



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Jewish Agency for Israel



Inseparable from aliyah – and equally important – is the smooth integration of Jews who come home to Israel. Successful absorption is essential to fulfilling their dreams and Israel's potential. The Jewish Agency takes a multidimensional approach to soften the landing for immigrants – with absorption centers serving as the critical first step.

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Absorption Centers
in **Safed**

Absorption Centers in Safed

At the Tzahal, Miron and Cana'an Absorption Centers in Safed, over 1,300 Ethiopian immigrants transition from the realities of rural Ethiopia to Israel's modern, fast-paced society. Most of the new immigrant families from Ethiopia who arrive at these absorption centers are unprepared for the challenges they will face as they begin their new lives in the Jewish homeland.

In July 2006, instead of making new friends, having fun and learning Hebrew, the children spent their vacation in underground bomb shelters or away from their parents, taking refuge from the horrors of Israel's latest war. In the wake of direct hits on the absorption centers from Katyusha rockets, residents, especially children and youth, are still suffering from post-war trauma. The Jewish Agency implements a variety of educational enrichment programs for

these children and youth that eases their transition into the Israeli educational system and improves both the children's and their parents' well-being.

At the absorption centers, the new immigrants are warmly welcomed by a devoted staff that helps them to bridge the 2000-year gap from rural Africa to Israel. The Jewish Agency's holistic intervention focuses on introducing the olim to their unfamiliar everyday lives in Israel; everything from basic appliances and home maintenance to the very new concepts of preventative health care and banking.

In Ethiopia, most of the new immigrants lived in small villages and farmed for their basic sustenance. In Israel, they are propelled into a westernized work ethos. The absorption centers in Safed ease this transition through employment workshops, vocational training and personal counseling.

First Home in the Homeland

For vulnerable new immigrants from Ethiopia, the supportive environment of a Jewish Agency Absorption Center provides an essential, sheltered "first home" during their difficult transition period following arrival. Here, newcomers receive the tools they need for achieving independence and acclimating to their new life in Israel.