



We Unlock Human Capital for the Startup Nation



JDC PROGRAM DASHBOARD

Visit [JDC.org](https://www.jdc.org) to learn more about our work around the world.



OUR WORK

We Unlock Human Capital for the Startup Nation

...because every Israeli should have the chance to succeed.

Israel's future demands that we move the needle on the nation's most complex social challenges: We must break cycles of poverty among the most vulnerable, foster inclusion and independent living for people with disabilities and the elderly, and provide access to opportunity for all.

At JDC, we drive that change by bringing together all of our partners—the Government of Israel, the business sector, and NGOs—to create research-backed, scalable solutions that draw on the entrepreneurial, can-do spirit that made the desert bloom.

The problems we solve—and our impact—go beyond any one neighborhood or village: We have decades of experience improving the country's social services for the betterment of all citizens. And our proven social innovations are even exported globally, lifting lives from the U.S. to Ukraine and Ethiopia to Japan.

The future won't be stable unless we bridge the gap between the Startup Nation's economic miracle and those being left behind. That's why JDC ensures that as Israel prospers, all Israelis share in its success. And that's why the future needs us now.

*All statistics as of June 2019

PROOF POINTS*

All proof points are illustrative and do not represent all of JDC's programs

240,000+ LIVES TOUCHED IN ISRAEL

over the course of a single year through innovative social programs that are transforming the fabric of Israeli life.

In 1969, having moved out of direct service provision to assume the role of a social catalyst, JDC partnered with the Israeli government to form ESHEL, which continues today to develop new programs to **improve the quality of life and the financial security of the nation's seniors.**



In the 1980s and '90s, JDC developed job-training and social and educational initiatives to

promote the integration of newcomers from Ethiopia and the former Soviet republics, including the PACT program for Ethiopian-Israeli youth that launched in 1998.

That same year, JDC partnered with NY UJA-Federation and the Israeli government to create Ashalim, which subsequently developed

over 300 programs to protect the well-being of at-risk youth,

providing them with the support they need to become successful, productive adults.



In 2009, building on our prior efforts to promote inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities, JDC joined with the government and the Ruderman Family Foundation to create Israel Unlimited.

Today, this partnership is working to expand housing options and upgrade supportive services for the increasing number of adults with disabilities who are determined to live independently in their communities.



304,000 ISRAELIS HELPED

by JDC's employment program since its inception.

In 2005, JDC and the Israeli government embarked on Tevet, a partnership fighting poverty, dependency, and underemployment by promoting job opportunities, training, and advancement in the workforce for the **ultra-Orthodox**, for **Israeli Arabs**, for **people with disabilities**, for **Ethiopian immigrants**, and for **young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds.**

From Unemployable to Employer

Fifteen years ago, Shlomo Goldberg had no job, no resume, and no professional education. But as a member of Israel's Haredi community, that wasn't unusual.

At the time, nearly three in four Haredim lived below the poverty line, and fewer than half of all Haredi men had any sort of employment.

"In the Haredi community, most of the time we only study Torah, and we don't study general subjects," Goldberg said. "When we want to join the workforce, we have a gap that needs to be bridged."

In a community with widespread unemployment among men and underemployment among



women, poverty is a systemic problem. Tackling it requires more than just welfare — it means empowering Haredim to develop the skills they need to both secure employment and to thrive in a 21st-century workplace.

Shlomo was an early participant in *Parnasa Be'Kavod* (Employment with Dignity), one of

JDC's first Haredi employment programs designed to offer professional training to Haredi men in a safe, inviting environment. JDC operates programs like *Parnasa Be'Kavod* with the full support of Haredi community leaders and rabbis; the goal is not to draw yeshiva students away from their learning, but instead to provide options for those whose future lies outside the yeshiva world or who wish to incorporate work into yeshiva life.

In the years since, JDC has continued to refine and expand its Haredi employment initiative. In 2006, it piloted the first *Mafteach* training center — a facility, run entirely by members of the Haredi community, where JDC could fully implement its holistic approach to preparing

Haredim for the workforce. The pilot was a success: Today, there are 12 *Mafteach* centers with the combined capacity to serve 10,000 Haredi Israelis every year.

The success and growth of the *Mafteach* centers is emblematic of JDC's unique partnership with the Government of Israel. In 2016, JDC handed off the operation of the centers to the government, which has the resources to maintain and grow the program. In this way, JDC provides social R&D, creating innovative approaches to serve Israelis in need, the best of which then become government services

on a national scale.

Over the past 10 years, JDC has increased Haredi employment among men by 10 percent and among women by almost 20 percent. Thanks in part to JDC's transformative work, more than half of the men in Israel's Haredi community now have jobs.



Goldberg is one of the men whose life was transformed by JDC's employment programs. He graduated *Parnasa Be'Kavod* a skilled programmer and was able to find a job putting those skills into practice. At the same time, he began writing a blog titled Ha'Rav DotNet. The first kosher Hebrew blog for programmers, Ha'Rav DotNet quickly became popular, launching Goldberg to stardom within the Haredi community as a public speaker. By sharing his story, he now inspires others to reimagine their lives and take proactive steps to become self-sufficient.

Four years ago, Goldberg took the next step in his tech career: He opened his own software and web development company, named after his blog. Today, Ha'Rav DotNet is an in-demand developer that's created systems for companies like Microsoft and Amdocs, as well as the Israeli government. Goldberg has 20 employees, almost all of them Haredi men.

In his transformation from unemployable to employer, Goldberg epitomizes the powerful ripple effect JDC's employment work has had —and continues to have — on the Haredi

population. He is not just a successful entrepreneur; he is empowering the next generation of Haredi men, giving them the same "employment with dignity" JDC helped him achieve all those years ago.

"We're proud of our work to advance employment opportunities for Haredi men, one of the many chronically underemployed groups we focus on," said Sigal Shelach, Director General of JDC Israel. "We know that when we lift the lives of Israel's most vulnerable populations, we strengthen the whole country and ensure a bright future for all Israelis. and for Jews all over the world."



WHEN WE LIFT THE LIVES OF ISRAEL'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WE STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE COUNTRY.