

Overseas Volunteers in Israel

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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.

Overseas Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Serve Israel – Grants for Israel Volunteer Trips: Jewish Federations of North America is offering two distinct funding opportunities to Federations and partner organizations to recruit participants for either 7-10 day trips or 4-week service trips to Israel. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until funding is exhausted. To learn more visit serveisraelgrants.org.

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. Dates are available through April 2025.
- Masa Israel Journey has launched [Masa Volunteers](#), a six-week program offering various opportunities to volunteer in Israel.

- [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. They assist group tours, philanthropy trips, special-interest missions, and other groups participate in supporting food security and agriculture. Individual volunteers may sign up for five days of 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 rebuilding Israel's southern kibbutzim affected by October 7, working in agriculture, or packing food or gift baskets for displaced families, patients, or soldiers.
- [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 October.
- [Sar-El](#), The National Project for Volunteers for Israel, runs programs for volunteers on Israel Defense Force bases, focusing on logistical support.
- [Pantry Packers](#), the food distribution arm of Tzedakah Central/Colel Chabad, accepts volunteers for a few hours of preparing and distributing meals for displaced families in Jerusalem, helping in soup kitchens, and other food-related services.

