

## **Course on Slum Upgrading and Delivery of Services to the Urban Poor - May 2010**

On June 2, 2010, another class completed a course on "Slum Upgrading and Delivery of Services to the Urban Poor", sponsored by MASHAV, UN-Habitat and Tag International Development. The class which began on May 10th was composed of 25 people from the countries of Cameroon, Ecuador Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Vietnam. One of the goals this course offered was the implementation of service delivery systems for the poor, and financial and organizational implementation mechanisms. Good services provision helps people's transition out of poverty, but without an integrated approach to slums upgrading, this will push people out of the neighborhood but will not upgrade the neighborhood.

The closing ceremony began with words from Mr. Hanan Cohen, acting Board of Directors Chairman of the Weitz Center; ambassador Walid Mansour, representative for MASHAV, his Excellency Mr. Baija Nath Thapalia, ambassador of Nepal, and Yossi Offer, Weitz Center Director of Training. Also in attendance were the ambassadors from Ecuador, Myanmar, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mexico, Georgia, and India. After the speeches, the class was awarded with their graduation certificates, which included the group photo, pilgrimage certificate, the insignia from the Shalom Club from MASHAV, and a pictorial guide of Israel.

After receiving their certificates, the participants sang in a choir the songs of Ose Shalom and Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu – two songs about bringing peace, taught to them by Ruth Lavi. Following the choir was a moving speech made by Mr. Donald Okeke from Nigeria on behalf of the participants. Concluding the ceremony was an amazing performance Agents of Change, composed of Ms. Tambe Mispa and Ms. Emeliene Etanuor Atia from Cameroon, and Ms. Gloria Ugo Nwamma from Nigeria, with the title of the song called "We Are A Household Of Change".



