

Ethiopian National Project Mid-Year Report 2016-2017

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) was created by Jewish Federations as Diaspora Jewry's tool to address the needs of Ethiopian-Israelis in partnership with the Government of Israel and the Ethiopian-Israeli community itself. The transformation ENP has succeeded in engendering is no less than extraordinary: scholastic gaps are closing, educational performance is improving, risk situations are decreasing and empowerment is broadening with each passing year.

The Ethiopian National Project – Transformation of a Community

ENP aims to ensure the full and successful integration of Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. ENP's methodology of holistic interventions on a national scale that fully include the Ethiopian-Israeli community, while strictly adhering to the critical importance of external evaluations to measure the impact and effect of ENP's work, has resulted in unequivocally successful programs. In fact, due to its success, this school year brings new and exciting changes to ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program, as part of a four-year initiative by the Government of Israel requesting that ENP expand its reach to 8,729 students in 35 cities nationwide while including 20% non-Ethiopian-Israeli students. In addition, where traditionally the Ministry of Aliyah and Absorption was the leading government ministry to spearhead ENP's work, from 2016 the Ministry of Education will take the leading role as part of the new four-year initiative. In addition, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) recently launched a campaign to raise matching dollars over four years to ensure that ENP can expand its SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program nationwide.

The table on the following page shows the expansion of the SPACE program to 35 cities, as well as the letter from the Prime Minister's Office to Diaspora Jewry about the expansion.



ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program 2015-2017

Location	Number of Participants 2015-2016	Number of Participants 2016-2017
Afula	151	352
Ashdod	417	406
Ashkelon	344	360
Beer Sheva	396	605
Beit Shean	27	30
Beit Shemesh	156	343
Carmiel	50	66
Gedera	58	73
Hadera	136	321
Jerusalem	148	426
Kiryat Bialik	84	100
Kiryat Malachi	40	251
Lod	200	280
Netanya	308	626
Pardes Chana	63	139
Petach Tikvah	558	848
Ramle	177	452
Rosh HaAyin	20	23
Tirat Carmel	80	223
Bat Yam		285
Beer Yaakov		130
Haifa		206
Holon		149
Kiryat Ata		164
Kiryat Motzkin		208
Kiryat Yam		195
Ma'ale Adumim		44
Migdal HaEmek		86
Nes Tziona		64
Or Yehuda		141
Pardes Katz (Bnei Brak)		50
Rehovot		381
Rishon LeTzion		363
Tel Aviv		179
Yokneam		160
TOTAL	3,413	8,729

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption
Ministry of Education



משרד ראש הממשלה
משרד העלייה והקליטה
משרד החינוך

July 24, 2016,
18th of Tamuz, 5776

To:

Jewish Diaspora Leadership: Director-Generals of ENP Partner Organizations
Jewish Federations of North America, Jerry Silverman
Jewish Agency for Israel, Alan Hoffman
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Alan Gill
UIA-Keren Hayesod, Greg Maisel

Dear Sirs:

Following the adoption of the "New Way" Initiative, the Government of Israel has recently concluded a two-year process of a comprehensive strategic plan regarding the learning needs for Ethiopian-Israelis children.

As you probably know, we, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, have made a change in perception of the overall policy of Ethiopian community absorption. Following our long process of considering how to make this change evident on the ground level, we found in the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) a partner that shares our policy's vision. ENP has proven its ability to oversee and implement critical work, on behalf of the Government of Israel and its partners, and delivers superior programs in full coordination with the Diaspora Jewish organizations and the Ethiopian-Israeli community. We believe the ENP would embrace and implement this policy shift and act as a true partner in implementing an integrating policy in heterogeneous classrooms together with the equally important parental work.

As ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program delivered by ENP has demonstrated its ability to bring Israeli schoolchildren to high levels of performance, the Government of Israel has decided that ENP will provide after-school scholastic assistance program for Ethiopian-Israelis nationwide, to include the majority of Ethiopian-Israelis in 7th through 12th grade identified by the Government as in need of scholastic assistance, with an additional 20%-30% of non-Ethiopian-Israelis included, ensuring a heterogeneous program, according to the new policy that the government has decided upon. Integration with non-Ethiopian children is one of the fundamental pillar of New Way policy and has essential value towards optimal integration into the Israeli society.

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Having accompanied this process throughout, including the round tables that led to this decision, and following our decision mentioned above, , that the Government of Israel will commit to ENP the following: 17.8 million NIS per year for four years, towards the implementation of the programs, thereby reaching approximately 8,750 participants, plus 0.6 million NIS for four years for intervention with parents groups at schools, plus 1 million NIS one -time additional funding for the youth centers for an additional six months, until February 2017. This sums up to a total of – 18.4 million NIS per year for 4 years plus 1 million NIS one-time.

As a shared partnership with Diaspora Jewry by decision to which you are party, this investment requires matching from the Diaspora Jewish organizations. We look forward to your fullest cooperation so as to achieve our shared goal of ensuring the full and successful integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

Respectfully,

Ehud Prawer
Deputy Director-General
Prime Minister's Office

Gila Nagar
Deputy Director-General
Ministry of Education

Habib Kassab
Director-General
Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption

Cc: Robert Goldberg
Roni Akale
Michal Cohen – Director-General, ministry of Education
Eli Gruner – Director-General, Prime minister's office

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Addressing the Needs of a Community with Great Potential

Israel is home to 141,200 Ethiopian-Israelis, some 107,000 of whom are under the age of 40- a young community with great potential. Characterized by large families living in Israel's poorest neighborhoods and cities, intervention today enables the community's children to thrive and succeed, while a lack of a targeted response perpetuates the challenges- due only to the fact that their parents immigrated to Israel from an agrarian community.

Unfortunately, the majority of Ethiopian-Israelis live in economic hardship. Their economic and social deprivation, combined with an ongoing crisis of community adaptation to general Israeli society, place obstacles in the way of the community's children, making their integration into general Israeli society extremely difficult. Education is the key to tackling the issues facing the Ethiopian-Israeli community and consequently, ENP developed its SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program to address the unmet needs in the community.



Expansion of ENP's Programs Nationwide

Every five years ENP goes through a tender process to identify which organizations will implement ENP programs nationwide. This past summer, ENP went through the tender process and for the next five years two organizations will be implementing the SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program: the Branco Weiss Institute and the Israel Association of Community Centers. In addition, the Israel Association of Community Centers is implementing Youth Outreach Centers and will implement Community Empowerment Programs in Southern Israel, and FIDEL is implementing Youth Outreach Centers and will implement Parent Workshops.

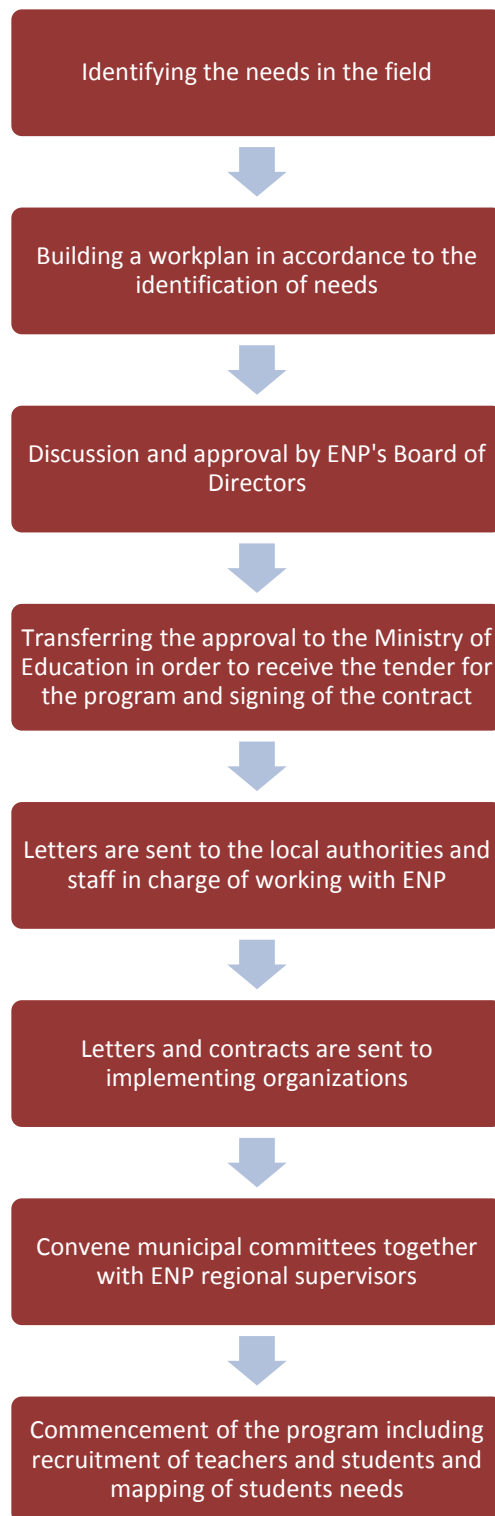
Through the expansion of its programs to 35 cities this year, ENP and program implementers must go through a process of meetings and mapping of each city before the formal start of SPACE program. In addition, as ENP not only expands to 35 cities, but to 8,729 7th-12th grade students, there are three planned waves of expansion that will take place based on the funds raised to matched the budget from the Government of Israel. The first wave included 3,814 students in 23 cities, the second wave of expansion is currently reaching 5,815 students in 35 cities and the goal by the end of the 2016-17 school year is to reach a total of 8,729 students in 35 cities, including 20% non-Ethiopian-Israeli students. The table on the following page shows the steps that must be

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taken before ENP's programs can commence in a new city, which includes working hand-in-hand with the local municipality, developing city-wide steering committees and involving local Ethiopian-Israeli leadership.





ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance

ENP SPACE Scholastic Assistance delivers supplementary hours of academic, social, emotional and nutritional assistance to students in small groups.. SPACE 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. Nationwide, the program currently operates in 35 locations throughout Israel, working to improve children's grades, increase the percentage of community students who graduate from high school, reduce dropout rates, and ease the transition from junior high to high school and heighten aspirations.

ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program directly contributes to the academic achievement of Ethiopian-Israeli participants through:

- **Intensive Support:** Educational support is provided to small groups of students allowing for the development of highly effective, personalized study plans.
- **Preparation for Matriculation:** For high school students, the program consists of preparatory lessons for the *bagrut* (matriculation) exam to improve students' proficiency, particularly in math, English, Hebrew and other subjects crucial to success in these exams.
- **Personal Development:** Emphasis is placed on building self-esteem, personal-motivation and improving study skills through specialized workshops and one-to-one talks between students and teachers.
- **Extra-curricular Activities:** The program offers a range of cultural and social activities, which build a sense of community among the students, increase the students' motivation to participate in the program and help cultivate excellent relations with the staff.

The goals of the program are:

- To improve overall scholastic performance of students from the Ethiopian-Israeli community.
- To increase the number of students matriculating and improve their level of achievement in the years leading up to matriculation.
- To prevent students from exiting prematurely from the school framework.
- To improve in the social/personal/emotional domain by strengthening students' motivation to study, and generating self-confidence in their own abilities.
- To increase student self-reliance and acceptance to the army and universities.



SPACE Beer Sheva students at Makif Rabin studying for their History winter matriculation exam

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ENP tracks student performance throughout the year. As children improve in their scholastic abilities, they are moved up into classes that demand more of them. Despite the increased workload, large numbers of children in the program either show improvement in their grades or maintain their performance levels.

Providing Emotional Support

Integral to the ENP Scholastic Assistance model is the idea that scholastic achievement goes hand-in-hand with social development. As such, the program includes a variety of fun and educational activities designed to increase children's intellectual curiosity and social skills necessary to succeed. The specific goals of the program are aimed at empowering the students through an array of activities that promote:

- Conceptualizing the future
- Strengthening self-efficacy
- Strengthening community identity
- Enrichment
- Emotional support as a means to scholastic success



SPACE introductory meeting for parents in
Kiryat Yam

ENP Parent Workshops

As part of the SPACE Program, ENP also provides parent workshops to ensure that parents are involved in their children's education and that they are equipped with the basic skills and information to advocate for their children. Workshops include training, guidance and support about the Israeli school system and increases parents' awareness of their rights and obligations within the educational system. These workshops are an essential part to ensuring the success of participants in ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program.

ENP Youth Outreach Centers

ENP's network of Youth Outreach Centers began operating due to the prevalence within the Ethiopian-Israeli community of youth involved in at-risk behaviors. These youth, once out of school for the day, came home to empty houses – as their parents often worked two jobs to provide for their family – and often ended up on the streets with nowhere to go. The goal of the centers was to offer safe havens to the most alienated Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers and provide them with programs and Ethiopian-Israeli role models to look up to. Today, after over a decade of programming, ENP's Youth Outreach Centers have transformed into greenhouses for empowerment. As such, the Government of Israel has asked the local municipalities to take on the responsibility for the inclusion of the centers as an integral community service.

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ENP Youth Outreach Centers served to:

- **Provide youth with positive, meaningful and high quality activities** – ensuring that youth have a safe space and supportive atmosphere as an alternative to hanging out on the streets during their free time
- **Encourage personal growth and leadership** – through leadership opportunities, including the responsibility of opening up the Center, running activities for younger children, and giving back to their community through volunteer activities
- **Develop and identify the potential of each child** – by providing them with opportunities to learn and grow
- **Provide youth with successful experiences** – including providing them with Ethiopian-Israeli role models (Center director and staff)



Ramle Youth Outreach Center participants plant trees outside the center for Tu B'Shevat

ENP SPACE Community Empowerment Programs

ENP Empowerment Programs provide community leaders with the skills and knowledge to aid them in their efforts to advocate for their families, neighborhoods, city and community. With the escalation of hostilities in 2014, ENP took steps to initiate a special program to better enable community members to be prepared in the case of future conflicts. In 2017, ENP will run this program again for community leaders in the cities of Beer Sheva, Sderot, Kiryat Malachi, Ashkelon and Ashdod

International Relations

ENP international relations department works to share the story of ENP's impact and gain the support that enables ENP to provide its successful programs to the Ethiopian-Israeli community. Among the recent highlights:

- Director-General Roni Akale, Director of International Relations Grace Rodnitzki and ENP Medical Scholar David Mashasha participated in JFNA's General Assembly in November, where JFNA announced the launch of a new campaign to support ENP
- In December, Director of International Relations Grace Rodnitzki and ENP SPACE Coordinator Naftali Aklum presented at events in southern Florida and JFNA offices in New York



David Mashasha and Grace Rodnitzki with Federation leadership at the JFNA General Assembly

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- In December, ENP hosted the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) Mission in Rehovot with Ethiopian-Israeli leaders from around the country
- JFNA's Heart 2 Heart Mission participated in an Ethiopian dance workshop with Dege Feder-Levi in Tel Aviv in February

In addition, JFNA sent a videographer to film ENP's SPACE Program in Beer Sheva to be used with the new campaign.

Marketing and Volunteers

ENP hosts many volunteers every year coming from a wide variety of programs. Over the summer of 2016, ENP volunteers worked on a new marketing initiative to create a series of ENP stories of success that resulted in a beautiful calendar. In order to make this calendar a reality, ENP international relations staff worked diligently with ENP regional supervisors and local staff in 13 cities to identify students to interview.

All of ENP's 11 summer volunteers contributed to the calendar, however, two volunteers who specialized in photography and story writing, spent two months travelling throughout Israel, interviewing students and staff and putting together the concept for the calendar. An example of one of the calendar stories can be seen on the following page, and ENP looks forward to creating additional projects to get the incredible stories of our work out to the world.



Aviv's Story

Tirat Carmel

“After joining SPACE, I rose and succeeded, which is very important for new immigrants”

Aviv is an amiable 18-year-old with a bright smile who speaks of his love of music and, in particular, of American music. However, Aviv initially had a very difficult time learning English, and was placed in a special education class in high school. Aviv's dedicated teachers in ENP's SPACE Program worked tirelessly with him, helping him to learn English word-by-word and eventually enabling him to raise his grade to a perfect 100. Because of SPACE, Aviv made the difficult decision to remain in high school for an extra year to finish his matriculation, and he has now earned a full matriculation certificate. Today, Aviv even lists English as his favorite subject, and SPACE brought him closer than ever to his dream of writing his own songs in English!



With Appreciation

By investing in today's youth, ENP is helping to secure the future of the next generation of Ethiopian-Israelis, working towards the full integration of the Ethiopian-Israeli community and breaking the cycle of poverty. For more than a decade, ENP's SPACE program has made a significant difference in the lives of Ethiopian-Israeli youth participants throughout Israel. Clearly, ENP's methodology works. ENP now looks to the next ten years and the expansion of our programs to reach an even larger section of the Ethiopian-Israeli population.