



**Myers-JDC-Brookdale:**  
Two Decades of Research  
in Service of the Dream of  
Ethiopian Jews to Return  
to the Promised Land

מאיירס - ג'זינט - מכון ברוקדייל  
MYERS - JDC - BROOKDALE INSTITUTE  
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Since its inception, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute's research program on immigrants has given special attention to Ethiopian-Israelis, in an effort to enhance their integration into Israeli society.

## (Early 1990s) Initiation of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute's comprehensive research program

Conducted the first community-wide surveys examining the preparation of schools and special vocational training programs.

- Provided the first systematic research findings on the effectiveness of some of the major programmatic efforts and on the unmet needs.
- Served to highlight two messages; that the programs were making a difference, and that the magnitude of the challenge was great and required ongoing intensive efforts.
- Led to intensive cultural preparation of the school system.
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of the special vocational training programs and the ability to leap-frog the Ethiopians into skilled occupations.

## (1998) First national study on the integration of Ethiopian youth

- Impacted on decisions to continue special educational assistance for Ethiopians past the regular three-year period after immigration.
- Highlighted unexpected difficulties: Ethiopian youth who were born and raised in Israel had more difficulties in some key areas than newer immigrants.
- Demonstrated the high educational expectations and hopes of Ethiopian youth and their parents as a strength to build on.

## (2001) First comprehensive report on programmatic efforts and achievements

Helped dispel the widespread sense of failure and neglect on the part of the Ethiopian-Israeli population.

- Documented the efforts and the strong commitment to affirmative action.
- Brought to light significant progress that had been made during the 1990s and showed the unique role played by the Diaspora.
- Showed that much of the support had been discontinued, although significant challenges remained.
- Paved the way for a new set of initiatives in the next decade.

## (Since 2000) A series of formative evaluation studies on major national initiatives

- Cultural mediators to facilitate access to appropriate healthcare.
- Network of neighborhood information and referral centers.
- The PACT program for early childhood and the ENP program for youth.
- The new inter-ministerial multi-year plan for Ethiopians.

## (Current) Conducting in-depth studies and monitoring key indicators

- Providing a comprehensive national picture on the integration into employment and the targeted efforts that have been most effective.
- Recently completed the first comprehensive national survey of immigrant youth in Israel, with a comparative perspective on the integration of Ethiopian and other immigrant groups.
- Completing national study of Ethiopian families that came to Israel in the 1980s.
- Study of cultural bias of employers in applicant assessment processes and how to overcome it, providing a new level of understanding of societal processes.
- Setting the stage for prioritization of the efforts for the next decade.

## The story of two decades of the Institute's research on Ethiopian immigrants is the story of the role of research in informing the dialogue and affecting decisions in Israel and in the Diaspora.

- The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute has served as the major source of knowledge on the integration of Ethiopian immigrants for Israeli society and for the Diaspora.
- The Institute's research has contributed significantly to national policy decisions regarding the special assistance required by Ethiopian immigrants.
- Institute studies have supported key strategic partnerships between Diaspora communities and the Government.
- These studies have supported JDC Israel programmatic initiatives on an ongoing basis.
- The Institute has published some 60 research reports on Ethiopian Israelis and is currently conducting an additional five studies.
- The Institute is currently evaluating the three primary national initiatives for this population: the PACT (Parents and Children Together) program for young children, the Ethiopian National Plan for youth, and the inter-ministerial national program for young adults.
- Many of the studies were carried out with the support of Jewish communities abroad.





The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute is the leading center for applied social research serving Israel and the Jewish world. Our mission is to increase the effectiveness with which society addresses critical social challenges to enhance the well-being of, and expand opportunities for, its most vulnerable members.

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