

MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: BINA Mechinat Masabacha (Masa Ba Chevra HaYisraelit - Journey through Israeli Society)
Year: 2020-2021

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole report will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: BINA Mechinat Masabacha (Masa Ba Chevra HaYisraelit - Journey through Israeli Society)

Year of activity: 2020-2021

Name of the report's writer: Julia Tobias

Function of the report's writer: Director of Development

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Number of active participants in the program: 25

Estimated number of impacted participants: 400

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

In the 2020-2021 activity cycle, 25 young adults took part in BINA's Mechinat Masabacha Program. The group embarked on a six-month immersive journey through Israeli society, gaining a deep familiarity with diverse communities, groups, and locations in Israel. This activity cycle was characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic as three weeks after the program start date, Israel went into its second 'lockdown' period and many programs were forced to shut down. We made the decision to keep the group together in a "bubble" and they became emergency front line workers (as did many other Mechina participants, including those in BINA's year-long Mechina program in south Tel Aviv). The group moved from community to community, as planned, but their volunteer work became critical and emergency aid wherever needed. For example, in Safed, the group ran a daily emergency daycare center for the children of medical staff working at Ziv hospital and worked to build Succot for the elderly residents who could not see their families over the holiday. When the group was in Efrat, they volunteered with the children of the staff of Hadassah Ein Karem hospital. Despite the constant changes in Israeli Ministry of Health guidelines, we learned that through being flexible and agile we could deliver the program's educational message and achieve the aims set out for the program. Integrating the group into each community was challenging in a reality of social distancing and isolation and yet we were able to meet the challenge thanks to strong community partnerships, and the participants tenacity and refusal to give up. Mechinat Masabacha functioned during a period where polarization was at its peak. It was a time when both political tension, in the lead up to the fourth election, and social tension, with both the Arab and Haredi populations, were exacerbated by the pandemic. The group learned about the worldview of the Haredim from personal encounters with the population when they lived in Safed. They understood the distrust of the vaccination and point of view of the Arab Israelis whilst they lived in Nahef, and all through the pandemic, they worked alongside the doctors and nurses from both populations as they led the fight against the pandemic. Despite the constant changes and challenges, this activity cycle was a huge success. We thank the Matanel Foundation for the support that enabled us to keep going and achieve more than ever in almost impossible circumstances.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): All Mechina participants complete comprehensive pre-program, mid-year, and end-year written and oral evaluations, as individuals and as groups with Mechina staff. We assess our programs using pre-program and post-program surveys. The surveys combine quantitative measures using a Likert scale to measure attitude changes during the year and open-ended questions to receive more qualitative feedback on program impact. The aim of our evaluation is to learn the impact of our programs in two axes: Jewish Identity and Social Responsibility. In each axis we measure

- Attitudes (How has the program effected participants' perceptions, opinions?)
- Behavior (How has the program effected participants' actions and life choices)
- Cognitions (How has the program effected participants' knowledge?)
- Motivation (How has the program effected participants' motivation to act?)

Each program participant is surveyed regarding the particular classes, activities, and meetings in which they participate and also more global questions regarding the impact of BINA's programs on their attitudes, behavior, and cognitions regarding their Jewish identity and their intention to continue learning, their view of the role of social action in their lives and its connection to their view of Judaism, and their views on community. We also conduct alumni surveys to assess long-term impact, as well as collect general feedback from alumni about the transition from the programs into the IDF and their needs, interests, and desire for continued connection to BINA and the Mechina as well as to Jewish study and social action post-program. Full evaluation summary is attached.

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

We are delighted to be able to announce that, despite all the challenges and instability that COVID has (and continues) to present, and thanks to the strength of the program, it's staff, and the unwavering support of our donors, including the Matanel Foundation, we are expanding the program to double the number of participants in 2021-2022. Demand for Mechinat Masabacha is at an all-time high and, as a result, we have expanded the program to welcome two groups of participants (a total of 50 18-19 year olds). Both groups will have the same experiences, living spaces, and volunteer placement, just in a different order. We consider it a significant signifier of success that our community partners are excited to welcome a second group to their communities. Each group will move around the country spending time in diverse communities including: Safed, where they will gain a deeper understanding of the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Chabad community; Yerucham, part of Israel's socio-geographic periphery where they will volunteer with Russian immigrants and learn about issues facing the Bedouin communities of the Negev; south Tel Aviv, where they will be immersed in secular Jewish-Israeli life and ask challenging questions about life in Israel's center compared with the periphery; Mishmar Hasharon, where they will become familiar with Israel's agricultural side and learn about the challenges in the ever-evolving Kibbutz movement; the Arab village of Nahef in the Galilee, where they will spend time with the Arab-Muslim community and learn about the challenges of living as the Arab minority in Israel; and Kfar Etzion, a religious Zionist community located in the Judean Hills in the southern West Bank, where they will be exposed to the perspectives and way of life of their host community. Towards the end of the program, the group will spend a week in Jerusalem processing and reflecting upon their journey through Israeli society as part of the closing seminar of the program. Mechinat Masabacha culminates in a graduation event wherein participants share their experiences with their families and the larger BINA community. We know that COVID will continue to influence the way we run the program, and as participants are high school graduates who have spent the past 18 months outside of the

'normal' educational framework, we anticipate many challenges. However, at the end of this third year of the program, we now feel we have the experience and confidence to meet any and all challenges.

As we look forward to the coming year, we once again, want to thank the Matanel Foundation for your support which is invaluable to BINA's Mechinat Masabacha, allowing us to fulfil all our existing and planned activities, as well as serving as an important endorsement which we proudly use to leverage future funding from municipal/governmental sources, from other foundations, and from private donors both in Israel and internationally.

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

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 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.