



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# WELCOME LETTER



# DEAR FRIENDS,

We are proud to bring you IsraAID's 2024 Annual Report. This year brought new and enduring challenges as the war in Israel and Gaza was felt in every part of our lives and work. Throughout the year we accompanied displaced and affected communities on the long road to recovery. We worked closely with community leaders, local authorities, and partners, rebuilding a hope and a trust that had been shattered on October 7th. All the while, our teams were living through this war themselves, giving us a deeper and more personal understanding of true resilience in the face of crisis. We have been deeply moved by the outpouring of support from old and new friends alike.

While facing a protracted emergency at home and across the region, we never lost sight of our global work, which spans 14 countries. Communities worldwide are facing accelerating climate disasters, conflict, and displacement as the global humanitarian system faces unprecedented instability. As we always have, we remain committed to disaster-affected communities for as long as they need us, from the war in Ukraine, to refugees and returnees in South Sudan, to repeated climate disasters in Vanuatu, and much more.

In 2024, our global teams thought regionally and brought their considerable expertise to new communities. In some cases that meant supporting neighboring countries, as in IsraAID Dominica's response to Hurricane Beryl in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Other times that meant expanding into new geographical areas and new types of emergencies, such as IsraAID Guatemala's response to the growing migration crisis.

Looking ahead to the next several years, we launched a new strategic plan as we evolve and adapt to the growing needs of our times. We are increasing our impact in terms of both people reached and effectiveness, broadening our work to new regions and areas – including a key focus on climate change and expanding our footprint in the Middle East and North Africa.

We're excited to continue our journey of localization, shifting decision-making power into the hands of our global teams and the communities we work with, rooted in the understanding that they know their own needs best. In that same spirit of collaboration, we are strengthening our partnerships across the sector, using our combined skills and resources to develop more robust, sustainable solutions.

While we continue to expand, our Israeli roots and values remain central to our global approach. While our global expertise critically informed our work in Israel, our work at home has reaffirmed the importance of Israeli technology, innovation, and can-do spirit in our global mission.

We hope that this report gives you a deeper understanding of the remarkable scope of what we've achieved this year. Every day, our team members devote their expertise, resilience, creativity, and hard work to making a difference, often in their own communities. We are honored to work beside them.

All of this is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters, who have been steadfast through this difficult year and beyond. The entire humanitarian system has been shaken to its core, with aid budgets in peril like never before. The demands on philanthropy have never been higher. Urgent needs are only growing, and we are prepared and well-positioned to step up our efforts to meet them. Your support has never been more crucial for people living through ongoing and protracted emergencies, and we ask our friends to continue to stand by us.

In the face of daunting challenges, our team steps up, and so too do our donors. As we look back on this year, we are struck by what we have been able to achieve, even in the most difficult circumstances, with your help. As we look forward, we hope that you continue supporting IsraAID in 2025 and beyond. Together, we are putting the future first.



**MEIRA ABOULAFIA**  
Chairperson of the Board



**YOTAM POLIZER**  
Global CEO

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# ISRAAID PROFILE

## BACKGROUND

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

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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

## AREAS OF ACTIVITY

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

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

### RECOVERY, RESILIENCE & PREPAREDNESS:

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

### REFUGEES, DISPLACEMENT & FORCED MIGRATION:

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



## SECTORS OF EXPERTISE

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



### PROTECTION

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



### EDUCATION

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



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

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



### HEALTH

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

# HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

## ● EXISTING OPERATIONS IN 2024

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- Colombia
- Dominica & Caribbean
- Guatemala
- Kenya
- Uganda
- South Sudan
- Mozambique
- Malawi
- Israel
- Vanuatu
- Ukraine
- Morocco

## ● STRATEGIC OFFICES IN 2024

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- US Office
- Australia
- Israel (Headquarters)

## ● NEW OPERATIONS IN 2024

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- Papua New Guinea

## ● NEW STRATEGIC OFFICE IN 2024

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- Canada









# EMERGENCIES

2024 saw accelerating climate disasters, global conflict, and mass migration driving humanitarian crises around the world. At home and abroad, IsraAID stayed committed to vulnerable communities in the immediate aftermath of disasters and on the long road to recovery. With a protracted and constantly evolving emergency response on our doorstep, IsraAID steadily adapted to the changing needs of Israeli and global communities over more than a year of war.

While responding at home, our emergency team responded to May's devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea. Our Dominica team led an emergency response to Hurricane Beryl's devastating effects in nearby St. Vincent and the Grenadines. More and more, our long-term missions are leading

responses to new and developing crises in their regions. These include the migration crisis in Guatemala, December's massive earthquake in Vanuatu, and Cyclone Chido in Mozambique.

As the world faces increasingly frequent and complex disasters, we often find ourselves managing a "crisis within a crisis". New events compound existing humanitarian disasters. For example, the arrival of more than 500,000 people fleeing conflict in Sudan to already overcrowded refugee camps in South Sudan created the conditions for December's cholera outbreak. These complex emergencies often don't make front page news, but IsraAID is there providing urgently needed support. Wherever we're needed, as long as it takes.



## ISRAEL: CRISIS AT HOME

IsraAID launched our first-ever large-scale response in Israel within 24 hours of the October 7th attacks. In 2024, our mission evolved to meet the long-term needs of Israeli communities affected by the ongoing war. As displaced communities transitioned from emergency evacuation centers to temporary accommodations, and ultimately back home, IsraAID worked hand-in-hand with local leaders to provide tailored support to 10+ communities. When the war expanded in the north, IsraAID prepared communities to face any challenge. As the country's most underserved managed protracted stress, we expanded our programs and built local capacity in unrecognized Bedouin towns and villages, and Druze communities in the north.

No part of our global organization has been untouched by this extremely difficult period. However, like all of our teams around the world, our Israel team rose to the challenge of responding to an emergency while living through it. The same ethos and expertise that we bring to emergencies abroad allowed us to grow and expand our work at home while never flagging in our global mission.

## LOCAL EXPERTISE

In 2024, IsraAID's long-term humanitarian missions responded to seven emergencies around the world: the migration crisis in Guatemala; Hurricane Beryl in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, led by our Dominica team; inter-community violence in Kenya; an influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Uganda; an earthquake in Vanuatu; a cholera outbreak in South Sudan; and Cyclone Chido in Mozambique.

Around the globe, our long-term approach builds local hubs of expertise. IsraAID staff at our long-term missions are deeply committed to and often part of the local community. They have built enduring partnerships with local authorities, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders. When a new emergency occurs in the country or region, our teams have the expertise and capacity to respond immediately and meet the real needs of communities in crisis. This is how we ensure that communities not only recover but are better prepared for the next challenge.

## NEGLECTED DISASTERS

In 2024, several conflicts dominated the global conversation, chief among them the war in Israel and Gaza. As formerly high-profile crises fade from headlines – like the ongoing war in Ukraine or the refugee crisis in South Sudan – the humanitarian needs don't fade with them. In many cases they only grow as the world's attention wanes. Communities experiencing protracted and neglected emergencies struggle to receive the necessary funding and support.

Whether or not the world is watching, IsraAID responds. Wherever we can make a difference, we will stand by crisis-affected communities for as long as they need us. Arriving in the first days when the emergency is on the top of everyone's minds, we're still standing by communities as the spotlight dims and the long work of recovery continues.

# JANUARY



## SPOTLIGHT ON COLOMBIA: IVONNE

Ivonne is a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Officer at IsraAID Colombia. In Barranquilla and the surrounding regions, Ivonne works to install, repair, and maintain essential water systems in underserved local and migrant communities. She also empowers communities with the knowledge and tools they need to own and maintain their own water resources.

***"I came to IsraAID to help vulnerable communities. We always try to reach the places where we are most needed. For us, it is so important to help provide the skills necessary to take over our role in the future. I dream that this community can one day reach other vulnerable communities as a voice that brings light to more people."***

At IsraAID, we know that water is more than just a resource – it's dignity, health, and hope for the future. Through providing the skills needed to maintain safe water access, Ivonne is helping communities take charge of tomorrow.

## GUATEMALA: SAFE PLACE ON THE MOVE

Every day, up to 2,000 migrants from Central and South America pass through the small town of Esquipulas, Guatemala, on the border with Honduras and El Salvador. To support migrants on the move and strengthen resources and capacities in the local community, IsraAID Guatemala and our emergency team launched a response in Esquipulas in January.

To help spread critical information about child protection, IsraAID held humanitarian fairs at the Esquipulas Bus Terminal – the most common waypoint for migrants passing through town. IsraAID distributed resilience kits, full of supplies to help children and parents manage stress and burnout, as well as essential information on local resources available to migrant communities and how to access them.

IsraAID's 90-minute Mobile Football School provides a moment of connection and support for children facing extreme instability, strengthening emotional skills and teamwork while building a sense of belonging and resilience. In just a few months, IsraAID and partners were able to reach nearly 700 children with sports-based psychosocial activities. IsraAID also trained local teachers to implement this 90-minute methodology and continue the program in the community.



# FEBRUARY

02/2024

## MALAWI: DATA DRIVEN HEALTH

At IsraAID, we use technology to help our missions and the communities we work with make informed, data-driven decisions. Already in 2023, IsraAID Malawi began screening for malnutrition at our cholera prevention points. Working together with the local authorities, IsraAID Malawi expanded its focus on preventing malnutrition in 2024, but needed a way to track data over time. We adopted a new technological solution to keep track of data and reach more communities with important nutrition programming.

ShareMy.Health is an interactive app that helps community health workers and government clerks record health data in real-time, digitize health records, and track outcomes over time. As health workers enter patient information it syncs to a centralized and secure database. The program offers analytics and insights that help inform data-driven decision making. Patients can also see their own health data over time, helping them and their healthcare providers make the best choices. This system is fully scalable, helping us plan for and implement more effective health programs, now and in the long term.

## DOMINICA: SCHOOL OF READINESS

As climate-related emergencies become ever more frequent, disaster preparedness is essential to protecting lives and supporting a quick recovery after crisis. Dominica, a small island nation in the Caribbean, is particularly vulnerable to disasters. This year, IsraAID Dominica worked closely with the Ministry of Education and local partners to integrate disaster preparedness into the national curriculum, making it a cornerstone of education.

As fixtures of the community, schools are centers of resilience. IsraAID Dominica worked closely with schools to develop disaster preparedness plans, equipping students, teachers, and staff with strategies to respond when disaster strikes. Our team provided essential emergency materials – like water filters and handheld radios – to ensure that schools had the resources to carry out their emergency plans. The IsraAID team conducted emergency drills covering tsunamis, earthquakes, and fires, ensuring that everything runs smoothly when the plan is put into action.

# MARCH



## KENYA: WORLD WATER DAY

Beginning in 2020, a series of failed rainy seasons across the Horn of Africa caused the worst drought in over 40 years. In Turkana County, Kenya, many families were forced to survive on as little as seven liters of water per week. Bringing a years-long process to a powerful conclusion, IsraAID was honored to hand over three new boreholes to the local host community in a festive ceremony marking World Water Day. As the world marked the right to safe water access, IsraAID was proud to ensure that communities not only had safe water but also maintained full ownership of their own water resources.

Over a year and a half, IsraAID carried out an intensive hydraulic survey, identified new water sources, drilled, and installed new taps and infrastructure. An additional 14 boreholes were repaired, four centralized water kiosks were constructed, and water user committees were trained. As a result, 64,000 people regained access to safe water. The final step was returning full control of all these resources to local leaders.

## UGANDA: COMMON LANGUAGE

Nakivale Refugee Settlement, the world's eighth largest, is home to thousands of people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and beyond. With so many nationalities, ethnicities, and languages, communication can be one of the biggest barriers to integration.

Among hundreds of cultures and languages, English serves as the common language that bridges barriers. IsraAID Uganda implemented an English education program for new arrivals. With their new language skills, refugees can access essential services, secure employment, and participate fully in their communities. Many no longer need translators, gaining the independence to navigate their new lives with confidence.

Beyond language, this program fosters a deep sense of belonging and stability. With the ability to communicate, refugees feel more at home, build stronger connections, and create new futures where they feel secure, empowered, and truly part of their communities.



## UKRAINE: 23 MILLION LITERS

IsraAID is restoring safe water access in southern Ukraine, where relentless shelling and water source contamination have devastated water infrastructure. Since August 2022, we have partnered with local authorities to install water filtration and distribution infrastructure across Ukraine, including reverse osmosis systems. Mobile stations extend our reach to rural communities, reducing the distances people must travel to access this vital resource.

By April, our systems delivered 10 million liters of free drinking water to more than 316,000 residents of Mykolaivska Oblast. By the end of 2024, our systems had reached a capacity of well over 1 million liters per month, reaching over 23 million liters total.

IsraAID has trained hundreds of local leaders to independently operate and maintain the equipment. We partnered with iMMAP and the Mykolaiv City Council to create an interactive digital map that provides real-time information on the city's 250 water distribution points.

# APRIL

04/2024



## MALAWI SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN AND WATER

Across Malawi, women are leading the way in ensuring safe water access for their communities. Despite traditional gender roles, over 70% of all the water committees trained by IsraAID are made up of women - taking charge of their communities' water sources and challenging stereotypes in the process.

Beatrice, an area mechanic, mother, and livestock farmer in Phalombe, has personally rehabilitated 22 boreholes in one of the districts hardest hit by Cyclone Freddy.



***"I am very proud to be part of a male-dominated career. People are often surprised to see a woman in this profession, but I take pride in my work. It's an honor to serve my community this way, as I ensure that they have access to clean and safe water."***

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA: LANDSLIDE

A massive landslide struck the remote Enga province of Papua New Guinea's Highlands region on May 24. Triggered by heavy rain, the landslide swept over six villages, destroying everything in its path. Between 600 and 2,000 people were estimated to have been killed, and some 8,000 people were directly impacted.

Working with local authorities, IsraAID launched an emergency response just days after the landslide. The team worked to strengthen the capacity of first responders and service providers who would work directly with the displaced communities. Ahead of their relocation to Mulitaka – a nearby town outside the landslide area – IsraAID upgraded the water system at the Mulitaka Health Center together with local engineers, ensuring displaced communities would have access to safe water. IsraAID also trained 100 local health workers in psychological first aid, psychosocial support, and self-care, to help them prepare to meet the needs of 20,000 community members – including those who were displaced and the local community that hosted them.





# UKRAINE: MENTAL HEALTH IN HOSPITALS

Across Ukraine, overwhelmed hospitals are struggling to meet surging mental health needs. As part of the First Lady's initiative to support mental health and building on our successful 2023 pilot, IsraAID implemented the second phase of our "Psychologist, Doctor, Patient" program.

Through the program, 100 psychologists were trained in psychological first aid and crisis intervention. IsraAID-trained psychologists are currently employed in 11 hospitals across Ukraine, providing critical support to over 4,000 staff, patients, and their families. This program is the first time mental health professionals have been integrated into the country's medical system as permanent members of hospital staff. Early trauma intervention supports patient recovery and mitigates staff burnout, ultimately creating a more resilient healthcare system.

In May, we convened a round table with 50 key stakeholders, including hospital managers, NGOs, and government officials, to refine the model and discuss integrating it permanently into the national healthcare system.



## MEET VIRA

Vira, a psychologist from Odesa, has spent years helping children overcome difficult times. Since joining IsraAID as Protection Project Manager, she dedicates her days to supporting people across Ukraine as they navigate the chaos and uncertainty of the ongoing war. Through child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support workshops, and trainings for first responders, Vira helps provide the emotional resources Ukrainians need to endure.

***"In the beginning, the children were scared... After a year, we saw enormous differences. They smiled, communicated, and wanted to participate. They knew nobody would criticize or condemn them. When I come back from work, I feel emotional satisfaction knowing this day was better for someone."***





## GLOBAL: WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Over 117 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety. That number is more than just a statistic. It represents 117 million stories of resilience, courage, loss, and hope.

At IsraAID, we have the privilege to work with refugees and internally displaced people around the world. Our programs work to support displaced people as they integrate into their new surroundings and rebuild their lives. This World Refugee Day, we honored their voices by sharing their stories.

### FINDING FRIENDSHIP IN UKRAINE

When 10-year-old Elizar fled Stryshivsk with his family, he left behind everything familiar – including his beloved cat, Reddy. In Odesa, he struggled with loneliness until he found IsraAID’s child-friendly spaces, where he made his first friends in his new home, Artem and Danylo. Through shared laughter, music, and a new pet hamster, Elizar is slowly adjusting to life as an internally displaced person.

### BUILDING A FUTURE IN KENYA

Riziki, a mother of five, fled the Democratic Republic of Congo and now lives in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. After receiving training from IsraAID in psychosocial support and mental health, she became determined to do more to support her family and community. She started three small businesses and established a safe learning space for over 150 children. Now pursuing a counseling degree, she hopes to continue empowering others facing hardship. Her message to refugees worldwide: “Tomorrow will be yours. Keep hoping. Keep doing. Keep going.”

### KEEPING FAMILY TOGETHER IN COLOMBIA

Economic turmoil forced Yasmirian to flee Venezuela. In Bogota, IsraAID helped her secure essential documents, enroll her children in school, and access support networks. Today, she continues to build a life for her family, balancing the challenges of life away from home with the comfort of her loved ones. While Venezuela will always remain in her heart, she is motivated to build a new home for herself and her children in Colombia.

## VANUATU: PREVENTING MALNUTRITION

Across Vanuatu, recent estimates show that almost one third of children under five suffer from stunting – a severe and permanent form of malnutrition where children do not receive enough nutrients to develop properly. Many times, this condition is caused by prolonged exposure to fecal matter and improper hygiene. IsraAID Vanuatu’s holistic approach to malnutrition prevention on Emau island combines water, sanitation, and health techniques to ensure that communities and families have the information and tools they need to address the root causes of stunting.

Working across the six communities of Emau island, home to 900 people, IsraAID improved and built new toilet facilities across the island. To help raise awareness, IsraAID created comprehensive and accessible flipcharts in local languages that help explain best practices in health and nutrition. Village Hygiene Promoters, who are part of and familiar with the local community, visited families at home, using the flipcharts to explain the information in a way that is easy to understand and implement.



# JULY

## DOMINICA: HURRICANE BERYL

In July, Hurricane Beryl became the earliest Category 5 Hurricane ever recorded, showing the increasingly dire effects of climate change on the Eastern Caribbean. IsraAID's long-term presence in Dominica enabled us to rapidly support affected communities in neighboring St. Vincent and the Grenadines, sharing our expertise across the region.

The IsraAID Dominica team distributed essential supplies, including chainsaws, flashlights, batteries, and first-aid kits, to help clear debris and treat minor injuries. We trained 24 Child-Friendly Space facilitators, who established four CFSs, providing 305 children with safe, nurturing environments for play and learning. Each CFS was equipped with educational and recreational materials. IsraAID also conducted self-care workshops for nearly 60 first responders, equipping them to provide psychosocial support for others while managing their own well-being.



## ISRAEL: MAJDAL SHAMS

In July, a missile strike from Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Druze community of Majdal Shams, killing 12 children. IsraAID launched an immediate response to support urgent needs and strengthen community resources as they recovered from this tragedy. We trained 200 professionals and volunteer youth leaders in trauma-informed psychosocial support practices, integrating them into existing support mechanisms in the community.

The program leveraged resources and expertise from our emergency response in southern Israel. As the intensity of attacks in the North rose, exacerbating vulnerabilities in communities across the region, IsraAID scaled up our Israel response. The Majdal Shams tragedy reinforced the importance of preparing community leaders to respond to local crises, spurring our training of 140 local-led response teams – detailed on page 25.

## GLOBAL: LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

At IsraAID, we believe strong leadership is the foundation of effective humanitarian action. In July, senior team members from every IsraAID mission gathered in Malawi for our annual Leadership Seminar - the first time a Country Office hosted this global event.

Working to shape IsraAID's global strategy and refine country-level plans together, the Global Leadership Seminar provided a rare opportunity for teams from different countries to meet face-to-face. Participants were able to share their experiences and expertise, learning from one another and strengthening collaboration and coordination across the globe.



## KENYA: WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

In August, our missions around the world marked World Breastfeeding Week. Proper breastfeeding practices are one of the best ways to prevent malnutrition and help infants build early immunity to disease. Stigma, lack of information, and a shortage of safe spaces can discourage mothers from this vital practice.

In Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp, IsraAID worked to ensure that mothers from both refugee and host communities had the information, facilities, and support they needed for healthy breastfeeding. IsraAID built unique breastfeeding corners in five health centers – strategically located near departments frequented by new mothers. The spaces are staffed by health providers and lactation specialists and equipped with handwashing stations and educational materials. They provide a comfortable and private environment, particularly for underage mothers who often feel uncomfortable breastfeeding in public. IsraAID established bi-weekly mother-to-mother support groups in three areas of the camp, creating a sense of community and another resource for sharing knowledge on breastfeeding and nutrition practices that support children to grow and thrive.

## SOUTH SUDAN: TECH INNOVATIONS

After months of development, IsraAID launched a brand-new WhatsApp chatbot to confidentially and securely refer gender-based violence (GBV) cases in South Sudan. Our outreach workers have diverse protection expertise but not necessarily in-depth knowledge of GBV, which is widespread in South Sudan's IDP populations.

Our outreach workers have received disclosures of dozens more GBV cases every month since they started working with the bot. It coaches them to provide relevant psychosocial support to survivors on the spot, and case managers provide detailed long-term guidance sooner thanks to faster and more accurate referrals.

We developed the bot in-house with support by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) program, a grant making facility which improves outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing and sharing innovative and scalable solutions. As we own the technology, we are excited to explore its adaptation to other humanitarian settings and share it with partners in the future.

# SEPTEMBER

## COLOMBIA: 5 YEARS

In September, IsraAID celebrated five years of continued dedication to vulnerable communities across Colombia. In 2019, as the Venezuelan displacement crisis exploded, IsraAID launched an emergency response in Cúcuta, on the Venezuela-Colombia border, and then expanded to the northern city of Barranquilla, a hub for Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers. Since then, our mission has expanded to new communities and geographical areas, evolving our programming along with shifting humanitarian needs, and growing our incredible team of dedicated humanitarian professionals.

Today we have three offices across the country's Caribbean region – in Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Ríoacha – and 23 full-time staff members. We work with Venezuelan migrants, the often-underserved local communities that host them, and with vulnerable ethnic minorities in rural settings. We've seen the incredible effect our work has had on people's lives – ensuring access to safe water, helping people build a new life and support their families, building brighter futures through access to education, and creating networks of emotional support for people in crisis. After five years, we can attest to the transformative power of this work. Through deep partnership with communities, leaders, community-based organizations, humanitarian partners, and local administrations, we've created a basis for long-term sustainability.



## VANUATU: RESILIENT MINDS

The accelerating pace of climate disasters takes a toll on mental health in the world's most vulnerable places. In Vanuatu, where new emergencies often arise before the community has recovered from the last one, IsraAID is working to integrate mental health support into disaster preparedness programming across the country. The "Resilient Minds for Resilient Communities" program works to strengthen the social fabric and improve mental health resources for 16 communities across this Pacific Island nation.

IsraAID conducted a baseline survey to assess mental health and disaster risk levels across the country. We trained volunteers and community leaders in psychological first aid, community resilience, and preparedness. We organized community awareness events and worked with community leaders to integrate these new skills into their readiness plans.



## KENYA: EMERGENCY AT KAKUMA

In September, IsraAID Kenya launched an emergency response to the security crisis in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei settlement, where inter-communal violence forced thousands to flee their homes in search of safety. The six-day conflict resulted in 19 deaths, displaced over 10,000 refugees, and destroyed over 700 homes.

After conducting a rapid needs assessment, the team provided psychological first aid to more than 1,200 people affected by the violence. As many families lost all their belongings, IsraAID provided more than 400 children with the necessary supplies and uniforms they needed to return to school.

Many of those displaced were left without access to proper sanitation, leaving them vulnerable to outbreaks of cholera. IsraAID constructed 66 communal latrines, distributed sanitation supplies to over 200 households and promoted safe sanitation and hygiene practices. These efforts helped the community recover from the physical, social, and mental impacts of repeated forced displacement.

## CANADA: OFFICE LAUNCH

We were excited to launch IsraAID Canada in September! This new strategic office connects local communities to our mission, work, and ethos, while serving as a fundraising hub in Canada and boosting regional capacity in North America.

It follows the 2023 launch of IsraAID Australia, to support fundraising and programming in the climate-vulnerable Pacific, and the establishment of IsraAID US on the West Coast in 2016.

Our global strategic offices raise awareness about the crisis-affected communities we serve, connecting them to international supporters. They also serve as hubs for knowledge and resources, allowing us to draw on local expertise everywhere we work. IsraAID has responded to repeated wildfires and hurricanes in Canada and the US for the last decade.



# OCTOBER



## ISRAEL: ONE YEAR SINCE OCTOBER 7

IsraAID marked the one-year anniversary of the October 7, 2023 attacks alongside the Israeli communities we support. While some returned home this year, most of the worst-affected kibbutzim on the Gaza border are still coping with prolonged displacement. We spent 2024 supporting community leadership and long-term resilience.

We converted our emergency psychosocial, education, and logistics programs in evacuation centers to long-term initiatives, in consultation with community leaders. Nine therapeutic studios still serve the communities today.

Throughout the year, we introduced management systems and strategic decision-making workshops for the worst-affected communities. Today, 40 leaders have the skills, knowledge, and practical tools to lead dozens of independent initiatives toward their long-term goals.

Recovery is lengthy and complex, yet most effective when it is led by communities themselves. IsraAID guided more than a dozen displaced and vulnerable communities to manage independently in 2024. We will continue to work with government authorities, community institutions, local leaders, and NGOs to ensure these are sustainable in 2025 and beyond.





## SUPPORTING BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES

This conflict also exacerbated chronic gaps that challenge Bedouin communities in southern Israel, while adding the threat of deadly rocket attacks. IsraAID initially partnered with AJEEC-NISPED, a local NGO, to install 55 centrally located shelters in 16 unrecognized villages just a few kilometers from Gaza, providing both physical safety and peace of mind. We also trained 350 youth leaders to deliver psychosocial support. By October 2024, we had begun establishing community resilience centers - equipped with missile shelters, electricity, Wi-Fi, classrooms, and sports pitches - in five villages. These will be completed in 2025. Ahead of their inauguration, we are training community mobilizers to operate them year-round and leverage them for future emergencies.



## PREPAREDNESS IN THE NORTH

Communities in northern Israel are grappling with anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder after 14 months of destruction and loss of life. IsraAID and the Israeli Association of Community Centers collaborated to qualify 400 volunteers in crisis management, decision-making, volunteer management, and basic psychological first aid. The volunteers formed 140 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in cities, towns, and villages across the region. We supported the CERTs to test their crisis protocols in simulations and helped them coordinate with local welfare, fire, and ambulance services.



## MEET ASSAF

Since he first met IsraAID in 2017, Assaf has volunteered for five emergency missions after hurricanes and tornadoes in the United States. A resident of the Gaza border region and a community manager for Kibbutz Kissufim, Assaf was displaced on October 7. As he struggled to support his community in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, he spotted a group of people in familiar blue shirts walking through the evacuation center lobby. Several months later, he joined our Israel mission full time, working with evacuated communities.

***“My job is to help the community rebuild itself. They’ve been through a huge trauma and lost so many people. Together, we think about resilience, and plan the next day, the next month, and eventually coming back home again. I think it’s important that I was here on October 7 - It happened to me, to my family, and my community. It’s not just my job, it’s my life.”***

CERTs are already responding to emergencies in places like Haifa, Nahariya, Acre and Shfar'am, where they are regularly among the first to arrive. Meeting immediate needs, they also strengthen community ties - bolstering local capacity to cope for the years of recovery ahead.

# NOVEMBER



## UKRAINE: SMILING AGAIN

Across Ukraine, IsraAID's child-friendly spaces offer kids a chance to be kids again. Since the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, many Ukrainian children have been repeatedly displaced, bringing instability and enormous stress. This year, IsraAID's child-friendly spaces adopted a new mascot to help kids smile again. In a near unanimous vote, the children chose the Australian Quokka, which always seems to be smiling.

At IsraAID's Quokka Hubs, both the kids and our mental health experts discovered that beyond the sweet smile, the humble Quokka had a lot to teach them. They are highly social creatures, but also need privacy, building their habitats with dedicated spaces for alone time. Through quokka-themed games and activities, children learn to handle stress and manage their emotions. To help support this sense of safety and allow these spaces to operate safely in all circumstances, IsraAID delivered mobile bomb-shelters to schools hosting Quokka Hubs.

## UGANDA: REFUGEE INFLUX

The Nakivale Refugee Settlement in southwest Uganda is home to over 207,000 refugees from more than eight countries. IsraAID Uganda expanded to Nakivale in 2024, alongside its ongoing focus on refugees and host communities in northern Uganda.

In November, a sharp uptick in new arrivals fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo put stress on camp resources and officials struggled to meet their urgent needs. IsraAID responded, distributing urgently needed hygiene and sanitation items. With the DRC experiencing an outbreak of Mpox, IsraAID provided essential health information on prevention and treatment in three languages to five health centers in Nakivale. In November alone, IsraAID supported over 1,200 newly arrived refugees with the supplies and information they needed to keep their communities healthy.



## VANUATU: DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

On December 17, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Vanuatu's capital Port Vila, destroying buildings and damaging essential infrastructure. Building on our longstanding mission in the country and deep ties with affected communities, the IsraAID Vanuatu team launched an immediate emergency response to provide urgent relief, rehabilitate community water infrastructure, and place a special focus on mental health.

Together with the Ministry of Health, IsraAID launched a new hotline responding to the growing need for accessible mental health support. The dedicated call center offered a confidential space for individuals to discuss their challenges with trained volunteers in three languages. The call center operated seven days a week to make free support available to all.



## SOUTH SUDAN: FIGHTING CHOLERA



Displacement camps in South Sudan were already coping with an enormous influx of refugees and returnees, as people fled conflict in Sudan and unprecedented flooding in Upper Nile state, when an alarming cholera outbreak began in October. Chronically underdeveloped health infrastructure, lack of access to safe water, inadequate sanitation facilities, and overcrowded living conditions all contributed to the dire situation in camps in Juba, the country's capital, where IsraAID South Sudan is based.

IsraAID's local team launched an emergency response to limit the spread of cholera among already vulnerable communities. IsraAID operated oral rehydration points supplying safe drinking water and oral rehydration salts – preventing and treating early symptoms of cholera – and referring cases for further care. We also shared critical information on how to prevent the spread of cholera, distributed essential hygiene and sanitation supplies, and facilitated the clearing of garbage collection points. IsraAID's South Sudan team was able to draw on the organization's experience in different contexts across Africa to develop their response plan, adapting the lessons learned from IsraAID Malawi's response to a major cholera outbreak in 2023.

## MOZAMBIQUE: CYCLONE CHIDO



IsraAID Mozambique was weeks away from handing over two community centers to local actors or partners when Cyclone Chido tore through Cabo Delgado. Both were left inaccessible for people internally displaced by civil conflict.

IsraAID rehabilitated the centers and nearby latrines using sustainable resilient materials, reopening just a few weeks later. We worked with a local NGO to distribute 1,000 water purifier units and educate families on how to use them safely.

Handing over the restored community centers marked the end of IsraAID's five-year mission in Mozambique. During this time, we supported communities through three cyclones, COVID-19, and ongoing civil conflict. The protection, health, and WASH resources we developed and safe spaces that we created stay under local leadership. While Mozambique remains vulnerable to crises driven by climate change and continuing conflict, our partner communities are stronger and better prepared to cope long-term.

A young girl with a beaded necklace is drinking from a plastic water bottle. She is smiling and looking down at the bottle. The background shows other people in colorful clothing, suggesting a community setting.

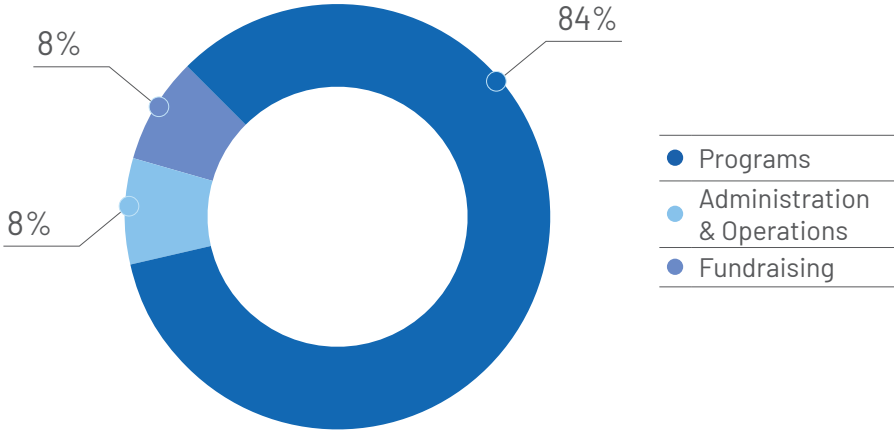
# ISRAAID STRATEGIC OFFICES

**IsraAID's global strategic offices partner with communities across the United States, Australia, and Canada, introducing people of all ages and backgrounds to IsraAID's humanitarian mission. They offer new ways to connect and get involved, raising critical awareness and funds for our life-saving work in Israel and around the world.**

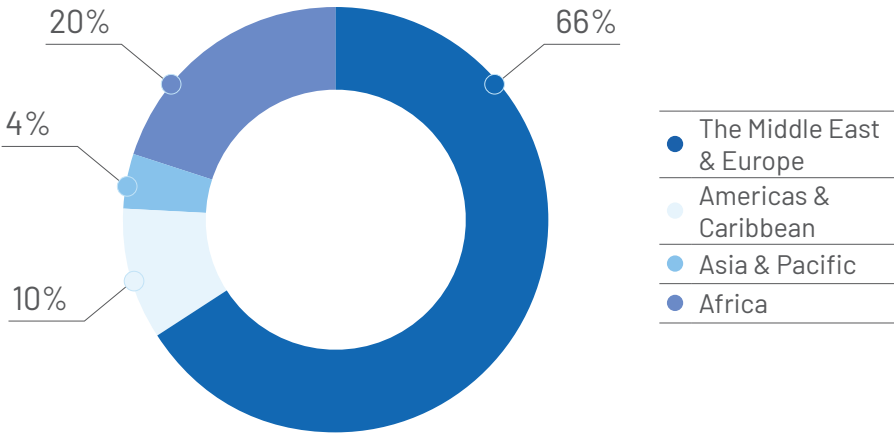
Here are just a few ways to support our work:

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

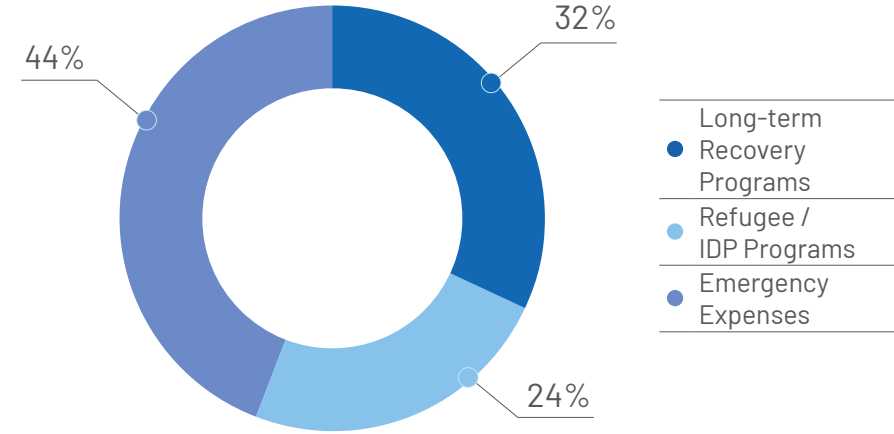
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Regions



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