



# Evaluation Report

## The Matanel Forum for the Future

Grant #558 | Program Year 2025

### Overview

This evaluation report assesses the first year of The Matanel Forum for the Future, examining program achievements against the objectives and success factors outlined in our original grant application. The evaluation was prepared by Rabbi Dr. Ido Pachter, MOED Director.

### Assessment against Goals

The MATANEL Forum of the MOED initiative has succeeded thus far in establishing three research and study groups: one on the topic of victory, the second on education, and the third—a Beit Midrash for young people on the topic of sovereignty. These groups have advanced research and dialogue on important issues on the agenda of Israeli society and the State of Israel. **In this respect, we achieved the first goal we set for 2025.**

In terms of outputs, we published several articles in print media and received partial exposure. We are currently completing a comprehensive summary report (approximately 30 pages) on the issue of victory based on our research. Writing the summary document took several months, longer than expected, due to our desire to produce a professional and reliable document. We will learn from this how to better plan timelines for additional outputs. In the field of education, we produced initial research, but we still need to deepen it.

### The Beit Midrash – MATANEL Forum for the Future

The Beit Midrash brought together exceptional post-military Israeli leaders from across the full spectrum of Israeli society for deep engagement with fundamental questions of Jewish sovereignty, identity, values, and national purpose. The foundation year required substantial investment in building the intellectual and operational infrastructure for a program of this ambition.

A rigorous competitive application process yielded an extraordinary inaugural cohort of **14 fellows aged 22-30** representing the full diversity of Israeli society—Modern Orthodox, Haredi, Conservative, and secular backgrounds; Ethiopian, Sephardic, Ashkenazi, Yemenite, and Russian communities; and geographic locations spanning Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Herzliya, Bnei Brak, Lod, Rishon LeZion, the Galilee, and Gush Etzion.



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The curriculum encompassed nine in-person sessions and nine supplementary Zoom sessions. In-person session themes included: Theology of Sovereignty; Judaism as Religion, Nation, Culture, and Civilization; Autonomy; Particularism and Universalism; Philosophy of Responsibility; Sanctification; Leadership Challenges; Dealing with Uncertainty; and Israeli Halakha.

We consider this group an important initiative that we wish to continue next year as well. Each fellow is completing a sovereignty-related project, and the program will conclude with a closing conference and celebration on Israeli Independence Day 2026.

### Diaspora Jewry Research Group

Regarding the group on Diaspora Jewry, we are in the establishment stages, and we hope to complete it in 2026.

### Performance against Success Factors

The original grant application identified three success factors. Below is our assessment of progress against each:

Success Factor	Status	Notes
Publication of MOED recommendations and background papers	<b>In Progress</b>	30-page report on 'Concept of Victory' nearing completion; opinion pieces published in Besheva, Srugim, and Shabaton
Recognition by state institutions as authoritative organization	<b>Pending</b>	Publications not yet recognized by government officials; dedicated effort planned for 2026
Media exposure highlighting MOED activities	<b>Partial</b>	Articles published in religious-conservative media outlets with various reader responses

### Challenges Encountered

The war made it difficult to recruit people for the research groups, and we hope that in 2026 people will have more availability. Additionally, the comprehensive summary document on the concept of victory took several months longer than expected due to our commitment to



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producing a professional and reliable product. We have learned from this experience and will better plan timelines for future outputs.

## Overall Assessment

**Overall, we are satisfied with the project's progress.** The initiative successfully established its core infrastructure—three research groups and a Beit Midrash—and has begun producing substantive outputs. In 2026, we will work on disseminating the content we have produced to relevant target audiences, alongside continued work on the research groups.

## Plans for 2026

1. Complete and publish the comprehensive report on the Concept of Victory
2. Disseminate findings to government and security decision-makers
3. Launch the expanded Education research group (April 2026)
4. Establish the Diaspora Jewry research group (June 2026)
5. Continue the Beit Midrash through Independence Day 2026 and recruit a second cohort
6. Pursue recognition from government officials for MOED publications

### Prepared by:

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Director

MATANEL Forum for the Future

MOED – The Center for Leadership, Values and Wisdom



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