ANNUAL REPORT

2021
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OPENING LETTER FROM ISRAAID LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to bring you IsraAID’s Annual Report for 2021, IsraAID’s 20th anniversary year. 2021 presented incredible challenges that we were not only able to overcome but transform into opportunities to achieve groundbreaking work around the world. We are delighted to share them with you here. However, it would be impossible to write this now without mentioning the global emergency we are currently facing: the Ukraine crisis. On the next pages of this report, you can find out more about the work our teams are doing to respond.

With the pandemic continuing to rage on, 2021 quickly raised the issue of global vaccine equity. With most vaccines going to wealthier countries, the Global South faced the unchecked spread of COVID-19. For IsraAID, the question was how we could have an impact and do it the ‘IsraAID way’. That is what happened when we were invited to work with Eswatini’s Ministry of Health on their national vaccination program, using our expertise to help this small southern African country become a regional leader in COVID-19 vaccinations.

As an emergency response organization, we are used to sending teams around the world, arriving in brand-new countries on barely a moment’s notice. What was so special this year, however, was how we were able to leverage our existing teams and relationships in countries as wide-ranging as Mozambique, Haiti, the USA, and the Philippines, alongside new partnerships in India and Ethiopia, to bring locally-led responses to communities in crisis. We see this as proof that our ‘Communities First’ approach is not only the right way, but the best way to do humanitarian work.

The period from August to October brought one of the most complicated and challenging operations IsraAID has ever executed: working with a group of activists, philanthropists, and governments to safely evacuate 167 vulnerable people from Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. We are pleased to say this mission was not only successful, but life-changing, with most of the group now resettled in Canada, and we must express our thanks here to everyone who was a part of it.

Alongside the many incredible accomplishments of our teams around the world – which we are delighted to share in this report – 2021 was also a year of incredible growth and development for IsraAID as an organization. We launched a new strategic plan to take IsraAID forward, with a focus on strengthening the organization, increasing our financial stability, deepening the quality of our work, and investing in staff wellbeing. We also grew our teams, both at headquarters and worldwide, adding more technical specialists to expand our organizational expertise.

IsraAID’s achievements in 2021 come down to the incredible people who make up the IsraAID family. From our truly global team to our international boards of directors to our many friends and volunteers to, of course, you, our supporters. We do not take your faith in our work lightly. Thank you for making what we do possible. Please continue to support IsraAID in 2022 – and beyond!

Yotam Polizer / Global CEO

Meira Aboulafia / Chair of the Global Board of Directors
This year, the Ukraine crisis has mobilized the world – and IsraAID has been at the heart of the international response. Within hours of Russia’s invasion on February 24, 2022, reports began to emerge of civilians fleeing towards Ukraine’s western borders. IsraAID’s initial Emergency Response team deployed to the region on February 26. Since then, with 14 million Ukrainians displaced from their homes and nearly 16 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, IsraAID has been working to support Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and supply southern Ukrainian cities with essential aid from Romania. Long after the war is over, the humanitarian crisis will remain throughout the region. We are currently preparing to expand our operations into Ukraine, reaching more families affected by the war. IsraAID is committed to responding for the long term and our work is ongoing.
As of mid-May 2022, more than 450,000 Ukrainians had entered Moldova, a country of just 2.6 million people, with 100,000 settling there. IsraAID was one of the first international NGOs to arrive at Palanca border crossing, the main entry point for Ukrainians to Moldova, only 30 miles from Odessa. Together with local partners, IsraAID set up a safe, warm space for mothers and children. Many had traveled for days through snow and freezing temperatures. In this safe space, families receive immediate post-trauma support, as well as children’s activities and resilience kits.

Around the country, from the border, to the capital Chișinău, to rural villages, IsraAID’s team is establishing safe spaces for children to learn and process their experiences, training Moldovan professionals on how to work with people in crisis, operating ‘women’s clubs’ where mothers and grandmothers can share their stories in a safe, supportive environment, ensuring refugees’ medical needs are met, and providing essential food and hygiene supplies.

IsraAID is coordinating with local and international partners to provide urgent relief through the Tulcea Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Romania, the only verified supply chain for humanitarian aid directly to southern Ukraine. IsraAID’s team is ensuring successful and timely deliveries of food, medical supplies, and other essential relief items like blankets and soap to cities including Odessa, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, and Kharkiv.

The hub is continuing to scale up its operations, so far delivering over $2.3 million worth of food rations and over 1,000 pallets of essential relief supplies to Ukrainian communities in desperate need.

“Through your generosity, openness and care, you have created a safe haven in Moldova for the Ukrainian people. Thanks to you Moldova has proven that it is a small country with a big heart.”

Maia Sandu / President of Moldova
Founded in 2001, IsraAID is an Israel-based, international, nongovernmental humanitarian aid organization. Since its inception, IsraAID has worked in emergency and long-term development settings in 60 countries. 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.

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.

We respond rapidly to disasters around the world, working with affected people as they rebuild their lives, their communities, and their futures, together.

We remain on the ground for as long as it takes, working with communities to recover, build resilience, and reduce the risk of future disasters.

We address the global displacement crisis by working with refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, mixed migrants, and host communities.

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.

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

We prioritize the psychological, emotional, and social needs of communities, both during an emergency and in the months and years that follow.

We ensure children have access to quality education and related services, during and after disasters, to enable social mobility and future livelihoods. We also integrate disaster risk reduction and psychosocial support into education systems.

IsraAID ANNUAL REPORT 2021

BACKGROUND

VISION

MISSION

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

RECOVERY, RESILIENCE & PREPAREDNESS

REFUGEES, DISPLACEMENT & FORCED MIGRATION

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

PROTECTION

EDUCATION

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE
EXISTING OPERATIONS IN 2021
The Bahamas
Colombia
Dominica
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Kenya
Mozambique
South Sudan
Uganda
Vanuatu
USA (IsraAID US)
Israel (Headquarters)

NEW OPERATIONS IN 2021
Albania
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Haiti
India
The Philippines
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
USA (Emergency Response)

NEW OPERATIONS IN 2022
Moldova
Romania
Ukraine
2021 was another year of global crisis. For IsraAID, it was also a year of major milestones. For this report, we thought the only way to tell the story of our global team’s work was to take you month-by-month through some of their biggest achievements. Naturally, we could not cover everything. However, we hope the next few pages give you a taste of both the challenges our humanitarian missions faced and how, time and again, our teams found new ways to overcome new – and old – problems, working hand-in-hand with local communities around the world.

“We’re focused on a holistic approach that recognizes the various systems at play, leverages local assets in filling gaps, and works closely with communities to overcome these challenges.”

Karmit Berlinsky / Emergency Operations Officer, Israaid HQ
MOZAMBIQUE: A LOCAL RESPONSE TO CYCLONE ELOISE

After making landfall on January 23, the heavy rains and winds of Cyclone Eloise caused $10 million worth of damage and displaced 8,000 people in communities still recovering from 2019’s Cyclone Idai. With families forced to shelter in overcrowded tents, fears of the unchecked spread of COVID-19 compounded the crisis.

IsraAID’s long-term mission in Mozambique, staffed by local professionals and based in Beira where Eloise struck, was one of few international teams able to support affected communities. We distributed soap, water purifier bottles, and reusable face masks to nearly 4,000 people. IsraAID’s national radio shows on COVID-19 prevention and stress management were broadcast in local languages to 1.8 million listeners.

Cyclone Eloise underscored the importance of resilience and disaster risk reduction. Everywhere IsraAID works, we aim to leave communities better prepared for the next crisis. In Mozambique, we built weather-resilient safe toilets, handwashing stations, and boreholes for local schools serving 6,500 students and teachers, which will serve as emergency shelters if and when the next cyclone hits.
UGANDA & KENYA: BRINGING CHILD PROTECTION HOME

When the pandemic closed IsraAID’s Child Friendly Spaces in Palorinya Refugee Settlement, Uganda, and Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, IsraAID’s facilitators knew they had to find a different way to reach their participants. IsraAID’s child protection activities are vital to the education and wellbeing of the children they serve.

In each country, the team adapted to the situation, introducing home visits and regular phone calls with refugee families. This way, the children received personalized care, the parents received guidance on supporting their children through a difficult time, the team could reach children with disabilities who could not normally access the Child Friendly Space, and the facilitators were able to identify and address child protection issues in the household.

Thanks to IsraAID’s regional approach, the two teams were able to share best practices and learn from each other’s experiences. Even after the restrictions eased, allowing a return to group activities for thousands of children, the team continued door-to-door visits to ensure that no child was left out due to disabilities or an inability to access the activities.

ISRAAID: FUTURE FIRST

In January 2021, as the organization entered its 20th anniversary year, IsraAID launched a completely fresh look, alongside a new website. Working together with international branding agency Natie, we built a new brand to reflect IsraAID’s story and take us into the future. Because a future is the most important thing we can build.

“Despite the far-reaching and incredibly complex implications of the pandemic, we at IsraAID remain focused on ensuring that communities can build resilience and remain resourceful to build a better future for themselves and Uganda at large.”

Daniel Kintu / Program Manager, IsraAID Uganda
Access to mental health services is a major challenge throughout Vanuatu, the South Pacific archipelago home to 300,000 people. Alongside social and cultural stigmas, a lack of qualified mental health professionals leaves many struggling to get the support they need.

To address this, IsraAID worked with Mind Care Unit, the country’s only psychiatric facility, to train and mentor volunteers across the country to ‘open the dialogue’ and help deliver Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) outreach in their communities.
When Hurricane Dorian devastated the Bahamas in 2019, the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco saw their water supplies heavily affected by extreme salinity from the sea water swept inland by the storm. This problem was compounded by a lack of functioning water monitoring systems.

To achieve a long-term solution, IsraAID partnered with the local water authorities on each island and UMCOR to install a large-scale water monitoring system across both Grand Bahama and Abaco. The sensors detect quality, quantity, and salinity of groundwater, plus any anomalies. This will ensure the water authorities can better manage their water supplies, and receive up-to-date information about water levels, including in future emergencies. In February 2021, IsraAID completed the first stage of this project.

In February 2021, the Colombian government announced that all Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the country would be granted a 10-year protected status, with the right to work and remain in Colombia. For the Venezuelan community in Barranquilla, this decision could not come soon enough. High unemployment in Colombia disproportionately affects Venezuelans. After years of limited opportunities, accessing the job market is still not easy. That is where IsraAID’s livelihood program comes in. Over six weeks, IsraAID’s team trains marginalized Venezuelans and Colombians on leadership, communication, decision-making, labor rights, marketing, and more, tailoring the content towards either entrepreneurs or individuals seeking employment.

Mildred is a young Venezuelan woman with eight years of experience in preparing fast and frozen foods. With seed capital from IsraAID, she was able to open her own business, investing in equipment and raw materials to make her products, which she sells in local stores. Her goal is to finish the construction of a family house. “Now with this opportunity I know I can achieve it,” she says.

“IsraAID’s WASH program started here in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian in 2019 but the impacts of a sustainable groundwater management plan will be felt far into the future.”

Dr. Ancilleno Davis / WASH Coordinator, IsraAID Bahamas
GLOBAL: CELEBRATING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

On March 8 every year, IsraAID celebrates International Women’s Day. This year, for the first time, we held a global event focusing on Women and Water, joined by IsraAID team members, volunteers, supporters, and friends around the world.

With panelists based in the Bahamas, Kenya, Guatemala, and Israel, we were proud to showcase IsraAID’s global perspective on this crucial topic.

Speaking at the event, Tali Groshaus, IsraAID’s former Country Director in Guatemala, said: “It’s not enough to ensure the infrastructure for the girls, and to share information and raise awareness about women’s and girls’ rights. We must also pay attention to the details and work with all genders to change the power dynamics, not only for the future, but starting today.”

NEW YORK: COVID-19 IN THE LATIN COMMUNITY

In New York City, IsraAID partnered with VIP (Violence Intervention Program), an organization working to empower Latinx survivors of domestic violence, to train their team and deliver resilience kits in a community heavily affected by successive waves of COVID-19. The kits provide items to support both adults and children dealing with trauma, alongside PPE and IsraAID’s COVID-19 Toolkit for Parents in Spanish and English.
INDIA: COVID-19 CRISIS

In April 2021, India experienced a devastating second wave of COVID-19, with case numbers spiking to over 400,000 new diagnoses per day. IsraAID announced an immediate response, partnering with the local NGO Gabriel Project Mumbai to provide urgent support in rural Palghar, home to over 4 million people. One in two households was affected by COVID-19 and an already marginalized indigenous community was left with little access to much-needed medical care. We worked with local village councils and district health authorities to ensure access to equipment, supplies, medical teams, PPE, and hygiene kits. When many organizations were shipping costly oxygen equipment into the country, we constructed oxygen plants and vaporizer units at rural hospitals. With the parts purchased in India, these new facilities ensure long-term access through investing in the local economy. This equipment will continue to serve rural communities long after the pandemic subsides.

This response shows the importance of our local partnerships and ‘Communities First’ approach. By complementing Gabriel Project Mumbai’s deep local knowledge and connections with IsraAID’s global expertise in public health, emergency response, protection, and COVID-19, we were able to reach more people in need with better support than either organization would have been able to alone.

ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES: LA SOUFRIÈRE VOLCANO RESPONSE

La Soufrière volcano on the small Caribbean island of St Vincent erupted in April, displacing over 22,000 people. IsraAID’s Emergency Response team provided trainings for hundreds of local frontline workers on how to support people through crisis, and established 21 Child-Friendly Spaces in 17 communities, with 50 facilitators from the community trained to run them. Many of the 620 children who attended had been out of school for over a year due to COVID-19, so we provided catch-up education, games, and sports, with integrated psychosocial care. Most were from the already-marginalized, indigenous Kalinago community. One mother told our team: “My daughter used to cry and tell me every day that she wants to go home. When the space opened, I brought her straight away. Now, this has become her happiest time. She wants to do her schoolwork and can’t wait to go and meet the facilitators and other children and play. I am so thankful for this.”
At IsraAID we bring innovative technologies and expertise, often developed in Israel, to communities where they can have a significant impact. In Dominica, we partnered with the Ministry of Education to promote digital learning among primary school students, using the Plethora online platform. Plethora is an Israeli software company teaching students computational thinking and problem-solving. Local teachers were trained by the Plethora team from Israel and provided with accompanying lesson plans. Schools were also given tablets to ensure they could access and use the software. Through this project, we reached over 180 Dominican students. This program is part of the IsraAID-Pears Program Pilot Fund.
ETHIOPIA: WAR AND DISPLACEMENT IN TIGRAY

When war erupted in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, in November 2020, over 1.7 million civilians fled, sparking an internal displacement crisis with severe humanitarian needs. Children were already lacking routine since schools had been closed for months due to COVID-19. Now forced to flee their homes, they urgently needed stability and support. IsraAID, and our partners NALA Foundation and the Organization for Social Services, Health, and Development, set up safe spaces run by internally displaced people trained by our experts. 500 children aged 5-18 arrived daily to learn, play, and ‘just be kids.’

S. is a 12-year-old boy. Before the conflict, he dreamed of becoming a doctor. When the fighting began, S. and his mother walked to Mekele without any food, which took more than 20 days. His mother recalls the journey: “It was horrific. We saw many difficult things on the way which children shouldn’t have to see, like dead bodies. This severely affected him.”

At IsraAID’s center, S. has begun to process his journey and find some relief, according to his mother. “I can tell he is starting to recover. He is much more active and enjoys playing with new friends and learning new things,” she said.

COLOMBIA: INTEGRATION THROUGH SOCCER

In May, work began on a new floodlit soccer pitch in La Playa, Barranquilla, a Colombian neighborhood home to a vulnerable mixed Venezuelan and Colombian population with few shared community spaces. What was an empty piece of land now serves as a place for children, and the rest of the community, to safely meet and play. The whole community came together to take part in the construction, cleaning and excavating of the area, leveling the land, filling it with concrete, and installing flood lights to make the space accessible and safe, even in the evening.

As soccer is very popular in both Venezuela and Colombia, IsraAID’s team can use the sport to help integrate young Venezuelan migrants into the local Colombian host community. Using sports, leadership, and teamwork, the field will serve as a communal area open to all.

“While legal integration is confirmed, social integration is not. Combating xenophobia and promoting diversity is critical.”

Aymeric Astre / Country Director, IsraAID Colombia
ESWATINI: USING ISRAELI TECH TO TRACK VACCINES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

In early 2021, when just 10 countries had delivered 75% of all COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, vaccine inequality was clearly one of the biggest barriers to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. In the southern African Kingdom of Eswatini, where the virus had claimed the lives of senior government officials including Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, a comprehensive strategy was essential to reducing the spread.

In March, IsraAID was invited by the Government of Eswatini to support the Ministry of Health in designing and rolling out their national vaccination campaign. IsraAID’s mission to Eswatini was supported by the Kirsh Foundation.

In June, together with Israeli start-up monday.com, we launched the Vaccine Control Room – a central hub which supervises the real-time arrival, safe storage, and utilization of vaccines, tracking our progress at every step. This digitized, automated, and centralized a process previously managed on paper.

The control room is essential to the Ministry of Health and IsraAID’s ability to manage and track the progress of the vaccination campaign. When IsraAID arrived in Eswatini, the country had the highest COVID-19 fatality rates in Africa. By mid-August, it had surpassed its neighbors in vaccine doses administered per 100 people.
Around the world, IsraAID focuses on long running and “hidden” emergencies, which continue to affect communities despite little international attention. Nowhere is this more evident than in South Sudan.

IsraAID South Sudan was established ten years ago, shortly after the country gained independence, focusing on community responses to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), building community infrastructure and raising awareness of women’s rights. With up to 65% of South Sudanese women and girls experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes, GBV is a protracted emergency in South Sudan that requires a culturally sensitive, community-based approach. Conflict and COVID-19 have both exacerbated this crisis. In June, IsraAID’s team conducted an emergency relief distribution in Logo village, Kajo Keji, a rural community where people slept under trees with no shelter or protection after armed men forced them out of the IDP camp where they had been living.

With many women and girls in the community, providing dignity kits and supporting community responses to GBV were crucial – alongside the need for shelter and basic infrastructure.

In rural Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, limited road access meant largely indigenous communities were left without essential public health information to keep themselves and their families healthy. Working closely with the country’s Ministry of Health, IsraAID’s team distributed 5,000 leaflets, posters, and information booklets in local languages with key information about child health, nutrition, and COVID-19.

This campaign was supplemented by IsraAID-produced radio broadcasts on the same topics in both Spanish and Q’eqchi, the local indigenous language, on a popular local station.

“Trained volunteers serve as the link between IsraAID and their communities, without which access would be near impossible.”

Galla Isaac Stephen / Protection Program Manager, IsraAID South Sudan
2021 was the second year of the IsraAID-Pears Program Pilot Fund, a joint program with the Pears Program for Global Innovation to help innovative Israeli technologies break into the humanitarian market. In July, we gave 11 Israeli startups a crash course in humanitarian aid at Humanitarian Bootcamp.

At the bootcamp, participants learned about the humanitarian landscape, IsraAID’s experience and expertise, how humanitarian funding opportunities work, and more. This was one stage of the process towards piloting the selected companies’ technology in IsraAID’s humanitarian missions.

Major floods swept western Germany, destroying homes and infrastructure, and killing 196 people. 200,000 properties lost access to power. With bridges destroyed and train tracks buried, it was extremely difficult to travel to or within the affected region.

IsraAID Germany navigated these challenges to deploy 60 refugee volunteers to support community clean-up and emergency response efforts in some of the worst-affected areas.

Hamid, 33, was one of the first volunteers to arrive in North Rhine-Westphalia. “As I saw the pictures of the floods, I remembered when I arrived in Germany in 2015. At that time, pictures of refugees arriving here were all over the news. Many people saw these pictures and reacted immediately to support us. I wanted to do it the same way,” he said.
GLOBAL: ISRAAID’S STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

In July, IsraAID launched its new strategic plan for 2021-2024, in order to deepen and strengthen our global mandate, impact, and infrastructure. We identified four key strategic goals for this next stage of IsraAID’s growth, focusing on: deepening the quality of our programming; clarifying and strengthening our global office structure; bolstering our financial stability through growth; and highlighting staff safety and wellbeing around the world. This plan has already enabled us to reach more communities in crisis, providing effective, sustainable, and innovative interventions to put the future first. You can read the plan in full on our website.

UNITED STATES: COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

With COVID-19 leading to high levels of food insecurity in households across the country, IsraAID US continued its program, launched in 2020, mobilizing community volunteers to help meet critical needs in California food banks. In August 2021, IsraAID US concluded its volunteer deployments, with 452,261 food packages delivered to 1.8 million people since the start of the pandemic.

The team also launched a training module for community leaders and service providers, equipping them with the tools and resources to strengthen their individual and collective resilience, emergency preparedness, and mental health in the face of the pandemic. Since this program launched, more than 100 communities have been reached.

"It remains crucial to work collaboratively with local communities."

Yotam Polizer / IsraAID CEO

HAITI: EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

On August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake devastated western Haiti. Just two days later, Tropical Storm Grace caused heavy rains and flooding in the same region. This double crisis exposed thousands of people to severe risks.

IsraAID’s emergency response team arrived on August 16. Our international response team was joined by local Haitians who had worked with IsraAID during our previous mission to the country from 2010-2017. Our existing relationships enabled us to reach several of the worst-affected rural communities near the earthquake’s epicenter, while most international aid was focused elsewhere.

Together with our local partners, including NGO Les Amis d’Haïti, we provided educational and psychosocial support for hundreds of children and trained 600 teachers on mental health in emergencies. With water access a major issue and the earthquake devastating local water infrastructure, our WASH team distributed 1,200 household water filters, repaired dozens of damaged boreholes, extended 1.3 kilometers of water pipes reaching 2,700 people, and constructed a 30,900-gallon reservoir for L’Asile hospital, which treats hundreds of patients every day.
AFGHANISTAN: EVACUATING VULNERABLE PEOPLE DURING A GLOBAL CRISIS

When the Taliban completed their takeover of Afghanistan, many people – particularly prominent women and activists – were left at immediate risk. IsraAID worked with international activists, governments, and philanthropists to facilitate the evacuation of 167 vulnerable Afghans, including female judges, TV presenters, cyclists, journalists, artists, human rights activists, law enforcement officers, scientists, and more. Many of those evacuated served as symbols of female empowerment and leadership and thus were considered particularly vulnerable under Taliban rule.

The evacuation took part in two stages, with an initial group of 42 arriving in Abu Dhabi on September 6, after crossing by land into Tajikistan – the first group given permission by the Tajik government to evacuate by land and the first joint humanitarian operation between an Israeli organization and the United Arab Emirates. On October 2, they were followed by another 125 people, who arrived in Albania. After reaching their places of temporary refuge in Abu Dhabi and Albania, longer-term plans were made for resettlement to third countries, including Canada, France, and Switzerland. As of May 2022, the vast majority of the 167 people have been resettled.

This was a complex and large-scale operation, made possible thanks to the support and collaboration of a number of different groups, governments, and individuals. These included the group of strong women activists, led by Danna Harman, who initiated this operation, international NGO Team Humanity, Sylvan Adams, an anonymous family foundation, and many more.
IsraAID first launched its response to the Mediterranean refugee crisis in 2015, when the numbers of people fleeing Syria and Iraq exploded. From then until late 2021, IsraAID worked with refugees on the island of Lesbos and in Thessaloniki.

Lesbos is the first place where many refugees stepped foot on European soil, and from 2015 to 2019, IsraAID’s medical teams were often the first people to meet them when their boats landed, providing urgent, life-saving treatment. In 2018, IsraAID and our partners established the Sindos Community Center, serving a community of 500 refugees living in shelters near Thessaloniki. There, IsraAID’s team provided integration support, language and computer classes, psychosocial support, children’s activities and – more than anything – helped the refugees of Sindos build a community for themselves.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the center became a hive of activity at a time of strict lockdown, with classes continuing online and community volunteers sewing thousands of reusable face masks for vulnerable locals and refugees. In late 2021, the shelters in Sindos were closed, with the remaining refugee residents moved to other parts of the country, and IsraAID’s long-term mission in Greece was completed.

“'We believe that there is a better future for the children in Vanuatu if there are better WASH facilities in every school.'”

Mary / WASH Team Member, IsraAID Vanuatu

VANUATU:
SANITATION IN SCHOOLS

For rural communities in Vanuatu, access to clean and safe sanitation and hygiene facilities is not a given. However, when communities have the right infrastructure, the impact is clear, not just in their health outcomes, but also in their resilience. To ensure more communities have access to proper hygiene facilities, IsraAID partnered with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to construct toilets and septic tanks for schools on the islands of Santo and Malekula. IsraAID’s experts ran workshops for community members on building, maintaining, and promoting the use of the facilities. They continue to maintain the facilities today.

GREECE:
COMPLETING OUR MISSION

IsraAID Vanuatu
2021 marked 20 years of IsraAID. That means 20 years of bringing urgent aid to communities in crisis and then staying to rebuild their lives, and their futures, together. In those two decades, we responded to over 90 emergencies in more than 50 countries. We grew from a coalition of Israeli organizations into Israel’s leading non-governmental international humanitarian aid organization, with hundreds of team members around the world.

In October, we celebrated this special anniversary at a unique event in Tel Aviv, broadcast live around the world. We were joined by current and former staff, board members, partners, and friends, celebrating our founding, our partnerships, our people, and our future. We were honored to welcome many special guests, including diplomats and ambassadors from Albania, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, and Mozambique, to hear speeches and video messages from IsraAID’s team, Israeli President, Isaac Herzog, Israel’s Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Nachman Shai, and Israel’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yair Lapid.

As part of the IsraAID20 celebrations, we hosted the inaugural IsraAWARDS, a peer-nominated award ceremony, recognizing the dedication and hard work of colleagues around the world. From dozens of nominations, five worthy winners were chosen by an independent panel. We would like to take this opportunity, once again, to celebrate them here:

- **Felicia Pierre** / Head of Programs, IsraAID Dominica
- **Jeanine Shem** / Program Manager, IsraAID Vanuatu
- **Bosco Modi** / Social Worker, IsraAID Kenya
- **Eshay Hazan** / Finance Officer, IsraAID HQ
- **Sarith Honigstein** / Senior Director of Operations, IsraAID US
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IsraAID deployed a team of specialists to provide ongoing community support to the 125 Afghan refugees evacuated to Albania, who were assigned temporary housing in an off-season holiday resort. As the group prepared for resettlement in Canada, education was essential. In November, IsraAID's team worked with the refugee community and local partners to establish a school for the Afghan group, creating a busy class schedule ranging from adults' English and French classes, to CV and LinkedIn training to help them find jobs, to English, Math, Albanian, Dari, and Art classes for children aged 6-18. Teachers included refugees from the group themselves.

“Our classrooms are rarely free,” explained IsraAID Albania’s Education Coordinator Yotam.

“At 10:00 the morning shift begins, when the 6-12 year-old children have classes. After lunch, the afternoon shift, when the 13-18 year-old children study. Between those two shifts, for an hour, the school offers English classes for adults.”

Access to education of all kinds – language, mathematics, and skills training – has a long-term impact, helping participants build futures for themselves after they move on. As of May 2022, the vast majority of the Afghan refugee group have been resettled to Canada.
Super Typhoon Odette (Rai) struck the Philippines in late December, causing severe flooding and landslides, with more than 1.7 million houses damaged or destroyed.

With COVID-19 entry restrictions preventing international staff from entering the country, IsraAID’s focus on localization proved its value yet again. Due to IsraAID’s previous mission in the Philippines from 2013-2019, we were able to immediately mobilize former staff and volunteers to provide urgent relief.

With millions displaced, living in public shelters or over-crowded private homes, maintaining the hygiene and dignity of affected people was key. Our local teams in Southern Leyte, Cebu, and Negros Occidental distributed hundreds of gallons of safe drinking water and hygiene kits, in addition to dry food, blankets, and other necessities. In 2022, with entry restrictions lifted, IsraAID was able to deploy an international team to continue this emergency response and begin to plan our long-term work in affected communities.
After more than 20 tornadoes swept across the central and southern United States, over 70 people were killed in Kentucky alone, with entire towns destroyed. IsraAID mobilized an emergency response, together with our partners Team Rubicon in Mayfield, Kentucky, among the hardest-hit communities in what Gov. Andy Beshear described as “the most devastating tornado event” in the state’s history. Two teams of IsraAID volunteers deployed to clear debris, remove fallen trees, repair damaged roofs, and more, as the community rebuilds.

In recent years, the Caribbean nation of Dominica has experienced a “brain drain”, with many young people leaving the island after their studies to find jobs. At the same time, the country has a large number of young professionals with the potential to seek a livelihood online. Work Online Dominica is a partnership between the Ministry of Public Works and The Digital Economy, IsraAID, UNDP, and Dominica State College. The program equips young people with the tools and resources they need to establish and grow a career online, ensuring they can earn a livelihood without leaving their communities, and in turn support Dominica’s economy as well. In December 2021, the second of two cohorts graduated from the program, which reached over 100 young people so far, the majority of whom have since found employment online.
# MEET THE TEAM / Current as of June 2022

## HEADQUARTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yotam Polizer</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naama Gorodischer</td>
<td>Chief Humanitarian &amp; Resilience Officer (CHRO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamar Kosky Lazarus</td>
<td>Chief Development &amp; Communications Officer (CDCO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shlomit Tron</td>
<td>Chief Transformation Officer (CTO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Kegeles</td>
<td>Chief Finance Officer (CFO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michal Strahtlievitz</td>
<td>Senior Director of Regions &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anat Herrmann Aharoni</td>
<td>Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Di Castro</td>
<td>Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarden Zornberg</td>
<td>Sub-Regional Director &amp; Business Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michal Bar</td>
<td>Director of Emergency Programming &amp; Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karmit Berinsky</td>
<td>Emergency Operations Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idan Markovich</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerio Carafa</td>
<td>Head of Technical Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Serkin</td>
<td>Head of Protection Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Bella Kovan</td>
<td>Protection Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yahel Shemesh</td>
<td>Protection Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orit Rubin</td>
<td>Protection &amp; Emergency Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avital Furlager</td>
<td>WASH Sector Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mai Leshem</td>
<td>Education Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selda Edris</td>
<td>Education Sector Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilach Grunfeld-Yona</td>
<td>Head of Health Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitzan Shimon</td>
<td>Health Sector Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sita Cacioppe</td>
<td>MEAL &amp; CWC Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ahmad Abu Al-Halaweh</td>
<td>Organization Learning Senior Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eitan Goldberg</td>
<td>Innovation, Information &amp; Impact Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amalia Martinez</td>
<td>Senior Programs Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Bernstein</td>
<td>Programs Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juliana Peña</td>
<td>Programs Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maia Brandstadter</td>
<td>Head of Institutional Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Sam Kaplan</td>
<td>Development Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Sharron</td>
<td>Media &amp; Communications Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Schwartz</td>
<td>Digital Content &amp; Communications Officer</td>
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<td>Zob Edelman</td>
<td>Press Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shachar Hay</td>
<td>Program Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tall Sammstein</td>
<td>Human Resources Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kym Donnelly</td>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanya Amiel</td>
<td>Administration Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adi Levi</td>
<td>Director of Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanda Golani</td>
<td>Accounting Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chava Mugrabi</td>
<td>Finance Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shir Hefer</td>
<td>Finance Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efim Gordon</td>
<td>Procurement &amp; Compliance Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lior Komorovsky</td>
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## ISRAAID U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarith Honigstein</td>
<td>Senior Director of Operations / Interim Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cohen</td>
<td>Chief Development Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachael Sonntag-Bloom</td>
<td>Resource Development Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alissa Rozansky</td>
<td>Office Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hector Rastrullo</td>
<td>Finance and Operations Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS: COUNTRY DIRECTORS & HEADS OF MISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natavan Ivanova</td>
<td>Albania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dmitry Medlev</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karina Garcia</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole King</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joost Van De Lest</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayle Deighton</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Casimiro Manuel Saned</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Asatiani</td>
<td>Moldova &amp; Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Kaplan</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Musembi Musili</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphine Mugisha</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Mitchell</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Mully Dor
Edward Rettig

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Millie Magid
Kathy Spandorfer
Elizabeth Velez & Cesar Astralaga
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Amy Rosenblatt Lui
Eric Savitz
Erin Schrode
Larry Tobin
Rabbi Josh Weinberg
Ron Zamir
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 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 global project.
- **Make a donation at www.israaid.org/donate**

VISIT [WWW.ISRAAID.ORG/GET-INVOLVED](http://WWW.ISRAAID.ORG/GET-INVOLVED) TO LEARN MORE
GLOBAL FINANCIALS

WHERE YOUR GENEROSITY GOES:

EXPENSES
- PROGRAM: 78%
- ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS: 13%
- FUNDRAISING: 9%

REGIONS
- THE MIDDLE EAST & EUROPE: 20%
- AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN: 31%
- ASIA & PACIFIC: 10%
- AFRICA: 39%

PROGRAMS
- LONG-TERM RECOVERY PROGRAMS: 37%
- REFUGEE / IDP PROGRAMS: 48%
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE: 15%

FUNDING SOURCE
- FOUNDATIONS, FAMILY FUNDS AND INDIVIDUALS: 79%
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: 9%
- INSTITUTIONAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND CORPORATE: 12%

WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, WE COULDN’T DO WHAT WE DO. THANK YOU.
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BD Foundation
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Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
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The Somekh Family Foundation
Elias Giving Fund / Brenda and Ric Elias
Ezra and Lauren Kest Family Fund
Facebook
Feldman Foundation CA
Fiverr
Friend Family Philanthropic Fund
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Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust
The Luby Shalek Gifting Fund / Nicholas T Shalek and Christine E Luby
Noemi Dunkelman
Orit Atzmon
PSN Charitable Trust
Popowitz Family Charitable Fund
Raanan and Nicole Agus
Rayne Foundation
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Ronald Fingerhut Family Foundation / Ron and Gigi Fingerhut
Roselyne Swig
Rowland & Sylvia Schaefer Family Foundation, Inc.
Samis Foundation
Sherry Weinman and Michael Umansky
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Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills
Templeton Religious Trust
The Barry and Mimi Sternlicht Foundation
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Beverly Foundation
The Children of Haiti and Refugee Projects (COHRP)
The Countess Moira Charitable Foundation
The Fisher Family
The Gottesman Fund
The John Pritzker Family Fund
The Kestrel Foundation
The Kirsh Foundation
The Malka-Kleiner Family Charitable Fund
The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation
The Pears Foundation
The Rimon Foundation of the Jewish Communal Fund
The Rosenblatt Charitable Trust
The Russell Berrie Foundation
The Sandberg Goldberg Charitable Support Fund
The Sephardic Foundation on Aging
The Shapiro Foundation
The Teddy Fund
The Weil-Bloch Foundation
Timashev Family Foundation
Tramiel Charitable Trust
Tubex Sociedad Anonima
Tzu Chi Charity Foundation
UJA-Federation New York
UNDP
UNICEF
Union Cycliste Internationale
Vanuatu Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Vanuatu Department of Water Resources
Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training
Vanuatu Ministry of Health
The Luby Shalek Charitable Trust
Will Family Foundations
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Ziering Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles
Zita and Mark Bernstein Family Foundation
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ZWST (Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland)

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