



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014 AND KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2015

### A JEWISH AGENCY REPORT

February 2015

The Jewish Agency for Israel inspires Jewish life, helps people in need, and strengthens our global Jewish community. Together with donors and partners around the world, we bring Jews to Israel, and Israel to Jews. We revitalize Jewish life in the FSU and Central Europe, empower the next generation to develop vibrant Jewish communities and global peoplehood, and help Jews from around the world to make *Aliyah*. In Israel, we nurture a caring society, offer opportunities to disadvantaged population groups and minorities, and promote diverse expressions of Jewish culture.

The Jewish Agency focuses on areas where we bring added value and expertise to meet challenges that, because of their scope and the need for a collective response, can be addressed only by *Klal Yisrael* – by the Jewish world acting together. It is collective funding that ensures the scope, flexibility, and institutional strength to meet our collective Jewish challenges on a global scale and respond to crises.

Our vision is to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish People with a strong Israel at its center.

## 2014: YEAR OF THE URGENT

### ISRAEL

In response to Operation Protective Edge The Jewish Agency, in coordination with central and local government and in cooperation with our funding partners:

- Provided **respite days** to 73,500 children.
- Supported 4,300 **absorption center olim** 24/7; provided 2,000 therapy hours.
- Ensured 340 **lone soldiers** received emotional and financial support.
- Arranged for 1,150 **Youth Futures** children in the South to be phoned daily.
- Gave 120 new recipients support from the **Fund for the Victims of Terror**.
- Sent 18 “reserve emissaries” to 22 campuses to help **Israel advocacy efforts**.
- Ran 28 seminars for over 35 college campuses in North America, to train 315 Hillel staff and student leaders to **discuss Israel** with sophistication. Additional seminars were held in UK, Hungary and South Africa.
- Approved **loans for small businesses** in areas of fighting, totaling \$420,000.
- Arranged to provide **scholarships** in March 2015 to around 1,300 students within 4 kilometers of Gaza.

### 2015:

Following the collapse of the government, and looking ahead to the upcoming general elections in March 2015, The Jewish Agency is working to ensure the continuity of our partnerships with all levels of government, vis-à-vis a wide spectrum of programs.

### FRANCE

In 2014, economic crisis and increase in anti-Semitism led to an *Aliyah* surge, from 3,295 (2013) to 7,231.

The Jewish Agency and Absorption Ministry developed the France First support package, and during the year:

- 1,100 **high school students** came to Israel for a one-week experience.
- 1,500 young Jews participated in **Israel Experience** short-term visits.
- More than 1,200 participated in **Masa**; 60 participated in **Onward Israel**.
- 13,000 people attended *Aliyah* informational evenings.
- For the 1,400 participants of Taglit-Birthright in 2014 (up from 100 in 2013) we increased **post-Birthright programming**.

**2015** will see further growth:

- More *shlichim* in France and staff dedicated to French *olim* in Israel.
- More *Aliyah* fairs, weekly webinars, and pilot trips for French Jews.
- 100% growth in **Onward Israel**.
- 10 *shabbatonim* for students and Birthright alumni.
- Dedicated **At Home Together** coordinators for French *olim*.

### UKRAINE

The political situation worsened with Russia's invasion of the Crimea and fighting in eastern Ukraine.

- Over 17,500 people contacted The Jewish Agency to learn about *Aliyah*, double the 2012 number.
- 21,000 people attended *Aliyah* information events.
- Some 180 **ulpan classes** catered to 1,600 students; we opened new classes to meet increased demand.
- 1,500 children and youth attended **summer camps** in Ukraine; another 600 attended camps in the Baltics, and 50 in Israel.
- Our **refugee center** in Dnepropetrovsk provided a temporary home, Hebrew lessons and *Aliyah* guidance to 400.
- More than 5,917 made *Aliyah* (contrast to less than 2,000 in 2013). Some areas of eastern Ukraine saw *Aliyah* growth of 130% - 400%. Young *olim* in **Selah** and **Na'ale** increased 35%.
- 540 young Jews participated in **Masa** in 2014, and 300 in Birthright.

### 2015:

*Aliyah* is expected to reach 6,500. The Jewish Agency is enlarging its professional retraining programs.

## 2014: RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR ALIYAH

about 26,500 new immigrants arrived in Israel, the highest number in 13 years and a significant increase of 39% over 2013.

**Connect young Jews to Israel and their Jewish identity** through high-quality programs and content on Israel, inspiring Israeli *shlichim* around the world, and an increase in the numbers of young people who visit Israel for short and long-term experiential educational visits.

**2014:** Over 1,190 short-term *shlichim* worked in **summer camps** and in short-term informal education, and 280 long-term *shlichim* worked on **campuses**, and in **communities** and **youth movements**.

**2014-15:** 78 *ShinShinim*, pre-army Israelis who volunteer for a year in a Diaspora community; set to grow in 2015-16 to 100. Also in 2015, there will be about 300 long-term and 1,200 short-term *shlichim* working in countries around the world (in addition to those in the FSU).

**2014:** 860 young Jews spent 6-10 weeks in Israel through **Onward Israel**, a 6 – 10 week resumé-building experience providing a mid-length option between Birthright and Masa.

**2015:** Number of participants set to rise to 1,538.

**2014-15:** 10,540 young Jews are spending 5-12 months “living like a local” in Israel on **Masa Israel Journey**, which increases their likelihood of Jewish leadership when they return home.

**2015-16:** Expected to increase to approximately 11,000.

**2014:** 6,800 young Jews in the **FSU** attended **summer and winter camps**; we created a network of local partners and added day camps to the spectrum: more than 12 cycles of **day camps** were held in 7 locations, and engaged 500 young Jews and their families, the result of new partnerships. Among the locations: 4 in Ukraine.

**2015:** A similar number of participants is expected in the residential summer and winter camps, with an additional location to the day camps project.

**2014:** More than 500 **young activists** participated in a gamut of **global leadership training** programs.

**2015:** We expect to impact 900 young activists including leading Masa graduates and returned *ShinShinim*.

**2014:** To help young Jews reach a fuller appreciation of contemporary Israeli society, **Makom**, The Jewish Agency’s Israel Education Content Lab, developed 45 educational units and trained 2,400 educators who impact over 47,000 Jews in Israel and around the world – in addition to its focus on **Israel advocacy** in the wake of Operation Protective Edge.

**2015:** A focus on 5 US universities to transform them into **Israel engaged campuses** on which Jewish students and Hillel professionals receive Israel advocacy skills training, and guidance in promoting a campus environment supportive of Israel.

**Connect young Israelis to the Jewish People and their Jewish identity** through engaging young Israelis in social activism for vulnerable populations to strengthen social commitment and infuse their activism with Jewish values

**2014-15:** From the program’s inception in 2013, **Mechinot**, which offer young people from the periphery a pre-army community service and leadership development opportunity, have grown in the current academic year to 345 participants in 7 programs.

**2015-16:** The program will expand, to 470 participants in 13 programs.

**2014:** **ShinShinui** training centers for pre-army and National Service volunteers, in which religious and secular study together and which combine professional training with Jewish study, operated in 6 centers and trained 550 young volunteers, among them 10 participants with special needs.

**2015:** Reach 600 participants from 10 youth movements in 7 centers, including 30 participants with special needs.





**2014:** 150 returned *shlichim* participated in a conference to promote their activism in projects supported by The Jewish Agency; dozens are now engaged as volunteers.

**2015-16:** Over the next 2 years, a network for returned *shlichim* should reach 1,000 annually and will facilitate their engagement in community activism.

**2014:** 130 summer camp *shlichim* attended a **post-camp seminar** in New York to help them process their experience and encourage continued activism in Israel. A follow-up conference in Israel attracted 150 and exposed them to **opportunities for social activism**.

**2015:** Expand the post-camp seminar to Washington DC and Canada.

**2014:** 200 student activists in the periphery implemented 50 social change projects in 11 **Choosing Tomorrow** groups, supporting vulnerable populations while framing their service as an expression of Jewish identity.

**2015:** 250 students in 22 groups are due to implement 88 social change projects.

**2014:** We funded 31 educational programs in Israel of 12 **diverse religious-streams organizations**, with nearly \$3 million. Additionally we allocated \$1.5 million, matched by \$750,000 by government, to 78 programs of 55 organizations, to support **Jewish renewal** and thousands of shared events by different population sectors (seminars, study days, etc) to **strengthen peoplehood**.

**2015:** Our support for religious diversity continues: government involvement depends on election outcomes.

## Support vulnerable populations in Israel

**2014:** Provided business guidance to 30 for-profit social businesses developed by our **Young Communities** to reach out to Israel's social and geographic periphery.

**2015:** An additional 18 initiatives are slated to receive support.

**2014: Loan Funds** helped 99 businesses procure loans totaling over \$5 million.

**2015:** Following Protective Edge, we approved loans totaling \$420,000 to 19 businesses in areas affected by fighting; we expect numbers to more than double by the end of 2015.

**2014:** 314 **Youth Futures Mentors** worked with 12,000 young Israelis and family members in 36 communities on the social and geographic periphery.

**2015:** Expand pilot program providing holistic approach to an entire school.

**2014:** Our 4 **Youth Villages** provided a last hope for integration into normative society for 850 seriously at-risk teenagers, among them 300 young members of the Ethiopian community and 250 *olim* from the FSU.

**2015:** Maintain level of care to target population.

**2014:** **Amigour's** sheltered housing for the elderly provided a home and social activities for 7,500, largely *olim* from the FSU, most of whom are Holocaust survivors.

**2015:** Construction continues on an additional facility with 100 housing units.

**2014:** Continued planning for a network of **food cooperatives**, led by our **Young Communities**, on Israel's social and geographic periphery; they will provide access to basic products at low prices, serve as centers for community programming, maximize the power of community action to provide economic answers to social problems, and empower the residents in order to advance social justice.

**2015:** 10 cooperatives to open in 2015 and additional 10 in 2016.

## RISE IN ALIYAH

**2014:** *Aliyah* was 35% higher than anticipated. The year saw about 26,500 *olim*, including a **growth of 196% from Ukraine**, and **119% from France**.

**2015:** About 32,500 *olim* expected, including 10,000 from France and 13,430 from FSU.

## ABSORPTION PROGRAMS

**2014:** **Special absorption and retraining programs** for *olim* with professions in high demand such as medicine, hi-tech, education and hotels, and special programs for young adults, helped 4,060.

**2015:** Increase to about 4,500 the number of *olim* impacted.

## ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY

**2014:** 2,000 young Ethiopian *olim* in our absorption centers participated in programs that **prepare them for school**; a newly-developed program offered **professional training** to some 40 Ethiopian *olim* aged 17-20 with little or no formal education; and 50 Ethiopian *olim* were in supplementary training programs.

**2015:** Work based on government decision (TBA) regarding remaining members of the Ethiopian Jewish community remaining there.



It is the leveraging that our CORE BUDGET provides that allows us a wide range of programming, and while addressing THE URGENT, The Jewish Agency continues to do THE IMPORTANT.