller:

Okay, point on Harlem Zone taken. We have actually been approached, I believe, by ELEM. ELEM is involved in the planning of such a project in one of the cities in southern Israel.

Jacob Solomon:

Youth at risk.

Raviv Zoller:

Yeah. And they actually approached us on the subject. So we'll take it from there.

And regarding the group, I think, I mean, it definitely can't hurt. So we need a lot of help and we'll be happy to get any help we can get.



So what we'll do is we'll schedule a conference call with those that help us so much. And maybe we can get guidance and additional help from all of you.

So, thanks a lot.

We're through our agenda, and our time is up. So if there are any additional questions, this is the time; and if not, thanks again to Roni and the team. Part of the team is here, so, wave so we can see you. Okay. These guys get up in the morning and think about how to help people. It's a sacred way of living your life. And we appreciate everything they do.

And by the way, the only issue you didn't mention on the budget is why the salary expenses of the supervisors went up; it's because last year, part of the year we were missing one of the supervisors. And the comment that I would give is that relative, if you look at what they're doing relative to what their peers are doing, they're definitely underpaid. And the only reason they're still with us is because they know how important what they're doing is. So I will take it to the other extreme that I feel guilty every morning that we're not paying them enough.

So, thank you very much. We really appreciate it.

Roni Akale:

I too want to thank everyone, particularly Mr. Lee Korman, Mr. Raviv Zoller and Mr. Sharon Tarkin who made supreme efforts. And thanks to everyone who helped advance ENP, thank you very much.

The meeting was adjourned

Signed:

Mr. Raviv Zoller

Ethiopian National Project Chairperson



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