Tevel b'Tzedek Activity Report to Matanel Foundation

Matanel fellowship program

2018-2019

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Number of active participants in the program: 74

Estimated number of impacted participants: 200 households (1000 people approximately)
Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

During the grant period Tevel operated six cohorts, the last one ended in the beginning of June 2019 when the monsoon season begins and operating in the remote areas where we work is not possible. We have extended our livelihood development program in the region until November of 2019. We will renew our volunteering activity on September 2019.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

- **Youth center fundraising**: The last cohort (June) decided they want to leave their own mark on the village, they wanted to build a meeting place for the Bethanchuk Youth Movement - a safe place where they can feel at home, study, play and plan their future. The volunteers launched a social media fundraising campaign, and collected more than 2,000 NIS to build it. Watch the fundraising video they made here.

- **Israeli election Tevel style**: although being afar, the volunteers followed closely on the Israeli legislative election. We've set up Tevel's first ballot box and made our own election.

- **Celebrating Sukkot together**: During the orientation, the fellows celebrated Sukkot together, building the Sukkah and sharing meals in it, as well as the Hindu holiday of Tihar. The opportunity to learn about another culture's holidays and experience them together was very significant and enriching.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):
**Evaluation:**

The Evaluation of the program is for us an essential part of the program. Seeing as one of the goals of the program is creating a space for participants to reflect upon their identities, ethics and positions in the world - the evaluation of the program is performed by facilitating a space for reflection on the whole experience. In this way, the evaluation process leads to an ongoing reflection process throughout the program. In addition to the ongoing qualitative evaluation and reflection, participants fill in evaluation form at the end of each cohort.

Here are some of the feedbacks we got in during 2018-2019 cohorts:

*I feel that my contribution to Tevel B’Tzedek was significant*

- Very much: 53%
- Somewhat: 12%
- Not at all: 17%

*DID THE SEMINAR HELP YOU TO TAKE A BRAKE AND BE MOTIVATED TO CONTINUE YOUR ACTIVITY?*

- Very much: 45%
- Somewhat: 19%
- Not at all: 12%

*I felt significant and important in the activities I was responsible for*

- Very much: 41%
- Somewhat: 17%
- Not at all: 30%

*I feel that I am realting to the work model of Tevel B’Tzedek*

- Very much: 62%
- Somewhat: 24%
- Not at all: 14%
**Conclusions for the future:**

As opposed to previous years, we didn’t meet our 100 volunteers goal this year. Extremely cold weather (some areas experienced snow for the first time in a decade!) made a large number of Israeli travelers to cancel their arrival to Nepal. Although it wasn’t a normal event, we experience around the world an increasing number of extreme weather conditions that cannot be ignored, therefore we took upon ourselves to be better prepared to such events by being aware of them and having a backup plan in case we need to postpone the entire cohort. In other cases, we will increase our social media advertising during the low season in order to reach new audiences in the area that might be interested in joining the Matanel Fellowship program.

**Testimonials**

**Talya Herring, March Cohort 2019**

Bethanchok (one of Tevel's villages) has been the breath I was searching for. The deep breath of questioning the small things and realizing that the big ones are mostly universal. I have so much breath in me now, so much joy in every step I take here, so much confusion and love and aches.

It’s hard to keep eyes focused on what could use improvement while also aiming towards respect, sustainability and tradition. It’s hard to see my favorite playmates here in ripped clothes, lacking the opportunities and support my childhood granted me. It’s hard to believe in change when people have more important things to do. It’s hard to trust others to step up to the plate.

It’s hard but it’s the best. It’s the paradox and partnership between oxygen and carbon dioxide, filling me up with the strife that is necessary for feeling alive.

**Shira El Ami, February Cohort 2019**

The most significant experience I had in the village was getting to know people who are radically different than me. The language barrier, the daily routine and quality of life are completely different from anything I know. In the first couple of days I was judgmental towards them, I came with many
assumptions and constantly thought to myself that I might be interfering, are they feeling cold? Or uncomfortable?

After a few days, all these feelings just disappeared.

The only things I saw were the smiles, the look in their eyes, a conversation without words- just looking into each other's eyes, feeling love and respect.

This little moments were incredibly powerful to me, I know that from now on I'll take it with me to all kinds of interactions- I will look into people's eyes before I'll decide who are they and what are they.

As in Israeli citizen, this experience helped me to understand people who are different than me. I'm from Jerusalem, and I always been aware of the diversity of this city, but it always been separated. It's "me" and "them". I felt comfortable in MY neighborhood, and with MY people, the Ethiopian neighborhood near me and the orthodox people across the street weren't a part of it.

I feel that because I had to confront with people who are not like "me" in Nepal, this fear from difference is no longer present in my interaction with people.

**video testimonials - Humans of Nepal documentary series:**

- Einav, February cohort 2019 - [Einav tells about her experience as volunteer and its effects 2 years from now](#)
- Shir, Tevel's alumni and currant volunteer coordinator - [Volunteering in Tevel- expectations Vs reality](#)
- Shira, February cohort 2019 - [Shira tells about her most significant experience as a volunteer](#)
Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

One of Tevel's missions is to develop new sources of income and economic opportunities. Working in beautiful areas with unique culture has been a natural choice for us to decide investing in tourism. After training and setting up the facilities to host tourists, the volunteers help the hosting families to operate and advertise their place.

The video attached below has been made by one of our volunteers, it provides a taste of the daily life in village with the Matanel fellowship volunteers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45tPAQ6pdhU

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

We are currently deep in the process of site selection for our next project site. We are eager to continue the work of introducing a generation of young Jews into the important challenges facing Humanity today, where Billions of people are struggling to feed themselves and their families. We believe it is our moral duty as Jews to be involved in creating sustainable solutions for these countless fellow men and women.

We intend to expand the involvement of Matanel fellows in the field agriculture based development. As the challenges our beneficiaries face have more and more to do with climate adaptation, it has become obvious that we need more curious and creative minds engaged with these challenges.

The Matanel Fellowship will soon have a new site to operate in out side of Nepal, as Tevel is soon launching a new project site in Zambia. In Zambia, Tevel will be forming a training center, where volunteers will assist our staff in training small holder farmers in innovative agriculture and irrigation techniques, as well as with entrepreneurship skills and value addition solutions. We intend to start sending groups of volunteers to Zambia in the Fall of 2019!
We would like to take this opportunity and personally thank the Matanel Foundation for your generous support.

We are deeply committed to make the best of every dollar we receive, and we hope we were able to give you a taste of the unique experience our volunteers go through.

It's not always easy to translate the great impact of the Matanel Fellowship. If you would like to deepen your knowledge or just witness with your own eye how great your contribution truly is, please let us know and we'll coordinate a field visit for you.