

Israel Emergency Grassroots Response Initiative

Thank you for your support and care!

In this time of such great darkness, volunteers and grassroots leaders in Israel—and you—have brought light to those whose lives have been torn apart.



Two months since the Initiative was established, urgent grants have been made to support volunteer and grassroots efforts for:

Bereavement

- * Funeral and shiva costs, support through *shloshim* mourning period.

Hostages & Their Families

- * Efforts to find hostages through pivoting sophisticated technology.
- * Support for hostage families.
- * International efforts to champion their return home.



Evacuees Support

- * Housing and all other basic services with human-centered and loving support.
- * Pop-up recreational, cultural, and artistic activities.

Medical Relief

- * Sourcing and sending medical supplies, protective equipment for search teams and rescue units.



Military Families Support

- * Loving care for those shouldering all household and financial responsibilities.

Civilian Operations Centers

- * Seven civilian operations centers in Jerusalem including Ultra Orthodox, the South near Sderot, the Bedouin community of Rahat, Tel Aviv, and Lod.

Financial Support

- * Interest-free loans for victims of terror and small businesses.
- * Stipends to volunteers, especially students and those who lost their primary incomes.

Post-trauma Care

- * Holistic post-trauma care for survivors of the Peace Rave.
- * Peer-to-peer mental health and trauma support for soldiers and first-responders especially from the Ultra Orthodox sector.
- * Training for social workers and mental health professionals with emphasis on first responder care.



Food Rescue & Distribution

- * To evacuees, soldiers, military families and the most vulnerable.
- * Farm equipment, mentoring, and expert peer-help for farmers.

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Grassroots Relief Stories of Impact

Ultra Orthodox Involvement



Israel's Ultra Orthodox community has responded robustly. Charedi women have **mobilized thousands of Charedi volunteers** to attend the many funerals taking place and personally support the bereaved in their mourning. Charedi women are also supporting evacuees and the wives of reservist members of the IDF through **childcare respite, meals, a listening ear, and a lot more**. In one particularly moving example, each night scores of Charedi women **collect dirty laundry from tens of thousands of evacuees staying at hotels across Jerusalem, and return it the next morning, ironed and folded**.

Many **cultural, sport, and recreational activities** quickly pivoted to serve those evacuated from their homes. For one, the founders of the Jerusalem Women's Film Festival come to a different hotel or neighborhood community center each night with a pop-up screen, projector snacks and more. **They open a gateway to a realm of imagination and a temporary escape from reality**, offering an opportunity to connect to one's emotions through the experiences of others. This is just one of many similar initiatives for people of all ages **bringing normalcy and even fun in a most abnormal crisis**.

Lifting the Spirits of Evacuees



Bedouin Response



In the first hours of October 7, four leaders of the community center of Rahat, a Bedouin town in the Negev, instinctively drove trucks straight to the epicenter of the unfolding and brutal Hamas attacks. **Dodging gunfire, they picked up truckloads of people from the Nova party, kibbutzim, and surrounding areas, and drove them to safer places**. Understanding the gravity of the situation and while mourning their own losses, **on October 8th, they organized a civilian operations center** in Rahat that is still operating to support those impacted in every way. **Hundreds of volunteers provide food, pop-up childcare, and other support**.

From the destruction of farms to worker shortage, to many evacuees and soldiers lacking food, to increased needs of the many more vulnerable, **the demand for a better food system has been amplified**. Volunteers are stepping in to **harvest and work farms; rescue tons of food** that would have been thrown away; **prepare hundreds of thousands of meals**; and **assemble food baskets**. Farmers from the center of the country are **lending and purchasing specialized farm equipment** for impacted areas in the south and the north.

Food Supply & Provisions

