



**EVERY ONE OF US, TOGETHER.**

**THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL  
2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT**



**הסוכנות היהודית  
לארץ ישראל  
THE JEWISH AGENCY  
FOR ISRAEL**  
Every one of us, together.





# EVERY ONE OF US, TOGETHER.

## THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL / 2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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הסוכנות היהודית  
לארץ  
ישראל  
FOR ISRAEL

Every one of us, together.



# We're here for each other. We're here for you.

## SOME EXAMPLES OF THE JEWISH AGENCY'S IMPACT IN 2017

### UNITED STATES AND CANADA

- 23,000** children in P2G Twinned Schools
- 5,610** participants in Onward Israel and Masa Israel Journey
- 1,340** Summer Camp Israeli Shlichim (emissaries) reaching 100,000 campers
- 120** campuses served by Israel Fellows, drawing 37,000 to Israel education events
- 300** Israeli Shlichim in 1–5 year posts
- 3,538** Olim (immigrants) brought to Israel

### EUROPE

- 2,580** participants in Birthright, Onward Israel, Masa Israel Journey
- 50** Israeli Shlichim and Israel Campus Fellows
- \$864,000** Security Assistance Fund allocations
- 4,000** kids in Israel Education Abroad programs
- 5,072** Olim brought to Israel

### LATIN AMERICA

- 4,770** participants in Birthright, Masa Israel Journey and other Israel experiences
- \$504,100** Security Assistance Fund allocations
- 1,600** teachers in professional development programs
- 3,000** kids in Israel Education Abroad programs
- 1,547** Olim brought to Israel

*About the data in this document:*

- All participation data represent 12-month periods, in 2017 or academic year 2016-17.
- In Israel, The Jewish Agency operates its programs in Israeli New Shekels, represented in US Dollars in this document at the rate of \$1 = 3.7 NIS.
- All numbers are rounded, except for Aliyah (immigration). Data on Aliyah is based on reports by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

## FORMER SOVIET UNION, MIDDLE EAST AND REST OF ASIA

<b>7,150</b>	participants in Birthright, Onward Israel and Masa Israel Journey
<b>\$261,784</b>	Security Assistance Fund allocations
<b>9,610</b>	campers
<b>11,220</b>	students in FSU Jewish Day School Network
<b>8,100</b>	participants in youth activities
<b>17,296</b>	Olim brought to Israel

## ISRAEL

<b>29,323</b>	Olim brought to Israel
<b>15,000</b>	immigrants served by absorption programs
<b>834,000</b>	participants in Religious Streams Funding programs
<b>28,000</b>	children in P2G Twinned Schools
<b>20,300</b>	participants in Birthright, Onward Israel and Masa Israel Journey
<b>23,600</b>	beneficiaries of student services (professional certification, support services and scholarships)
<b>2,750</b>	young Israelis, including 1,100 Returning Shlichim, in social activism, volunteer and service-year programs
<b>12,000</b>	beneficiaries of Youth Futures

## AFRICA

<b>720</b>	children in P2G Twinned Schools (South Africa)
<b>12</b>	Israeli Shlichim
<b>\$108,600</b>	Security Assistance Fund allocations
<b>116</b>	volunteers in Project TEN (Uganda, Ghana, South Africa)
<b>1,647</b>	Olim brought to Israel

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

<b>315</b>	participants in Onward Israel and Masa Israel Journey
<b>49</b>	Israeli Shlichim and Israel Campus Fellows
<b>480</b>	children in P2G Twinned Schools
<b>223</b>	Olim brought to Israel

# EVERY ONE OF US, TOGETHER.

Dear Friends,

Around the world, The Jewish Agency for Israel works to ensure we remain one people. We create experiences, provide services and lead change with the goal of Jews everywhere staying connected to each other and to Israel.

We're sending record numbers of Israeli Shlichim (emissaries) to communities and university campuses to strengthen attachment to our homeland. More and more Shlichim who are in their gap year before military service are bringing the spirit of modern, youthful Israel to Diaspora communities large and small. Nearly 11,000 young Jews from six continents are exploring Israel through our Masa Israel Journey program.

We've opened more Project TEN centers, encouraging young Jewish people to connect to their Jewish identities through Tikkun Olam. The educational opportunities we create through Partnership2Gether and activities for Russian-speaking Jews are touching hundreds of thousands of lives.

We're here for Israelis, too. As social and economic divisions polarize Israeli society, The Jewish Agency narrows the gaps. Our Amigour project provides affordable housing to thousands of families, and our Youth Futures mentoring program helps lift Israeli schoolchildren out of poverty and mitigates risk factors at home and at school.

We're there in times of danger. In 2017, we continued assisting victims of the wildfires that had raged across Israel in 2016, focusing on the dozens of families who, months later, had yet to return to their destroyed homes. Additionally, our Fund for the Victims of Terror continues to provide assistance in the wake of attacks, and our Security Assistance Fund works to prevent them.

For many years The Jewish Agency has provided diverse avenues for exploring Jewish identity, whether as a Reform, Conservative, Orthodox or secular Jew – or as a Jew who transcends labels. Our commitment to pluralism was spotlighted when Israeli governmental decisions regarding egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall and converts to Judaism challenged Israel's relationship with the Jewish world. The Jewish Agency acted quickly to bring our people together, with both short- and long-term comprehensive action plans.

More than 29,000 Jews embarked on a new life in Israel in 2017, and The Jewish Agency was there for each one of them. Due to political, economic and social pressures, the number of Olim (immigrants) from Venezuela, Turkey, South Africa and the Middle East increased, while Aliyah from the former Soviet Union, especially Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, continues to be strong. Our planning services and absorption programs ease their integration into Israeli society, including our flagship Ulpan Etzion, which provides residence in addition to intensive Hebrew instruction to college-educated immigrants.

We do all this because no matter who we are, where we are or what we believe, we are Jews. We are one people and must remain one people, so we provide platforms for every Jewish individual and family to contribute to our collective story.

We're grateful to The Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod-UIA and the World Zionist Organization. Together, we strive to ensure that every Jewish person has a strong connection to our homeland and to our people, and continues to play a role in our common future.

**NATAN SHARANSKY**  
Chairman of the Executive



**MICHAEL SIEGAL**  
Chairman of the Board







## OUR VISION

To ensure that every Jewish person is a part of the Jewish story by connecting them to each other and to Israel.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission today is to do all we can to ensure that every Jewish person feels an unbreakable bond to one another and to Israel no matter where they are in the world, so that they can continue to play their critical role in our ongoing Jewish story.

The Jewish Agency for Israel is grateful to The Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod-UIA, the World Zionist Organization and our major donors around the world who have partnered with us to help fulfill our mission.

## OUR IMPACT

For more than 85 years, the Jewish story has been strengthened by The Jewish Agency. When we achieved our original goal of establishing a secure homeland in Israel, we turned our attention to helping Jews in peril come home. As the needs of our people have continued to change over the years, so has our response.

Today, The Jewish Agency connects Israel, Israelis and the Jewish people worldwide. We bring Jews to Israel and Israel to Jewish communities, support vulnerable Israelis, and enable Jews to make Aliyah. The Jewish Agency works every day to enable Jewish people to meet and get to know one another. To work and live together for a time. Because we thrive when our roots are planted in common ground.

Around the globe, The Jewish Agency empowers the next generation of Jews to develop vibrant communities and global peoplehood. We invigorate Jewish education, Jewish culture, and knowledge about Israel through day schools, camps, trips to Israel, encounters with Israelis, and other platforms that help hundreds of thousands of children, teens, and young adults each year enrich their Jewish identities.

In Israel, we create economic, cultural, and educational opportunities for underserved populations, encourage social activism, and promote diverse expressions of Judaism. As always, we continue to assist those Jews who wish to move to Israel and support their acclimation. When a crisis arises in Israel or in any Jewish community, The Jewish Agency is there to keep Jews safe and address urgent needs as they arise.

Thanks to the core support received from our partners, we can ensure the global reach, flexibility, and institutional strength needed to address those problems that can be solved only when the Jewish people act in unity. We are proud to work every day to represent, serve, uplift and connect the global Jewish family.

**THE JEWISH AGENCY IS HERE TO INSTILL PRIDE AND OFFER HOPE. TO SHOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PART OF THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF OUR PEOPLE.**



# Areas of Strategic Activity



“Creating strong bonds between Israel and young Jews, and between young Israelis and their brothers and sisters all over the world, isn’t just something we do. It is **all** of what we do and we will keep on doing it together.”

- Alan D. Hoffmann, Director General & CEO

# Pluralism

## Embracing our differences.

In June 2017, our efforts at retaining our togetherness took a severe blow.

The Israeli Government made two decisions that sparked a crisis of confidence between world Jewry and the Government of Israel: One, to suspend plans for an expanded egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall; and another, to withdraw recognition of conversions not performed under the auspices of the Chief Rabbinate.

At The Jewish Agency, every Jewish person, regardless of whether they are Reform, Conservative, Orthodox or any other kind of Judaism, is an equal. In our capacity as a global Jewish table, to which we can bring all different Jews to talk together, The Jewish Agency took immediate action to maintain Jewish unity.

First, the gravity of the situation must be appreciated by Israelis. The Jewish Agency is taking steps to raise awareness among Israelis about the concerns of world Jewry and help them understand the need to promote Jewish solidarity. Second, to encourage Israelis to become more active in promoting religious pluralism, we are apprising the public of its importance in Israel – not only for their relationship with world Jewry, but also for the strength of Israeli democracy and for the richness of their own Jewish identities.

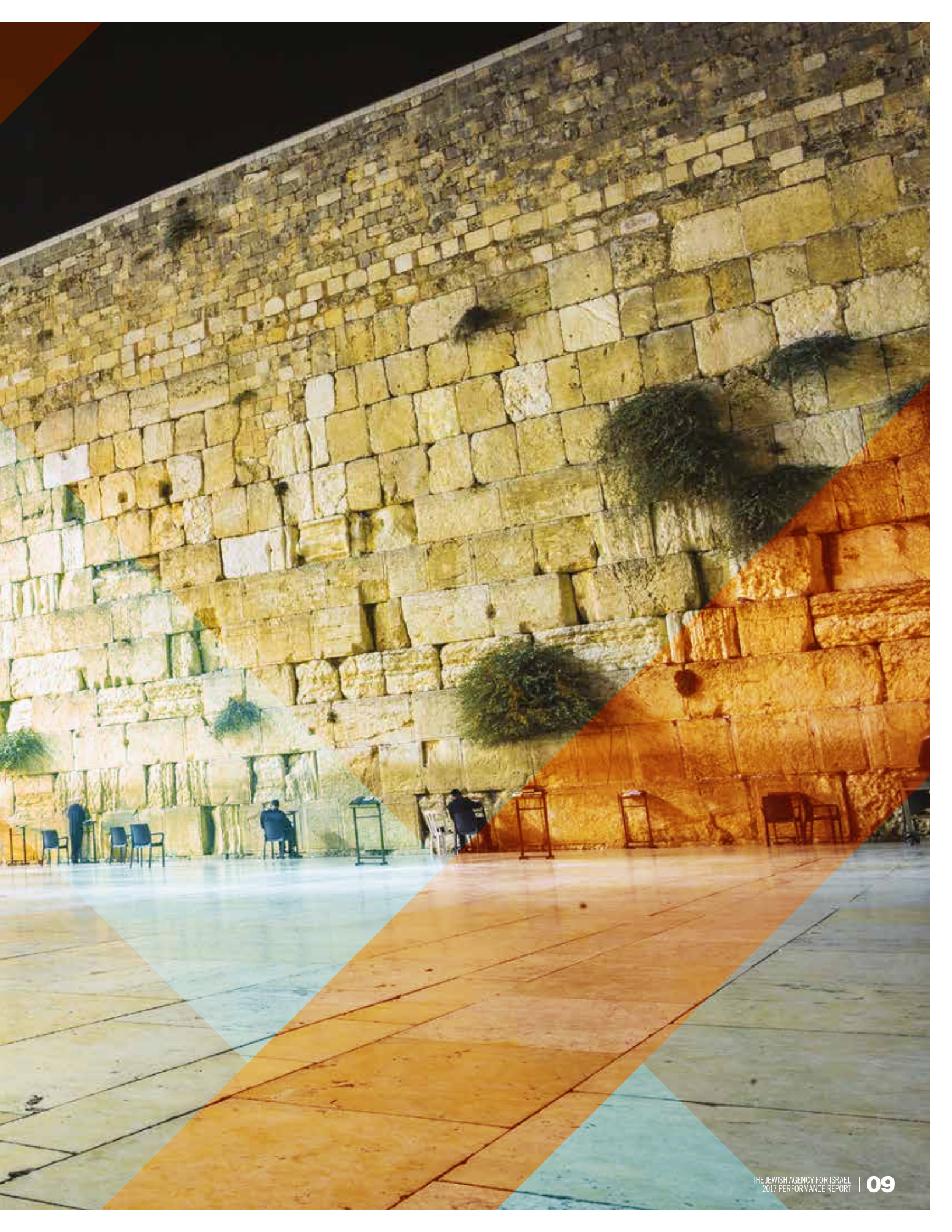
The Jewish Agency is uniquely positioned to help bring about a fundamental shift in Israeli attitudes toward religious pluralism. Our nationwide reach makes it possible for us to facilitate far-reaching changes in Israeli attitudes. We're marshaling our resources across our strategic platforms in the areas of Partnership2Gether, Israeli Shlichim, Aliyah, and Israeli social activism to reach tens of thousands of young Israelis. In the Diaspora, our Shlichim are at the forefront of the struggle to keep our people together, and they received immediate training to help them cope with the communities' responses to the issue. Additionally, our long history of support for Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox programs in Israel, with \$2.66 million contributed annually, demonstrates that we "walk the walk" for Jewish diversity and Jewish unity.

At the same time, we are working to forge a broad, nonpartisan coalition in support of Jewish unity and pluralism, taking advantage of our well-established government relationships to lobby national and municipal leadership, and launching new collaborations with non-profit organizations.

"The work to have all the streams join the effort to settle the arrangements at the Western Wall began as soon as Natan Sharansky joined the process. It was clear to all that freedom of belief and opinion is a genuine matter for him, and the discussion he conducted at the table greatly helped the heads of the streams."

- Yizhar Hess, Executive Director and CEO of the Masorti Movement (Conservative)







## Sometimes, it's urgent.

With over 14.5 million Jews living all over the world, sometimes communities urgently need our support. And The Jewish Agency for Israel is there for them. No matter what.

### **WILDFIRES IN ISRAEL** WHEN A FAMILY IS LEFT WITH NO PLACE TO GO, WE'RE THERE.

Toward the end of 2016, northern Israel experienced more than a week of devastating fires that razed over 600 homes and damaged hundreds more. At least 75,000 people were evacuated from their residences. Within days, The Jewish Agency created the Israel Fires Emergency Fund. Generous contributions from our partners allowed us to issue grants of \$1,000 per household to victims right away for immediate support as they faced urgent needs of shelter, food and clothing. By the end of 2016, The Jewish Agency had delivered 618 grants across the country.

In 2017, we continued assisting the victims of these terrible blazes. Another 30 families received initial grants. Additionally, gifts from UIA-Canada made it possible for us to turn attention to those who, months after the fires, still had no home to return to, including many who are elderly or immigrants with limited incomes. These second-round grants helped nearly 100 families further cushion the financial blows of the wildfires.

Families from the town of Halamish sent a joint thank-you letter to The Jewish Agency in November 2017, saying that they were still living in temporary housing and were grateful for the additional donation. "It warms the heart that you didn't forget us even a whole year after the fire," they said. "People like you give us the energy to keep going."

### **THE FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TERROR** BRINGING COMFORT TO LIVES IN UPHEAVAL

The Jewish Agency stands ready to help families of those injured or killed by rocket fire or terrorism in Israel. Within 48 hours of an attack, a representative visits victims and provides emergency aid of over \$1,000. Additionally, we provide services and grants of up to \$6,300 per family for recuperation efforts such as psychological care, job retraining and more. The Fund works with government agencies to avoid duplication of services. Our goal is for victims to return as closely as possible to normal life. In 2017, we provided long-term rehabilitative assistance to 224 victims of previous violence, emergency grants to 14 new victims and respite camping programs to 320 traumatized children.



## ALIJAH OF RESCUE: FOCUS ON VENEZUELA

### ASSURING VENEZUELAN JEWS THEY ARE NEVER, EVER ALONE.

The Jewish Agency runs covert operations in countries where at-risk Jews reside, standing ready to quickly move them to Israel if needed. 1,842 Jews arrived through Aliyah of Rescue in 2017.

Venezuela's government broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 2009. Its government-run media consistently shows an anti-Israel bias while consistently maintaining a pro-Iran stance.

Additionally, Venezuela is in the midst of a dramatic economic crisis, resulting in tremendous food shortages and significant increases in crime.

## CRISIS IN EASTERN UKRAINE

### WE DON'T AVOID DANGEROUS PLACES. THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND US, TOO.

The violent crisis that began in eastern Ukraine in 2012 continues to simmer. Every week, around 5–10 people are killed at the border between areas controlled by Ukraine and those controlled by separatist forces.

Despite the tensions, we've managed to continue hosting Aliyah events and information sessions in eastern Ukraine. Our partnership with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah has led to even more outreach. Lately, there has been an increase in the number of parents deciding to send their teenage children ahead to Israel, regardless of whether the parents plan to make Aliyah, enrolling them in our Na'ale and Sela programs (for high school students and high school graduates, respectively) so they can lay the groundwork for a better future.

We continue to address the challenge of bringing potential Olim (immigrants) out of eastern Ukraine to our Center for Displaced Persons in Dnipro, where they can safely learn Hebrew and receive trauma therapies while awaiting their Aliyah visas. Travel to western Ukraine becomes ever more complicated and perilous. The journey from The Jewish Agency's office in Donetsk to Dnipro, which used to take less than three hours, now takes at least eight. The paperwork of the Olim undertaking this journey is sent in a separate vehicle, to prevent questioning when they are stopped along the way. Still, we succeed in bringing around 50 new, potential Olim to the Dnipro center each month.



## SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUND

### WHERE JEWS FACE DANGER, WE ARE A SHIELD.

In 2017, our Security Assistance Fund, which provides funding for security enhancements such as X-ray scanners, intercom systems, barriers and bulletproof windows, allocated \$1.7 million to Jewish communities and organizations worldwide. The Fund assists Jewish facilities around the world – schools, synagogues and community centers – enabling them to continue community life. As in recent years, the 2017 allocations focus on Jewish institutions in western Europe – including France, Germany, Belgium and Spain – and Turkey. We were also able to deliver this support to various other regions, for example, Brazil, Uruguay and other Latin American Jewish communities. To date, the Fund has allocated over \$10 million to 235 institutions in 58 countries.

# Every time, it's important.

Today, the biggest threat we face comes from a surprising source.

The most widespread problem facing the Jewish people is, thankfully, not life-threatening, but it's complex and serious. In this increasingly open world, our connections are weakening. And the biggest threat to our story is a surprising one. Today, the threat is ourselves.

Too many of us are disconnecting from each other, our land and our shared heritage at an alarming rate. If this continues, our very existence as a people is in danger.

## THE WORK OF THE JEWISH AGENCY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE BRING OUR FELLOW JEWS TOGETHER.

We offer and implement a wide range of programs and shared experiences that nurture personal connections and lasting relationships between Jews. With our unique and strong structure and our dedicated and skilled team, The Jewish Agency is best placed to step up to the challenges facing global Jewry today.

We bring tens of thousands of **young Jews each year to visit Israel** and experience its transformative influence on Jewish engagement. Our Partnership2Gether platform and wide variety of Israeli Shlichim (emissaries) encourage Israeli and Diaspora Jews to build relationships and learn from the best of each other's cultures. **In Israel**, programs such as our pre-army academies and Nativ course for immigrant soldiers provide affirmative ways to explore Jewish heritage and Israeli society in all its complexity. And in the FSU and **around the world**, we offer and support an incredible variety of Jewish educational programs, from teacher training in Argentina to leadership development in Poland and Hungary.

We do all this while continuing to enable **Aliyah** from any country in the world from which any Jewish person wishes to emigrate, including nations that are hostile to Israel. We continue to offer our state-of-the-art absorption programs to accelerate immigrants' integration into Israeli society. And as always, we continue to **help vulnerable Israelis** by increasing their access to education, housing, cultural enrichment, and by training idealistic, social activists who, in turn, widen the circles of impact.





## PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS.

For more than 20 years, **Partnership2Gether: The Jewish Agency Peoplehood Platform (P2G)** has fostered meaningful relationships between Israelis and Diaspora Jews. Today, 46 “sister city”-style partnerships and their wide variety of programming draw around 200,000 Israelis and 150,000 Diaspora Jews each year to experience Israeli and Jewish culture together.

Addressing almost every strategic area of The Jewish Agency, P2G:

- **Connects Diaspora Jews to Israel and their Jewish identities** through long-term, cross-cultural programs, in-person and virtual meetings with Israelis, trips to Israel, youth and leadership-development programs, and mutual home hospitality.
- **Connects Israelis to the Jewish people and their Jewish identities** by exposing them to the varied expressions of Judaism and the enthusiasm of Diaspora Jews, and building friendships within their partner communities.
- **Supports vulnerable Israelis** through individual partnerships, by providing Israeli communities with educational and cultural enrichment, emotional and financial support, and expertise of professionals from the Diaspora.

## A BOND WITH ISRAEL DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN. IT HAS TO BE FORGED. IT HAS TO BE NURTURED.

Every day all over the world, The Jewish Agency inspires young Jews to be a part of the Jewish story – to delve into our collective heritage and engage in their Jewish communities – by providing and supporting formal and informal Jewish education programs and opportunities for young Jews to engage with Israelis, whether by befriending a Shaliach (Israeli emissary), learning Hebrew or visiting Israel.

### MY JEWISH STORY

#### KALI BREHENY

ROCKPORT, MAINE, USA

### MASA ISRAEL JOURNEY

I grew up in Maine. My Jewish mother and Catholic father let me choose which religion I wanted. I chose Judaism, so I went to Hebrew School and had a bat mitzvah.

After graduating from McGill University, I spent a few years traveling and figuring out what kind of career I wanted.

In 2016, I went on Taglit-Birthright, which left me with lots of questions and a strong desire to go back to Israel as soon as I could.

I discovered Israel Government Fellows (IGF), a selective program offered by Masa Israel Journey in cooperation with the Begin Center. **I was interested in international relations and hoped to develop professionally. I also wanted to see what Israel is really all about.**

Over the course of my 10 months on Masa, both of those goals were fulfilled. My fellowship in the Office of the

Prime Minister, working on the Fuel Choices and Smart Mobility Initiative, inspired a passion for the future of transportation. More importantly, I learned so much and **thought deeply about what it means to be a Jew and about my connection to Israel.**

After completing my Masa Israel Journey, I have a better understanding of the issues Israel faces. Now I come from a place of understanding rather than ignorance.

I'm coming back to Israel to continue working at the Office of the Prime Minister for at least six months. Then I'll return to the US. Thanks to Masa, I feel more focused now about my career. I've made connections with organizations that link American and Israeli businesses together, and I feel I could be an asset to them.

On Masa, my Jewish identity evolved. I had always identified as half-Jewish. **Now I've started to say, "Yes, I am Jewish." I hadn't really thought before about what that means, and not in the larger context of the Diaspora and Israel. What has changed is my ability to examine my place as a Jew in the world.** I don't know where in the States I'll settle, but a Jewish community is something I will certainly be looking for.

MASA ISRAEL JOURNEY  
IS A PROGRAM OF  
THE JEWISH AGENCY  
FOR ISRAEL AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.





**"I LEARNED SO MUCH AND THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A JEW AND ABOUT MY CONNECTION TO ISRAEL."**

## **630,000** DIASPORA JEWS WERE CONNECTED TO ISRAEL AND THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY LAST YEAR THROUGH JEWISH AGENCY PROGRAMS.

For example:

- **20,300** young Jews on Jewish Agency-supported Birthright trips, Onward Israel and Masa Israel Journey

- **2,000** communities worldwide inspired by **1,790** Shlichim

- **150,000** Diaspora Jews participated in Partnership2Gether programs

- **61,000** Russian-speaking children, teens and adults in summer camps, leadership development, and education programs







## JEWISH AGENCY SHLICHIM (EMISSARIES) WORLDWIDE

WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ISRAEL COMES UNDERSTANDING.

Each year around 10,500 Israelis apply to The Jewish Agency to bring the spirit of Israel abroad. In 2017 we chose 1,790 of them who embody the best of Israel, and matched them to schools, synagogues, JCCs, camps, universities, youth movements and Federations all over the globe. In training before and throughout their service, The Jewish Agency gives them tools for building Israel-education programs for their audiences.

The variety and credentials of our Shlichim help ensure that any Jewish institution, anywhere, can provide a personal connection to the Jewish state, a staff member who can speak articulately about issues of Zionism, and an Israeli role model to children and youth. In 2017 we did this through:

- 86 Israel Campus Fellows, who met one-on-one with more than 17,000 university students, and attracted more than 37,000 students to Israel-education events.
- 114 Service Year Shlichim, 18-year-olds who deferred their mandatory Israeli military service to serve as young Israeli ambassadors.
- 1,340 Summer Camp Shlichim to North America, who interacted with tens of thousands of campers. Additionally, each year dozens of Russian-speaking Israelis serve as camp counselors in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and around the world.
- 130 Community Shlichim, Organizational Shlichim and Worldwide Community Representatives, who served as central resources for Israel education or supervise other Shlichim.
- 86 Youth Movement Shlichim, who worked with thousands of teens in Zionist movements.
- 32 instructors of Zionist Seminars, an educational program of 2–8 weeks that imparts Jewish-Zionist values through experiential activities.

## MASA ISRAEL JOURNEY

THE BEST WAY TO CONNECT TO ISRAEL IS TO  
EXPERIENCE IT.

Masa Israel Journey works with more than 100 program suppliers to offer Israel experiences that are 2–12 months long: academic semesters, internships, teaching fellowships, volunteer programs, gap-year programs, high-tech career development tracks and pre-Aliyah programs. In addition to generous grants that enable participants to come to Israel long-term and immerse themselves in Israel's daily life, Masa delivers an innovative educational platform to program providers. Research shows that participating in Masa strengthens Diaspora Jews' relationship with Israel and inspires them to advocate for Israel when they return to their communities. These Israel experiences are offered in four languages. In the 2017 program year, Masa drew nearly 11,000 Jews aged 18–30 from all over the world to cities and towns throughout Israel for immersive experiences.

## ACTIVITIES FOR RUSSIAN-SPEAKING JEWRY

For Jews separated from their heritage, we offer ways to bring it back.

The Jewish Agency continues to reach out to the millions of Russian-speaking Jews across the former Soviet Union (FSU) and Germany to reconnect them with Jewish heritage and community life that was lost during the Soviet regime. Our strategic efforts fall into five broad categories:

- Camping, youth programs, teen leadership training and other informal education activities, which reached more than 22,000 children and teens in the last year.
- Multifaceted support for Jewish day schools in the former Soviet Union, with total enrollment of 11,220.
- Young-adult leadership development and support for grassroots initiatives, which involved around 660 Jewish activists and thousands of program participants.
- Israel experiences, including major financial support for Taglit-Birthright from the FSU and Germany, Russian-language Masa programs and teen trips.
- Support for Aliyah. In 2017, The Jewish Agency helped facilitate Aliyah for 16,719 people from the FSU and Germany.

## THE GLOBAL SCHOOL TWINNING NETWORK

Israeli Jews and Diaspora Jews have a lot to learn from each other.

The Jewish Agency pairs 350 schools in Israel (in which there are 28,000 students) with 350 “twin” schools in Jewish communities worldwide. By sharing projects and developing friendships, students in both schools expand their Jewish worldviews. For students in the Diaspora, Israel grows from an abstract concept to a tangible reality. For Israeli students, the Jewish commitment of their Diaspora peers inspires a connection to the global Jewish family and eye-opening ideas of how they can express Jewish identity.

The network now offers curricula for grades 5–12 that focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This program piloted successfully in two pairs of schools in the Eilat-Eilat-Toronto partnership and one in the Nesher-Istanbul partnership. The Jewish Agency offers curricula on STEAM (STEM plus the Arts) as well.







## THE FUTURE OF OUR JEWISH STORY DEPENDS ON SOME CRITICAL PLAYERS.

The Jewish Agency works to enhance and expand young Israelis' views of the roles that Israel and Judaism can take in their lives, and strives to remind them that each and every one of them is an essential thread in the vibrant tapestry of the Jewish story and of Israel. With this in mind, we train them to initiate educational and cultural programs of their own.

### MY JEWISH STORY

#### OMER KALDERON

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

### BRINGING IT BACK HOME

Toward the end of my service as a commando in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), I was trained by The Jewish Agency to teach others about Israel. I went to Atlanta for the summer to serve as the music and song leader at Camp Barney, a JCC camp. I was working with kids who were developing their first relationships with Israel. When I returned to Israel, I went back to my army base; it was a tough transition. Then I fought in the 2008 Gaza War. I'd felt at home at the Jewish camp in America, and then with the war, my actual home felt less like home. I was 21.

Working with American kids in a Jewish environment, I'd discovered something bigger – heritage and family. I began exploring the meaning of being Israeli and the experiences of Diaspora Jews. Having worked with younger children, I was curious to see how American-Jewish identity develops as they become teens, so I took a job as a full-time coordinator for the Young Judea Year Course in Israel and then went to the Young Judea camp in upstate New York as a Shaliach (emissary) camp counselor. After that, I was still curious to learn about different Diaspora communities, so I became a Jewish Agency Shaliach in Cape Town, South Africa. For two years, I worked there in a Jewish school, as a counselor in the Habonim Dror Zionist youth movement, and for the South African Zionist Federation planning events. It was an incredible experience.

While working as a Shaliach, I went from wanting to change other people's perceptions of Israel to wanting to learn things – about Judaism, Jewish culture and embracing each others' differences. **And as much as I gave as a Shaliach, I got so much more.** I developed a passion for changing things in Israel and felt that I could. The Jewish Agency offered me the ability to take what I'm so passionate about and actually make a difference in Israel.

The program I chose is offered through a partnership between The Jewish Agency and Gvanim, an Israeli organization that focuses on community-building.

**This program for Returning Shlichim focuses on developing pluralism in Israel.**

In my Jewish Agency-Gvanim program, a group of former Shlichim from different backgrounds meet regularly to deepen our understanding of pluralism and explore how we can develop it in Israel. The group includes people from Tel Aviv and from settlements, religious and secular. Each meeting focuses on a controversial topic, such as the different streams of Judaism, the settlements and

development in Israel's periphery. We discuss our own ideas about how to bring pluralism into our communities in positive ways.

For me, it's important to expose Israelis to various religious streams and the idea that Judaism isn't only about religion; it's also culture and nationality. It's fantastic that **The Jewish Agency gives former Shlichim tools and platforms for positive change.**

**BRINGING IT BACK HOME CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMER SHLICHIM (EMISSARIES) TO CONTINUE SERVING THE JEWISH WORLD.**





**"IT'S FANTASTIC THAT THE JEWISH AGENCY GIVES FORMER SHLICHIM TOOLS AND PLATFORMS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE."**

## WE ENGAGED **1,054,000** ISRAELIS IN PROGRAMS THAT EXPAND THEIR VISION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH OR ISRAELI.

For example:

**834,000** children and young adults in Funding for Religious Streams educational programs

- **374,300** in Reform movement programs

- **430,800** in Conservative movement programs

- **28,900** in Modern Orthodox programs

- **200,000** Israelis in Partnership2Gether programming

- **1,700** IDF soldiers built their Jewish identities in The Jewish Agency's Nativ program

- **930** were better prepared for their pre-military IDF service and life immediately after it







## SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S PROGRESSIVE JEWISH STREAMS

WE HAVE ONE STORY. BUT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BE JEWISH.

Helping Israelis connect with a diverse range of Jewish expressions is welcome in Israel. As is helping Diaspora Jews feel comfortable with their Jewish identity. In 2017, The Jewish Agency allocated \$2.66 million to educational programs offered by Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox institutions in Israel – youth movements, leadership training, bar and bat mitzvah programs, services for at-risk youth, elementary school networks and more. These programs drew over 834,000 participants in 2017.

Each year, 40% of the funds for the religious streams are earmarked for Reform programs, 40% for Conservative programs and 20% for Modern Orthodox programs. In 2017, The Jewish Agency was proud to support these initiatives in the following organizations:

- **Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (Reform):** leadership-development programs, the Yachdav Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education, outreach to young families, youth volunteerism, development of new congregations in Israel, and education for Russian-speaking Israelis
- **Hebrew Union College (Reform):** ordination for Israeli Reform rabbis
- **Masorti Movement (Conservative):** NOAM youth movement activities, young leadership development, inclusion programs for children with disabilities, religious services and counseling in communities, and development of new congregations
- **Schechter Institutes (Conservative):** the Neve Schechter pluralistic center for education and culture in Tel Aviv, the Bet Midrash for Israeli Jewish Leadership, a master's program for teachers and community center staff in underserved communities at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and the TALI School Network, which includes 310 secular schools committed to nurturing Jewish identity
- **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism:** the Conservative Yeshiva and a gap-year program that serves a mix of Israeli and overseas young people
- **OU Israel (Orthodox):** outreach program and drop-in center for at-risk youth, youth clubs in development towns, bar and bat mitzvah programs in underserved communities, and the Makom Balev youth movement (NCSY in Israel)
- **International Young Israel Movement (Orthodox):** programs addressing the problem of Jewish divorce refusal, programs for deaf and hearing-impaired Israelis, and a "Teen Café" in Sderot
- **Yeshiva University (Orthodox):** Counterpoint summer camps in the Negev

## PROJECT TEN: GLOBAL TIKKUN OLAM

NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, WE CAN ALL CONNECT AS HUMAN BEINGS.

Project TEN, a "Jewish Peace Corps" program that brings hundreds of young Jewish adults from Israel and around the world to volunteer and study in developing countries, recently opened new volunteer centers in Namulanda, Uganda, and Durban, South Africa. Along with the three existing centers in Ghana, Mexico and Israel, participants volunteer with local NGOs, work on sustainable programs, study Jewish texts, and share celebrations of Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

## RETURNING SHLICHIM (EMISSARIES)

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When Shlichim return to Israel, they bring the Diaspora and passion back home.

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Each year, The Jewish Agency sends more and more Shlichim to represent Israel in Diaspora communities – nearly 1,800 in 2017. While overseas, they learn about varied expressions of Jewish identity, and they bond with world Jewry.

Upon their return, The Jewish Agency harnesses their heightened motivation to serve Israeli society. Leveraging the platforms of our Young Activism team and through partnerships with other organizations such as Hillel Israel and Gvanim, we provide programs that encourage social activism and develop leadership and pluralism. In the 2017 program year, 1,100 returned Shlichim “brought it back home” with The Jewish Agency.

Additionally, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and the Mandel Supporting Foundations have created the Mandel Program for Excellence, which is preparing young, returned Shlichim for additional service throughout the Jewish world. In 2017, the first seven Fellows were selected and placed in strategic positions across The Jewish Agency. They continue both their on-the-job training and additional leadership development, which includes seminars, overnight retreats and guest lectures. We have also begun the process of recruiting and screening for the second cohort that begins a new program cycle in 2018.



## CHOOSING TOMORROW

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Many young people want to help others. We show them how.

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Through Choosing Tomorrow, Israeli college and university students receive training to start their own educational or social-welfare programs in underserved communities. Upon graduation, many participants remain in those communities to continue building the programs they launched.

207 students participated in Choosing Tomorrow in 2017, and more than 4,000 participated in the resulting initiatives.

A new track for recently released lone soldiers launched. While providing a platform for continued service to Israel, Choosing Tomorrow also addresses the challenges of transitioning to civilian life.





## MECHINOT (PRE-ARMY ACADEMIES)

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Helping people get ready to enter an army that's always ready.

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Jewish Agency Mechinot provide 6 months of leadership training and Jewish study before Israelis enter the IDF. They include men's, women's and co-ed programs for young people from underserved communities. Additionally, one group of academies serves Israeli and Diaspora participants together. The Agency also recently launched a pre-army academy for ultra-Orthodox men, one for groups of Druze and Jews, and one for groups of Christians and Jews. Our pre-army Mechinot served more than 1,000 participants in the 2017 program year.

Many participants are Olim (immigrants to Israel). The IDF noticed that graduates of Jewish Agency academies were exceptionally well-prepared for military service, and asked The Jewish Agency to create a one-month program for immigrants. This "mini mechinah" served 120 future soldiers in 2017.



# WE'RE NOT JUST CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH OTHER.

Our story is each other.

For thousands of years, we've been connected to each other and responsible for one another. Only by remaining that way will we, the Jewish people, continue to thrive.

The Jewish Agency uplifts vulnerable Israelis by increasing their access to education, housing and cultural enrichment. We also train social activists to widen our circles of impact. In these ways, The Jewish Agency closes social and economic gaps and lays the groundwork for long-term positive social change.

## MY JEWISH STORY

### ELIZAVETA PALAMARCHUK

HAIFA, ISRAEL

#### AMIGOUR

I grew up in a shtetl in eastern Poland with my parents and two brothers. In 1941, when I was 13, the Nazis came. They took us from our homes to the other side of the river. There, they lined up the men and young adults on one side, and the women, children and elderly on the other side. They put my father in the line and killed him. The rest of us were taken to the ghetto. I was sent to work cleaning the streets in the Christian area of the village.

Several weeks later, they rounded up us teenagers, loaded us onto trucks, and took us to a nearby forest where they had already dug pits for our bodies. There was a crowd, and I was near the gate. While the guards weren't looking, I managed to slip away and run to the ghetto. I was small and there was heavy fog, so they didn't see me.

My mother and brothers were still in the ghetto. She was a seamstress and sewed clothes for the Christian women. She arranged with one of them to hide me. The woman took me to her house, then sent me to her daughter in another village, and then to a village in northwest Ukraine to live with Mr. Ignat Poleshuk and his family.

They built me a hideout in the stable, from which I emerged only at night. When the neighbors came looking for Jews, I hid in a different place every time – the basement, the fields, in the shrubs. The mayor was a friend of Mr. Poleshuk, so we were always warned when the Germans were coming, and I'd hide. More than two years passed like this.

When the Red Cross came, I was free. But my mother and brothers had been killed. I decided to stay with the Poleshuks and lived with them until 1949. Then I got married, and we lived for 38 years in Ukraine.

Years later my daughter made Aliyah. My husband and son had died, and so in 1991, I followed her. **At first I lived alone in a small community near Haifa, where I found an affordable place, but felt isolated and lonely.**

I was so happy when I got my apartment in the Amigour center in Haifa. Here I have my own room with

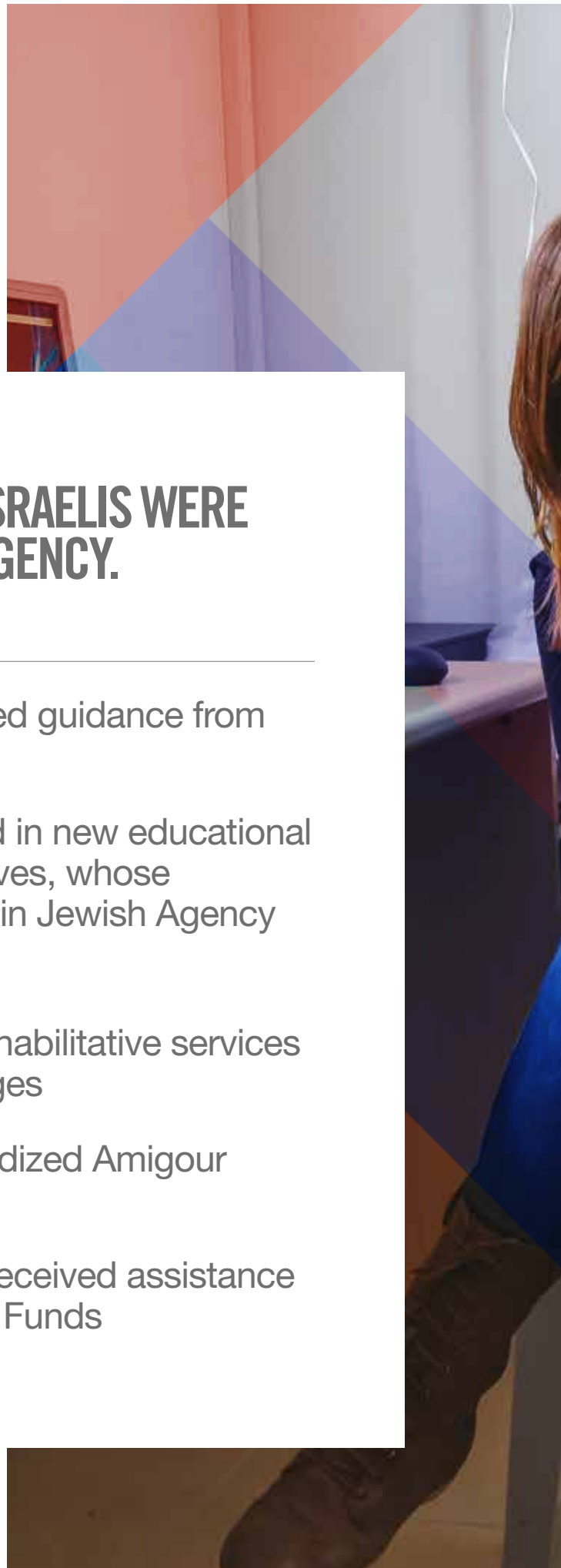
a bathroom and kitchenette. **I'm not lonely because there are people from Poland, Russia and Ukraine here.** My daughter visits me every day, but many of the people here don't have family nearby. When someone is sick or having a hard time, I sit with them. I translate letters for one woman from Polish to Russian. I planted an indoor garden in the hallway to make it pretty. **I'm 90 now, but I'm never idle. I'm so happy here.**

AMIGOUR, ISRAEL'S  
LARGEST SHELTERED  
HOUSING COMPANY,  
PROVIDES SUBSIDIZED  
HOUSING FOR  
VULNERABLE ISRAELIS.





**"I'M 90 NOW, BUT I'M NEVER IDLE. I'M SO HAPPY HERE."**



## **248,000** UNDERSERVED ISRAELIS WERE HELPED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY.

For example:

- **4,130** at-risk children received guidance from Youth Futures mentors
- **184,000** Israelis participated in new educational and socially conscious initiatives, whose organizers have been trained in Jewish Agency Young Activism programs
- **785** at-risk teens received rehabilitative services at Jewish Agency Youth Villages
- **47,000** Israelis lived in subsidized Amigour facilities
- **207** small business owners received assistance through Jewish Agency Loan Funds





## YOUTH FUTURES

### A YOUTH FUTURES MENTOR MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO KIDS.

Youth Futures addresses the needs of at-risk children, teens, families and communities through a unique mentoring model.

Each young adult mentor is trained to guide 16 children for 3–5 years in four areas of the children’s lives: their resilience and self-confidence, their relationships with family members, their ability to make and keep friends, and their academic performance – with an emphasis on parental involvement. In each community, a Family and Community Coordinator helps families access social services and manage their budgets, teaches parenting skills and harnesses local resources to build a positive school environment for all children.

In the 2017 program year, Youth Futures Mentors worked with 4,130 children as well as their families, teachers and community leaders, impacting more than 12,000 Israelis. In September 2017, The Jewish Agency started recruiting families in six pilot communities for the launch of **Baby Futures**, which expands the Youth Futures model to at-risk families with children under 3 years old.

## SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

### WHEN YOU GIVE SOMEONE A HOME, YOU ALSO GIVE THEM DIGNITY.

In 2015, The Jewish Agency and the State of Israel signed an historic agreement to build 3,000 units of housing to address Israel’s acute shortage of public housing. Construction began at the beginning of 2017 and is proceeding on schedule; it is expected to be completed within five years. The housing is being built on properties owned by The Jewish Agency and UIA and its supporters, and the project is being managed by Amigour, a Jewish Agency subsidiary. The state is providing a grant of up to 50% of the construction funds, and The Jewish Agency is funding the remainder from loans and designated donations.

## WE'VE HELPED OVER 3 MILLION JEWS BE PART OF THE JEWISH STORY IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY. WE'VE BROUGHT THEM HOME.

And we're still going strong. We continue to provide crucial pre-Aliyah information, temporary housing, Hebrew lessons, social support, vocational training, and employment guidance to tens of thousands of Olim every year.

### MY JEWISH STORY

#### MARCELLO LIEBERMAN

FORMERLY OF RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

#### ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULT OLIM — IMMERSIVE HEBREW AND PERSONAL GUIDANCE (ULPANIM)

Growing up, I visited Israel twice. The first time was for my bar mitzvah. I thought Israel was amazing, but I was 13 and always in a hurry so I couldn't enjoy it much. Later in high school, I came to Israel on a teen trip. Since I was a little older and had grown up a bit, I perceived Israel differently and noticed more details.

In 12th grade, I found out that The Jewish Agency had arranged for the Israeli university admissions exam to be given in Portuguese. It was then I started thinking about Aliyah. I went to university for a year and studied dentistry, but my Zionist ideals kept calling me back to Israel. I decided to go on a Masa Israel Journey program to see what it's like to live in Israel and began thinking about attending university there.

The Masa program I chose is run by the Jewish youth movement I'd grown up in. The first few months we lived and studied at The Jewish Agency's Machon leadership-training program for youth movement counselors, and then we spent several months volunteering. One thing they told us at Machon that always stuck with me is that, "Israel isn't just flowers." Yes, Israel

is beautiful. But it isn't only beautiful. In addition to the beauty, there are problems. I appreciated that they were being real with us and giving us space to have a nuanced view of the country.

Brazil has problems too, much worse than Israel's. There, people get robbed and murdered in the street. **Israel's problems don't come close to Brazil's. But that's not why I made Aliyah. I made Aliyah because I'm a Zionist. Israel is precious to me.** I don't have the privilege of being a native Israeli, but someday my children will be.

While on Masa, I talked with Aliyah specialists at The Jewish Agency and got information about programs that could help me learn Hebrew and adjust to Israel. I chose the ulpan at Beit Brodetsky because it's in Tel Aviv, so it would be pretty simple for me to find a part-time job after classes each morning. The program at Beit Brodetsky is set up to make it easy for new Olim to handle all the logistics of immigrating and finding employment while also learning Hebrew intensively and making new friends.

**You think as an immigrant you'll be alone, but at Beit Brodetsky I've made friends from Greece, Spain, England, the US, Turkey, Russia and France. That means I have to speak Hebrew!**

After Beit Brodetsky, I'll enlist in the IDF, and then I'm not sure what I'll do. Maybe I'll continue to study dentistry. Everyone here says "I'at I'at" ("Slowly slowly," in Hebrew). They remind us constantly that getting settled in Israel and making a new life as an immigrant takes time.

THE JEWISH AGENCY  
FOR ISRAEL OFFERS  
COMPREHENSIVE  
SUPPORT SERVICES TO  
YOUNG ADULTS WHO  
MAKE ALIYAH.





**"ISRAEL IS PRECIOUS TO ME. I DON'T HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A NATIVE ISRAELI, BUT SOMEDAY MY CHILDREN WILL BE."**

## WE HELPED **29,323** PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MAKE ISRAEL THEIR HOME DURING 2017.

- **16,555** Former Soviet Union (**7,263** from Russia, **7,206** from Ukraine)
- **4,919** Western Europe (**3,536** from France)
- **3,538** United States of America and Canada
- **1,547** Latin America (**690** from Brazil)
- **554** South Africa, Australia and New Zealand
- **521** Middle East and Turkey
- **1,536** Rest of Africa and Asia (**1,316** from Ethiopia)







## OFEK ISRAELI

MOVING TO ISRAEL IS A MAJOR STEP. WE PREPARE PEOPLE TO TAKE IT.

Created in 2016, Ofek Israeli is a partnership between The Jewish Agency, the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, Keren Hayesod and WZO. It aims for maximum exposure to Aliyah opportunities.

In addition to Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, France, the UK, Brazil and Argentina, in 2017 Ofek Israeli began working in Hungary and Venezuela, and with the Russian-speaking Jewish populations in the United States and Canada. Examples of its 2017 achievements:

- More than 200 Aliyah activities in the former Soviet Union (FSU), including 30 Aliyah Fairs.
- 25,000 participants in France and England.
- 20,000 people viewed Facebook Live presentations.
- Employment guidance in France, England, Brazil, Argentina and the FSU is now deeper and more personalized, with a counselor advising each Oleh (immigrant) individually based on his or her particular education, work history and interests.

## LAST YEAR, WE HELPED **15,000** IMMIGRANTS LEARN HEBREW AND MAKE FRIENDS IN ISRAEL, THEIR NEW HOME.

For example:

- **6,600** in absorption centers
- **1,365** at Ulpan Etzion (immersive Hebrew for college graduates)
- **1,000** lone soldiers in Wings
- **475** at Beit Brodetsky (immersive Hebrew in Tel Aviv)
- **600** in Kibbutz Ulpan (immersive Hebrew for high school and college graduates)

### YOUNG ADULT ALIYAH

YOUNG ADULT OLIM PLAY A SPECIAL PART IN OUR JEWISH STORY.

While The Jewish Agency assists all Jews in Aliyah, our efforts focus on young adults aged 18–35, who often have educations valuable to Israel, and make Aliyah at a time when it is easier to learn Hebrew, make friends and establish careers. Our variety of residential absorption programs for this group offer guidance on joining Israeli universities, the IDF and the workforce, as well as Hebrew ulpan (immersive language classes) and activities that help them acclimate to Israeli society. In the last year, our absorption programs for this age group provided a “soft landing” for 4,565 young people.

Additionally, our Absorption Centers offer professional licensing and training programs to help Olim bring marketable skills into Israel’s workforce, with most programs guaranteeing job placement upon completion. In 2017, out of 325 Olim who took advantage of these opportunities, 267 were aged 18–35. New programs in 2017 included training for future carpenters, mechanics and young adult chefs from France.





## ISRAEL TECH CHALLENGE

HELPING PROMISING YOUNG ADULTS LEARN FROM THE LEADERS OF START-UP NATION.

In cooperation with Masa Israel Journey, Israel Tech Challenge (ITC) is a 10-month professional program for young engineers and computer science students. (ITC also offers 3-week and 5-month coding boot camps and summer internships.) 80% of Tech Challenge Fellows alumni extend their stays in Israel after their fellowships. ITC now has more than 400 alumni, nearly a third of whom remain in Israel, working in the high-tech industry.







# For thousands of years, we have been a people bound together in values and beliefs, in dreams, in heritage and in destiny.

Our shared traditions, struggles and immense pride in who we are, along with what we have accomplished and contributed to the world, bind us all together and make us strong. As does our shared dream of a Jewish homeland in Israel.

It is these bonds that make us feel a part of something. A part of the rich, colorful, forever evolving Jewish story.

To keep our story going, we need to harness and nurture these bonds. To celebrate them. To continue to build these lasting bonds with each other. And with Israel.

The Jewish Agency is here to show what it means to be a part of the incredible story of our people. We are here to remind each and every one of us that we are all essential threads in the vibrant tapestry of the Jewish story and of Israel.

Only by remaining personally connected will we, the Jewish people, continue to thrive.

**Every one of us, together.**

## THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL LEADERSHIP

Our leaders at every level are passionate, determined and committed. It's reflected in every aspect of our work and the way in which we approach it.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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**NATAN SHARANSKY** CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE

**DAVID BREAKSTONE** DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE

**DAVID SILVERS** CHAIRMAN OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Yigal Bibi	Dina Hahn	Meir Neriya	Yehiel Wasserman
Harvey Blitz	Ellen Hershkin	Marlene Post	Steven Wernick
Kenneth Bob	Rick Jacobs	Uriel Reichman	Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman
David Breakstone	Silvio Joskowicz	Marina Rozenberg Koritny	Itai Zaidenberg
Gillian Caplin	Meir Kahlon	Eliezer (Moodi) Sandberg	Gary Zaltsman
Avraham Duvdevani	Jack Kahn	Julie Schonfeld	
David Eliezie	Andrew Keen	Alex Selsky	Honorary Members:
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Karma Feinstein-Cohen	Joel Koschitzky	Eliezer Sheffer	Kurt Rothschild
Daniel Freeland	Jacques Kupfer	Haim Shine	
Marla Gamoran	Danny Lamm	Alan Silverstein	

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Richard Bernstein	Beth Kieffer Leonard	Dorothy Tananbaum	Jane Sherman
David Brown	Lori Klinghoffer	Laurence Tisdale	Carole Solomon
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Betsy Gidwitz	Richard Sandler		
Richard Goodman	Jeffrey Schoenfeld		
Seth Greenberg	Cindy Shapira		



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Ronni Benatoff  
Anita Fischer  
Michael Frankel  
Leslie Gales  
Penny Hurst

Robert Kaplan  
Warren Kimel  
David Koschitzky  
Susan Laxer  
Mark Leibler  
Sabby Mionis

Menno Paktor  
Stephen Pincus  
Richard Prasquier  
Jack Smorgon  
David Sutton

Honorary Members:  
Julia Koschitzky  
Danny Liwerant  
Harvey Wolfe

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## PAST CHAIRMEN

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James S. Tisch 2011-2014  
Richard L. Pearlstone 2007-2011  
Carole Solomon 2003-2007  
Alex Grass, Z"l 1999-2003  
Charles Goodman 1995-1999  
Mendel Kaplan, Z"l 1987-1995  
Jerold Hoffberger, Z"l 1983-1987  
Max Fisher, Z"l 1971-1983,  
Founding Chair

### EXECUTIVE

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Avraham Burg 1995-1999  
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Joseph Almogi, Z"l 1976-1978  
Pinchas Sapir, Z"l 1974-1975  
Arye L. Pincus, Z"l 1965-1973  
Moshe Sharett, Z"l 1961-1965  
Zalman Shazar, Z"l 1956-1961  
Berl Locker, Z"l 1948-1956  
David Ben-Gurion, Z"l 1935-1948  
Arthur Ruppin, Z"l 1933-1935

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## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

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**AMIRA AHARONOVICH** DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL & COO

**MOSHE ASHIRIE** CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**LARA BASHKOFF** CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

**GAL BEN SHIMOL** CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER, NORTH AMERICA

**BOSMAT CHELOUCHE** LEGAL ADVISOR

**SHAY FELBER** DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, COMMUNITY SERVICES WORLDWIDE

**JOSHUA M. FOGELSON** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JEWISH AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**SHIVI GREENFIELD** CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

**JOSH SCHWARCZ** SECRETARY GENERAL & DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & SECURITY

**MOSHE SHIFF** DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION





# **Jewish people are all over the world. Fortunately, so are Jewish organizations.**

The Jewish Agency is privileged to partner with the Jewish Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod/UIA, as well as foundations and other donors in Israel and around the world. We are proud to continue our close partnership with the Government of Israel.

Thank you for helping us ensure that every Jew, everywhere in the world, is a part of our Jewish story.





**הסוכנות היהודית  
לארץ ישראל  
FOR ISRAEL**

**Every one of us, together.**

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633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: 212-339-6000

Partner Agency of  
The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA



**קרן היסוד  
KEREN HAYESOD  
UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL**

**הסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION**



[jewishagency.org](http://jewishagency.org)

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The Jewish Agency is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America/UJA, Keren Hayesod as well as foundations and individual donors from Israel and around the world.





# Our friends and partners in making a world of difference

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Our friends and partners in 2017. Together we are ensuring that every Jewish person is a part of the Jewish story.

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The Jewish Agency is proud and privileged to represent the voices of Jewish people and communities around the world. Our friends and partners ensure we have the global reach and financial strength to address the needs of the Jewish people on a large scale, along with the infrastructure to quickly meet urgent needs as they arise. To all our many friends and supporters around the globe, we offer our profound thanks for your partnership.



הסוכנות היהודית  
JEWISH AGENCY  
לארץ ישראל  
FOR ISRAEL

Every one of us, together.



## THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

To the Jewish Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod/UIA, your core support powers our global partnership. No single gift touches more lives. We also thank the many Federations who not only provide indispensable core funding, but also make designated grants to critical programs and emergency campaigns.

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Jewish Community Board of Akron, Inc.	Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, Inc.	Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis
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Jewish Federation of Arkansas	Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties	Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City
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Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey	Jewish Federation of Greater Portland	Jewish Federation of St. Louis
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Jewish Federation of Central New York	Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island	Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
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Jewish Federation of Omaha	Jewish Federation of Rockland County	United Jewish Federation of Utah
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Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, New York	Jewish Federation of San Antonio	Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando	Jewish Federation of San Diego County	United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula
Jewish Federation of Ottawa	Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties	Jewish Federation of Volusia & Flagler Counties
Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County	Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara	The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County	Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee	Jewish Community Alliance of Northeastern Pennsylvania (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
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## KEREN HAYESOD/UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

### *English-Speaking Countries Campaigns*

United Israel Appeal Australia  
 UIA Federations Canada  
 United Jewish Israel Appeal Great Britain  
 United Israel Appeal Hong Kong  
 Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal Singapore

FBP Unity

Keren Hayesod – Taiwan Campaign

### *European Region Campaigns*

Keren Hajessod – Vereinigte Aktion Fuer Israel, Austria  
 Keren Hayessod - Vereinigde Israel Actie, Antwerpen

Keren Hayessod, Solidarite avec Israel, Bruxelles  
 Keren Hayessod, Luxemburg  
 Keren Hayessod - Appel Unifié pour Israël Juif de France  
 Keren Hayesod – Vereinigte Israel Aktion e. V., Berlin  
 Keren Hayesod – Vereinigte Israel Aktion e. V., Frankfurt

Keren Hayesod – Vereinigte Israel Aktion  
e. V., München

Keren Hayesod – Appello Unificato per Israele, Milano

Keren Hayesod – Appello Unificato per Israele, Roma

Keren Hajessod Schweiz – Vereinigte Israel Aktion  
(Zurich)

Keren Hayessod Action Israel – Suisse Romande,  
Genève

Collectieve Israel Actie, The Netherlands

Christenen Voor Israel, The Netherlands

Forenade Israelinsamlingen Sweden

Keren Hayesod – Den Danske  
Israelindsamling, Denmark

Keren Hayesod Finland

Patmos Foundation, Finland

Hjelp Jews Home, Norway

Fellesinnsamlingen for Israel - MAGBIT, Norway

Keren Hayesod – Help The Jews Home –  
Faroe Islands

Keren Hayesod Iceland

Keren Hayesod Monaco

Visjon Norge – Israelkanalen, Norway

Ebenezer Hilfsfonds Deutschland e. V., Germany

### ***Eastern Region Campaigns***

Keren Hayesod Athens

Keren Hayesod Thessaloniki

Keren Hayesod Ukraine

Keren Hayesod CIS & Baltic States

Israel United Appeal-UCF South Africa

### ***Latin American Region Campaigns***

Campaña Unida Judeo Argentina

Keren Hayesod Bolivia

Fundo Comunitário Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Fundo Comunitário São Paulo, Brasil

Keren Hayesod Chile

Keren Hayesod Costa Rica

Keren Hayesod Colombia

Keren Hayesod Ecuador

Keren Hayesod España

Keren Hayesod Guatemala

Keren Hayesod México

Keren Hayesod Panamá

Keren Hayesod Paraguay

Keren Hayesod Perú

Keren Hayesod Portugal

Fundacion Keren Hayesod Uruguay

C.U.E. Venezuela

## **FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS**

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### ***Chairmen's Council (\$500,000 and over)***

Adelson Family Foundation

Anonymous

Avi Chai Foundation

Belz Enterprises

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against  
Germany Inc.

Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation

Friends of the Israel Defense Force (FIDF)

Genesis Philanthropy Group

Betsy Gidwitz

The Goldrich Family Foundation

Alexander Grass Foundation

Jewish National Fund (JNF)

Jim Joseph Foundation

Julia and Henry Koschitzky

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation

Lauren and Ezra Merkin/Tehila Foundation

James S. and Meryll H. Tisch Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Wilf Family Foundation

Mortimer Zuckerman

### ***Ben Gurion International Leadership Council (\$50,000 and over)***

Adnim Foundation

Diana Anderson

Anonymous

Blank Family Foundation

Blavatnik Family Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

CAF Russia

Charities Aid Foundation

Chinese Watchman Prayer Wall

CUFI Las Vegas

Helen Diller Foundation

Ebenezer Emergency Fund International

Endtime Ministries Inc.

The Friends of Israel

Beth Goldsmith

Barnard J. Gottstein

Rochelle & Harley Gross Philanthropic Fund

Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc.



Gwangju Gyeojassi Church	Daniel and Bente Lyons Endowment Fund	Nathan T. Sedley Memorial Fund
Harris Family Foundation	Maranatha Chapel	Ronald A. Sedley
Heart for Zion Ministry	Peter May	Seed The Dream Foundation
Tom and Kate Hess, All Nations Convocation, Jerusalem	The David and Laura Merage Foundation	Segal Family Foundation
IKEA	The Morningstar Foundation	Sofia and Mikhail Segal
International Christian Embassy	Mack Ness Designated Fund	Jane F. and Larry Sherman
Miriam Kaitz Israel Designated Fund	Noble Energy	Charles E. Smith Family Foundation
Arlene Kaufman and Sanford Baklor	Linda and Stuart Nord Family Foundation	Carole A. Solomon
KIBI-Korea Israel Bible Institute	Ohr Avner Foundation Chabad-Lubavitch	Thomas Family Endowment
Warren Kimel	one8 Foundation	Morris & Sylvia Trachten Family Foundation
The Kirsh Foundation	Pearlstone Family Fund	Steven Ungerleider
Klein Enterprises	Prentis Family Support Foundation	West Hills Presbyterian Church
Koret Foundation	The Presbyterian Church of Korea	Dana and Julie Zeff
David and Sarena Koschitzky	Charles and Ilana Horowitz Ratner	Ron Zeff
The Kraft Family Foundation, Inc.	Sam Roosth Foundation	
Gilbert and Florence Kulick Estate	Mark J. Rowan/MJR Foundation LLC	
Stacy K. and Mark F. Levy	Ruderman Family Foundation	
	Saban Family Foundation	

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***Additional Friends (\$25,000 and over)***

Anonymous	The Roger & Susan Hertog Charitable Fund	Lynn & Andrew Redleaf Foundation
Anonymous	The iCenter	Phillip and Bella Regan Memorial Fund
Janet and Jeffrey Beck	Steven M. Katz	Ira Leon & Ingeborg Rennert
Paul & Pearl Caslow Foundation	Anla and Mark Kingdon	Elliott Rusanow
Solomon and Mitzi Center	Lori & Steven Klinghoffer Philanthropic Fund	Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Paul Fribourg and Paula Zahn/Continental Grain Foundation	David Lane	Cindy and David Shapira
Ebenezer Emergency Fund	Tian En Lee	Shapiro-Silverberg Foundation
Dede and Kenneth Feinberg	Benjamin R A Levit Family Fund	Michael H. Steinhardt
Abraham Gertzman Fund	H. Irwin and Ellen Levy	Jerome L. Stern Family Foundation, Inc.
Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund	Love 153 International	Ira Wagner
Melinda Goldrich	Sabby Mionis	Charles and Randi Wax Fund
Geri and Mason Haupt	David & Inez Myers Foundation	Zhovten Fund
	One Mission	

## THE JEWISH AGENCY ENDOWMENT

The following visionaries have made a legacy commitment to support the vital work of The Jewish Agency for Israel in perpetuity.

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Bennett Aaron	H. Irwin Levy	Mike Shapiro
Joan Benstock	Norman Lipoff	Jane F. and Larry Sherman
Margot Benstock	Neil Moss	Alan Shulman
Herschel Blumberg, z"l	Estate of Helen Orvaschel	Carole Solomon
Crown Family Foundation	Karen Pack	Harvey Weinstein
Betsy Gidwitz	Richard Pearlstone	Julie Wise Oreck
Alex Grass, z"l	Myra Reinhard	Dorothy Wizer
Arlene Kaufman	Jay Sarver	
Lili Kaufmann	Ronald A. Sedley	

## ISRAEL EDUCATION FUND

We would like to thank our many partners who have infused Israel's communities with educational, cultural and sports facilities to support community growth. The Israel Education Fund is a campaign of The United Jewish Appeal / JFNA and continues to work closely with The Jewish Agency for Israel.

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Rita Allen Foundation	The Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton	Shelters for Israel
The Jacques Asseoff Estate	Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	Alvin S. Tilles Estate
Selim and Rachel Benin Fund	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit	UJA-Federation of New York
Gladys and Irving Coopersmith Charitable Trust	Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds	The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Estate of Greta Einhorn	Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Awards Committee	Arthur and Joan Weisberg Family Foundation, Inc.
Greater Miami Jewish Federation	Estate of Helen Orvaschel	Estate of Helen Zuckerman
The Dr. Bernard Heller Foundation	The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation	
Iranian American Jewish Federation	The Ressler/Gertz Family Foundation	
Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County	Dr. Livia Ross Scholarship Fund	
	The Robert Russell Foundation	

## SPIRIT OF ISRAEL / PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

The Jewish Agency has many friends who work with us to change the face of philanthropy in Israel. Our main partner in this effort, Spirit of Israel, was founded by The Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod/UIA in 1997. Donors to the Spirit of Israel campaign continue to make an extraordinary impact on Israeli society.

The following Israeli individuals and business partners have demonstrated outstanding support and volunteerism over time.

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Adiv Hotel	Discount Bank	Matrix
Altshuler Shacham	ExLibris	Oran Foundation
Azorim	Ishaia and Jane Gol	Pell Family Foundation
Vera Bandler, z"l	Eyal Hareuveny	Shibolet & Co.
Bank Hapoalim	Hypermedia Systems Ltd.	SIEMENS
Bank Leumi	I.B.I. Investments Ltd.	Nadav Sonenberg
Big Shopping Centers Group	Keshet	SP-Metzerplas
Check Point	Joel Koschitzky	Surecomp
Clal Group	KPMG	The Peretz Naftali Foundation
Compedia	Benny Levin	Yael Software
Comsecure	Ben & Evelyn Lipshitz Charity Trust	Z.M.H. Hammerman Group
Dganey Alon	Lions of Judah Israel	

## UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL (U.S.A.)

*The United Israel Appeal, a subsidiary of the Jewish Federations of North America, is a principal beneficiary of JFNA's United Jewish Appeal Federation Campaign.*

For more than three decades, through United Israel Appeal, The Jewish Agency has been the recipient of a U.S. Government grant to bring humanitarian migrants from distressed countries to Israel. A considerable portion of the funds is used to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel and to settle them in temporary housing. The grant was initiated by Congress during the early 1970s in response to the first large influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration supervises grant programs. Key members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have provided the leadership to assure continued support. Over the years, members of Congress have recognized the continuing responsibility to help bring Jews to Israel from distressed countries based on the principle that free emigration is a hallmark of a democratic society, and therefore a priority of the U.S. Congress. They look upon this grant as a concrete expression of these values.





**הסוכנות היהודית**  
**JEWISH AGENCY**  
**לארץ ישראל**  
**FOR ISRAEL**

**Every one of us, together.**

633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: 212-339-6000

48 King George Street  
Jerusalem 9100002  
Tel: 02-620-2222

Partner Agency of  
The Jewish Federations<sup>®</sup>  
OF NORTH AMERICA



קרן היסוד  
KEREN HAYESOD  
UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

הסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION



The Jewish Agency is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America/UIA, Keren Hayesod, as well as foundations and individual donors from Israel and around the world.

[jewishagency.org](http://jewishagency.org)

 [jewishagency](https://www.facebook.com/jewishagency)

 [@jewishagency](https://twitter.com/jewishagency)

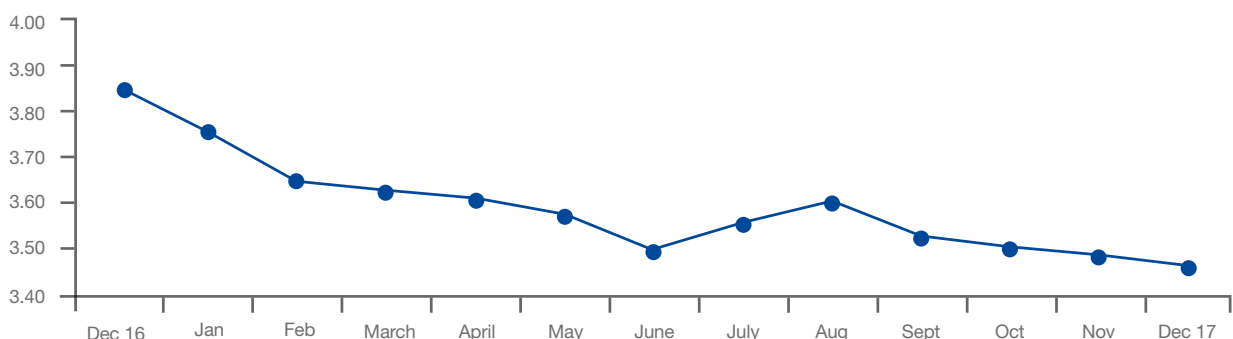
# Overview of The Jewish Agency's Operating Results and Financial Position for 2017

The balance sheet of The Jewish Agency for Israel continued to grow stronger in 2017 as the liability to the organization's Pension Fund was reduced by an additional \$41 million while, in accordance with its long-term financial strategy, its operations generated a small operating surplus.

In 2017, The Jewish Agency generated a \$262 thousand operating surplus and \$21 million in net income, compared to the 2016 operating surplus of \$2.5 million and net income of \$35 million. The Agency has been able to avoid operating deficits over the last 9 years by exercising strict budgetary control over its activities.

The Agency's 2017 revenues were higher by 2%, at \$467 million, than its 2016 level of \$457 million. Non-operational income of \$41 million was generated by the reduction of The Agency's liability to its pension fund. During 2017, an agreement was reached with the Pension Fund on a long-term (not to exceed 30 years) payment schedule of the liability, thereby removing any uncertainties regarding short- and medium-term cash requirements for full or partial settlement payments.

There was a high level of fluctuation in the shekel/dollar exchange rate during the year, reaching a high of \$1=3.86 NIS and a low of \$1=3.465 at the year end, as seen in the chart below.

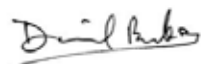


*Trajectory of the Shekel-Dollar Exchange Rate*

The 2017 average annual exchange rate was \$1=3.5998 NIS, compared to the 2016 average exchange rate of \$1=3.8406 NIS. This caused shekel-denominated expenditures to be 6.7% higher, on average, in dollar terms during the whole of 2017 than the same shekel-denominated expenditures in 2016.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31,

Amounts in US\$ thousands	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	154,231	156,422
Short-term deposits in banks	1,088	1,171
Investment in marketable securities	7,879	6,583
Accounts receivable	68,436	60,012
Current maturities of long-term loan	5,000	5,000
Total current assets	236,634	229,188
<b>Investments and other assets</b>	<b>138,136</b>	<b>131,010</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>185,428</b>	<b>182,103</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>560,198</b>	<b>542,301</b>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	119,609	92,661
Short-term deposits and other payables	7,515	5,775
Liability to Pension Fund - current maturity	4,000	4,000
Current maturities of long-term bank loans	391	353
Total current liabilities	131,515	102,789
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>		
Bank loans	2,847	2,890
Liabilities for employee rights upon retirement, net	159,618	192,373
Other liabilities	46,828	45,231
Total long-term liabilities	209,293	240,494
<b>Minority interest</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>1,819</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Surplus in unrestricted net assets	72,414	44,930
Temporarily restricted net assets	143,433	150,924
Permanently restricted net assets	1,476	1,345
Total net assets	217,323	197,199
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>560,198</b>	<b>542,301</b>



**David Breakstone**  
Deputy Chair, Executive



**David Silvers**  
Chair, Budget & Finance Committee



**Moshe Ashirie**  
Chief Financial Officer



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

Amounts in US\$ thousands	2017	2016
<b>Revenues</b>		
<b>Unrestricted donations and contributions:</b>		
United Israel Appeal, Inc.	82,279	86,295
Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal	30,359	32,649
Direct donations & Spirit of Israel	2,525	410
<b>Net assets released from restrictions:</b>		
United Israel Appeal, Inc.	80,370	89,115
U.S. Government grant	7,514	9,394
Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal	8,438	8,070
Direct donations & Spirit of Israel	33,159	36,042
<b>Other income:</b>		
Israel experience programs (operated by subsidiaries)	67,944	62,671
Rental income	41,157	38,712
Program participations and service fees	82,125	68,395
Collection of doubtful debts	2,440	1,705
Subsidiaries' income	28,943	23,042
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>467,253</b>	<b>456,500</b>
<b>Cost of activities and other expenses</b>		
Israel experiences	73,741	72,002
Aliyah, absorption and special operations	56,185	55,162
Social activism	42,063	39,450
Activities with Russian speaking Jews	24,357	22,829
Partnerships	18,903	18,823
Shlichim and Israel Fellows	23,711	22,408
Community services (not including FSU)	24,380	19,523
Allocations and social programs	69,678	69,540
Agency-wide projects and organizational activities	99,700	101,648
Support units and executive offices	24,108	23,711
FRD, marketing and communications	10,564	9,134
<b>Cost of activities</b>	<b>467,390</b>	<b>454,230</b>
Income (deficit) from ordinary operations	(137)	2,270
Financial income, net	399	203
<b>Income from activities</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>2,473</b>
<b>Non-operational income</b>		
Property related costs, net of income from asset realization	(5,033)	(17,881)
Income arising from Board designated endowment, net	14,483	4,217
Decrease in Pension Fund liability, net	40,995	47,344
Early retirement program expenses	(29,726)	(1,268)
<b>Non-operational income, net</b>	<b>20,719</b>	<b>32,412</b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>20,981</b>	<b>34,885</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Amounts in US\$ thousands

	Unrestricted in use		Temporarily restricted		Permanently restricted	Total
	For operations	Board designated endowment	For projects	For allocations	Endowment	
<b>Balance at December 31, 2015</b>	(86,420)	90,105	153,837	10,803	664	168,989
<b>Changes during 2016</b>						
Temporarily restricted donations and contributions received:						
United Israel Appeal, Inc.	-	-	30,818	57,699	-	88,517
U.S. Government grant	-	-	9,394	-	-	9,394
Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal	-	-	7,968	712	-	8,680
Direct donations & Spirit of Israel	-	-	19,945	8,729	-	28,674
Total received	-	-	68,125	67,140	-	135,265
Released from restriction	-	-	(73,081)	(69,540)	-	(142,621)
Net income for the year	34,885	-	-	-	-	34,885
Changes in endowments, net	(1,524)	1,524	-	-	681	681
Release of fixed assets and restricted assets depreciation expense	6,360	-	(6,360)	-	-	-
Net change during 2016	39,721	1,524	(11,316)	(2,400)	681	28,210
<b>Balance at December 31, 2016</b>	(46,699)	91,629	142,521	8,403	1,345	197,199
<b>Changes during 2017</b>						
Temporarily restricted donations and contributions received:						
United Israel Appeal, Inc.	-	-	25,756	58,268	-	84,024
U.S. Government grant	-	-	7,514	-	-	7,514
Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal	-	-	11,143	258	-	11,401
Direct donations & Spirit of Israel	-	-	17,070	8,509	-	25,579
Total received	-	-	61,483	67,035	-	128,518
Released from restriction	-	-	(59,828)	(69,678)	-	(129,506)
Net income for the year	20,981	-	-	-	-	20,981
Changes in endowments, net	(11,474)	11,474	-	-	131	131
Release of fixed assets and restricted assets depreciation expense	6,503	-	(6,503)	-	-	-
Net change during 2017	16,010	11,474	(4,848)	(2,643)	131	20,124
<b>Balance at December 31, 2017</b>	(30,689)	103,103	137,673	5,760	1,476	217,323