



ISRAID 

# ANNUAL REPORT <sup>20</sup><sub>23</sub>



# WELCOME LETTER



## DEAR FRIENDS,

We are proud to bring you IsraAID's Annual Report for 2023, a difficult year for many of us. From October, IsraAID's headquarters team – like many of our supporters around the world – carried a double burden. For the first time, we were not just responding to an emergency. We were living through it ourselves. From our first conversations on October 7th, it was clear that we would respond. What was not clear yet – but soon became undeniable – was the added value IsraAID's global experience would bring.

Our team brought our international expertise to bear at home for the first time. By October 8th, we were already partnering with displaced communities on everything from logistics to mental health and education to community recovery. With Israel's Gaza border region experiencing extreme violence, our acute trauma experts turned to art therapy techniques that we have used to support dozens of crisis-affected communities globally, from Syrian refugees in Greece to tsunami survivors in Japan. When the leadership of Kibbutz Be'eri needed a way to organize their evacuated community, we built them a digital 'control room', utilizing solutions that have helped us deliver aid in Ukraine and COVID-19 vaccines in Eswatini. With thousands of children wrenched from their routines, we partnered with local authorities to build temporary schools and train teachers on how to support children after crisis – expertise developed during countless missions and recently strengthened through our work with Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and Afghan refugees in Albania.

In the months since, we have stood with affected communities on the long road to recovery. In every IsraAID mission, we put communities first. That means accompanying communities every step of the way, developing programs together that ensure communities own the keys to their own future. We have done this time and again, from working in every school across Dominica after 2017's Hurricane Maria to ensure they're prepared the next time disaster strikes, to rehabilitating more than 100 boreholes in rural Malawi last year after Cyclone Freddy. In Israel, with affected communities still displaced and the shock and trauma of October 7th ever-present, we are working together with them to build independent, community-owned programs that can help each community envision and create their own future after crisis.

This work is never easy, and it has never hit so close to home, but it is essential. Over 23 years, responding to more than 100 crises in over 60 countries, we've learnt the power of commitment to disaster-affected communities – it's the foundation on which our impact rests.

For our more than 350-person strong IsraAID team around the world, 2023 was also a year of deepening that impact. Our Emergency Response Team deployed to Türkiye and Morocco after devastating earthquakes, and Malawi after Cyclone Freddy. In each crisis, we were among the first international aid groups to reach affected areas.

We also developed our organizational focus on complex, protracted emergencies. Our responses to both the crisis in Ukraine and the drought in Kenya entered their second years. Across the globe, from Colombia to South Sudan, Uganda to Vanuatu, Mozambique to Dominica, we built new partnerships with communities, local governments, and international institutions.

We hope that as you read this report, you get a sense of the remarkable scope of our team's work. We are inspired, every day, to work alongside such devoted and committed colleagues. Experts in their field, they use their skills and knowledge to make a difference, often in their own communities, while living through crisis themselves.

All of this is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. With so many competing and worthy causes, contracting aid budgets, and increasing demands on philanthropy, it has never been more important to support people living through urgent, ongoing and protracted emergencies.

Just as our team steps up in times of crises, so too do our donors. At no time have we seen – and felt – their deep commitment more strongly than since October 7th. On behalf of everyone at IsraAID, in Israel and around the world, we would like to say thank you to each and every one of you. We hope that you continue to support IsraAID and our lifesaving, world-changing work in 2024.

Best wishes,



**MEIRA ABOULAFIA**  
Chairperson



**YOTAM POLIZER**  
CEO



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# ISRAAID PROFILE

## Background

Founded in 2001, IsraAID is an Israel-based, international, nongovernmental humanitarian aid organization. Since its inception, IsraAID has been at the forefront of emergency responses and long-term development settings in more than 60 countries.

## Vision

Our vision is a world where vulnerable, disaster-affected communities have the strength, support, and opportunities they need to recover from humanitarian crisis and build a more resilient future.

## Mission

Our mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crisis. We partner with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist recovery, and reduce the risk of future disasters.

## Areas of Activity

**Emergency Response** We respond rapidly to disasters around the world, meeting the most urgent needs of those affected and supporting them to rebuild their lives, their communities, and their futures, together.

**Recovery, Resilience & Preparedness** We stay on the ground for as long as it takes, working with communities to recover, build resilience, and reduce the risk of future disasters.

**Refugees, Displacement & Forced Migration** We address the global displacement crisis by working with refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, mixed migrants, and host communities.



## Sectors of Expertise

IsraAID's global teams are experts in protection; education; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and health and medical care. We develop multi-sectoral programs that address cross-cutting issues, based on the understanding that challenges in one sector are often exacerbated by needs in others.



### PROTECTION

Ensuring that individuals' and communities' rights, safety, and wellbeing are protected, both during an emergency and in the months and years that follow.



### EDUCATION

Securing children's access to quality education and related services – including protection and disaster risk reduction – both during and after emergencies, to enable social mobility and advance future livelihoods.



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

We provide specialist sustainable solutions and emergency access to safe water, adequate hygiene, and reliable sanitation in accordance with Sphere Minimum Standards and in partnership with local communities around the world.



### HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

We deploy medical teams and public health experts to strengthen communities' public health infrastructure and improve equity in access to and awareness of these healthcare services





## Building Local Capacity in MALAWI

In every emergency response, IsraAID delivers solutions that help communities to cope with both immediate and future challenges, leaving knowledge, skills, and infrastructure in their hands.

Water systems in Malawi were severely damaged after Cyclone Freddy made landfall in March 2023. IsraAID worked with local mechanics to rehabilitate damaged boreholes, restoring safe water access for more than 100,000 people in rural communities. After repair work is done, we train local community members on how to operate, repair, and maintain their water systems, ensuring their long-term sustainability.

## Rapid Response in MOROCCO & TÜRKIYE

When crises occur, there's not a moment to waste. IsraAID's teams of specialist responders deploy to emergencies as soon as possible, usually within 72 hours. Our swift arrival is key to delivering effective aid and building long-term partnerships with affected communities based on trust and commitment. That way, communities co-own solutions from the outset. In both Morocco and Türkiye, our initial teams arrived within 48 hours of devastating earthquakes, ensuring they could start delivering urgent aid and assessing needs on the ground as quickly as possible.

# EMERGENCIES

IsraAID responded to four major emergencies in 2023, including our first large-scale response at home in Israel. We also deployed to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye in February and Morocco in September, and a dual cyclone and cholera outbreak in Malawi in March. From conflict and violence to environmental disasters and disease outbreaks, IsraAID responded to the urgent needs of crisis-affected communities with tailor-made solutions to meet urgent needs and put the future first.

While some emergencies made headlines around the world, others, like Cyclone Freddy in Malawi, received minimal international attention. Even the crisis in

Ukraine, which dominated global headlines in 2022, fell further from the spotlight in 2023. Time and again, we see how difficult it is to sustain support for crises that have faded from the headlines - or were never in them to begin with - even while vast outstanding needs persist.

The world may have moved on, but our commitment endures. With more communities around the world facing protracted emergencies - from wars to droughts to displacement - IsraAID is ready to meet the needs of the most vulnerable wherever and whenever disaster strikes, now and for as long as it takes.

## ISRAEL: Bringing Our Global Experience Home

In 2023, IsraAID launched our first-ever large-scale emergency response in Israel within 24 hours of the October 7th attacks. Although Israel has experienced conflict before, the scale of displacement and additional complex needs was unprecedented. IsraAID was uniquely positioned to respond quickly and efficiently, bringing our decades of expertise "back home" while employing strong local networks and relationships. Our emergency response team coordinated urgent aid together with national and regional government agencies, other NGOs, and grassroots community initiatives. IsraAID is now working with 10+ displaced communities to focus on the journey from emergency to recovery.

Responding to an emergency while living through it is no small feat, yet IsraAID's global teams do this time and again with HQ support. This time, IsraAID HQ directly delivered a full response to an emergency that affected them personally while simultaneously supporting programs around the world. No part of our global organization has been untouched by this extremely challenging period.

## Crises Within a Crisis

Major emergencies rarely exist in isolation and 'crises within a crisis' increasingly force us to pivot unexpectedly on every scale. For example, when the overnight destruction of the Kakhovka dam flooded Kherson and forced 16,000 people to evacuate in June 2023, IsraAID mobilized within 24 hours.

Crises within a crisis are more challenging when they strike chronically underserved populations because communities that experience frequent and increasingly extreme hazards rarely have a chance to recover. In Vanuatu, Twin Category 4 Cyclones devastated the archipelago so severely in March 2023 that we were forced to pause vital ongoing programs to focus on emergency cleanup.

IsraAID's teams are always prepared to adapt at a moment's notice. Everywhere we work, we remain responsive to changing needs on the ground, together with our community partners.

# HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

## EXISTING OPERATIONS IN 2023

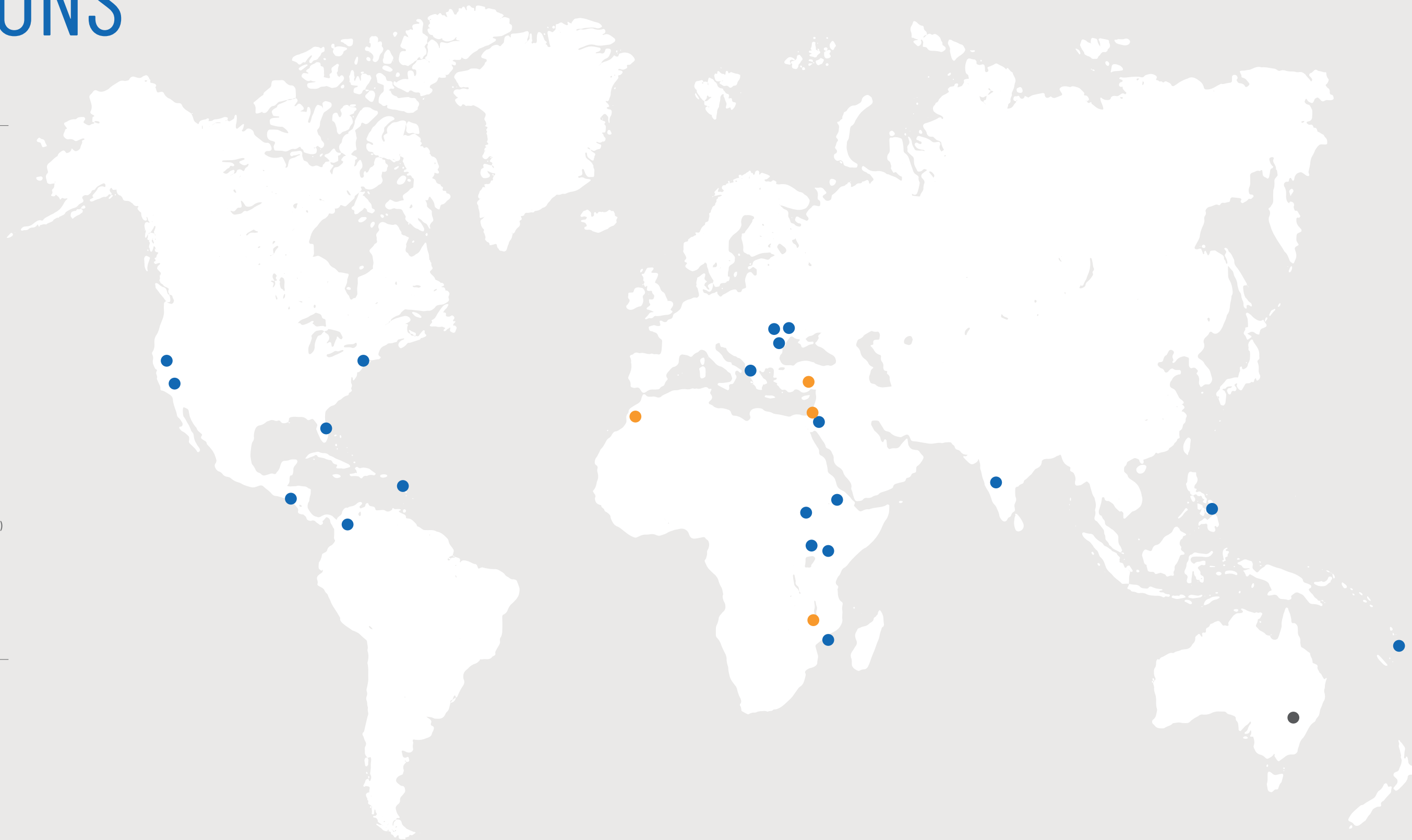
- Albania
- Colombia
- Dominica
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- India
- Kenya
- Moldova
- Mozambique
- The Philippines
- Romania
- South Sudan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Vanuatu
- USA (Strategic Fundraising Office)
- Israel (Headquarters)

## NEW OPERATIONS IN 2023

- Israel (Emergency)
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Türkiye

## NEW STRATEGIC FUNDRAISING OFFICES IN 2023:

- Australia





# JANUARY

## UKRAINE: MENTAL HEALTH IN HOSPITALS

Every day, the ongoing war in Ukraine brings new crises amid the larger emergency. In January, Ukrainians experienced two large-scale civilian disasters just days apart. On January 14, a direct strike on an apartment building in Dnipro killed 46 people and injured 80 more. On January 18, a helicopter crashed at a kindergarten in Brovary, a Kyiv suburb, killing 14 and injuring 25.

IsraAID-trained psychologists were on-site at local hospitals, ready to respond. In partnership with the Office of the First Lady of Ukraine, IsraAID has been working to integrate mental health support into the Ukrainian medical system for the first time, ensuring that doctors, patients, and their families have access to the mental health resources they need. These two emergencies came shortly after the completion of the first phase of the program, in which 60 psychologists were trained and placed in hospitals across the country. To date, IsraAID has trained 135 psychologists to support Ukraine's doctors, medical staff, patients, and their families.



## Spotlight on GUATEMALA: AMSY



Amsy is an Education Facilitator at IsraAID Guatemala. In the rural region of Alta Verapaz, the predominantly indigenous population has little access to psychosocial support, contributing to an extremely high school dropout rate. Amsy supports social and emotional learning at local schools, helping promote children's resilience:

*"You need to listen to the children. One child had no way to express his anger, so I would simply sit with him and listen to him. He cried a lot and made excuses, but he just needed someone to be with him so he could let his anger out. Another child was acting out. Due to his behavior other teachers didn't want to engage with him. I realized he needed to feel important so I gave him a role and asked him to help me with handing out worksheets and other small tasks. It helped him a lot."*

*At IsraAID, we tackle the stigma of emotions. We explain that emotion can be a physical experience and where in your body you might feel those emotions. We explain that it's normal to want to cry or feel angry. Then we offer ways to handle and express those emotions in a healthy way."*

## TÜRKIYE: EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

On February 6, Turkey was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, followed a few hours later by a 7.7 magnitude earthquake, killing over 50,000 people. Across nine provinces, millions saw their homes destroyed or rendered unsafe for habitation. Less than 48 hours after the second quake, IsraAID's Emergency Response Team was on the ground working to meet the needs of displaced civilians.

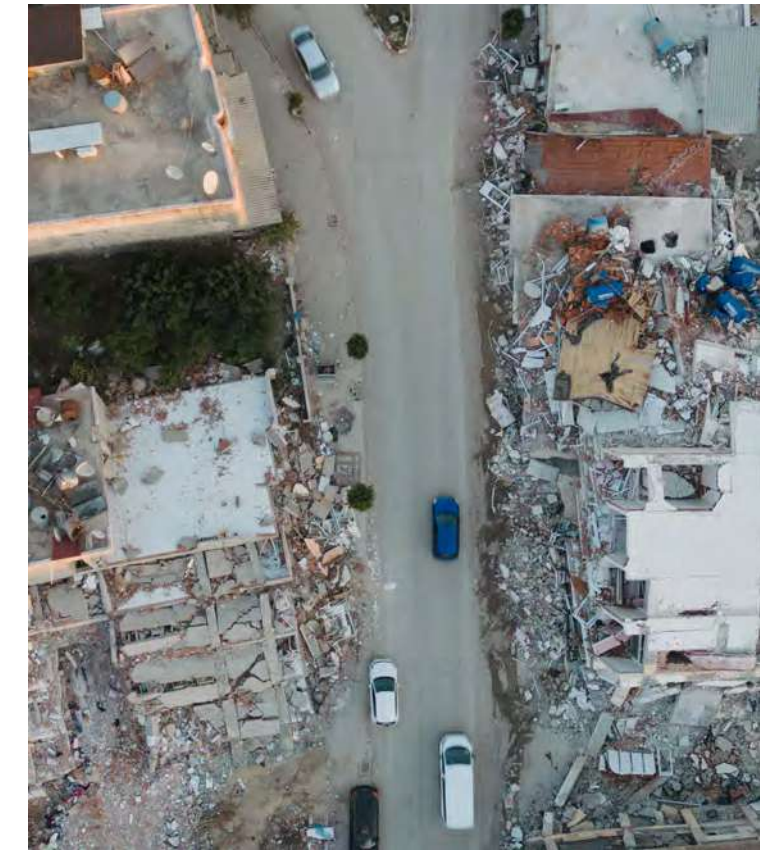
Before search and rescue operations had concluded, IsraAID was coordinating with local authorities and distributing essential hygiene and relief items. With temperatures nearing freezing across much of the affected area, IsraAID leveraged our regional presence to bring warm clothing, tents, blankets, and other winter items from our Humanitarian Logistics Hub on the Romanian/Ukrainian border to Türkiye. As winter weather eased and immediate needs changed, IsraAID worked to strengthen the personal and collective resilience of local professionals through training in psychosocial support and burnout prevention.

## KENYA: FINDING WATER IN A DROUGHT

Across the Horn of Africa, after five failed rainy seasons, already vulnerable communities were facing the worst drought in over 40 years. In Kenya's Turkana West region, with families living on as little as seven liters of water a week, IsraAID teamed up with BGC Engineering, UMCOR, Seed the Dream, and an anonymous family foundation to develop sustainable solutions.

Our Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene specialists hosted experts from BGC in February to conduct an intensive hydrological survey across the region. Using specialized equipment, we analyzed soil conditions and used seismic imaging to look for signs of untapped water sources deep underground. Together, we analyzed the data to figure out which sites had the best chance of yielding water. At the end of this process, we identified several promising sites with the potential of providing a source of safe drinking water for local Turkana communities - who often have even less access to water than refugee communities in Kakuma Refugee Camp - and prepared to start drilling new boreholes that would provide a reliable source of water to tens of thousands of people for the first time.

# FEBRUARY





# MARCH



## VANUATU: CONFRONTING CLIMATE DISASTERS

In March, twin cyclones Judy and Kevin made landfall in Vanuatu within 48 hours of one another. As the rate of climate disasters accelerates, IsraAID's on-the-ground teams are essential to providing an immediate response, while continuing long-term programming that helps communities build resilience in the face of future disasters. IsraAID swiftly adapted its programming, partnering with the local government to provide a comprehensive emergency cyclone response. IsraAID coordinated essential home repair and distributing water, sanitation, and hygiene kits to 180 cyclone-damaged homes on Emau Island.

At challenging times, when rates of domestic violence often peak, our pioneering Gender-Based Violence prevention program continued promoting awareness and empowerment. Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support addresses underlying mental health issues that contribute to gender-based violence while offering resources to men, women, and children in need.



## MALAWI: CYCLONE FREDDY RESPONSE

Tropical Cyclone Freddy devastated southern Malawi while the country was over one year into its deadliest-ever cholera outbreak, posing a potentially calamitous double emergency. Over a thousand people were killed and more than 360,000 were displaced to over 500 temporary camps. IsraAID's Emergency Response Team was made up of experts in Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene from both headquarters and our regional offices in Kenya and South Sudan, leveraging our global and regional expertise to bring immediate aid.

Prioritizing the most affected districts, IsraAID focused on answering health and water needs, together. Our teams repaired over 100 damaged boreholes, restoring access to safe water for over 113,000 people. At our oral rehydration points, IsraAID treated early symptoms of cholera, referred serious cases to hospitals, and shared essential hygiene and sanitation information, restoring a sense of dignity, safety, and stability.



## MOZAMBIQUE: COMMUNITY GOALS

Over one million people live in a state of protracted displacement due to persistent conflict in Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique. In the Nicavaco Resettlement Camp, IsraAID Mozambique's Child-Friendly Space, established in October 2022, provides a haven for children confronting the harsh realities of displacement and a chance to "just be kids."

In April, we hosted an exciting soccer tournament, showcasing the power of sport in crisis-affected settings. Six enthusiastic teams comprised of children from Nicavaco between the ages of 10 and 18 took to the field. Through the language of sport, participants developed essential social skills and forged lasting friendships, all while learning valuable lessons about sportsmanship. The event also served as a much-needed social and recreational outlet for camp residents. People of all ages gathered to cheer for their favorite team from the sidelines, fostering community spirit. The camaraderie built on and off the field promoted a sense of well-being and enjoyment for everyone involved. At the end, every player received a small token of appreciation.

# APRIL



## DOMINICA: PROMOTING INCLUSION ONLINE

IsraAID Dominica has been working to promote disaster preparedness across all segments of society since Hurricane Maria in 2017. In April, we launched a powerful campaign to raise awareness of the challenges facing people with disabilities and create meaningful dialogue around inclusivity. We worked to challenge misconceptions and promote empathy through impactful stories, educational resources, and empowering messages. Released weekly on social media, IsraAID developed an animated video series showcasing and celebrating the stories of people with disabilities on the island. The videos fostered a virtual space for connection and inquiry, allowing viewers to gain valuable insights into the lives of people with disabilities. With a deeper understanding, the community was better equipped to break down barriers to access and create a more inclusive society for all.

***"Anyone who acquires a disability must be considered as equal in society as any other individual."***

– Michael Murphy, founder of the Windward Island Cricket and Sports Association of Persons with Impaired Vision in Dominica.



# MAY

## GLOBAL: CHARLES BRONFMAN PRIZE

In May, IsraAID CEO Yotam Polizer was honored as the 2023 Charles Bronfman Prize winner at a ceremony in New York. The annual award is presented to a humanitarian whose work, informed by Jewish values, has significantly impacted the world. Yotam first joined IsraAID as a volunteer in 2011, leading key missions including IsraAID's responses to the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. He was appointed co-CEO in 2017, and Global CEO in 2019.

At the ceremony, Yotam dedicated the \$100,000 prize to IsraAID's global team and the incredible communities we work with, pledging to donate half the money back to the organization. Charles Bronfman, the prize's founder, said,

*"The impact and scope of Yotam's work is extraordinary. His and IsraAID's efforts have saved the lives of thousands around the world threatened by disaster and restored dignity to millions more."*



## GLOBAL: CONNECTING OUR LEADERS

Building a truly global team was a strong focus of 2023 - from our team at headquarters to our roving emergency response specialists, regional directors, and long-term missions. With our team spread out across six continents over a dozen countries, opportunities to come together are more important than ever. In May, we did just that. Country Directors, Area Managers, and Roving Experts all joined the team in Israel for a week-long leadership seminar.

Throughout the seminar, our teams were able to connect in person - sharing their experience and expertise, learning from one another, and problem-solving together. Through this year's theme - "Strategic Thinking - IsraAID's Vision in Practice" - our entire staff was able to unite around a common goal and translate our values into impactful, sustainable programming for every community we serve.



## GUATEMALA: SCHOOLS BEYOND SCHOOLING



Indigenous communities in rural Guatemala are chronically underserved, with minimal access to national services and funding. School dropout levels are extremely high, with most children completing under four years of schooling. Beyond education, schools are also a key resource for bringing communities together and supporting children, families, and communities.

In Alta Verapaz, Guatemala's poorest region, IsraAID emphasizes educational systems as the locus of change.



When children are in school, they are not only learning but easier to reach and serve in other ways. IsraAID's teams provide children with psychosocial support through informal play, which helps them understand and articulate their emotions in a healthy way. We install water systems to provide safe water for the community, and offer programs for teachers, caregivers, and community leaders. By utilizing schools as holistic spaces, we can have an impact on the whole community.





### COLOMBIA: COMMUNITY-OWNED TECH

In a landmark event, the community of Orika, Isla Grande celebrated the inauguration of its first Reverse Osmosis water filtration system, providing safe water access to 1,300 people. Built by Israeli tech company EZPack, the system was installed by IsraAID as part of the IsraAID-Pears Program for Global Innovation Pilot Program, in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor of Cartagena. IsraAID also trained a committee of water guardians to ensure that the community has the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain and take ownership of the technology. This transformative effort marks a significant step towards improved infrastructure, clean water access, and a stronger future for Orika.

**"Historically, these communities have developed their resilience around limited access to water and public services, and climate challenges. For IsraAID, communities come first, and that's how this pilot project to improve water quality became a reality."**

- Karine García Uribe, IsraAID Colombia Country Director.



### UKRAINE: KAKHOVKA DAM CRISIS

The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on June 6 dealt another enormous blow to vulnerable communities in southeast Ukraine, which were already struggling with access to safe, reliable sources of water. Faced with widespread flooding, enormous ecological repercussions, and the draining of the Kakhovka reservoir, IsraAID Ukraine responded immediately to provide emergency aid to affected communities.

Our teams brought in mobile pumps, industrial driers, and other specialized equipment to restore flooded homes and prevent health risks from damp and moldy spaces. IsraAID also provided medication, hygiene kits, generators, and sanitizing stations for affected communities.

In order to support communities in the long term, IsraAID expanded our water programs throughout the region. We introduced mobile, advanced water filtration systems with the ability to create reliable, safe drinking water from even the most contaminated sources, repaired local boreholes, and equipped them with advanced pumps that reduce electricity usage amid energy shortages.

# JUNE

### AUSTRALIA: G'DAY ISRAAID AUSTRALIA

As IsraAID grows in scope, impact, and global reach, we are very excited to announce the launch of IsraAID Australia! This new office will connect Australian communities and supporters to IsraAID's mission, work, and ethos. IsraAID Australia will serve as a hub for fundraising and IsraAID's programming in the Pacific, where many communities are facing the increasingly daunting effects of climate change. We continue to expand our regional approach, drawing on local expertise and knowledge everywhere we work.



### Spotlight on KENYA: ANDRE

Andre studied photography and worked as a journalist in his home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo before he was forced to flee due to political violence. Ultimately, he came to Kenya and settled in Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement. Today, he works as IsraAID Kenya's Communication officer:

**"IsraAID is very different from other organizations where you won't find refugees in the office or at a staff level. In IsraAID, we are a huge part of the team."**

**Gayle, the country director, told me they were looking for someone to take photos of our activities, and I've continued in that role until today. My dream is to one day have a photo and video studio of my own, so that I can give jobs to other refugees.**

**Since moving to Kenya, I think there has been a major change for me, which is not what I expected. Here, I got the chance to share my experiences and be part of a community. Here, I have the chance to participate and be part of something bigger than me. Kenya gives a chance to everyone."**





## LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: REGIONAL RESILIENCE

In July, IsraAID teams from Guatemala, Colombia, and Dominica came together in Cobán, Guatemala for the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seminar. Over the week, colleagues were able to connect face to face, dive into meaningful discussions, and explore how our work can build resilience and have a meaningful impact - not only in individual communities but across the region. The seminar is a unique opportunity to share knowledge across country offices, think strategically, and offer our staff more resources for their personal and professional growth.

*"We visited schools, engaged in meaningful discussions with partners, teachers, and parents, and learned about the holistic and sustainable approach in Guatemala. The seminar was also a wonderful opportunity to kick off a long-term joint commitment and process to strengthen the region's emergency preparedness."*

- Laura Di Castro, Former Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean



## UGANDA: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

At IsraAID Uganda, recognizing and supporting diversity is a key element of our work. Dozens of different ethnic groups are represented within the South Sudanese refugee community. Each has their own cultural heritage, dance, customs, and even language.

In July, the Community Cultural Gala for South Sudanese refugees in Palorinya Refugee Settlement aimed to build community resilience, strengthen relationships between different groups, and provide an opportunity for children to showcase their talents and culture with pride.

*"A cultural gala brings different communities to come and dance their traditions. This brings peace among us in the Palorinya settlement. In the song that my group performed, we sang about the hunger we are facing as food rations were reduced. The song advises families to remain together and be resilient through hardships. In our country South Sudan, there is no peace yet. Let's stay until there is peace, and we shall return in peace."*

- Justine Adaba, a Keliko ethnic group member and community leader

## Spotlight on MALAWI: ROSE

Rose is a 65-year-old widow living in Blantyre, Malawi. After Cyclone Freddy struck amid the country's worst-ever cholera outbreak, she began volunteering at one of IsraAID's Oral Rehydration Points. Despite having faced great personal tragedy in her life - 10 of her 12 children have passed away - she remains positive and actively works to support her community.

*"When a mother comes in with a child who is weak from diarrhea or cholera, thanks to the training and knowledge I received, I can provide first aid to prevent dehydration. I can also check children for malnutrition and make sure severe cases get the help they need. We volunteer at the Oral Rehydration point because we wish to see our community become healthy, with zero cases of cholera or malnutrition. Being an older woman doesn't restrict me in my work, it motivates me to help the younger generation reach my age one day."*





# AUGUST



## KENYA: DRILLING FOR WATER

Following February's hydrological survey, in August our Water, Sanitation & Hygiene team found crystal-clear groundwater at one of the identified testing sites in Turkana County, Northwest Kenya. With so much groundwater in the area highly salinized or containing unsafe levels of fluoride, this was hugely significant for thousands of people recovering from the region's worst drought in decades. The discovery enabled us to drill a new borehole nearby, one of three we constructed and 14 we rehabilitated in 2023, together with our partners. More than 64,000 people in Turkana West gained safe water access through these boreholes.

Our response continues in 2024. We are equipping whole communities to manage local water resources and address existing challenges made worse by the extended drought. These include gender-based violence, malnutrition, and access to education.

# SEPTEMBER



## SOUTH SUDAN: WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

Conflict and crisis have displaced more than 4.6 million South Sudanese people, including 2.2 million within the country. Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in overcrowded camps characterized by inadequate hygiene facilities, widespread sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and many other challenges. This year we launched new health and nutrition initiatives to support the holistic well-being of IDP communities where we work on empowering women and preventing and responding to SGBV.

We reached more than 9,000 people during World Breastfeeding Week, supporting mothers to make healthy choices for themselves and their children by sharing health-positive reasons to breastfeed and promoting nutritious local foods. We emphasized options that advance maternal health in pregnancy and breastfeeding, and those that are safe to introduce during weaning.



## MOROCCO: EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

IsraAID was among the first international response teams on the ground less than 48 hours after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Morocco. Centered in the Al Haouz region of the High Atlas Mountains, many of the worst-affected areas were in remote villages separated by large distances and hard-to-pass roads cut off by debris and damage from the quake. IsraAID immediately began building local partnerships to help reach these underserved areas with essential aid and long-term support.

With many homes destroyed and a lack of access to infrastructure, IsraAID's emergency response team distributed urgently needed relief supplies, including food, water, resilience kits, hygiene kits, and blankets. New latrines were built in remote villages, preventing a secondary health crisis from lack of sanitation. Mobile Child-Friendly Spaces offered an outlet for children across the region, providing psychosocial support and a sense of routine while schools remained closed.



## UGANDA: THE POWER OF ARTS

In September, IsraAID reunited with the Campfire Project to bring special arts programming to Palorinyha Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda. Campfire, founded by actors and producers, supports refugee children and teens through the arts and in 2022 collaborated with IsraAID to serve Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

Over two weeks in Uganda, Campfire and IsraAID worked with four refugee and host communities in the settlement. Campfire facilitators created programming using dance, singing, storytelling, and stilt walking to empower children and teens and help them tap into their creativity. Local artisans created murals at village community centers, and local musicians helped lead music sessions. At a special closing performance, children were able to share what they had learned with the entire community and celebrate with a local marching band.



# OCTOBER

## ISRAEL RESPONSE

### Emergency at Home



On October 7, Israel faced an unprecedented attack on civilians across the country's south, leading to war with Hamas, which is still ongoing as of March 2024. Over 1,200 people were killed and 200,000+ were displaced from their homes.

After 22 years of bringing Israeli expertise to communities in crisis abroad, we found that, for the first time, our global humanitarian experience was needed at home. IsraAID made an unprecedented decision to launch a full-scale response in Israel. By October 8, we had already begun working with communities evacuated from the Gaza border region, many of whom had faced the worst of the atrocities. IsraAID partnered closely with communities, local authorities, and dozens of volunteer and civil initiatives to provide support for evacuated communities temporarily living in hotels at the Dead Sea, Eilat, and around the country.

## Technological Solutions to Logistical Issues

In the first days, IsraAID identified a need for logistical coordination. Using technology from Monday.com that we had previously deployed to deliver supplies in Ukraine and rollout COVID-19 vaccines in Eswatini, IsraAID created a "control room" for the community of Kibbutz Be'eri, which had been evacuated to the David Hotel at the Dead Sea. Our team supported with set up, training, and continuous troubleshooting and problem-solving. The system organized all of the community's needs, from - tragically - transportation for funerals, to medical requests, educational needs, offers of support from different civil society organizations, and volunteer placements.

Many Be'eri residents left their homes with just the clothes on their backs. Together with the community, IsraAID established the Be'eri "store" which was stocked with donated clothing, shoes, hygiene supplies, and more. Using the Monday.com system, IsraAID managed donations, passed on excess supplies to other communities, and tracked requests for specific items. IsraAID volunteers worked to create a dignified "shopping" experience for community members visiting the store, many of whom had lost everything.

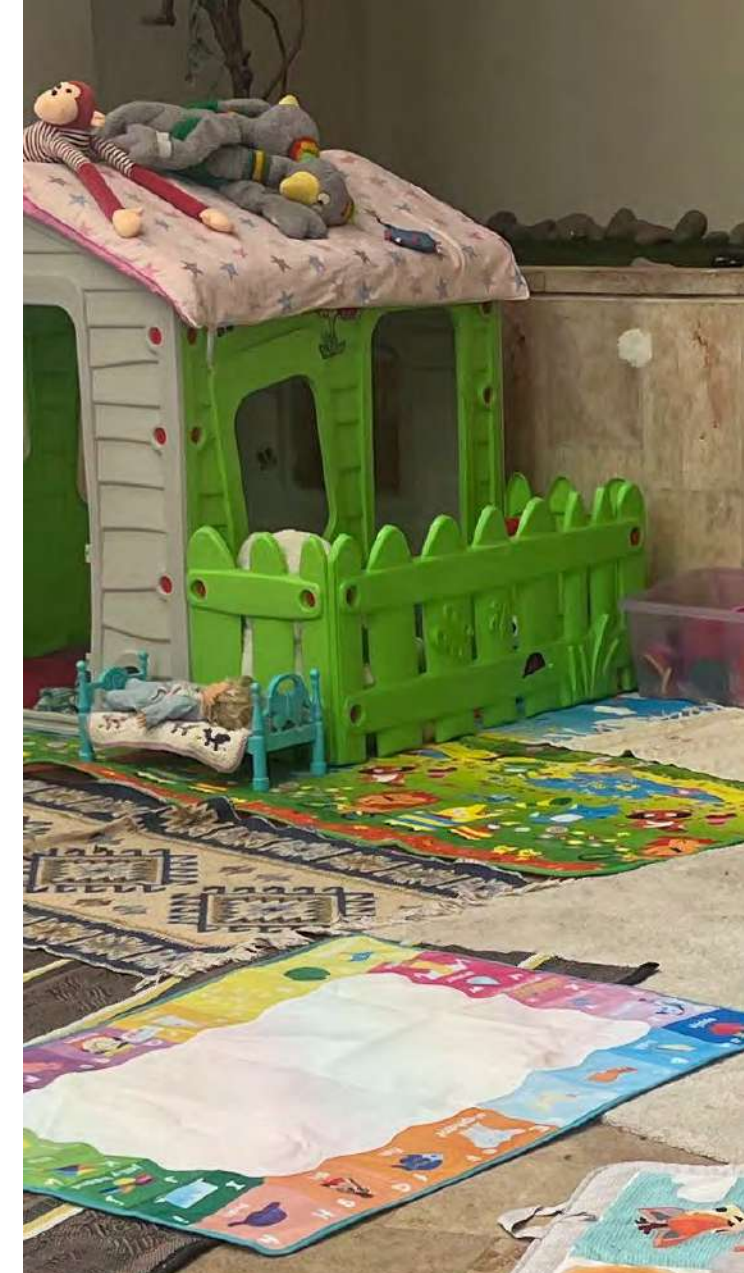


## Processing Through Play

Child-friendly spaces have long been a hallmark of IsraAID's emergency psychosocial support programs. In Israel, IsraAID worked to establish parent and child spaces in nearly a dozen evacuation centers across the country. These spaces gave children a chance to process traumatic events through play, under the supervision of trained social workers and psychologists. Parents could access guidance on helping their children through trauma and were able to see their children simply be kids again.

*"I come to the children's space with my granddaughter often, it makes me smile, to see her smile again. It brings me out of my misery, even if just for an hour or two. There's been a change in the children over the past few weeks, for better and worse, but they're more open. In the beginning, they were very quiet, they wouldn't leave their rooms. Now, they're able to express more of what they're going through, and sometimes that comes out in aggression, but the facilitators are wonderful and help them through it."*

- Hadar, a member of Kibbutz Be'eri



## Spotlight on ISRAEL: YEHUDIT



Yehudit Henig-Roth is an Israeli therapist specializing in trauma care, couples counseling, family counseling, and adolescent and early childhood care. Immediately after the attacks of October 7, she joined IsraAID's team of therapists supporting evacuees at the Dead Sea.

*"Our purpose was always clear - we had to establish a space that could allow parents to sit with their children and just be, to see and feel tiny signs of routine, to see that their children were all right; to see that their children were all right; to see them play, laugh, run, and build - to see that they're still kids; to see that the adults they meet will do everything they can to make the experience better for them and that even if they can't return to that naive paradise of childhood other experiences can be restored. It's important to remember that people who endure trauma can overcome it."*



# NOVEMBER

## ISRAEL RESPONSE



### Back to School

In a crisis, education is often one of the first things to be disrupted. In the evacuation centers across Israel, IsraAID worked together with communities, local authorities, and civil society to create educational solutions for displaced children. In some cases, such as in the communities of Kissufim, Yevul, and Nir Yitzhak, schools were established in the evacuation centers, as parents did not want to be separated from their children.

IsraAID also worked to establish field schools that accommodated multiple communities and gave children the chance to be with their peers from other townships. In the Dead Sea, IsraAID helped establish the Ein Gedi Field school, hosting the communities of Be'eri and Holit. In Eilat, together with the Ministry of Education and the Eshkol Regional Council, IsraAID built the Eshkol Regional Council Field school, serving 600 elementary school-aged children from affected communities. IsraAID provided air-conditioned tents, desks, chairs, school supplies, funded school staff, and supplied psychologists to provide mental health support to teachers, students, and parents.



### Protection for the most vulnerable

IsraAID has long worked to support the most vulnerable communities during a crisis. In Southern Israel over 150,000 members of the Bedouin community live in unrecognized villages without access to public infrastructure, including rocket shelters – despite their proximity to Gaza. Amid ongoing rocket fire, many of these communities live on land defined as “open areas” – meaning the Iron Dome system does not protect them – and do not hear sirens to alert them of incoming launches.

IsraAID partnered with AJEEC-NISPED – an Israeli NGO that works to support the Bedouin community – to bring over 40 protective spaces to unrecognized Bedouin communities. IsraAID and AJEEC ran community activities in and around the shelters to help show children and community members what to do when there is a rocket alert, familiarize them with the spaces, and promote community ownership.

# DECEMBER

## ISRAEL RESPONSE

### The Secret Forest

On October 7, over 360 civilians were killed at the Nova Music Festival outside Kibbutz Re'im, near the Gaza border. Survivors of the attack faced severe trauma and had unique needs on their road to recovery. IsraAID partnered with the Secret Forest, a retreat center in Cyprus, to offer a chance for survivors to recover, access psychological support, and heal together with others who had been through the same experiences.

IsraAID supported week-long retreats in Cyprus for survivors. Mental health experts from IsraAID helped design and assess programming, along with providing training for facilitators in psychological first aid and prevention of burnout and vicarious trauma. After the retreat, IsraAID maintained a follow-up system with survivors, ensuring that they had proper referral pathways for continued treatment and support as they continued their recovery.

### The Long Journey Home

As with all our missions around the world, IsraAID is committed to supporting communities not only in the immediate aftermath of disaster but on the long road to recovery. In December, evacuated communities began thinking and planning their next steps. Some would leave evacuation centers for other temporary housing solutions, some chose to remain in evacuation centers for several more months, and others began planning the return to their home communities. Each community's needs are unique, and IsraAID continues to work with community leaders to support them on this journey.

IsraAID partnered with 10+ affected communities from southern Israel and has committed to accompanying them on their journey back home. In this next stage of response, we are developing community-owned projects, from therapeutic arts studios to youth programs to school support, and more, operating across a national scale, together with each community and local authorities.





# ISRAAID US



IsraAID US partners with communities across the United States, introducing Americans of all ages and backgrounds to IsraAID's global humanitarian mission. IsraAID US raises critical awareness and funds for IsraAID's global operations.

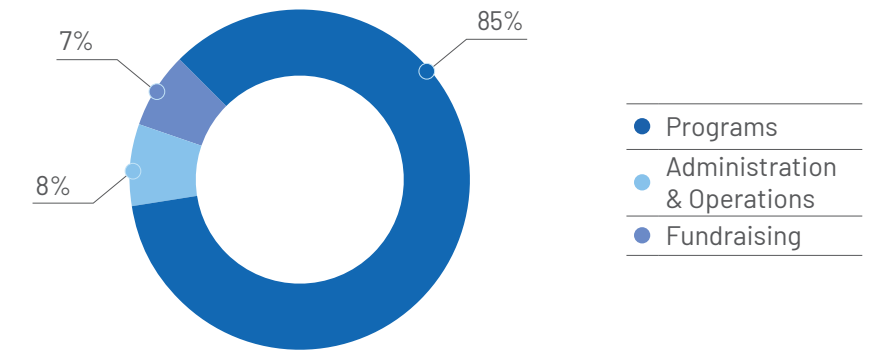
**HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK:**

- Invite IsraAID to speak at your community event or conference about a variety of topics, including IsraAID's emergency response in Israel, global missions and humanitarian issues
- Select IsraAID for your b'nai mitzvah or community service project
- Host an IsraAID parlor event for your friends, family, or community
- Celebrate your special lifecycle event by raising funds in honor of an IsraAID mission
- Engage your community by partnering with IsraAID to raise awareness and sponsor a project
- Make a donation at [www.israaid.org/donate](http://www.israaid.org/donate)

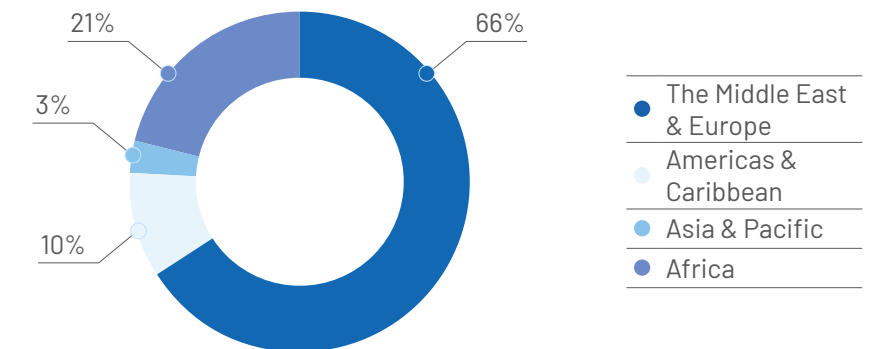
# FINANCE

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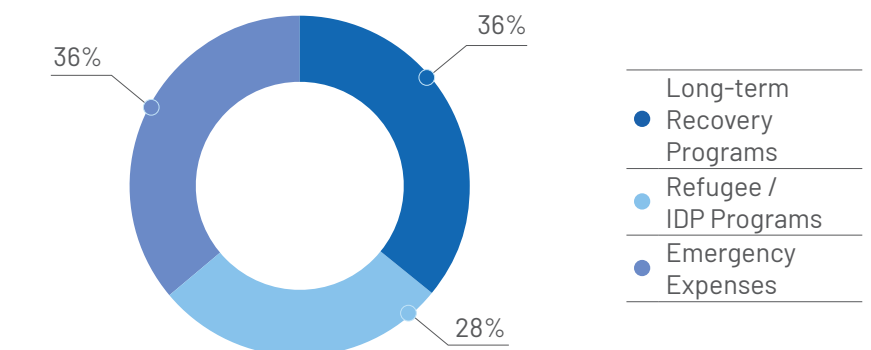
**Expenses**



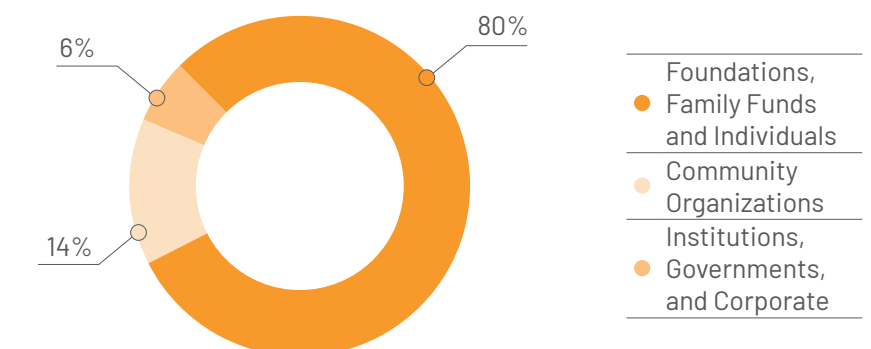
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