

together against poverty

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020-2021



tzedek
together against poverty

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Image: A participant on our bamboo crafting vocational training project with Tzedek partner NGO, ERDS, in West Bengal, India.

FROM OUR CHAIR



Dear Tzedek Community,

Since joining Tzedek as Chair, I could not have been more impressed by the work that this organisation does – the impact we make with our partners overseas and in our own community in the UK.

More than ever before, we have seen over the past 18 months how necessary sustainable and resilient global development really is. We are witnessing every day just how devastating this crisis has been – and continues to be – in some of the poorest regions of the world. What we have also seen, however, is an increasingly impassioned generation of young Jews, stepping forward to tackle today's most trying global issues; to balance the scales of justice for all.

When addressing poverty, Maimonides called for partnership, investment in skill-building, and a dignified approach to money lending. These values inform our approach to development on the ground, while also informing our understanding of the need for collaboration, or partnership, with you.

Not long ago, The Board of Deputies' Commission on Racial Inclusivity said that communal involvement in global development shows British Jewry at its best. We need each and every one of you – our educators, religious and thought leaders, funders, students, businesspeople, youth leaders, and so on – to join us in meeting our community's growing commitment to global equity and social justice. It requires Jewish action, exactly what Tzedek has provided for decades, and what we will continue to provide, with you, for many more.

Thank you to all of our friends and supporters for your continued collaboration, to our tireless overseas partners – the changemakers themselves – and to Nik Kafka, Immediate Past Interim Chair and Trustee, whose strong leadership and expertise guided Tzedek through so many of these unprecedented days.

Miles Webber
Chairperson

FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friends,

Last year, I opened our Annual Review with the harsh reality that COVID-19 would set progress to end poverty back by 30 years. Experts now predict that long-term economic fallout could push half a billion people below the line. This is the first time we are seeing the trend reverse in a generation. While devastating, I can't help but feel hopeful in the face of this reminder that progress is possible.

This global crisis hit a world already rife with inequality and is only exacerbating pre-existing injustice in its wake. World events like these always affect the most vulnerable – those who already face oppression and marginalisation, who feel the dangers of the climate crisis first-hand, and whose countries cannot offer adequate social protection.

At Tzedek, when we talk about ending poverty, we are talking about dismantling the barriers to justice.

Our approach to global development tackles poverty not in a silo, but within the context of wider intersecting issues and broken systems. At this moment in time, a growing number of people require our response, and the next generation of Jewish leaders expect it from us too.

Thanks to your support, this year has seen our overseas partners continue to transform lives, while grassroots organisations in India have helped our communities survive COVID-19. They have innovated, broadened their reach, mobilised local activists, and leveraged relationships with traditional and government authorities. Here at home, our education team has embraced virtual facilitation to inform and inspire our community about outward-facing social responsibility. We have trained youth ambassadors, directed passion into action and upskilled young professionals on our new fellowship, expanded internship, teen activism workshops and other deeply impactful programmes. This year has also seen us welcome a new Chair, Miles Webber. In just a few short months, we have already felt the impact of his leadership and we are delighted to have him on board.

I am proud to share this Annual Review with you, filled with stories of hope, change and purpose. Thank you for your support this year and beyond.

Kira Blumer
Chief Executive

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Our mission is to reduce extreme poverty in some of the poorest regions of the world while engaging with the UK Jewish community about global social justice.

How do we achieve impact?

In partnership with local organisations overseas, we deliver sustainable development projects within the intersecting areas of education, youth development and livelihoods. This work improves lives and enables people to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. Simultaneously, we are mobilising the UK Jewish community to support and advocate for responsible global development.

Who do we work with?

Our international work focusses on the most marginalised people in rural and remote areas - women, who are evidenced to have the greatest potential to bring about long-term change; systemically disadvantaged Dalit and indigenous tribal communities in India; and youth, who, especially in Ghana, are too often excluded from decision making. We also strengthen civil society groups to drive societal change and include their community's most marginalised along the way. In the UK, we harness the drive and expertise of our Jewish community to inspire action towards global development and justice.

Where do we work?

Our overseas projects take place in specific regions of Ghana and India. In Ghana's Northern Region, our focus areas are Tolon District and Tamale Metropolitan District. In India, we work within four states: Bihar and West Bengal in the North East and Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the South East. We also deliver a wide range of educational, volunteering and professional development programmes for our Jewish community in the UK.

UNITED KINGDOM

GHANA
TOLON
TAMALE

INDIA
BIHAR
WEST BENGAL
ANDHRA PRADESH
TAMIL NADU

Living below the extreme poverty line means living on less than \$1.90 per day (World Bank) and being unable to meet your most basic needs.

FINANCES

Income:

We have continued to deliver on our mission despite the impact of COVID-19 on our income. Thank you to our supporters who make our work possible.

In the year ending March 31st, the vast majority of our income was derived from donations and legacies, £149,565 of which came from foundations and trusts.

We moved to online engagement and campaigns, with our community attending virtual events to fund our work through an unconventional year. We cancelled our overseas educational experiences

for UK participants, moving online and reducing our income and expenditure as compared to previous years. To become 100% partner-led overseas - in line with sector best practices - we eliminated a funded position in Ghana, also reducing our income and expenditure. While these decisions lowered our overall figures, they did not limit our ability to deliver on our mission.



■ Donations & Legacies	£275,434
■ Trading Activities	£605
■ Charitable Activities	£500
■ Investments	£9
TOTAL	£276,548

Expenditure:

Overseas Development Grants (excludes Tzedek staff time):	£93,161
Educational Expenditure (excludes Tzedek staff time):	£26,235
Fundraising & Community Engagement:	£16,154
Governance & Compliance:	£421
Core Operating Costs:	£38,108
Staffing (see charitable expenditure):	£151,617
TOTAL:	£325,695

Our work is divided into two areas: our overseas development and education within the UK Jewish community.

Charitable Expenditure:

These numbers include our direct costs and relevant staffing hours.

£141,975 Invested in community development initiatives overseas

1 We deliver overseas development projects in partnership with local organisations. Our locally-led approach means that our expert partners identify the needs and best use of funds in our focus communities. Expenditure of our grants may include resources, seed money for loans, salaries of staff and training facilitators, and office costs in-country. Our total development costs also include UK staffing, so that our development team can work closely with our delivery partners to achieve the most sustainable change.

£66,914 Invested in UK-based global justice education

2 For our UK-based education work, our staff are our greatest asset and cost. Other costs have been particularly low this year due to a shift to remote delivery. We have also invested funds to curate resources, such as educational videos from our partners that allow our community to hear about our impact overseas from those delivering it directly. We have also increased our engagement outside of our core programming. This has included lending our expertise externally, participating in government consultations for the sector and engaging with businesses on the importance of corporate action for global development.

STORIES FROM OVERSEAS

EDUCATION

In partnership with local organisations, we train and empower individuals, civil society groups and institutions to improve educational opportunities in our focus regions.

Our 2020-21 impact:

500 10 21 732 39 600

WOMEN WITH LITTLE OR NO EDUCATION COMPLETED VOCATIONAL TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

CLASSES WERE GIVEN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

TEACHERS RECEIVED TRAINING TO SUPPORT THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARENTS WERE EQUIPPED TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER LOCKDOWN

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS LEARNT HOW TO SUPPORT & IMPROVE LOCAL EDUCATION

EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS WERE TRAINED IN GENDER SENSITIVITY

Our civil society groups – comprised of 1170 people and including Parent-Teacher Associations, School Management Committees, youth groups and local government committees – are:

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improving the safety of school structures
- Building new schools for later years education
- Creating more classrooms and reducing class sizes
- Providing teacher accommodation to reduce absenteeism

QUALITY EDUCATION

- Strengthening school governance
- Advancing teacher attendance rates
- Enhancing the quality of education provision
- Increasing average years of education for children

GIRLS' EDUCATION

- Creating safe spaces for girls at school
- Advocating for girls' education
- Incentivising parents to educate their daughters

Women for Women: Vocational Training

Keerthana (20) from Tamil Nadu, India, has recently qualified with a professional diploma in nursing – thanks to Tzedek-funded training and our partner organisation, Women for Women.

Now employed by a private nursing home, Keerthana was raised by her grandmother and uncle, daily wage earners and agricultural labourers, after losing both of her parents by the age of nine. Despite experiencing extreme

poverty, Keerthana's family fought to keep her enrolled in school so that she could complete her education. However, our partners explained that:

"All three had a perfect understanding about the need for and importance of rural young girls earning a professional qualification [but] when it came to providing a professional education, both her guardians were totally helpless."

Keerthana came across Women for Women when supporting local children with their studies. She applied to their Arts & Medical Institute, which exists to help girls from poor communities obtain a professional qualification. One of 40 young women on her course, Keerthana has now completed her Professional Diploma and is earning a stable income of 10,000 rupees per month (approx. 97 GBP).

Our partners reported:

"She had never imagined she would get into a professional institute and study a course. Now she has a professional qualification and a job with a decent salary. She has positive hopes about her future. She believes she will be able to look after the nutrition, health and medical needs of both her ageing guardians. Peers in her village and in the neighbouring villages look forward to her advice and she has become a role model. She promised that she will continue to share her experiences with her peers and others in her neighbourhood."

This project trained 20 young women in nursing and taught another 20 to be lab technicians.

Our partners managed to continue delivering this programme throughout the pandemic, and even saw these young women

taking up professional placements in hospitals and medical institutions, where they supported the local response to COVID-19 while practicing their new vocations.



Keerthana (front, second from the right)



Nurses in training

Lobbying for Students' Educational Future

"Not having [a Junior High School] had extra burden on parents. Parents were forced to buy bicycles in order not to be late to school. Pupils sometimes leave home before breakfast... making parents give extra money [so they can buy food]. In some few cases, pupils leave home for school but end up going to other places. Having a JHS in the community makes monitoring of the pupils easy. Having teacher accommodation will help the pupils benefit from extra tuition."

- Mr. Alhassan Mohammed Neidow, local Assembly Member and member of the Dimabi Primary School Management Committee

In Ghana's Northern Region, over 30% of people live in extreme poverty. The quality of education is limited by large class sizes, high teacher absenteeism and poor school infrastructure.

The Dimabi community only has one Junior High School. Recently established on a temporary structure, the safety of the building was a very real concern – so much so that teachers and students were not attending.

The local primary school's Senior Management Committee (SMC), with support from our partners on the Empowerment for Life programme, worked hard to change this reality. With thanks to our training, the group identified this

need and knew how to bring about the necessary improvements to their educational infrastructure.

Mr. Alhassan Yakubu, Headteacher, explains: *"We wanted a JHS [Junior High School] because the pupils were burdened by walking about 4km... to the district capital and parents were worried this was not safe"*.

After mobilising the community and other civil society groups to lobby the District Assembly and Education Directorate, they secured funding to build a three-classroom block, office, washroom and storeroom, as well as new living quarters for the teachers in a nearby community. He reported that *"having a JHS has helped reduce absenteeism among*

pupils and parents are now happy their kids are having JHS education within the community".



Dimabi Primary School Management Committee

Our Empowerment for Life programme works with 20 education groups, including School-Management Committees and Parent-Teacher Associations, as well as youth groups and livelihood & food security groups.

STORIES FROM OVERSEAS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In our focus regions, youth suffer limited opportunities for employment and participation in decision making for their community and country. Mobilising young people – providing training for employment and encouraging them to use their voice – is vital for community development and breaking the cycle of poverty.

In the past year:



We have also worked with 19 youth groups - 600 young people - to engage them with local authorities and the community to overcome challenges. These young activists are:

- REDUCING TEENAGE PREGNANCY
- COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- PROMOTING PEACEFUL INVOLVEMENT IN DEMOCRACY
- IMPROVING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Amplifying Young Local Voices

“Community members are beginning to understand that they can initiate change to help address community challenges.”

In Tolon District, six youths have been training in journalism. Our partners are not just teaching them professional skills that will increase their career prospects, but helping unheard youth turn themselves into local changemakers.

Rahinatu Ibrahim, one of these community journalists, shared:

“I chose to be a community journalist because I want to discover challenges in my community and help engage with stakeholders. I have learnt how to use the console in the radio studio, host guests and report on community issues, and about entrepreneurship. All these have helped me build my confidence and exposed me to people I have never met. Community members are beginning to understand that they can initiate change to help address community challenges.”



Rahinatu Ibrahim



Rahinatu working at a local radio station

Along with her colleagues, Rahinatu Ibrahim is amplifying the work of local activists and civil society groups in the District – including youth groups.

Only a year into training and they have already collaborated with numerous local groups and governmental institutions for their broadcast.

Topics have ranged from preventing teenage pregnancy and the effects of drug abuse on community development, to information on the 2020 national election, the District’s

water crisis and the role of parents in promoting quality education.

As these young journalists raise the voices of young people in Ghana, they are bringing youth to the local decision-making table and supporting community initiatives to improve their District for thousands of people.

Electoral Peacebuilding: Dramas for Democracy

Our partners at GDCA, and their subsidiary organisation YEFL-Ghana (Youth Empowerment for Life), are educating youth about democratic processes and engaging them in advocacy efforts and youth parliaments.

In December 2020, Ghana held their most recent national elections. Our youth groups, conscious that their communities had previously experienced election violence, played a critical role in conflict prevention.

The District Youth Centre collaborated with various youth groups to perform a dramatic sketch to promote peace before, during and after the election. This included members of the various communities, with an audience of opinion leaders, representatives of women’s groups and assembly men. Vitally, they also targeted traditional leaders, who have

significant sway in the region. For even greater impact, these performances were attended by two media outlets, including community journalists trained on the same Tzedek partner programme, to cover the event.

With youth so often excluded from political decision making, an increase in these youth-led

initiatives and the collaboration with local media will make a real difference to community development in the region.

These groups are not only peacekeeping, but making their voices heard and, ultimately, driving societal change for generations.



Youth performing educational dramas in their communities

STORIES FROM OVERSEAS

LIVELIHOODS

We partner with grassroots organisations to deliver small-scale, lifechanging projects with lasting impact. These projects – falling within the areas of vocational training, livestock and agriculture – support marginalised women and youth to generate sustainable incomes.

PARTICIPANTS, ON AVERAGE, TRIPLE THEIR INCOME BY PROJECT'S END



This year, our partner projects have enabled:

350	40	240	70	120	455
WOMEN TO UPSKILL IN ADAPTABLE, RELIABLE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES	YOUNG WOMEN TO TRAIN FOR & LAUNCH MEDICAL CAREERS	WOMEN TO GENERATE INCOME AFTER TRAINING TO REAR LIVESTOCK	WOMEN TO EARN FROM SELLABLE, ECO-FRIENDLY CREATIONS	YOUTH TO TRAIN IN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TAILORING & ELECTRICS	WOMEN AND YOUTH TO LEARN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Livestock in the Face of Lockdown and a Natural Disaster



Nilima Sardar

Nilima Sardar is one of 200 women who have recently completed a training project with our partners at NGO Digambarpur Angikar (DA) in West Bengal.

Before enrolling, these women – some of India's most marginalised – lived in extreme poverty. Their families were unable to meet their most basic needs and relied on an unstable daily wage as part of the informal labour industry (making up 94% of the population). However, when lockdown came into force in March 2020, they were left without any income at all overnight. Just

two months later, the situation was made even worse when the region was hit by Cyclone Amphan, which left mass destruction in its wake.

“Sudden lockdown made us unemployed and later Cyclone Amphan totally destroyed our kachha [mud and bamboo] house as well as all belongings. My village was totally under the water. We were spending time in a government initiated flood shelter centre. We were worried about how to manage our regular expenses and other belongings.”

Since then, Nilima has learnt to rear livestock with our partners at DA, who also provided seed money for her to start a business. Now, she and the other women on this project have the skills and confidence to support themselves and their families going forward. They have also been able to reap nutritional

benefits from their new venture, providing their families with milk from the animals.

“Thank God, I had received short term training on goat rearing, given by Tzedek and Digambarpur Angikar. Me along with the other suffering villagers were so happy to receive that training in that emergency period. At present I have 8 goats and side by side I am also cultivating hen. Through this additional income I am maintaining my family expenses as well as educating my two daughters.”

For these 200 women and the many more we support on similar projects, this kind of vocational training is truly lifechanging. These projects provide women with the skills and, in some cases, official qualifications to enter the workforce while empowering them to lift their families out of extreme poverty.

Building Back Better: Protecting Livelihoods from the Climate Crisis

“The pandemic has had and will continue to have a major impact on the health and well-being of many vulnerable groups. Women are among those most heavily affected. Lockdowns have also resulted in increased domestic and care work for women. They are facing high risks of job and income loss, and also facing risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment. Post-Covid, livelihood restoration and education interventions are needed in these villages.”

- Naresh Chandra Verma, Managing Director of our NGO partner, BOARD, in India

As soon as the pandemic unfolded in our partner communities, we knew that it was our duty to respond. Since March 2020, we have been supporting our partners to see our global community through the crisis by delivering essential supplies and preventive education to remote regions.

In this reporting year, we provided over 710 families in India with lifesaving food, masks, sanitiser and soap. This response was critical throughout the lockdown, when our communities, already experiencing extreme poverty, lost their incomes without social protection systems in place. In Ghana, where the caseload has remained under control, the need was different. Instead of lifesaving supplies, we provided essential PPE that allowed our programming to continue. Our partners also supported the provision of assorted Tzedek-funded preventative items to the Health Directorate for distribution to clinics and schools.

Across all our focus regions, our partners spread public health messages to teach preventative measures, combat disbelief and misinformation, and educate against vaccine hesitancy. This meant teaming up with health workers, local health authorities and clinics. This educational work has disseminated beyond our direct reach, and the strength of these new relationships between our partners,

communities and these health workers and government institutions will have great benefit long-term.

Our COVID-19 response is ongoing. At the same time, we are looking ahead to the long-term impacts of the pandemic, which we know will be devastating for many of these communities.

Even before the pandemic hit, climate change was slowing progress to reduce poverty. As the world talks about recovery and “building back better”, we know that sustainable and climate resilient community development must be a priority.

As we double down on our development work, our programmes, already environmentally sustainable, will be teaching agricultural adaptation. It is essential that our communities can adjust their processes to the changing weather patterns, as well as bigger hits – like Cyclone Amphan. All of our projects in



Tzedek partner, SPREAWS, and community health worker teaching handwashing in India

India will empower individuals and communities to adapt and diversify their livelihoods, protecting themselves from losing their income opportunities due to climate change or disasters. We will be working with farmers in Northern Ghana to set up farm schools that demonstrate effective and adaptable farming practices, including climate resilience. This will also group farmers, giving them access to government policies that are usually only available to larger scale farmers – enabling them to earn more from their work. Our partners have also identified Women's Collectives that work in agro-processing, for example with shea butter or rice. Currently, their processes are vulnerable to shifting weather patterns and only provide a seasonal income. We will work with them to create long-term, consistent income opportunities that are also adaptable to the changing climate.



Tzedek partner, GDCA, presenting local government with PPE in Ghana

COVID-19 is not just a health crisis - the shadow pandemic of poverty is ongoing, and it requires a strong and sustainable response. In the face of huge economic fallout and the growing climate emergency, we will be meeting our partner's call for “livelihood restoration and education interventions” as we break down the barriers to global justice.

BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

Engaging the UK Jewish community in our work is central to Tzedek's mission. We are committed to building globally responsible future leaders as we act upon the Jewish commitment to pursuing *tzedek* (justice).

This year, despite the hardships faced in our own country, we noticed a renewed vigour in our Jewish community to support the global work against poverty and other forms of injustice. We responded by elevating existing programmes and launching new ones, catering to our young people's needs and interests, and deepening our impact.

650 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

4 NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMMES

29 EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

20,000 YOUTH INDIRECTLY REACHED

Training Young Activists

"In a world of so many voices it is incredibly powerful to be told that yours matters."

- Dania Obstfeld, Teen Activism Training participant

With so many teens in our community mourning the cancellation of Israel Tour, we knew there was a need for an engaging summer programme that explored Jewish identity and addressed the world beyond our own doors.

In partnership with BBYO, we launched a week-long virtual programme for young Jewish leaders. Teen Activism Training grappled with the tenets of global justice and our Jewish obligation to pursue it.



Teen Activism Training in partnership with BBYO

Our participants practiced various skills that are vital for effective global action. These were taught through the lens of topical issues and movements, ranging from the impact of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter to the climate crisis.

This group of young activists came away with a greater understanding of the systems that uphold poverty and inequality, and critically, with the confidence to make a difference.



Dania Obstfeld

Spotlight: The Tzedek Fellowship

"Many young people want to help solve the world's most pressing challenges and struggle with the 'how'. The knowledge on International Development provided [by Tzedek's Fellowship programme] offers the opportunity to carefully assess these issues and make a well-informed decision on where you can align yourself to contribute solutions."

- Love Afia Kyeremah-Darko, 2020-21 Fellow

Launched in autumn 2020, our Fellowship is an opportunity for emerging international development practitioners, and other young people interested in related sectors, to learn deeply about the field and network with peers, as well as experts.

This programme connected 20 university students and young professionals - from the UK Jewish community and beyond - to learn from sector experts and each other.

Our Fellows explored key theories and topics, while also connecting between meetings in smaller groups. Like all of our programmes, we discussed the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and addressed harmful perceptions and representations of poorer regions of the world. We also looked at human rights, gender, entrepreneurship, climate resilience, global education, and more.



Jessica Persell

Jessica Persell, one of our UK-based Fellows, visited Ghana with Tzedek in 2017. She said that this is what led her to pursue Global Studies and International Relations at Nottingham Trent University, where she is now.

"I took away some really interesting and eye-opening knowledge from the Fellowship... I found that the discussions were always very engaging, and it was great to listen to different viewpoints to my own. This was especially due to participants being involved from the UK, India, Ghana and Rwanda. This Fellowship solidified my interest in the sector and will give me the experience to put towards the end of my degree, as well as in finding a job after I have graduated."



Love Afia Kyeremah-Darko

Another Fellow, Love Afia Kyeremah-Darko, from Ghana, discovered Tzedek when working on the same programme Jessica joined in 2017. Love is a development practitioner and an African Union Ambassador to the organisation G(irls)20.

After reading one of our recommended resources, an article on racism in the sector, Love contacted the author, Angela Bruce-Raeburn. *"The best part is", Love told us, "during Black History Month, she [Bruce-Raeburn] agreed to be hosted for a conversation on Anti-Black Racism and Charities, and I had the honour of hosting this conversation through G(irls)20".*

Love said:

"[The Fellowship] has given me clarity on where my passion, skills and strengths will be most useful within the sector... [The programme] was excellently delivered. It was intentional and, as a fellow, I felt seen, heard and respected, and that is truly remarkable. I will recommend it any day to a young development professional."



Tzedek Fellowship: inaugural cohort

BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

Opening our Virtual Doors to Interns

As countless organisations closed their doors to interns over the summer, we noticed an increased need for meaningful work, skills development and professional opportunity among our community members. Expanding the 'traditional' internship into a robust educational programme, we welcomed 11 university students and recent graduates to our virtual office. Our interns joined from across the UK, as well as from Israel, Ghana and the USA – just one of the benefits of working online.

Our Internship Programme kickstarted with a weeklong intensive, introducing International Development and global responsibility while providing a cohort experience for collaborative learning and working. Interns learnt from the Tzedek team, Trustees and our international partners. We explored the United Nations' Sustainable

Development Goals, addressed harmful perceptions and representations of poorer regions of the world, and looked at the Jewish values that guide our work, including Maimonides' philosophy on charitable giving.

This initial week also provided the foundations for a meaningful internship through skill sessions and personal-professional development reflections. Participants then continued working with the Tzedek team, undertaking projects to develop their portfolios.

One participant, Sarah Kass, had previously joined Tzedek on the Chief Rabbi's Ben Azzai Programme in December 2019.

Sarah said that, following Ben Azzai:

"I wanted to learn more about international development and the charity sector. In order to do so, I completed a three-week internship with Tzedek in July 2020. As well as being able to learn from and work with fellow like-minded university students from around the world, the internship helped with my degree and solidified my desire to work in international development. At university, I wrote an essay on the relationship between domestic violence, micro-finance schemes and female empowerment based on what I had learnt through the internship and the Ben Azzai programme. The internship has also helped me secure a five-month internship at an international development organisation in Tel Aviv."



Internship Programme participants



Sarah Kass

Supporting our Alumni: Ambassadors for Global Responsibility

Tzedek has been at the cutting edge of the UK Jewish community's engagement with global justice and the fight against extreme poverty for 30 years. We have built a significant community of alumni, so many of whom continue their journey with Tzedek – partaking in new opportunities to continue their learning and development, returning to mentor current participants and raising awareness as ambassadors for outward-facing social responsibility.

Here is a spotlight on three alumni – graduates of the Chief Rabbi's Ben Azzai Programme – who have founded their very own social impact start up: Young Social Enterprise.

After spending time learning from our partners in Northern Ghana on the Ben Azzai programme, Dan Amroussi, Asher Levy and Nina Peleg returned wanting to engage the wider Jewish community in social issues beyond our own doors. They said: *"[The Ben Azzai Programme] had a tremendous impact on us... Our aim for YSE [Young Social Enterprise] is to engage students in the broad subject of global social responsibility. Ultimately, we want students to realise that it is our Jewish and human obligation to pursue tzedek (justice) and to play our part in the international response against poverty in all its forms everywhere"*.

We worked with them to refine and incubate the initiative – a multi-round competition to design a hypothetical community development intervention, complete with online education and a resource hub – before supporting their launch, advising on educational content and joining the judging panel.

"We have received the most incredible support from Tzedek since pitching our idea to them in August 2020. They were immediately extremely enthusiastic about the idea and spent many hours helping us develop the idea into a reality."

Their first year has been a huge success. With our support and that of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, they managed to engage with 10 schools within the community, signing over 50 students onto the programme. They have also secured funding and have been accepted onto a project with World Jewish Congress and the World Union of Jewish Students, which will provide them with additional guidance and resources as they expand. Planning

for the second round of the programme, they have recruited 12 volunteers to join their team – including a talented member of 2020-21's winning group and other Tzedek alumni.

They shared:

"Tzedek has been critical to the success of YSE: they have provided us with the legitimacy and expertise to provide students a meaningful learning experience... Our journey has just begun, and we have many plans to further develop the competition and for its impact to grow and last for many years."

We are incredibly proud of how this initiative has taken shape over the past year, and look forward to supporting Dan, Asher and Nina as Young Social Enterprise develops.



Co-Founders of Young Social Enterprise: Asher Levy (left), Dan Amroussi (right) and Nina Peleg (not pictured)

OUR VALUES



Justice, justice you shall pursue
צדק צדק תרדף
Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof

We believe that extreme poverty is human-made and can be solved through action.

It is our responsibility to bring greater justice to the world in which we live and share with others.

You shall love the stranger
אהבת את הגר
Ahavtah et HaGer

Jewish tradition teaches us to see the world globally in ever-widening ripples of responsibility.

We believe in repairing the world beyond national and religious boundaries.

Partnership
שותפות
Shutafut

Inspired by Maimonides' definition of charity, we believe the highest form of giving is to take a person into partnership and provide a way for them to support themselves.

Central to our approach overseas is listening to our partners, helping them to help themselves, their families and their communities.

We will do and we will understand
נעשה ונשמע
Naaseh v'nishma

Building our knowledge and awareness leads us to deeper commitments, which in turn drive us to act, and act well. This action also drives our learning.

The cycle of learning and doing is never-ending. Jewish tradition teaches us to firmly believe that the two go hand in hand.

It is not your duty to finish the work, but you are not free to neglect it
לא עליך המלאכה לגמור
ולא אתה בן-חורין להבטל ממנה
Lo alecha hamelacha ligmor,
v'lo atah ben chorin l'hivatel mimena

Whilst it is not within our grasp to eradicate extreme poverty by ourselves,

it is our responsibility to be part of an interconnected global response.

Image: A participant on our Empowerment for Life programme, run in partnership with GDCA in Northern Ghana

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*Front cover image: The Tunteeya Women's Group on the Empowerment for Life programme,
delivered by Tzedek partner organisation, GDCA, in Northern Ghana*