

# Select Core Priority

## ALIYAH AND ABSORPTION THE JEWISH AGENCY'S CORE COMMITMENT

### Executive Summary

Helping Jews immigrate to Israel—make Aliyah—and facilitating their integration into Israeli society—Klithah—represent the sacred calling that created the Jewish Agency for Israel. In 1929, the British Mandate called for “an appropriate Jewish agency” to establish the Jewish State, and to bring together global Jewry in support of Aliyah and Klithah. Since 1948, we have welcomed over 3 million refugees and immigrants home to Israel; close to 20,000 olim (immigrants) arrived in 2011 alone. Today, we sustain our core commitment, as we advise, help prepare, coordinate flights, and provide resettlement services to any Jew who seeks to come to Israel, from any place, at any time and for any reason.

Not long ago, it was widely believed that Jews around the world were safe, and that rescue missions were no longer necessary. But as global events such as the economic crisis and international terrorism take center stage, anti-Zionists and anti-Semites have increased their activities and created a new reality. **An estimated 60,000 Jews around the world face circumstances where their Jewish identity puts them in acute physical danger—today.** For these Jews, Aliyah is not a choice, but a life-saving path to freedom. Since 1929 the Jewish Agency has been the first responder to Jews in danger throughout the world. Whether through gradual surreptitious efforts or lightning-speed rescues, we continually act to bring threatened Jews to safety.

Olim come to Israel under widely different circumstances, and their resettlement needs are as varied as their stories. From kibbutzim to apartment complexes, from educational interventions to job training, from social networking to specialized programs for groups such as ‘lone immigrant soldiers,’ the Jewish Agency’s array of absorption activities successfully acculturates thousands each year.

While over 1 million Russian-speaking Jews have immigrated to Israel in the last 20 years, an estimated 800,000 remain living in the former Soviet Union (FSU). Recently, troubling political and economic developments in some FSU countries have prompted young adults to seek opportunity elsewhere for themselves and their families. **Emigration from the FSU is at an all-time high; among Jews, the desire to make Aliyah is growing rapidly.** Meanwhile, budget constraints restrict the Jewish Agency’s capacity to provide necessary resettlement services.

The final wave of Ethiopian Aliyah is underway, and the Jewish Agency will complete the task of bringing 7,500 Ethiopian refugees to Israel by 2014. In 16 absorption centers, we provide these individuals and families with extended services, as they acculturate to an entirely new world from their pre-modern, agrarian life. The Jewish Agency has the knowledge, the experience and the ability to facilitate the absorption of this population—but we will have the capacity only through donor support.

Between unrestricted funds and Select Core priority funding, the Jewish Agency must secure a minimum of **\$1,538,000** to help meet our commitment to Aliyah and Klithah. Other funding will come from designated funds, fee for service, and commitments from our philanthropic partners, to complete the Jewish Agency’s \$70 million total budget in these areas.