



Frequently Asked Questions

What is IsraAID? What is its mission?

IsraAID is a non-governmental, apolitical, international humanitarian aid organization based in Tel Aviv, Israel. Since its founding in 2001, IsraAID has worked in emergency and long-term development settings in 54 countries, providing life-saving emergency response and long-term support to communities affected by natural disasters, post-conflict situations, and health epidemics.

IsraAID's mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crises. IsraAID partners with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist recovery, and build a more resilient future.

What does IsraAID do?

In partnership with local communities affected by disasters around the world, IsraAID designs and implements high-quality, cost-effective, and innovative programming that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of communities.

What is unique about IsraAID?

Firstly, our attitude and approach. Our spirit is often called 'Israeli' and it's integral to the organization. We're driven by necessity and authenticity, which means we get things done quicker, leaner, more flexibly, and often more innovatively. We're professional 'can-doers' who dive in head first.

Secondly, our focus on communities and partnerships. IsraAID always prioritizes the most vulnerable populations, where we can add greatest value and achieve sustainable impact. Our goal is to co-create solutions that empower communities and enable them to take charge of their own futures. **It's an approach we call 'Communities First'**.

Finally, our expertise. We have access to technologies, resources, and professional expertise developed in Israel, which has a lot of experience with trauma, water scarcity, and disaster relief and preparedness.

What is Israeli about IsraAID?

IsraAID was founded by Israelis and is headquartered in Israel. Our leadership is Israeli, and a portion of our staff is Israeli. Our organizational culture is driven by typically "Israeli" attitudes: we always ask ourselves not IF but HOW we can accomplish a goal.

Additionally, our programming is rooted in identifying the added value that our organization can offer, some of which is specific, although not exclusive, to Israel.

How large is your staff?

In total, IsraAID's Israel-based and global staff, including local volunteers and community workers, comes to around 200 people—most of whom are humanitarian aid professionals hired locally in the country of operation. We may be humble in size, but thanks to our Israeli 'can-do' attitude, our agility, and professionalism, we are huge in impact.

Where does IsraAID work?

IsraAID has worked in 54 countries around the world. Some of the countries where we are currently deployed are:

Kenya, South Sudan, and Mozambique (Africa); Columbia, The Bahamas, and Guatemala (Americas and the Caribbean); and Germany and Greece (Europe).

How do you decide where to respond?

We take into account many factors when deciding to respond to a given disaster. These include: our ability to contribute our added value; the impact we can have; the level of need and vulnerability; long-term needs and funding opportunities; the capacity of partners on the ground; whether or not IsraAID is already working in the region or nearby; established relationships with local partners; and, of course, security.

How do you decide when to exit a country?

IsraAID exits a country when its projects are complete or when we are able to hand over the implementation to local actors who can manage them long-term in a sustainable way. For example, after working in Nepal for five years following the 2015 earthquake, the IsraAID team was successful in integrating psychosocial support and protection programming for vulnerable populations into the Nepali government's Ministry of Health operations.

Do you face anti-Israel sentiment in your work?

Sometimes, but, for the most part, our work speaks for itself. We are entirely non-governmental and apolitical – our mission is to provide humanitarian support to communities worldwide, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, nationality, or politics. We adhere to international standards on humanitarian action and human rights which allows IsraAID to provide aid worldwide regardless of governmental action or policy.

We also recognize that our professional work can build new and often surprising bridges between people from different backgrounds, which often is an additional positive outcome of our commitment to delivering humanitarian programs where they are needed most.

But there's so much work to be done in Israel, why don't you work there?

IsraAID's mandate is to provide humanitarian relief internationally. There are many organizations doing important work specifically in Israel. There are few international aid organizations bringing Israeli expertise to communities in crisis around the world. We believe this is where we can have the most impact.

Do you work in developed countries—like the U.S.?

IsraAID deploys teams depending on need, invitation, and our ability to offer added value. No matter where we are, **we're always looking to fill humanitarian gaps and support the most vulnerable members of a given community**. For example, IsraAID responded to Hurricane Harvey in Texas in 2017, Hurricane Michael in Florida in 2018, and wildfires in Northern California in 2018. Additionally, we have strong existing partnerships with disaster response and communal organizations in the U.S., allowing us to provide support quickly and effectively to communities in times of need.

How is IsraAID responding to COVID-19?

IsraAID first responded to the pandemic right from the start, by sending shipments of medical supplies and protective gear to China in January 2020. As the pandemic spread, IsraAID's teams around the globe developed plans to support the most vulnerable populations and offer additional assistance in the forms of hygiene promotion; distributing food, medicine, and educational materials; launching community-run call centers to answer questions, provide remote psychosocial support to address overwhelming stress; and facilitate additional mental health, education, and sanitation-focused trainings for community leaders. Overall since the beginning of the pandemic, IsraAID has reached more than 9 million people with urgently needed aid.

I want to get involved - How can I help?

- Follow and share about IsraAID, our programs, and our events on [Instagram](#) and other social media platforms. Sign up to receive our [newsletter](#)!
- [Invite IsraAID to speak](#) or join one of our engaging outreach programs such as our self-care sessions, spotlight lectures, or our emergency response simulations.
- [Create a fundraiser/FB fundraiser](#) or [donate](#) to our work. Support a specific IsraAID project through our "Better-Together" program with your community.
- [Be in touch](#) and let us know your thoughts on how we can reach wider audiences and raise funds to support and amplify our reach.