



## MATANEL FOUNDATION

### ACTIVITY REPORT

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

**Year:** 2021

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

Year of activity: 2020-2021

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Number of active participants in the program: 45

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 August 2021, we at the Beeri PMP program marked the successful completion of the 2020-2021 year with our 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of 45 young participants finishing their one-year experience, while welcoming our 6<sup>th</sup> 2021-22 cohort.

Following our rigorous recruitment and selection process, this 2021-22 year we expanded and opened the *mechina* with 50 new participants. 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 five 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 Beeri PMP program accomplished the following:

1. **Increased the number of *mechina* participants:** In 2020-21 we enrolled in the program, with 45 young Israelis completing their yearlong process and voluntary assignment; and the new cohort comprised of 45 new enrollees.
2. **Diversification of the participants:** In 2020-21 we integrated new and diverse members, including two non-Jewish participants (a member of the Druze community and a member of the Bedouin community).
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 the Israeli-Arab society.
5. **Expanded community outreach efforts:**  
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.
6. **Provided assistance during the Coronavirus crisis:**
7. 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*.
8. **Be'eri Graduates program-** During July 2021 we opened, for the first time, a leadership program for 20 young men and women aged 20-25. Over the course of three weeks, the participants are provided with room and board in the pastoral environment of the Beit Berl campus. Divided into small study groups, classes are given in various fields, led by a team of esteemed lecturers. We encourage young adults to build and formulate their worldview. The program meets participants after their military service, a step before making significant life choices, such as where to study and which field of occupation to choose.

**Our main goal is to offer guidance and assistance to our graduates upon integrating into the public and political spheres, the main areas of influence in Israeli society.**



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

We disseminate surveys among the program participants to examine their Jewish and political identity and association, level of commitment to Tikun Olam, pinpoint areas in-need of improvement, assess effectiveness and impact of community voluntarism, and more.

Our surveys indicate an Increase in our student's connection towards their Jewish and Israeli Identity. Most of them Fill that the year of the Mechina made them more aware to the conflicts inside the Israeli society. Many of them Fill more connected to their Jewish and Zionist heritage and history. Many of them acknowledge the importance of Equality, Liberty, and civil and human rights.

At last, most of our students graduate the Mechina with the belief in social change and with a great commitment serving the Israeli society during their army service and later in their adult life.

**Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:**

The 2021-22 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 2021-2022:

**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:**

- Establishing an additional campus of Be'eri
- 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.
- Establishing an Adult Mechina ("Hahavura"-החבורה) pilot in collaboration with the regional council of 'Drom Hasharon'.
- Establishing a youth leadership program for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> graders