The way in which the organization has responded has demonstrated ORT at its best: all stakeholders working together to ensure that everyone continues to receive a seamless education, however challenging their current circumstances.

ORT professionals have ensured the appropriate courses, services and support are made available to our beneficiaries and their families worldwide. Our donors and lay leaders have provided support by way of funding and wise counsel. And our students have demonstrated the depth of their resources, passing difficult tests with patience, spirit and good humor.

In the midst of the biggest global challenge in a century, directly impacting education, we also welcomed a new Director General and CEO and developed a new strategic plan to maximize our future success and ensure that we are positioned to support our communities across the globe into self-sufficiency and achievement.

Innovation, imagination and cooperation have seen us successfully meet the challenges of 2020 and will be the tools for our continued success through 2021 and beyond.
Who We Are

Our Mission

A global education network driven by Jewish values and innovation, preparing people and communities for meaningful, self-sufficient futures.

About ORT

ORT has been transforming lives through training and education since 1880. From focusing on teaching 19th century Russian Jews essential trades and professions, we have evolved to provide 21st century skills that empower individuals and strengthen communities and Jewish life worldwide.

The ORT network reaches more than 200,000 people a year in schools, universities, and vocational training programs, in more than 30 countries. We bridge the gap between ability and opportunity by providing leading science and technology education.

Our DNA

Education for Life

Global Citizenship

Jewish Experience

Our Values

Sustainability
Integrity
Innovation
Cooperation
Passion
Excellence
Versatility
Tikkun Olam
Tikkun Am

Tikkun Am – Our Future

Enabling the sustainable flourishing of the Jewish people by investing in our identity, culture, community, religion and State. Engaging young people to ensure they develop as proud, knowledgeable and active Jews, building a strong and viable Jewish future.
Where We Are

The Largest Global Jewish Education Network

Operational Countries:
Argentina
Belarus
Brazil
Bulgaria
Chile
Columbia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Estonia
France
Georgia
Hungary
India
Israel
Italy
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Mexico
Moldova
Panama
Peru
Russia
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Ukraine
Uruguay

Fundraising Countries:
Belgium
Canada
Switzerland
USA

Fundraising & Operational:
The Netherlands
UK
More than 56,000 hours of Jewish studies lessons are delivered each year worldwide.

More than 178,000 hours of STEM lessons a year are delivered by more than 6,000 teachers worldwide.

More than 90% of students proceed to higher education.
World ORT Updates

Leading and Supporting

World ORT’s outstanding educational program sets our global network apart. Our dedicated educators, working from our global headquarters, plan, promote and execute unique programs for teachers and students every year.

In 2020 we adapted our signature training courses such as the LEAD program – which develops leadership skills among school staff – to deliver meaningful professional development online. In many cases participation increased, one of the unexpected positives of remote learning. Teachers and students had more opportunities to come together, regardless of geographic location.

Similarly, lockdowns didn’t hold back the students in the World ORT Taub Young Entrepreneurship Program. The students developed new communication skills and work practices, switched to online activities, and the program continued to its climactic grand final in June.

The joint winners of the program, which guides students to design a product that solves a social problem, were the team from the Scuola Della Comunità Ebraica in Milan, which devised a crowd-based shipping platform, and a team from CIM-ORT in Mexico City which created reusable smart gift bags.

As Clara Laoui, from Milan, said, “the Taub Young Entrepreneurship Program taught me to problem solve and be creative with my tasks in a way I had never experienced before. Winning is on the list of achievements I’m most proud of.”

The innovation and passion of ORT students also shone through in the Gina and Joseph Harmatz Awards for Social Responsibility. A group from CIM-ORT used their design and technology skills to create a prosthetic arm for an underprivileged boy who lost his hand. They collected the top prize, awarded to students who have distinguished themselves in their conduct towards others and contributed to Tikun Olam – our shared responsibility to heal the world.

More than 100 Virtual Volunteers gave locked-down students opportunities to develop their English language skills and to learn from experts in a range of business fields. The volunteers led online sessions and masterclasses on networking, leadership and much more. Students and teachers participated in Europe, the Former Soviet Union, Israel and Latin America.

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Worldwide Covid Impact Statistics:

- Hundreds of devices provided to students and teachers for distance learning
- 100 virtual volunteers
- Tuition fee support to 630 families

Yoni Diner, Teacher of Medical Sciences and Health Systems at Rabin School, Israel
ORT 140: A year to remember

While 2020 was a year of unparalleled uncertainty and upheaval, its challenges did not disrupt the spirit of ORT’s 140th anniversary celebrations as we marked ORT’s founding in 1880 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Growing our family

We have continued to grow the ORT family this year, extending our affiliation agreement with South Africa’s King David Schools and welcoming Barcelona’s Colegio Hatikva school to the network. These affiliations – alongside those with schools in countries including Singapore, the Netherlands, Italy, Peru, Czech Republic and Panama – show the diversity of education institutions eager to join our pursuit of excellence.

"For 140 years ORT has developed the skills to adapt to whatever circumstances we find ourselves in," said Dan Green, World ORT Director General and CEO.

Students united remotely to celebrate ORT Day in March with postcard exchanges and a global quiz. That success laid the foundation for May’s first-ever virtual General Assembly. More than 300 people heard how ORT had adapted to the challenges of the past four years, and elected the Board of Trustees for the next four years.

Robert Singer, previously World ORT Director General and CEO, returned to ORT as Chair of the Board of Trustees and said he wanted ORT to become a key messenger of "new ideas, innovation and adaptation."

In September, we premiered ‘The ORT Story’ – a documentary following the stories and lives of five current and former ORT students. Hundreds viewed the film virtually and gained a new appreciation for ORT’s long and impactful history.

Tair, a graduate of the acclaimed robotics program in Dimona, Israel, who now studies at the Technion, paid tribute in the film to her ORT experience: “I knew nothing about robots, but my teacher always believed in me. I owe him everything. The effect of ORT on Dimona is huge. Just having that belief in our potential opened all the doors for us.”

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ORT’s new strategic vision is built on three pillars that are at the core of our mission: Education for Life, Global Citizenship and Jewish Experience. Read how the ORT network has been living these defining principles during 2020.

Our DNA

**Education for Life**
Providing students with the skills to thrive through high-quality teaching and training.
ORT programs prepare students for careers in developing industries. As workplace opportunities rapidly evolve, ORT teaches new skills needed to gain and maintain expertise for employment in sought-after fields.

**Global Citizenship**
Preparing students to lead socially responsible lives.
ORT students develop an increased understanding of moral and ethical issues beyond their geographic boundaries, allowing them to make better-informed choices for themselves and for society.

**Jewish Experience**
Ensuring Jewish continuity by enriching Jewish education, identity and appreciation of Jewish tradition, values and culture.
ORT schools are the primary source of Jewish affiliation for many students and their families – providing a direct connection to our religion, history and culture.
Education for Life

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Changing Lives in Israel

Kfar Silver Youth Village, the hub of our activities in Israel and a flagship in our global programs, has received an unprecedented boost thanks to a major infrastructure renovation project. The $11 million initiative, supported by the Gerald and Gail Ronson Family Foundation in Britain and other leading ORT supporters worldwide, includes substantial development, repair and modernization of the kitchen and dining hall complex and the Senior High and Junior High school buildings. High-level STEM educational programs prepare students for future careers in the tech industry and beyond.

Dan Green, World ORT Director General and CEO, said: “The Village changes the lives of its young residents. We are determined to transform the village into a location in which hundreds of young people can thrive and realize their dreams. This is a hugely positive development.”

Israel’s Education Minister Yoav Galant visited the Village in September and said it is an “exemplary” facility which acts as a role model for others.

Uruguay’s Top University

Universidad ORT Uruguay was recognized as the country’s top university in a prestigious international ranking in June. The institution was 462nd in the QS World University Rankings of 1,000 top universities from around the world. Professor Sidney Strauss, Co-Chair of World ORT’s Academic Advisory Council, said: “This is a sign of how persistence with quality education as the ultimate goal in mind pays off. My heartiest and heartfelt congratulations to CEO Professor Charlotte de Grünberg and Rector Dr. Jorge Grünberg and all those who helped attain this remarkable achievement.”

Around Our Network

Learning New Skills

Inna Korotayeva is the personification of Education for Life. Fifteen years ago she took a computer literacy course at the ORT Training Center in Yekaterinburg, Russia. Now, at the age of 85, she returned to ORT to acquire vital skills in online communications that enabled her to connect with family and friends during the pandemic.

“Learning New Skills.

Inna Korotayeva, the personification of Education for Life.

What I learned at the ORT center keeps me alive today,” she explains. “I have lost my normal life and my social life – but the internet is saving me. My interaction with my children overseas would have been impossible without my new skills, as well as my internet purchases, news, and online broadcasts from museums and theatres."

Educators’ Forum

Throughout 2020, ORT leaders and teachers have been considering how the impact of the Covid pandemic will reshape education. This question was the theme of our virtual Educators’ Forum in May. More than 60 senior educators from 17 countries, representing dozens of ORT schools, came together to share learnings on new teaching methodologies and share opportunities of online learning.

Keynote speaker Pierre-Antoine Ullmo, a renowned writer and education specialist said ORT had responded well to the crisis thanks to its teachers’ ability to solve problems. Dan Green told the forum that ORT “leaves no student behind” and worked hard to bring education professionals from around the world together to share best practices.

Empowering Refugees

A grant from the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief will allow ORT to expand the vocational training we provide in Greek refugee camps. ORT’s training programs empower women refugees and provide them with emotional support by teaching them sewing skills and instruction on how to make masks, dresses, toys, and more.

Panama Summer School

In one of the final in-person activities before the pandemic struck, in February two dozen ORT students travelled to Panama for our fifth annual Ecology Summer School. Nominated by their schools across Latin America and Spain, students spent 12 days in Gamba, on the fringes of the rainforest, gathering a deeper understanding of the natural environment; the importance of conservation and engaging in scientific research. Site visits and meetings with leading academics and conservationists from the Smithsonian’s Tropical Research Institute and other prestigious institutions provided further perspective on the issues.

At the closing session, Daniel Tysman, Head of ORT’s Education Department, said: “The memories of this experience should always inspire the students to be more responsible and to speak up on issues concerning the environment and conservation.”

Students at Ecology Summer School

Students at Kfar Silver Youth Village

Empowering Syrian refugees in Greece

On behalf of the Coalition for Disaster Relief, ORT works with Syrian refugees in Greece to provide training programs, including clothes making, in order to support them and their families. The program has been successful in increasing income for refugees and their families. ORT continues to work closely with Syrian refugees and organizations to provide them with the necessary support to rebuild their lives in Greece.

Students at Panama Summer School

Around Our Network

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Global Citizenship

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Jewish Experience

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Happy Holidays

Our ‘Let’s Celebrate’ series brought students together to mark Jewish festivals and holidays. For Pesach, students took home activity lists to enhance their family Seder, shared a masterclass led by a student rabbi looking at the meaning behind the festival, and used an ORT Haggadah.

A Taste of Israel

Students at CIM-ORT in Mexico held a virtual Yom Ha’atzmaut breakfast celebration to mark Israeli Independence Day. Parents were sent a falafel recipe in advance so that students and their families could make and eat the falafel together over Zoom, sing Israeli songs and discuss the meaning of the day. The ceremony ended with the communal singing of Hatikvah.

Remembering the Past

World ORT partnered with International March of the Living’s ‘Let There Be Light’ initiative to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht in November. The campaign encouraged solidarity in the fight against anti-Semitism, racism, hatred and intolerance and called on members of the public, houses of worship and organizations to keep a light on in their homes, offices, and synagogues on November 9.

A Memorial for Macedonia

ORT marked Chanukah by supporting a project dedicated to the memory of North Macedonian Jewry. The ‘1,000 Chanukah Candles of Remembrance’ campaign called on people across the world to light the menorah on the eighth night of the festival in dedication to the once prosperous community of 8,000 people which was almost completely destroyed during the Holocaust.

By Students, for Students

Students planned a remote Lag B’Omer celebration, with 40 students joining an afternoon of interactive games led by alumni of the 2019 World ORT STEM Summer School. Split into small groups to solve puzzles, find clues and finish tasks in the fastest time, they gained a first-hand appreciation of cooperation and innovation. The collaborations continued through Chanukah, with an international group working together to create a short video on the origins of the festival of lights.

A Sweet Celebration

ORT schools in Moscow shared a Rosh Hashanah initiative hand-delivering small jam jars to elderly Jews. Youngsters from the ‘Tekhiya’ school made almost 200 jars. It is hoped the project will become a new school tradition at the start of each Jewish year.

Fighting Hatred

In October, World ORT joined thousands of governments, NGOs, cultural and social movements and organizations when it adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.
Fundraising in 2020

In a year when we celebrated ORT’s 140th anniversary, we confirmed that our mission is as important today as it was in 1880. In these critical times we pulled together to make sure the educational needs of ORT students and educators were met as the pandemic spread around the globe.

ORT America

ORT America pivoted to online platforms and offered engaging programming to supporters and friends around the country. The goal was to highlight the many ways in which ORT provides critical education and Jewish values to its global network.

Some highlights included:
- The launch of ORT in Conversation, a forum for international experts in the U.S. and abroad to discuss the challenges and opportunities of COVID-19 to improve learning and teaching. The first guest speaker was Randi Weingarten, President of American Federation of Teachers, who shared the virtual stage with ORT America President and CEO Barbara Birch, to discuss how to implement education amidst a pandemic.
- Interactive educational initiatives in the U.S. were facilitated by World ORT Kadima Mada instructors, building on our engagement with camps. Future partnering with schools and camps will provide additional programs in 2021 throughout the U.S.
- ORT America’s Annual Meeting – Tomorrow Starts Today – offered a dynamic multimedia presentation and breakout sessions that were hosted by eight ORT students and alumni from six countries.
- Sponsorship of Unorthodox, the Podcast with special guest, Mayim Bialik, best known for her role in the Big Bang Theory. Mayim embodies ORT values in her commitment to education, love of science and devotion to the Jewish experience.
- A variety of regional events rounded out the year with something for everyone.

Thank you for participating and contributing to make these virtual gatherings informative, meaningful and successful.

Thank you to all of our supporters
Our Fundraising Countries

ORT Belgium

Despite the pandemic causing the cancellation of a number of events planned by ORT Belgium – such as a visit to Auschwitz and the annual trip to Kfar Silver – the organization continued to strengthen throughout the year, maintaining and growing its supporter base.

New communications will inform supporters about World ORT activities as well as news and information from around the global network on a regular basis.

ORT Belgium is gearing up to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021.

ORT Switzerland

Photography program in locations across Israel continued. ORT Canada is creating an Israel Photography Book to raise further funds.

Looking ahead, ORT Canada plans to host innovative programming and a hybrid approach to fundraising will promote both virtual and in-person events. These are likely to include golf tournaments in Toronto and a major online gala for Montreal.

ORT Canada

Our fundraising teams in Canada took advantage of the challenges posed by the pandemic to create new opportunities throughout 2020.

Leaders strengthened links with donors and local community organizations and shifted their approach to fundraising activities. A new event – the Cycle for Richmond – in Vancouver in August proved hugely popular, with more than 40 riders taking part, and will be repeated in 2021.

Donors in Canada supported World ORT’s Covid-19 immediate needs campaign.

George Fisher’s five-year commitment to ORT’s YOUUniversity.

ORT Switzerland

Driven by a passionate volunteer team, ORT Suisse focused its 2020 fundraising on helping schools, teachers, students and families overcome the challenges presented by Covid-19.

A record number of donors contributed to campaigns in the spring and fall, benefiting both World ORT and ORT France.

Events included a webinar with Professor Arnold Munnich, head of ORT France, and in-person activities such as a ski day, movie premiere and dinner are being rescheduled for 2021. In 2020, ORT Suisse reconnected with historic supporters and identified new foundations to contribute to ORT activities worldwide.

Financial Update

2020 Fundraising Income ($’000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount ($’000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israeli Government &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>$41,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Restricted</td>
<td>$5,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2020 Expenditure ($’000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSU</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Education Programs</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America Programs</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delivery cost 6.5% of expenditure
In the Media

Adapting to changing times for 140 years
March 20, 2020

"If we are really placed here as individuals to help repair the world," says Dr. Conrad Giles, president of World ORT, "what better way to do that but by educating individuals and permitting them to be as productive as possible?"

Giles, mild and soft-spoken, is firmly committed to the concept of tikkun olam (repairing and improving the world) via World ORT’s worldwide educational programs, which have been a vital part of the Jewish world since 1880.

This year, World ORT is celebrating its 140th birthday, and though it has postponed its general assembly because of the spread of the coronavirus, its accomplishments are not diminished in any way by the postponement of the celebrations.

Israeli teens use 3D printer to create lip-reading friendly face mask
May 7, 2020

A doctoral student teamed up with secondary school pupils in Israel to create a Covid-19 face mask designed to make it possible to lip-read during the pandemic. The mask, dubbed “Read My Lips”, features a transparent front panel, is reusable and can be sterilised. It is specifically designed for those with hearing impairments and who read lips to communicate.

Carolina Tannenbaum-Baruchi worked on the project with Mayan Levin, who is a mentor on a robotics programme led by World ORT. Dan Green, World ORT’s director general and CEO, said: "The creativity shown by our students involved in this remarkable project is the perfect example of how ORT’s innovative spirit gives young people the tools they need to make a difference in the world."

Mikhail Libkin: “Russia can be proud of the ORT system”
Issue #6, April 2020

ORT was created in 1880 in St. Petersburg, moved beyond the Russian borders, and then left the USSR altogether. But in 1991 it returned to the country. Director of ORT in Russia Mikhail Libkin is fascinated by the history of the organization, trawls its archives and loves to talk about his findings. "In Russia, ORT is a non-profit organization that supports educational initiatives primarily in Jewish schools, although not exclusively Jewish. These initiatives are primarily related to technological education — everything that is now called STEAM fields: science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics. Like founder Nikolai Bakst, we strive to ensure that education in Jewish schools gives their graduates the best future possible."

Dr. Moisés Salinas Fleitman: ORT in the 21st Century
April 10, 2020

"ORT Mexico has done and continues to do very important work in areas like human rights, addiction prevention, and educational innovation among others. We just completed a three-year project for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) working with about 60 human rights organizations in the Mexico-US border region."

Managing a worldwide educational network during a pandemic
July 23, 2020

Like many non-profit educational organizations today, World ORT is attempting to meet the unique fundraising challenges caused by COVID-19. The organization approached its supporters to obtain computers for those students who did not have a computer available at home to remain connected. In April, ORT launched a program entitled “Virtual Volunteers” in which the organization’s supporters interacted with students and taught seminars on Zoom on English, entrepreneurship and networking in the job market.

Olive Trees planted at Kfar Silver
May 19, 2020

A total of 25 olive trees were planted at a ceremony in southern Israel to honor the memory of Lori Gilbert-Kaye, 60, who was shot and killed by a lone teenage gunman on April 27, 2019 during Shabbat morning services on the last day of Passover at Chabad of Poway in Southern California. Three others were injured in the attack.

The ceremony took place at Kfar Silver Youth Village, part of the World ORT Kadima Mada school network, where local children helped plant the trees.

Dan Green, World ORT Acting Director General and CEO, said: "The scourge of anti-Semitism has increased rapidly across the world in recent years, including in many countries where ORT schools operate.

"It is vital that all of us work together to combat this hatred, in memory of Lori Gilbert-Kaye’s heroic actions, and in memory of all those whose lives have been lost or forever changed by senseless anti-Semitism."
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