Dear Friends,

As we conclude our first year as co-Chief Executive Officers at IsraAID, it is an honor and a special privilege to join our board members in introducing IsraAID’s 2017 Annual Report.

2017 was an exceptionally busy year. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria devastated the Caribbean and the United States; floods and mudslides washed away neighborhoods and villages in South America, South Asia and West Africa, and many more events affected innumerable families and individuals around the globe. Thanks to the tireless energy and commitment of our staff, the goodwill and professionalism of our volunteers who dropped everything at a second’s notice, and the generosity of our supporters who believed in us and contributed to our new Emergency Fund, we were able to respond to a record number of events – often simultaneously - all while maintaining ongoing programs in over a dozen other countries.

We are proud of the number, scale and scope of these missions. Our teams remain in many of these locations today to assist with long-term recovery and engage in disaster risk reduction for the future.

Through our new Emergency Fund, we are able to address humanitarian crises that are not receiving sufficient attention, either because they are neglected by mainstream media or because they are ‘ongoing’ and no longer ‘news-worthy’. In 2017, the plight of millions of people displaced by conflict has been strongly on our mind. May it be the increasingly desperate situation in Syria, continued tension and hostilities in South Sudan or the suffering of the Rohingya in Myanmar, these ongoing human-made crises have forced more than 65 million people from their homes. For these families caught in war, there is little stability or security. Stuck either in transit or in new homes, they remain extremely vulnerable, particularly their children, and their future uncertain. During 2017, we deepened our commitment to these communities, and implemented programs in seven locations, with an emphasis on the Middle East/Europe, East Africa, and South Asia.

In 2017, we made our services more efficient and more effective. We brought new skills to the organization through hiring new staff. We provided extensive training to our headquarter and field teams. Finally, we inaugurated our first US office in Palo Alto, CA.

We are proud of what has been achieved and pay tribute to the hundreds of IsraAID professional staff and volunteers around the world who continue to provide their time, expertise and passion towards serving vulnerable populations. They make IsraAID what it is today.

Last, we extend our gratitude to you, our supporters, for your generosity, and respectfully request your continued commitment for the year ahead.

Navonel Glick, Co-CEO
Yotam Polizer, Co-CEO
IsraAID Board Members

We are proud of the number, scale and scope of our emergency missions. Our teams remain in many of these locations today to assist with long-term recovery.
WE ENGAGE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESPONSE IN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS:

PROTECTION
- Gender-based violence
- Child protection
- Mental health and psychosocial support

LIVELIHOOD
- Income-generation
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Small-scale agriculture
- Women’s empowerment

MEDICAL CARE
- Emergency medical response
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Medical support and capacity building

EDUCATION
- Education and psychosocial support
- Informal education
- STEM

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)
- Access to safe water
- Hygiene promotion
- Vocational training

BACKGROUND
Founded in 2001, IsraAID is an Israel-based international non-governmental organization. Since its inception, IsraAID has worked in emergency and long-term development settings in 46 countries. Drawing on an extensive roster of leading Israeli and international experts, the organization is in a unique position to design and implement high-quality, cost-effective and innovative programming that fully reflects the immediate and long-term needs of populations affected by disasters worldwide.

ISRAAID’S VISION
We want people affected by crisis and displacement to have safe and equal access to opportunities, information and quality services; and live in an environment where their dignity, rights and safety are respected, protected and fulfilled.

OUR MISSION
We support and meet the changing needs of populations affected by conflict, natural disasters, acute poverty, discrimination and displacement as they move from crisis to reconstruction, recovery, and, eventually, to sustainable living. This mandate is implemented through a community-driven model in emergency response as well as in sustainable development programming.
2017 HIGHLIGHTS

**HQ**

- IsraAID appointed new co-CEOs, Navonel Glick and Yotam Polizer
- Created an Emergency Response Fund

**Nepal**

- Emergency response led by IsraAID's local team on the ground.
- First annual Country Director seminar in Israel
- Focused Training and Learning program

**UNHCR**

- Became UNHCR Implementing Partner in South Sudan.
- Fully locally-led emergency response missions initiated in Nepal & Sierra Leone
- Replicated Nepal's HoneyAID beekeeping livelihood program in Ecuador

**Advocating for Yazidis with Nadia Murad**

- Nobel Peace Prize candidate
- Successful event series with Nobel Peace Prize candidate Nadia Murad
- First US office established in the San Francisco Bay Area
- Simultaneous response to 9 different humanitarian emergencies

**2017 Highlights**

- First US office established in the San Francisco Bay Area
- Created an Emergency Response Fund
- Focused Training and Learning program
- Replicated Nepal's HoneyAID beekeeping livelihood program in Ecuador
- Fully locally-led emergency response missions initiated in Nepal & Sierra Leone
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2017 IN NUMBERS

20 countries in 2017
46 countries since 2001
13 emergency response missions
5 sector areas of work
300 staff worldwide
15 humanitarian fellows
1,500 professional roster volunteers
2,000,000 beneficiaries worldwide

WHERE WE WORK

ONGOING OPERATIONS
Germany
Greece
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Liberia
Nepal
Philippines
Sierra Leone
South Sudan
Uganda
Vanuatu

NEW OPERATIONS
Bangladesh
Colombia
Dominica
Florida
Mexico
Northern California
Peru
Puerto Rico
Texas

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Since 2001, IsraAID has become synonymous with rapid response to humanitarian crises. When disasters strike, IsraAID deploys teams of experienced professionals to respond to the immediate needs of disaster-affected communities. Our emergency teams provide specialist aid including medical care and post-trauma mental health support, essential relief items including shelter and hygiene kits, and water, sanitation and hygiene solutions. Once the initial needs are addressed, the team works with local partners to help affected communities recover and achieve sustainability.

LAUNCH OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Thanks to the Koret Foundation, this year IsraAID launched its first Emergency Response Fund - dedicated to ensure our rapid response to emergencies and disasters.

This was a significant milestone. Previously, despite having teams ready to deploy within hours of an emergency, the first days were spent raising mission funds. This lost time is critical to saving lives and galvanizing global support.

The fund enables IsraAID to respond immediately and to operate in crises that are not, or are no longer, in the spotlight, but remain in desperate need.

The Emergency Fund is used when a local community is overwhelmed or unable to deal with the emergency, and external intervention is necessary.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN 2017

2017 was fraught with disasters, including near simultaneous events in Mexico, South Asia, the Caribbean and the United States. Drawing on close to two decades of humanitarian responses, IsraAID’s emergency response teams - including over 60 professionals across the globe - provided rapid and critical support to affected communities.

Our teams remain in many of the affected communities, focusing on post-emergency recovery and helping communities to build back better and truly mitigate future crises.

Nepal

barely two years after the 2015 earthquake, the south of Nepal experienced major flooding and landslides, affecting six million people in 18 districts. IsraAID’s team in Nepal provided emergency medical assistance to remote areas, distributed water filters and purification items, led community-based hygiene promotion activities, and administered Psychological First Aid to vulnerable persons.

Bangladesh

following August’s eruption of violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, over 700,000 Rohingya people fled into neighboring Bangladesh. After close consultation with UNHCR and other national partners, IsraAID sent an Emergency Response team to distribute urgently-needed items in the refugee camps such as: hygiene products, clothing, bedding and baby care items.

Mexico

after September’s 7.1 magnitude earthquake near Puebla, IsraAID’s relief efforts focused on Mexico’s remote areas, providing medical support, relief supplies, temporary tent classrooms and child-friendly spaces. The team also provided mental health support to the most vulnerable people in evacuation shelters.

Dominica

IsraAID’s Emergency Response Team arrived in September after Hurricane Maria ravaged Dominica. Working in the most isolated regions in the island’s south-east, the team gave medical care in village clinics, installed temporary water and hygiene solutions, distributed relief and shelter items, and ran psychosocial activities for children.

Sierra Leone

in August, Sierra Leone was hit by epic flooding and mudslides. IsraAID’s response team worked closely with the government to offer direct services and capacity-building programs in three areas: emergency relief distribution, Psychological First Aid and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

US

Texas, Puerto Rico, Florida & California. After Hurricane Harvey struck Houston and Hurricane Irma hit Southern Florida, IsraAID relief teams removed debris in the worst-affected areas, helping the elderly, disabled, uninsured and other vulnerable people. During October’s wildfires in California, IsraAID provided psychosocial support and child-friendly activities in evacuation centers in Santa Rosa.

In September, Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. IsraAID’s emergency response team distributed water filters, food and other basic relief items such as hygiene products, solar lamps and chargers. They also provided psychosocial support to vulnerable individuals and training to local volunteers and organizations.
GLOBAL REFUGEE FUND

In 2017, IsraAID established the Global Refugee Fund to respond rapidly to refugee-related emergencies, and support the changing needs of affected populations. The fund supports diverse initiatives to help build refugee communities’ capacities to process the past, deal with their unstable present and build a new future.

GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

For the past number of years, IsraAID has been at the forefront of the international response to the global refugee phenomenon. Seen as one of the largest humanitarian disasters of our generation, the figures are devastating. 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. 25.4 million of them are refugees, of which more than half are children.

In 2017, we continued our refugee relief efforts in Greece, Germany, Iraq, South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. In September, when violence in Myanmar, described by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing”, began to force more than 700,000 Rohingya people from their homes to neighboring Bangladesh, IsraAID’s emergency relief team provided essential items, shelter and medical care.

IsraAID’s teams provide both urgent humanitarian relief to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution, and longer-term interventions focused on the practical and mental health challenges affecting these populations. These include sustainable programs to build resilience, combat gender-based violence, advance child protection, improve sanitation and offer livelihood opportunities. These diverse initiatives, run by experienced professionals, meet refugees' changing needs as they navigate new, unstable realities.
BUILDING A LIFE IN THE LESBOS LIMBO

Najwa is a French teacher from Damascus. Faced with ongoing, brutal conflict in Syria, she escaped with her husband and six-year-old daughter, Aya. They eventually made it to Algeria, where the family split and Najwa and Aya began their arduous journey to Europe, arriving on the shores of Lesbos just a few months ago. Today, this Greek island hosts around 10,000 refugees, largely from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, who live in an uncertain limbo, struggling for access and opportunity.

There are more than 1,500 refugee children on the island who do not attend mainstream Greek schools, however, Najwa and Aya found some normalcy through the School of Peace. Run by IsraAID in partnership with Hashomer Hatzair and the Ajial Movement of Arab Educators, the school provides a safe, stable environment for over 170 children aged six to sixteen. They learn crucial academic subjects in their native language, taught by refugee teachers. Today, we are delighted to count Najwa among the school’s staff.

ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

In 2017, IsraAID sent an emergency response team to Bangladesh. Since August 25th, more than 700,000 members of the Rohingya religious and ethnic minority fled violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. There are now approximately 900,000 Rohingya refugees living in hastily constructed camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Most live in temporary shelters, with international aid organizations and the Bangladeshi government working to provide basic infrastructure and relief.

With support from our partners, IsraAID’s team distributed essential items to more than 1,200 families in Cox’s Bazar, reaching over 9,500 refugees with vital aid. IsraAID’s team in Bangladesh is currently planning a comprehensive program of interventions, expected to reach more than 40,000 people with essential items, medical care and psychosocial support.

Our medical professionals are currently operating a medical clinic six days a week in one of the camps, reaching an average of 60 patients a day.
Providing access to safe water and promoting hygiene practices are a critical part of IsraAID’s emergency relief efforts and long-term development programs worldwide. Without adequate safe water and hygiene facilities, communities cannot recover.

With access to Israeli water technology, IsraAID’s experienced water engineers repair pipelines, rebuild latrines, install water filters, and construct gravitational and other longer-term water systems for communities that no longer have access to safe, running water. Our teams also run hygiene promotion initiatives and vocational training programs to equip local community members with basic water engineering skills.

Crucially, IsraAID uses a hands-on, community-driven approach to ensure that our water programs have a broad and long-term impact. IsraAID aims to help people worldwide realize their basic human right to safe water.
WASH: WHAT WE DO

UGANDA Accessing safe water is a huge challenge in Uganda. The needs are particularly acute in the north, where years of violent insurgency have taken their toll on the local infrastructure. There is a lack of working water sources - such as boreholes - and insufficient local expertise to maintain existing water systems.

IsraAID collaborated with Gulu University to launch WaMTech, a program which provides unemployed young people from local communities with practical skills, professional knowledge and a qualification in water engineering. Participants receive theoretical and practical training in WASH activities and technologies, enabling them to respond to their communities’ specific needs. Topics include advanced geophysical water exploration and well and hand pump repairs. By the end of 2017, the program had trained over 160 young people.

VANUATU When Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in March 2015, it was one of the worst disasters the Pacific archipelago had ever seen. Before Pam, villages in Tongoa Island relied on rainwater harvesting and a nearby, local spring for most of their safe drinking water, and capacity fluctuated depending on weather conditions.

IsraAID’s recovery program implemented new gravitational water systems, providing secure, reliable, non-electric safe water sources for over 600 people. This year, IsraAID launched a second phase in collaboration with the World Bank, using solar pumping and gravitational water systems to provide safe water to three villages, two schools and the municipal center of Tongoa Island. This was coupled with an intensive training program with the local Water Committee to ensure the community supports the systems’ long-term operation and maintenance.

ECUADOR In April, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the Ecuadorean town of Muisne in Manabí province. In response to the dire need for water, IsraAID’s team introduced a simple, effective NUF water filtration system in six locations, giving 1,700 people access to safe drinking water. IsraAID implemented the technology and trained communities on its operation and maintenance, plus on safe sanitation, water storage and management and hygiene practices.

DOÑA CHEFA

Doña Chefa, 88, mother of four and grandmother of 30, has lived her whole life in the small, rural, mountain-side community of Barrio Real, Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria devastated her community. Almost every roof was blown away and many homes flooded. The hurricane also damaged the community’s electric well - the only supply of safe drinking water.

Post-Maria, Doña Chefa waited seven days to get bottled water. In the meantime, she was forced to knowingly drink unsafe water from the river. Months later, the residents of Barrio Real are still without electricity, and their well remains damaged.

IsraAID’s team in Puerto Rico installed water filters across Barrio Real, providing the community with potable water. To reach a lasting, sustainable solution, IsraAID has partnered with the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico to build a new gravitational sand filtration system. When finished, Doña Chefa and her whole community will finally have safe drinking water that is not dependent on electricity.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE SAFE WATER AND HYGIENE FACILITIES, COMMUNITIES CANNOT RECOVER.

4,337 children participated in water, sanitation and hygiene training activities in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

11,177 people received water filters in Puerto Rico and Dominica after Hurricane Maria.

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During a disaster, there is an acute need for medical care. Our response includes emergency and community health services, and longer-term capacity-building of local medical facilities. IsraAID’s teams are staffed with experienced volunteer doctors, nurses and other healthcare practitioners.

In the aftermath of a humanitarian crisis, the healthcare infrastructure in affected areas is usually stretched beyond capacity, while the population’s needs increase. IsraAID’s emergency medical teams typically set up mobile units to reach some of the most isolated communities. In the summer of 2017, we dispatched medical professionals to remote areas in Dominica, Puerto Rico, Nepal and Mexico.

IsraAID’s medical sector also focuses on refugee health on both the Greek island of Lesbos and in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. On Lesbos, our teams provide vital care for new arrivals and ongoing medical consultations to those who escaped war and atrocities in Syria and Iraq. In Kakuma, home to more than 185,000 refugees from South Sudan and the entire region, our volunteer doctors support the understaffed, under-equipped medical system by training medical professionals and treating patients.
TREATING REFUGEES

Dr. Kefah from Shefa-'Amr in northern Israel spent several months working with IsraAID in Lesbos. As the only mother tongue Arabic-speaking doctor on the island, Dr. Kefah was able to understand and communicate with the many Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lesbos.

“When they see someone speaking their language, someone who understands their culture, they’re able to feel at ease and begin to share their problems and their stories. Behind every headache, there are many stories,” he says.

While there, Dr. Kefah did daily rounds of the camp, visiting refugees in their accommodations. “This is the kind of work that builds bridges and supports our humanitarian mission, which is about more than just distributing medication and providing treatment. I see how they’re suffering and they tell me their hopes and dreams. In the end, all of us are human beings.”
The long-term effects of disasters - from earthquakes and hurricanes to conflicts and refugee crises - are devastating for the affected communities. While immediate relief is vital to alleviate the situation and begin the process of rebuilding, so is future planning. In the aftermath of an emergency, IsraAID provides sustainable support to aid the affected populations’ longer-term recovery.

IsraAID develops community-based livelihood programs which give local people access to income generating opportunities and build on existing communal infrastructure. These initiatives help some of the most vulnerable people become financially independent and build self-reliant communities. IsraAID’s livelihood programs are designed to become self-sustainable, ensuring that the benefits continue long after IsraAID’s aid program ends.

In Nepal, following the 2015 earthquake, IsraAID launched HoneyAID, a vocational program that trains women in rural communities to become beekeepers and run honey production businesses.

In the Philippines, IsraAID’s agricultural program supports a local cooperative with crop production, how to market their produce, and run agricultural businesses.
IT’S A BEE’S LIFE...

Sonu is a HoneyAID beekeeper from a part of Nepal heavily affected by the 2015 earthquake. She is also a member of the marginalized Tamang Buddhist ethnic group, who live mostly in the mountains and hills of Nepal. After the devastating earthquake, Sonu felt like she was living in the shadows of death and destruction. Without the skills to earn a living, she did long, grueling hours of household work. This changed when Sonu discovered HoneyAID. “When this project entered our village,” Sonu told us, “it helped women like myself become active and involved in society.” HoneyAID equipped Sonu with the tools to care for her family and participate in the growing honey industry. She learned how to tend to bees, gather honey and market the finished product in the city. “For the first time, I have something of my own. It’s mine and only I know what to do with it.” After a few months, Sonu started to teach reading and writing in Nepali to her HoneyAID community members. She is now known as a local leader in her village.

LIVELIHOOD: WHAT WE DO

NEPAL  HoneyAID is a holistic vocational livelihood program. It teaches women the basics of apiculture as well as how to run a beekeeping and honey production business. The program strengthens the economic and social status of women in rural communities, giving them the knowledge, tools and support to help provide for their families. Training is now delivered by Nepalese staff who were trained by IsraAID experts, and a local NGO has been established to manage the project. Following the success in Nepal, IsraAID’s HoneyAID model was also implemented in Ecuador and Dominica. In Ecuador, the 2016 earthquake took a great toll on the economy and agricultural industry, forcing the country to rely on international relief efforts. IsraAID’s HoneyAID program empowered local women through economic independence and increased local agricultural production in Manabi, Ecuador. These women formed a cooperative that produces organic, fair-trade honey.

PHILIPPINES  In 2013, the Philippines was hit by one of the largest typhoons ever recorded. Agriculture and fishing-based livelihoods were devastated. In response, IsraAID launched an agricultural program, bringing Israeli technology, a collective farm model and expert agronomist training to help increase productivity and restore income opportunities. With employment options and agricultural production expanding, the farmers are generating more income and helping their community grow. Noel, IsraAID Philippines’ Agronomist and Livelihood Program Manager, says: “We have all learnt a huge amount, and crop production and sales are really improving. The farmers also take the knowledge and skills and apply them in their home gardens.”

KENYA  IsraAID’s Menstrual Hygiene Management program trains groups of women from diverse backgrounds in menstrual hygiene. It provides them with the opportunity to gain a livelihood by selling reusable menstrual hygiene products to women and girls in their communities. In Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, eight business groups took part in the project, marketing the menstrual products to both refugee and host communities.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS GIVE LOCAL PEOPLE ACCESS TO INCOME-GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILD ON EXISTING COMMUNAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

340 participants
in Kakuma directly benefited from menstrual hygiene management training.

400 percent
The Philippines’ farmers who participated in the program now earn 400% more.

215 women
were trained in beekeeping by HoneyAID Nepal.

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Education

Creating positive long-term change in the lives of children, young people and adults.

Conflict, disaster and displacement shatter lives and destroy the social infrastructure of communities. For refugees, displaced people and those affected by disaster, education is often abandoned or provided to an inadequate, “one-size-fits-all” standard. At IsraAID, we believe that expanding educational opportunities in emergency situations is vital and can have a transformational impact on affected communities.

IsraAID’s education sector oversees interventions that create lasting change in the lives of children, young people and adults. From providing mother-tongue schooling in Greece for Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish and Congolese speaking refugee children, to piloting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education programs for young people and teachers in Kurdish Iraq and South Sudan, IsraAID is building educational capacity in marginalized communities affected by conflicts and disasters around the world.

7,904 students participated in back-to-school activities in Morelos, Mexico, following the earthquake.

75 percent of educators and 60% of students participating in IsraAID’s STEM program in Iraq are women and girls.

170 children attend the School of Peace in Lesbos, Greece, every day.
IRAQ
Since 2015, IsraAID has provided training and materials for STEM education in schools for internally displaced people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq were forced to flee their homes when ISIS overran their communities. Most are from Iraq's minority groups, including Yazidis, Christians and Kurdish Muslims. Many children and young people living in camps have never had access to practical science education. In 2017, IsraAID's STEM program was delivered to 1,850 students in eight schools, with 120 volunteer educators from the community trained to teach the classes. The STEM program provides a window into the possibilities of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, both for intellectual growth and future employment.

GREECE
In northern Greece, IsraAID's Arabic-speaking team provides psychological and social support to strengthen the wellbeing of refugees living in shelters around Thessaloniki. While children over six attend school, younger children are often left without a structured educational framework. Although most camps, shelters, and community centers have 'child friendly spaces', there is often a shortage of trained staff to operate them.

In 2017, IsraAID, together with Early Starters International, launched an Early Childhood Education training program, providing three months of intensive, accredited professional training for refugee women in Arabic. Following this, the participants coordinated and ran - with IsraAID's support - a kindergarten within the refugee shelter. By empowering women to gain new professional skills, the Early Childhood Education program both transforms the experience of young refugees in northern Greece and opens doors for participants to future employment.

MEXICO
In September, central Mexico was hit by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. IsraAID mobilized an emergency response team, focusing on the state of Morelos. There were 1,527 damaged schools, 40 schools collapsed completely, and many more suffered severe damage. According to authorities, it will take up to two years to rebuild all affected buildings. In response to the urgent need for safe learning spaces, IsraAID installed temporary classrooms throughout Morelos. The team has so far set up 324 tents, benefitting over 7,904 students in kindergartens as well as primary and secondary schools.

GERMANY
IsraAID recently launched “Kompass”, a new Refugee Leadership Program in Berlin. This initiative trains and facilitates a group of young adult refugees from all nationalities and religions, to lead social and community-building activities and encourage thousands of other new refugee arrivals to connect with the wider German population. The group includes 18 male and female refugees, aged 14 to 45, from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Somalia, and is coordinated by two of IsraAID's psychosocial and mental health professionals.
STEM EDUCATION IN IRAQ

Diana (name changed) was the first volunteer teacher on IsraAID’s STEM education program in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

“My life and the lives of many people in Iraq have been turned around. Before the displacement, I ate three meals a day, slept in my room, on my own bed and I had my privacy. But when we were forced to flee, we found ourselves with 20 people or more sleeping in the same room. There was not enough food for everyone, and we had no clothes except those on our backs. Yet we were in need of education as much as we were in need of food.

Education programs like these are vital, especially for women in Iraq. It is hugely important, first for us, and for our children and the wider community. Iraq is a big country, and it will not be developed without women participating in the process. We live in a closed environment, where women are losing the chance to be more conscious of the world around us, but the IsraAID STEM program has enabled us to deepen our understanding and see things we could never have imagined before. The education we have earned will help us create change for the next generation of Iraqis, while the current generation needs us as teachers, sisters and mothers.”
In crises with large-scale destruction, international aid efforts typically focus on practical, physical support. However, post-conflict and disaster situations also have an enormous psychological impact on the individuals affected, as well as the social fabric of their communities. This is particularly acute amongst vulnerable groups who often lack access to post-trauma care.

IsraAID’s protection approach prioritizes the mental, emotional and social rehabilitation of populations affected by humanitarian disasters. It focuses on preventing gender-based violence, advancing child protection, mental health, as well as psychosocial support, and protection during emergencies. IsraAID’s experts support affected populations to reduce long-term trauma, strengthen their resilience and help them prepare for future disasters.

All of IsraAID’s protection programs are community-based and participatory to ensure their sustainability. As well as directly supporting vulnerable groups, our specialists train local volunteers and organizations to strengthen their capacity in Psychological First Aid, stress management, self-care and the prevention of secondary trauma.

IsraAID uses interactive, experiential methods - such as visual arts, movement, community theater and music - and creates safe spaces for vulnerable groups, particularly children.

In addition, IsraAID integrates mental health and psychosocial considerations into all of its Disaster Risk Reduction activities across the world.
**NEW HORIZON FOR CHILDREN**

Yana, aged 9, escaped from Syria with her parents and one brother. After the long, difficult journey, the family was sent temporarily to an emergency refugee shelter in Germany. In the shelter, Yana joined IsraAID’s Horizont art therapy program for young refugee children. The sessions provide a safe, creative space for these children to process some of their experiences and be together in a supportive peer environment.

During almost every session in IsraAID’s art therapy program, Yana occupies herself with themes related to food. She speaks often about the ‘bad food’ she ate on the way from Syria and in the various shelters she has since lived in in Germany, and reflects on what they used to eat in Syria. The IsraAID art therapists provide a safe place for Yana to process these thoughts. Yana has slowly opened up, created new friendships and agreed to share her feelings and thoughts with the group.

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**PROTECTION: WHAT WE DO**

**KENYA** The Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement in Kenya are currently home to over 185,000 refugees fleeing persecution and war in neighboring countries, including Somalia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nearly 60% are under the age of 18, while armed conflict, displacement, drought and famine exacerbate their protection needs. IsraAID’s two Child Resource Centers in Kakuma and Kalobeyei provide safe environments for affected children, their families and communities. Every day, each center provides a secure oasis for over 150 young refugees, offering recreational activities, safe water and the chance to ‘just be kids’. The centers are open six days a week and are run by facilitators from both the refugee and host communities. Activities include song, drama, dance, art, free play, storytelling, sports as well as basic literacy and numeracy. Furthermore, there is a focus on raising awareness of children’s rights, child protection issues, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, sanitation and hygiene.

**SIERRA LEONE** Teenage pregnancy is extremely prevalent in Sierra Leone and often the result of sexual violence, ‘transactional sex’ or early marriage. Half of all female teenage deaths are pregnancy-related, and both pregnant teens and their newborn babies are susceptible to poor physical and mental health. IsraAID’s Bold Response to Teenage Pregnancy program raises awareness of mental health issues and provides psychosocial support to pregnant teenage girls who suffer from community stigmatization and marginalization. The program engages the wider community by pairing social workers with traditional healers and religious leaders to train and lead groups of affected young people. The groups provide positive role-model behavior, and encourage participants to adopt healthy behaviors, return to education and seek sustainable livelihoods. In 2017, the program worked with 100 pregnant teenagers and lactating mothers and 50 adolescent boys in district of Kambia.

**S.SUDAN** South Sudan has experienced a state of near-constant conflict for many years, leading to vast numbers of internally displaced people and refugees. Both the country’s population and host communities are greatly affected; suffering high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) as well as the lack of community support. IsraAID’s team in South Sudan trains national service providers in psychosocial care and GBV response, including police, medical professionals and social workers. In addition, our protection professionals work directly with the community to reduce the threat of GBV, and to establish response and referral mechanisms which ensure that survivors’ cases are effectively managed and that they receive adequate psychosocial support.

**NEPAL** IsraAID’s community theater program provides psychological and social support through theater and expressive arts. By touring Nepal, including remote areas, our mobile theater troupe often provides rural communities first-ever psychological intervention. Performing about issues of depression, suicide, child protection and mental health, the shows spread awareness about the taboos that many Nepalese people currently experience.

The teams also refer individuals, who approach them from within the audience, for further care, if needed. The program helped thousands heal from the trauma of the 2015 earthquake, learn tools for psychological first aid and raise awareness of gender-based violence.

7,750 people were reached by the Community Theater Program in rural Nepal during October and November.

4,544 people in Dominica received emergency psychosocial support post-Maria.

40 institutions across South Sudan received training in Protection issues.

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**NEW HORIZON FOR CHILDREN**

Yana, aged 9, escaped from Syria with her parents and one brother. After the long, difficult journey, the family was sent temporarily to an emergency refugee shelter in Germany. In the shelter, Yana joined IsraAID’s Horizont art therapy program for young refugee children. The sessions provide a safe, creative space for these children to process some of their experiences and be together in a supportive peer environment.

During almost every session in IsraAID’s art therapy program, Yana occupies herself with themes related to food. She speaks often about the ‘bad food’ she ate on the way from Syria and in the various shelters she has since lived in in Germany, and reflects on what they used to eat in Syria. The IsraAID art therapists provide a safe place for Yana to process these thoughts. Yana has slowly opened up, created new friendships and agreed to share her feelings and thoughts with the group.
IsraAID US

This year, thanks to the Koret Foundation, IsraAID established its first US office in the Bay Area.

EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

In 2017, the US office conducted extensive education, engagement and advocacy programs for diverse audiences across the Bay Area and beyond! The team visited schools, campuses, high-tech companies and multi-denominational communal organizations, and developed and implemented new, innovative initiatives, including the Humanitarian Fellowship, inter-faith missions, interactive youth programs and partnership programs with synagogues. These programs engaged and connected US audiences and offered meaningful opportunities for more in-depth engagement and partnership.
HUMANITARIAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In 2017, we piloted the IsraAID Humanitarian Fellowship and gave 15 US college students a first-hand experience in international disaster relief work with IsraAID during a two-month placement in the field – from Nepal to Germany to the Philippines and more. The fellows gained a plethora of practical skills, and are now taking on active educational leadership roles in their communities and universities. The program creates a cohort of IsraAID student ambassadors who return from their field experiences and coordinate educational, awareness-raising, advocacy and fundraising events on their campuses and across the Jewish and wider communities.

INTERFAITH MISSIONS

In April, we hosted an interfaith mission for religious leaders from North America to visit IsraAID’s work in Greece. The trip had enormous impact, enabling the participants to meet and interact with IsraAID staff and volunteers, as well as the refugee communities. Subsequently, each leader shared their experience with their communities at home, addressing the refugee situation and the magnitude of the crisis.

Senior Rabbi Beth Singer of Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco returned eager to discuss IsraAID’s work with Syrian, Iraqi, Kurdish, Afghani and other refugees. She reflected, “The work that IsraAID is doing in Greece and other countries makes me so proud… They are doing this work on behalf of all of us and deserve our support”. Rabbi Singer has since spoken from the pulpit about her experiences. She noted: “I have been aware about this complex, tragic conflict for six years now. I have read about it, I have supported relief organizations … and I have truly felt I was standing idly by. This trip began to change this”.

SYNAGOGUE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

This year, we piloted a synagogue partnership model with West Suburban Temple Har Zion in Illinois, whereby they funded IsraAID’s medical program for refugees in Lesbos, Greece. As part of the partnership the community received updates, stories and videos from the team on the ground, and coordinated an art exchange program with children in the refugee camps. This model actively engaged the community with the realities of Syrian refugee crisis, and the role that IsraAID plays. IsraAID is now piloting this initiative with several other synagogues.

COORDINATING DISASTER RESPONSE MISSIONS IN THE US

In the summer of 2017 alone, we sent emergency response teams to Texas, Florida, California and Puerto Rico. The Bay Area office organized US-based volunteers and provided an important local base. Staffed by first responders, volunteers, local leaders and mental health specialists, our activities included creating a child-friendly day camp, mental health support for vulnerable groups in the community, distribution of air purifiers and meals, as well as supporting disaster-affected community members dealing with trauma and emotional exhaustion.
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Special mention to our Boards of Directors in Germany, Japan, Kenya and the Philippines, and our national staff worldwide.
WHERE YOUR GIVING GOES

**Expenses**
- **89%** Programs
- **7%** Administration
- **4%** Resource Development

**Programs**
- **43%** Refugee/IDP Programs
- **18%** Emergency Responses
- **39%** Established Programming

**Regions**
- **18%** Americas & the Caribbean
- **34%** Middle East & Europe
- **19%** Africa
- **29%** Asia & Pacific
- **58%** Community & Family Foundations and Trusts
- **24%** Institutions
- **12%** Private
- **6%** Other

**Funding Sources**
- **89%** Programs
- **18%** Americas & the Caribbean
- **43%** Refugee/IDP Programs
- **39%** Established Programming
- **18%** Emergency Responses

IN 2018

We are excited by what is ahead in 2018. On a programmatic level, IsraAID will draw on the lessons learnt from 2017. It will inaugurate a new emergency preparedness protocol; increasingly emphasize disaster risk reduction (DRR) in its programs; and introduce new research and academic partnerships, with a particular emphasis on protection mainstreaming. From an organizational perspective, we will introduce new technological solutions to promote a results-based approach and launch a new support system to promote staff and volunteer well-being and self-care. Lastly, IsraAID will undergo an extensive branding process, emphasizing the need to continually redefine our identity and relevance in a changing world.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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