Cover image: IsraAID is supporting 20 hospitals serving over 4 million people in rural Palghar, India, where new COVID-19 cases were reaching 400,000 daily

This image: IsraAID’s Emergency Response team delivers water filters in L’Asile, the epicenter of Haiti’s 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August
WHEN CRISES OCCUR, EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

IsraAID's Emergency Response Fund enables us to bring our expertise to communities affected by crisis immediately, eliminating the need to wait for seed funding before responding. Since its establishment in 2017, IsraAID's Emergency Response Fund has enabled our rapid deployment to 39 emergencies in 35 countries – including seven emergencies on four continents in 2021. It's also been crucial to our work in protracted emergency settings. When new crises occur, global attention shifts to the next headline, often leaving long-term situations behind. The Emergency Response Fund enables IsraAID to stay.

CLIMATE CHANGE PUTS VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AT EVEN GREATER RISK.

According to UN experts, climate change puts billions of people in immediate danger. Already vulnerable communities are disproportionately exposed, because their infrastructure is unprepared for the ways in which climate change drives displacement, triggers conflict, destroys livelihoods, and amplifies food insecurities. The same communities are suffering repeatedly – and as more disasters, harsher consequences, and greater loss of lives and livelihoods are anticipated, this will only worsen.

THE SITUATION IS INFLAMED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH CONTINUES TO THREATEN HEALTH AND LIVES WORLDWIDE.

Vaccine inequity still challenges many countries in the Global South, and even once doses arrive, rollout is difficult when national health infrastructure is weak. As a result, countries are forced to continue restricting social interactions and livelihood opportunities. This has intense psychosocial effects, especially for frontline workers. In 2021, IsraAID continued to support those affected by the pandemic, from providing urgent supplies to overwhelmed hospitals and developing a national vaccination campaign to incorporating COVID-19 prevention and response into all our emergency programs.

IsraAID Responds to Multiple Needs Simultaneously and Prevents Situations from Deteriorating Further.

None of this happens in silos. Climate change, COVID-19, prolific conflict, and disasters often erupt at once, creating double or even triple emergencies where risks are compounded. This year, COVID-19 has affected every emergency response, at least doubling the risks. IsraAID's Emergency Response teams have adapted and innovated every step of the way to get help to where it's needed.

In addition, as emergencies happen more frequently, there is often less support and funding for lesser-known regions affected by disasters that don't make headlines. Our Emergency Response Fund has been especially vital to our ability to continue supporting affected communities in situations like these.

WE'RE CONSTANTLY WORKING ON HOW TO DO MORE AND DO IT BETTER.

With exponentially increasing needs worldwide, we need the infrastructural strength to continue reaching every overlooked, underserved location in need. From creating adaptable 'grab and go' resources and toolkits to integrating new and stronger management systems for supply chains and logistics, our growing Emergency Response team has prioritized this alongside delivering our vital missions. This will continue to be a priority for IsraAID in 2022 and beyond.
BACKGROUND
When fighting erupted in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, in November 2020, over 1.7 million people fled their homes, leaving their possessions and livelihoods, and creating an internal displacement crisis.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
IsraAID partnered with the NALA Foundation and Organization for Social Services, Health, and Development (OSSHD) in Tigray. We worked directly with leaders in shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs) to understand communities’ needs firsthand, then delivered targeted programs to address these. This collaboration restored a sense of dignity and empowerment for those affected.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE
As water supplies were cut off and infrastructure was damaged, IDPs were forced to rely on contaminated river water, which risked causing secondary health crises such as waterborne diseases and the spread of COVID-19. IsraAID and our partners provided urgent relief, including:
- Reaching over 15,000 families with 1.5 million liters of safe water
- Distributing WASH equipment to 13 shelters in Mekele and Adwa, benefiting some 200,000 IDPs
- Training shelter management teams on maintaining the WASH equipment.

PROTECTION
Violent conflict has severe psychological impact on children. Many were also struggling without routine and stability, especially since schools had been closed for a year due to COVID-19 even before the conflict broke out. We established four Child-Friendly Spaces in IDP shelters, providing some 500 children aged 5-18 with a daily safe space to learn, play, and ‘just be kids’. The CFSs are run by trained facilitators who are themselves IDPs. Our CFSs have been commended by UNICEF and the Ethiopian Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs.

RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS
Those who fled without personal possessions desperately needed basic items, while food scarcity made malnutrition a significant concern. We conducted multiple ongoing needs assessments to ensure each distribution was targeted to specific needs. Priority was given to the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people, and disabled people. We distributed over 9 tons of food to over 500 families, and thousands of supplies such as dignity kits, bedding, cooking utensils, masks, hand sanitizer, and soap, to a further 3,500 IDPs.

NEXT STEPS
As the conflict in Tigray enters its second year, the situation on the ground is still dire. Fighting continues, communities cannot return home, and there is no end to the humanitarian crisis in sight. IsraAID will continue to provide stability and support for IDPs affected by the conflict.
MOZAMBIQUE: CYCLONE ELOISE

BACKGROUND
In January 2021, Cyclone Eloise made landfall and led to severe flooding. Over $10 million of damage was caused to 29,000 homes, 300 schools, 85 health centers, and dozens of temporary shelters. 3,900 acres of farmland were damaged or destroyed, and thousands of people were displaced or re-displaced – including many communities still recovering from Cyclone Idai in 2019.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
With global travel restrictions in place amid COVID-19, IsraAID’s long-term mission in Mozambique was uniquely placed to respond to Cyclone Eloise.

PLANNING AHEAD
Our WASH experts built cyclone-resilient structures with toilets, handwashing stations, and a borehole to supply clean water to two schools being used as temporary shelters. As Mozambique is the country fifth most affected by extreme weather in the 21st century, and schools often serve as shelters during emergencies, this will have a lasting impact both for schoolchildren and for vulnerable communities during future crises.¹

PROTECTION
IsraAID trained community volunteers to run a Child-Friendly Space (CFS) for 100 children to process their experiences through expressive arts. Many children initially drew boats and helicopters, related to rescue – a sign of stress – and received psychosocial support to help minimize the long-term impact of the emergency. The CFS also offered educational activities to minimize setbacks, and facilitators promoted hygiene and handwashing, vital during COVID-19. Hear directly from the CFS facilitators about the difference they made here.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE
People in shelters told us they feared the spread of COVID-19 above all else. Few humanitarian actors were reaching one particular shelter that was further away than others, so we distributed hygiene kits containing soap, a water purifier bottle, and multiple reusable face masks to over 120 families there, including children, men, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

We also distributed 1,500 reusable face masks to people living in another crowded resettlement village, where each tent housed 10+ people.

In addition, we developed four radio programs on COVID-19 prevention and stress management, which were translated into the two main local dialects – Sena and Ndau – and broadcast to some 1.8 million listeners.

¹ 2021 Global Climate Risk Index

NEXT STEPS
IsraAID’s Emergency Response to Cyclone Eloise concluded in August 2021. IsraAID continues to support communities in Mozambique to increase their resilience ahead of the next emergency, with CFSs and WASH programming in schools.
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:
LA SOUFRIÈRE ERUPTION

BACKGROUND
On April 9, 2021, La Soufrière volcano, located in northern St Vincent, erupted. Over 22,000 people were displaced - including over 6,600 children - within this small Caribbean island, which has a population of just 110,000. People sought refuge in public spaces such as schools, churches, and community centers, and in private homes of friends and relatives.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
There was a lack of psychosocial support for those in private shelters, and the Ministries of Education, National Mobilization, and Health reported that frontline workers were dealing with burnout. So, Protection was identified as IsraAID’s priority response sector.

RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS
We distributed resilience kits to 180 displaced children aged 5-12, primarily from the indigenous Kalinago tribe. The kits contained craft materials, stress balls, crayons, bubble wands, and worksheets promoting resilience-building activities, as well as reusable face masks. While distributing these kits, our experts also provided psychosocial support to families.

PROTECTION
IsraAID established 21 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in 17 communities from the worst-affected areas. 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. We trained 50 facilitators, the majority of whom were themselves displaced, to run the CFSs; they also benefited from the structure and purpose of their role.

Additionally, to ‘help the helpers’, IsraAID trained 23 social workers, school counselors, and healthcare workers from the Ministries of Health, Education, and National Mobilization in psychosocial support, in collaboration with the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at the State University of New York. They then supported over 170 frontline workers, including police, shelter managers, psychologists, church leaders, teachers, and government colleagues.

MISSION CONCLUSION
IsraAID’s five-month mission in St Vincent and the Grenadines concluded in September 2021. Hundreds of people from the local community gained new tools, knowledge, and skills to be better prepared for future emergencies. Over 50% of IsraAID-trained CFS facilitators were asked to continue working with partners including UNICEF, the Ministry of Mobilization, and the Ministry of Education after IsraAID’s projects concluded.

“My daughter used to cry and tell me every day that she wants to go home. When the CFS 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.

“For me as well, I am so grateful. Here at the CFS, I’ve met other parents from my village, and we talk about what is happening and what we are going to do. I am really thankful for the CFS.”

-- A displaced mother in St Vincent and the Grenadines
BACKGROUND
In April 2021, India faced a devastating second wave of COVID-19. Over 400,000 new daily cases were bringing the public health system to the brink of collapse. In Palghar, where 1.7 million people from underserved and marginalized communities live in isolated areas with minimal healthcare facilities, COVID-19 affected at least one in two households. As overcrowded hospitals in urban Palghar sent patients to already struggling rural services, local people were told to travel 100 kilometers to Mumbai. Lacking the means to travel, this effectively left them without healthcare.

IsraAID’s RESPONSE
We partnered with local NGO Gabriel Project Mumbai and worked with village tribal councils and district government health authorities to equip hospitals and ensure that marginalized communities could access healthcare.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DISTRIBUTIONS
We worked with village leaders to encourage vaccination and COVID-19 prevention among rural, indigenous communities, reaching 22,400 people. In addition, individuals and primary health centers in remote village locations received 18,500 bars of soap, 12,200 reusable masks, 350 PPE kits, and 4,500 surgical masks.

LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND SUPPORT FOR HOSPITALS
We recruited 10 nurses to add capacity to six rural healthcare sites, and our Protection experts provided ongoing support for frontline workers in 20 rural hospitals. Nurses, doctors, and their colleagues learned techniques to manage stress, prevent burnout, and create a safe space for processing shared experiences. ‘Helping the helpers’ is vital to ensuring they have the capacity and resilience to help others. We also sent vital supplies to 20 rural hospitals, including rapid tests, inhalers, stethoscopes, infrared thermometers, and protective gear for staff. We installed an oxygen plant and electricity transformer at Mokhada Rural Hospital, and a liquid oxygen vaporizer unit at Vangaon Rural Hospital - providing a sustainable, locally procured solution for long-term impact.

Finally, rural hospitals were struggling to enforce prevention practices. We provided banners with key messages, floor markers to promote social distancing, educational flyers, and masks. Staff reported immediate changes in patient behavior.

NEXT STEPS
We will continue to support healthcare capacity in Palghar into 2022, and IsraAID’s Protection and emergency distribution responses will improve underserved, rural communities’ long-term access to healthcare during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here.
BACKGROUND

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake devastated western Haiti, followed by Tropical Storm Grace just two days later causing heavy rains and flooding. Over 2,000 fatalities and 12,268 injuries were reported. 120,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and at least 650,000 people needed assistance.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE

IsraAID’s Emergency Response Team, made up of international and local staff – including from our previous response in Haiti, following the 2010 earthquake and 2016 hurricane – deployed within days, and carried out urgent needs assessments alongside emergency distributions of water filters, hygiene kits, and resilience kits. With a clearer picture of the needs on the ground, we then implemented wider-scope emergency response programs.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

In remote communities where infrastructure was destroyed, we distributed hundreds of water filters, tarps, solar lights, and hygiene kits, and provided 800 resilience kits for children. As teachers are often well-known community leaders, we trained teachers to use water filters. Watch our Emergency Response Coordinator explain in Creole how to install and operate the filters to a group of teachers here.

IsraAID trained 25 local facilitators to run three Child-Friendly Spaces in L’Asile, near the epicenter of the earthquake. They are delivering IsraAID’s Social and Emotional Learning curriculum, which encourages emotional resilience, language, and math skills through play. This is essential as it remains unclear when schools will be able to re-open.

Additionally, we trained 49 communal leaders in Psychosocial First Aid, providing immediate support that can also serve the community in future emergencies.

NEXT STEPS

IsraAID’s team will continue to focus on community access to safe water and hygiene infrastructure, including constructing and repairing toilets in schools and hospitals. We will also continue to deliver Protection programs, including the CFSS, and we’re exploring ways to help schools re-open safely, especially amid COVID-19. Read more about our efforts in Haiti here.
ALBANIA: AFGHAN REFUGEE CRISIS

BACKGROUND
After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August, IsraAID collaborated with activists and governments 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 the women and girls have served as symbols of female empowerment. A group of 125 arrived in Albania in October, joining some 650 Afghans staying in a resort on Albania’s west coast functioning as an emergency shelter.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
IsraAID is now supporting these vulnerable Afghans long-term while they await permanent resettlement. We are working with the community, local NGOs, and local and national authorities in Albania to provide holistic services.

EDUCATION
10 Afghan and five Albanian teachers are running a school for children aged 6-18, supported by IsraAID and the community’s Education committee. Classes include English, Mathematics, Albanian, Dari, Islamic Studies, and Art. We distributed 150 school kits, containing notebooks, pens, and other supplies; and received 20 laptops from monday.com for digital educational programming.

PROTECTION
IsraAID is supporting Afghan community leaders to establish committees so that they can implement services and liaise with the resort management directly, which helps to preserve autonomy and independence. The committees include Resort Services and Security, Protection, Education, and Health. IsraAID is also leading self-care workshops; carrying out psychosocial needs assessments; and supporting the Protection committee to establish a Child Protection structure. Lastly, we organize regular opportunities for the community to relax and bond, such as movie nights, dances, and sports games.

CASE MANAGEMENT
IsraAID is training 10 local case managers with context-specific knowledge so that they can help the Afghan community access medical care, legal support, and social services in Albania. The process of applying for legally recognized refugee status is often lengthy and bureaucratically complex, so it’s vital that the community can access these services.

NEXT STEPS
Rebuilding lives takes time, and IsraAID is committed to working long-term with affected communities. We will continue to provide ongoing assistance to Afghan refugees in Albania while they embark on the next stage of their journeys.
BACKGROUND
When IsraAID arrived in Eswatini at the request of the Ministry of Health, the country had the highest COVID-19 death rates in Africa and had lost several senior members of government, including the Prime Minister. Vaccine inequality remains one of the biggest barriers to ending the pandemic. In February 2021, just 10 countries had administered 75 per cent of all vaccines worldwide.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
IsraAID has been supporting Eswatini’s Ministry of Health to plan and deliver a vaccination campaign since March 2021. We’ve brought top experts, including world-leading epidemiologist and vaccine inequity expert Professor Michael Edelstein, and delivered community-based vaccine drives as well as specialized programs.

CUSTOM TECH SOLUTIONS
Team members from leading Israeli start-up and IsraAID partner monday.com donated their time and expertise to build a custom tech platform to manage the Control Room: the central hub that supervises the real-time arrival, safe storage, and delivery of vaccines. Watch Dawn, Control Room Manager, and Nozipho, Communications Manager, discuss this here.

PARTNERING TO REACH VACCINE-WARY GROUPS
We partnered with the Bushfire Music Festival, who are hosting hybrid online/in-person events during the pandemic, to create content with popular musicians and influencers which promote vaccination to urban youth, which are being shared widely on social media. We also worked with faith leaders to address specific concerns among religious populations, including hosting a flagship in-person event attended by over 100 influential clerics and religious government officials, and delivering digital and traditional media campaigns.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS
To ‘help the helpers’, IsraAID trained 22 wellness nurses who oversee the wellbeing of medical staff, and 9 psychologists in offering psychosocial support. These professionals have since worked with frontline medical staff across Eswatini, helping to strengthen their resilience and supporting them to process the challenges they face throughout the pandemic.

NEXT STEPS
IsraAID is now handing over this successful program to Eswatini’s Ministry of Health, to continue implementation in 2022 and ensure our interventions have sustainable impact.

VACCINATING ESWATINI IN 2021

1 Our World in Data, December 2021
SOUTH SUDAN: CONFLICT AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

BACKGROUND
The conflict in South Sudan is among the most protracted and neglected worldwide. South Sudan declared independence in 2011 and has been in conflict ever since. This has led to a humanitarian crisis, with almost 2 million internally displaced people. Among them, women are exceptionally vulnerable. The UNDP estimates that 65% of women and girls in South Sudan are or will be survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). GBV has worsened with COVID-19 in South Sudan: IsraAID’s team has noted a 300% increase in reported cases since the outbreak of the pandemic, including forced and child marriage; teen pregnancies; intimate partner violence; abandonment; and neglect.

IsraAID’S RESPONSE
IsraAID has been combating and responding to GBV in South Sudan since 2011. GBV is cross-cutting, rooted in economic, legal, social, and cultural spheres, so our strategy is holistic. Our range of targeted programs are delivered by local social workers who bring expert community knowledge, and are centered through our Women and Girl Friendly Spaces (WGFSs) in IDP settlements.

NEXT STEPS
IsraAID’s expert social workers in South Sudan will continue to lead conversations in the community; run Livelihood programs; and deliver daily activities at the WGFSs for hundreds of women and girls affected by GBV.

PROTECTION
The WGFSs provide hundreds of women weekly with emergency support, individual counseling, and group activities focusing on trauma relief, peer support, and livelihood training. These activities foster a sense of kinship among survivors, creating a support network and ultimately a more resilient community. The social workers also refer survivors to follow-up services where appropriate. This is significant as survivors often need to overcome cultural stigmas and fear to agree to be referred.

LIVELIHOOD
There are strong links between GBV and economic conditions. IsraAID helps to create opportunities for women to sustain an income independently. We’re currently working with Israeli tech company Fiverr to train women who run their own small businesses, such as tailoring and restaurants, in business planning, management, and marketing.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TRAINING
We’ve trained and mentored hundreds of influential Chiefs, religious leaders, community elders, people with disabilities, and teachers to serve as Community Focal Points and lead Community Emergency Councils. Many are male, contributing to a community-wide culture of GBV prevention and response.

“After my husband died, my children and I were thrown out of his family’s house. One morning while searching for food, I encountered an old friend who introduced me to IsraAID. I met a lot of women who helped me feel strong. I learned new skills, and attended business training. I can now provide food, school fees, and other basic needs for my children.”
— An IsraAID South Sudan WGFS attendee
“Even as an international NGO, IsraAID makes an effort in every mission to hire staff and technical experts from the communities they’re working in. That’s not to say that international support and professional expertise are not important, but it’s crucial to work collaboratively with local communities and listen to the perspectives and expertise of national and local governments.”

— Yotam Polizer, CEO, IsraAID Global
IsraAID’s Emergency Response team distribute stress relief kits and deliver programming for children evacuated due to the volcanic eruption in St Vincent and the Grenadines.
EMERGENCIES ARE HAPPENING RIGHT NOW AND THERE’S NO TIME TO LOSE.

Even as we write, an IsraAID team is urgently deploying to Kentucky, USA to support debris removal and cleanup efforts in communities affected by last weekend’s tornadoes, which destroyed entire homes and streets.

We’re prioritizing vulnerable families unable to do intense physical work alone, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, as well as those who are uninsured, struggling financially, or ineligible for government assistance.

At a time when people are often too overwhelmed by devastating loss to focus on preservation, our team is fostering positive momentum toward recovery by searching debris for what can be saved.

2022 will bring more disasters, more emergencies, and more communities in need. IsraAID will respond wherever we’re needed, for as long as it takes, but we need your generosity to make it happen.

Please continue supporting IsraAID’s Emergency Response Fund in 2022.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!