

ISRAEL IN CRISIS

BACKGROUND

Four months after October 7 2023, almost 218,000 Israelis remain internally displaced. Mostly from communities nearest the Gaza border, many of them experienced extreme violence and loss, and continue to process individual and communal grief, trauma, uncertainty, and stress. Additionally, populations with pre-existing vulnerabilities and heightened risk during emergencies, including unrecognized Bedouin communities, are ineligible for full government aid.

LATEST UPDATE

As the situation evolves, IsraAID's programming evolves too, ensuring constant support and deepening partnerships with 11+ displaced communities. The organization has been flexible, adapting to new waves of displacement, and the arrival and departure of various actors, including government agencies, NGOs, and grassroots initiatives. Now, as many affected communities move from hotels and hostels in the Dead Sea and Eilat to new, longer-term housing solutions across the country, IsraAID is working closely with community leaders and local authorities to provide tailor-made support in mental health and education. **To do this, IsraAID is:**



RELOCATING & ADAPTING

Communities are entering a new phase of crisis and recovery, marking the transition from months in hotels to longer-term temporary accommodations, with many partially dispersing across a range of housing solutions. Facing this upheaval, maintaining community connections remains a priority. IsraAID is adapting its approach in order to support each community's needs independently, with the geographic centers of Eilat and the Dead Sea no longer serving as central hubs for evacuated communities.

With some communities divided between various locations, IsraAID is offering support to all affected, including the oft-overlooked demographic of 25-40 year olds. Recognizing the importance of medium-term certainty, IsraAID is committed to assisting every person within the displaced communities it serves, catering to their specific and complex needs. Therapists, psychologists, teachers, therapeutic spaces, and other programs are moving to new locations, shoulder-to-shoulder with the communities they serve. Services offered include psychological support, support with managing the transition as a community, and, in some cases, logistical assistance with the physical relocation.



To date, IsraAID has reached 12,000 affected people across Israel

MAPPING

While Israeli civil society and government agencies are offering a myriad of mental health and psychosocial support programs to displaced communities, organizing the information, differentiating between similar service providers, and following up with services remains a challenge. IsraAID is working with communities to map these service providers, aiming to centralize information and ensure ease of access, particularly as they transition towards longer-term frameworks.

“We are trying to build a sense of community in this temporary place, while keeping the connection to their home and their original organic community...It’s just as important to the communities to maintain this as it’s their sense of future”

- Mai Leshem, Emergency Protection



ONGOING PROGRAMS

Supporting Displaced Communities

- **Transitional Learning Centers (TLCs):** IsraAID is providing safe learning environments to guide crisis-affected children back to learning through structure and routine. These include specialized support for children with physical and cognitive disabilities. IsraAID has also funded additional staff, including 30+ school counselors and educational psychologists who will move with their students as they are relocated.
- **Child and Parent Spaces:** IsraAID is operating play zones staffed by therapists and psychologists, where children can ‘just be kids’ and families can process through play, crafts, and sports. Facilitators provide targeted guidance to caregivers, who must support children while handling their own displacement and grief. Operating outside of TLC hours, so far, our child and parent spaces have reached **over 6,800 people**.
- **Art Therapy Spaces:** Creative spaces are an effective way to express and explore challenging emotions and experiences. Guided by professional art therapists, IsraAID facilitates art therapy spaces for displaced children and adults, serving, on average, **500 participants weekly**.



Supporting Vulnerable Populations

- **Rehabilitation Retreat for Nova Survivors:** Survivors of the attack on the Nova music festival have unique needs. IsraAID is providing operational and programmatic expertise for a grassroots-led retreat in Cyprus, and ensuring participants can access follow-up PSS for long-term support. So far, **995 survivors** have accessed the rehabilitation retreat.
- **Protective Spaces for Unrecognized Bedouin Villages:** **42 shelters** have now been installed in unrecognized Bedouin communities, together with our partners AJEEC-NISPED and the Tamar Center, with three additional protective spaces currently in progress. Alongside the physical shelters, culturally-appropriate PSS activities, tailored to community needs, are designed to help community members cope during this stressful period.



NEXT STEPS

IsraAID is committed to directly supporting our partner communities, other vulnerable populations, and local service providers in Israel for as long as we are needed. IsraAID is collaborating with community leaders and social workers to facilitate community togetherness in the face of dispersion, and to ensure community ownership of ongoing solutions. This will lead to the gradual handover of some programs, together with national authorities, regional councils, resilience centers, NGOs, and the communities themselves.

“From the first days, we promised communities that we would be there for them for as long as they need us, and that’s exactly what we’re doing. Unfortunately, we all know that the road to recovery is long. As communities leave the evacuation centers and transition into temporary housing, we are still there, working hand-in-hand and co-creating the future, together.”

- Yotam Polizer, IsraAID CEO

Communities affected by this crisis are determined to rebuild.

IsraAID is committed to accompanying them, leveraging our global expertise in multi-year programs that transition from emergency to recovery, for as long as we are needed.

Thank you for your support.



SCAN TO DONATE