

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: 2021-2022

Name of the report's writer: Julia Tobias

Function of the report's writer: Director of Development

Mail: juliat@bina.org.il **Phone:** +972 544795808

Website / Facebook address of the organization: www.bina.org.il

Number of active participants in the program: 60

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 2021-22 activity cycle, two groups of young adults (total 55 participants) took part in BINA's Mechinat Masabacha program. The groups' immersive journey through Israeli society brought them to communities they would not have otherwise visited and gave them the opportunity to deeply learn about the people in those populations. The groups moved around the country, spending time in diverse communities including: Safed, where they gained a deeper understanding of the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Chabad community; Yerucham/Arad, part of Israel's socio-geographic periphery where they volunteered with Russian immigrants and learned about issues facing the Bedouin communities of the Negev; south Tel Aviv, where they were immersed in secular Jewish-Israeli life and explored challenging questions about life in Israel's center compared with the periphery; the Arab village of Nahef in the Galilee, where they spent time with the Arab-Muslim community and learned 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 were exposed to the perspectives and way of life of their host community. Towards the end of the program, the group spent a week in Jerusalem processing and reflecting on their journey. The program culminated in a graduation event wherein participants shared their experiences with their families and the larger BINA community. During the program, participants stayed in community members' homes, met key community leaders, volunteered alongside community members, and participated in shared cultural events. Through these immersive experiences, they learned about the diverse patchwork of Israeli society. The close encounters with diverse people allowed for open dialogue that gave participants new insight to communities that they otherwise would never have met. These encounters allowed for new friendships to blossom between participants and their peers across Israel.

We also saw an impact on the participants' parents. While they weren't able to join us on the journey, they heard about their children's experiences and through these conversations, their preconceptions were changed and shifted as well.

This was the first year that we ran two concurrent groups for this program, and we see the year as being a success. We thank the Matanel Foundation for your continued support that has enabled us to run this important program.

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 happy to say that opening a second group was a success and we will continue to have two groups of participants next year. While our program foundation will be similar to this year, we will fine tune our curriculum over the summer as we use our evaluations to continue to improve our programming. One plan we have for the next year is to increase the social action and activism projects to increase the personal connections between the participants and the different communities.

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 seems to you relevant – as **PDF document**.