



MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: The *Be'eri pre-military preparatory program (PMPP)*

Year: 2020

Name of the Program: The *Be'eri pre-military preparatory program (PMPP)*

Year of activity: 2019-2020

Name of the report's writer: Yoav Znati-Lavi

Function of the report's writer: Executive Director

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Number of active participants in the program: 40

Estimated number of impacted participants: 100+ family members; hundreds of community members benefiting from the voluntary hours of the participants; dozens of stakeholders and leaders exposed to the program.

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

During September 2020, we at the Beerli PMP program marked the successful completion of the 2019-20 year with our 4th cohort of 40 young participants finishing their one-year experience, while welcoming our 5th 2020-21 cohort.

Following our rigorous recruitment and selection process, this 2020-21 year we expanded and opened the *mechina* with 45 new participants. For the first time, two non-Jewish participants are joining us (a member of the Druze community and a member of the Bedouin community). In the coming months we plan to engage in introductory theoretical learning, in joint learning, in a seminar that will focus on the community-based voluntary work that the participants are committed to, and go out for a joint work week (one of four of these throughout the year) that allow us to integrate the participants that come from different and diverse backgrounds.

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

Over the past year, with the strategic support of the Matanel Foundation, we at the Beerli PMP program accomplished the following:

1. **Increased the number of *mechina* participants:** In 2019-20 we enrolled in the program, with 40 young Israelis completing their yearlong process and voluntary assignment; and the new cohort comprised of 45 new enrollees.



2. **Diversification of the participants:** In 2019-20 we integrated new and diverse members, including an Ethiopian participant, one with special needs and an immigrant from Uzbekistan.
3. **Increasing access to the prestigious program:** Awarded scholarships to underserved participants from low socio-economic backgrounds in order to enable their enrolment in a program that is traditionally reserved for those who can afford it.
4. **Enhanced curriculum and content:** Expansion of the educational program and the introduction of study courses that deal with Jewish thought and Israeli society in a more comprehensive manner.
5. **Expanded community outreach efforts:** Employ a Community Outreach Coordinator for the *mechina* that helped us expand our scope of voluntarism in the area of Kfar Saba, Tira and the Southern Sharon Regional Council. Thanks to the foundation's support, we expanded our voluntarism assignments to address the needs of vulnerable populations, such as elderly people, people with special needs, young and adult Jewish and Arab residents of the region. We placed emphasis on inter-generational work, with our participants volunteering at a rehabilitative factory for elderly people and the Geriatric ward at the local hospital.
6. **Provided assistance during the Coronavirus crisis:** The corona crisis that befell us at the beginning of March and the closure that accompanied it greatly challenged the continuation of the *mechina's* activities. Thanks to the foundation's support, we continued to operate even during the lockdown months, while taking all necessary health and protective measurements. Our participants played key role in volunteering in agriculture and at a nursing home, practicing *Tikun Olam*.

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

We disseminate surveys among the program participants to examine their Jewish identity and association, level of commitment to Tikun Olam, pinpoint areas in-need of improvement, assess effectiveness and impact of community voluntarism, and more. We are currently in the process of improving and streamlining our evaluation process, designing pre and post surveys. The survey we disseminated in February demonstrated that identifying as secular did not impair the participants' interest in strengthening their Jewish identity, and that there is high commitment to Tikun Olam.

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

The 2020-21 cohort of the Beeri *mechina* will face a challenging year due to the Coronavirus crisis, its socio-economic consequences for Israeli society, alongside considering restrictions of lockdown and social distancing. The lessons learnt that we extracted from our previous year mean the following shifts and focus for 2021:

Recruitment of diverse and peripheral populations:

- Targeted recruitment in the social and geographical periphery (underserved towns, boarding schools for at-risk youth, urban spaces) in order to increase the integration of diverse populations that reflect Israeli society.



- Targeted recruitment of non-Jewish young men and women who are interested in joining a pre-military preparatory school.

Increasing access to underserved participants:

- Increasing the number of scholarships provided for students from low socio-economic backgrounds that usually cannot join such as a prestigious and in-demand yearlong program.

Expansion of scope and alternative planning for community outreach:

- Maintain close professional relations with facilities and institutes we collaborate with, to ensure a broad and versatile base of voluntarism for our participants.

- Designing alternative volunteering program and activities in case of lockdown/restrictions on the formal and informal education system.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**)

Please see attached financial report.

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please see PDF with pictures.

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.

The short film will be produced during the current year.