

# Overseas Volunteers in Israel

Updated: March 15, 2024

## Background

The people of Israel are currently experiencing a terrible reality, filled with unbearable tragedy and uncertainty. We know that the hearts of our friends in North America are filled with hurt and worry, and we know you are eager to step up and assist, because that is what we do at Jewish Federations.

In Israel, ordinary citizens have rolled up their sleeves and are volunteering in their local communities. There are simply too many activities to list, but they run the gamut from initiatives to support bereaved families, injured citizens, soldiers, and first-responders, evacuated families, families with one or more parent in the reserves, and other populations that need special support. People are packing up supplies, delivering goods across the country, contributing shekels, and more.

Most of these activities are being coordinated by ordinary citizens and advertised via Israelis' favorite form of quick mass communication – WhatsApp.

We know that Israeli resilience is powered in large measure during times like this by volunteers who step in to fill critical gaps. This is why supporting volunteer efforts is one of the areas we will support through our collective campaign.

## Volunteers From Overseas - General

In an exceptional move reflecting the important role volunteers are playing in the current crisis, Israel's National Insurance Institute (the equivalent of America's Social Security Administration) has announced that it will provide insurance for Israeli ex pat volunteers.

Current opportunities open to foreign volunteers include:

- Birthright Israel, in collaboration with Shalom Corps Platform at Mosaic United, is running a two-week [volunteering program](#) where people from outside of Israel can come to Tel Aviv and take part in food rescue operations to prevent shortages in the Israeli market, including work to sort, pack, and distribute goods for civil and military personnel.
- Masa Israel Journey has launched [Masa Volunteers](#), a six-week program offering various opportunities to volunteer in Israel.
- [ADAMAH](#) is running a week-long Farm Volunteer Trip to Israel in April. The immersive service experience includes volunteering on farms in order to mitigate Israel's ongoing food security crisis and learning from leaders engaged in shared society and peacebuilding through environmental cooperation.
- [Citrus & Salt in Tel Aviv](#) launched Citizen's Kitchen to provide 500 daily fresh meals for Israeli soldiers and displaced families with the help of volunteers.

- [HaShomer HaChadash](#) is recruiting volunteers to help in farms and warehouses facing labor shortages.
- [Israel Food Rescue](#) is a joint effort of HaShomer HaChadash, Kol Israel, and Brothers in Arms, to address the war-related manpower crisis on Israeli farms. Volunteers may sign up for a five-day or year-long stint doing agricultural work.
- [Jewish National Fund-USA](#) is running five-day volunteer missions in Israel. Participants are housed in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and spend four to six hours per day working in agriculture, packing food or gift baskets for displaced families, patients or soldiers, or assisting with logistical duties at an IDF base.
- [Leket Israel](#), The National Food Bank, has opportunities for volunteers to harvest fruits and vegetables and prepare produce for distribution. Volunteers may choose to serve for any length of time, including a day.
- [Livnot U'Lehibanot](#) runs weekly volunteering programs to rebuild, impacted communities in the south, support agriculture, and provide meals for soldiers. The program also includes evening classes on geopolitics and Jewish values.
- [Ramah Israel](#) is organizing family volunteering trips to work in fields, rebuild homes, and assist displaced families. The Mishpacha Solidarity & Service Trip is four or five days long, and they have dates through June.
- [Sar-El](#), The National Project for Volunteers for Israel, runs programs for volunteers on Israel Defense Force bases, focusing on logistical support.
- [Startup Reserves for Israel \(SRI\)](#) is organizing volunteers to support Israeli high-tech startups who are impacted by the war.

## **Volunteers From Overseas – Medical and Mental Health Professionals**

We have received many questions from medical and mental health professionals seeking to volunteer.

[The Second Line initiative](#), formed in the aftermath of October 7 to support frontline trauma and mental health care in Israel, recruits and deploys mental health professionals from around the world to volunteer in Israel. Second Line is focused on a Direct Care Program for mental health professionals to volunteer in Israel for six weeks to three months.

As of now, Israel is not experiencing a shortage of medical professionals due to the conflict. In the event of further strains on the health system, Nefesh B'Nefesh, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, will activate to bring people to Israel. They previously were collecting names of doctors who would be willing to volunteer should the need arise but have paused this effort. Information can be found [here](#).

[Mission Hinenu](#) is collecting information for licensed medical personnel (physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, therapists, psychologists, pharmacists) and non-medical personnel (patient transport, feeding and other tasks) who are available to come to Israel to volunteer should the need arise.

Nurses and paramedics from abroad looking to volunteer can visit the [MOH website](#) and submit their information there.

We will update as more information about opportunities for foreign volunteers becomes available.

