

Annual Report 2024



NATAN
WORLDWIDE DISASTER RELIEF



A 'Souvenir' from the Nukhba Terrorists

"A 'souvenir' left behind by the terrorists: a green railing not far from our home, riddled with holes from Kalashnikov bullets fired by the Nukhba terrorists on October 7. Hearing the heavy gunfire, grenade explosions, and RPGs, we barricaded ourselves in the safe room for many hours."

Shimon Edri — Photo Voice project

From the exhibition 'Life Alongside Remembrance

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A Year of Action and Transformation

Immediately following Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023, NATAN mobilized hundreds of volunteers and set up five emergency medical and dental clinics in Shefayim, Eilat, and the Dead Sea region. Over three months, these clinics served more than 3,500 individuals displaced from communities near Gaza.

Although NATAN was founded to assist survivors of disasters abroad, we are grateful that our emergency expertise could support our countrymen in their time of need.

As the emergency phase subsided in early 2024, NATAN transitioned its focus: closing temporary clinics and pivoting toward recovery support and community resilience efforts. This approach reflects NATAN's philosophy—filling critical gaps in care until the need abates or local systems can take over.

In Israel, we launched initiatives to strengthen resilience in Ofakim, provided telemedical specialist care to the Upper Galilee, and supported emergency preparedness of Arab communities near the northern border. Internationally, we continued to deepen long-term projects in Ukraine and Nepal.

In a rapidly shifting global environment, NATAN's mission—to perform tikkun olam, to showcase Israel's spirit of service to the world, and to build enduring international connections—remains more important than ever.

In 2024, NATAN took a major step forward: hiring a full-time CEO, Alice Miller, to lead the organization's next chapter of sustained impact and strategic growth.

From Gil Reines, Chair



After over a decade of volunteering with NATAN, I began my role as Chair in January 2025, stepping into the big shoes of my predecessor Danny Kahn. I thank Danny for a decade of dedicated leadership, guiding NATAN to many accomplishments and sustained growth.

As Chair, I see my role as leading NATAN to become an even more significant and effective organization—one that can successfully navigate the evolving humanitarian landscape, globally and within Israel and the Jewish world following the events of October 7th.

At the heart of NATAN are more than 1,800 professional volunteers, supported by a dedicated and professional volunteer management team. I extend my deepest thanks to all our volunteers in Israel, the United States, and around the world.

In 2024, we concluded three years of significant growth in activity, driven by our response to the wars in Ukraine and Israel. A major realization following October 7th is that we can, we should, and we want to do more—not only by preparing for the next disaster but also by applying our skills and commitment to long-term development projects for communities in need. In early 2025, we launched a strategic planning process to make this vision a reality.

Together, we will bring the capabilities and solidarity of Israeli society—and the spirit of tikkun olam—to the world.

From Alice Miller, CEO

When I joined NATAN Worldwide Disaster Relief, I kept hearing about “the NATAN way.” Every organization has its own DNA, but understanding the soul of an organization takes longer.

The NATAN way is one of humility, compassion, and deep listening. It’s a culture of volunteering rooted in service, creativity, and meaningful connection. It’s about asking what is needed, not assuming.

It is a privilege to serve as CEO of such an organization.

2024 was a turning point. In the face of a national crisis, our teams responded swiftly. But as domestic emergency needs subsided, we asked, “how can we continue to serve meaningfully?”

The answer lies in what we have in abundance—expertise and a spirit of volunteerism. NATAN is stepping into a new phase, one that extends our reach beyond the urgent moment. We are applying the deep knowledge of our hundreds of medical and psychosocial volunteers to support people and communities who need it most, wherever they may be.

This is not a departure from our core mission of disaster response; it’s an expansion of our impact. We have generations of professional wisdom to make lasting contribution in multiple ways.

The world is changing, and so is humanitarian work. NATAN is ready to meet this moment—with clarity, commitment, and care.



From Alan Silberstein, Chair American Board

NATAN Worldwide Disaster Relief's volunteer-driven structure is unique. Our volunteers, mostly Israeli, are dedicated and talented medical and social work professionals who stand ready to travel where and when needed.

Similarly, NATAN's American Advisory Board is a group of volunteers who work to create awareness of NATAN's work in the U.S. and to seek partnerships and funding support. It appeals to donors—institutional and individual—that NATAN's low overhead ensures that their gifts directly benefit the survivors of natural disasters and wars. NATAN's low-cost model gives it the agility to respond quickly to changing conditions and priorities. During 2024, most projects that NATAN undertook—in Israel and Ukraine—built resilience in populations battered by war.



ISRAEL

Ofakim: A Model for Community Resilience

After Hamas murdered 52 residents in Ofakim, survivors—many from lower socio-economic backgrounds—were left traumatized and isolated. NATAN recognized the urgent need for both immediate support and long-term healing.

The Ofakim Municipality appointed Dr. Eitan Shachar, Psychosocial lead of NATAN, to lead its resilience efforts. In partnership with the municipality and JDC, NATAN launched Restore the Spirit, a groundbreaking model for holistic community recovery.

Through eighteen integrated initiatives, collectively designed to reach residents in different situations, we foster emotional well-being, personal security, and social connections. Community resilience builds as neighbors connect.

Now, more than 40% of Ofakim's residents participate in these efforts.

Our newly established Community Resilience Center, led by Bruriya Noyberger, serves as the hub of these activities, providing centralized mental health services, community-building activities, and emergency response coordination.

NATAN's embrace of resilience-building projects underscores our commitment to sustainable, holistic recovery. Addressing the underlying emotional and social needs of affected communities provides immediate relief and enduring stability.



NATAN's "Restore the Spirit" in Ofakim

A multiple outreach program to connect residents



Coffee at Golomb

A late-night coffee cart fostering social interaction



Taking Care the Day After

A year-long program to reintegrate returning soldiers



Parent Patrol

A bicycle-mounted volunteer initiative enhancing public safety



Mobile Municipal Services

A traveling unit providing essential city and government services



The House in Mishor HaGefen

("Habayit BaMishor")

A community resilience center offering support and activities



Ultra-Orthodox Resilience

Projects – Workshops tailored to fostering security and belonging



Talking About Parenting

Counseling and guidance for parents during wartime



Community Gatherings & Storytelling

Initiatives like "Meet," "Feel," "Draw Strength," and "Not Alone" provide spaces for residents to share experiences and support one another



Youth Programs – Writing for Life (creative writing), Seeing the Voices (photography), and Songs of Courage (music) help young people express emotions



Commemoration & Appreciation

– Events like Evening of Appreciation and Recipes of Memory honor resilience and preserve memories



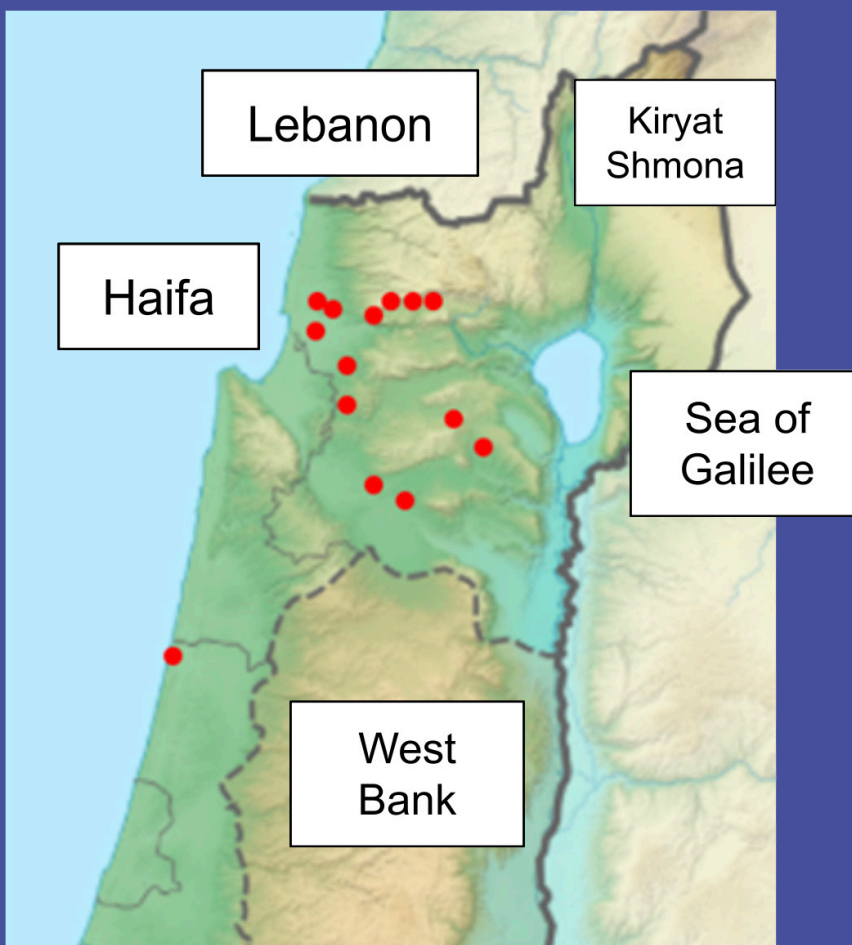
Neighborhood & Community Building – Youth-led initiatives and Raising Resilience meetings reinforce long-term recovery

ISRAEL

Emergency Support for Arab Municipalities in Northern Israel

As Hezbollah launched missiles at Israel's north, many Arab municipalities were unprepared to respond. The attacks exposed critical gaps in emergency service that left these areas vulnerable. NATAN swiftly created the Emergency Response and Community Resilience (ERCR) program in thirteen Arab communities.

Through localized, culturally-sensitive training, NATAN built medical and psychosocial response capacities at the grassroots level. Activities included group therapy workshops, resilience training, emergency medical preparedness, and community-building events. This program is the first integrated emergency response initiative tailored to the Arab population in Israel, addressing both mental and physical trauma at the grassroots level.



NATAN's Fida Shechade, who served as Population Division Manager at the Emergency Center in Nazareth, strengthened our partnership with the Arab Mayors' Committee, coordinated municipal activities, and led the program's rollout. These efforts were critical in gaining trust and ensuring success.

Communities served: Majd al-Krum, Tamra, Deir al-Asad, Bi'ina, Nahf, Shefa-Amr, Jadeidi-Maker, Umm al-Fahm, Basma Council, Iksal, Mashhad, Kafr Yasif, and Jisr al-Zarqa



Standby Partner for Israel's Community Stress Prevention Center

NATAN trained 36 professional volunteers to stand ready alongside the Israel Community Stress Prevention Center (Mashabim) to assist with psychological stress in northern Israel during wartime. Although large-scale deployment was not needed because of the ceasefire, our team remains trained and prepared.

ISRAEL

FEEDBACK



*To the entire team of "HaBayit Bamishor"
(Ofakim Resilience Center):*

Thank you for showing up. Please don't stop. You are my strength. You've given me back my life.

— Yaffa Harush, 25 HaChita Street

“My name is Yonatan Dray. I'm 70 and have lived in Ofakim for more than 30 years. Though I was born with a disability, I always worked hard and lived with pride.

Thank you for letting me be part of something that helped me heal.

— Yonatan Dray, longtime Ofakim resident



Yonatan Dray (left) and another volunteer at the Coffee Cart in Ofakim.

Telemedicine: Expanding Specialist Care

In partnership with Bar-Ilan University's Faculty of Medicine in Safed, NATAN launched a wartime telemedicine program connecting evacuees and residents of un-evacuated kibbutzim to specialist physicians via the ZiphyCare system.

Hundreds of patients received real-time consultations in dermatology, ENT, geriatrics, and pain management. This innovative blend of in-person and remote care provides a new blueprint for emergency healthcare delivery.



ISRAEL



Dental Clinics for Israel's Vulnerable

NATAN operates Israel's only nonprofit program dedicated to providing free dental care to highly vulnerable groups, including:

- Survivors of abuse and sex work
- At-risk youth (abused, neglected, and destitute children and teens)
- Asylum seekers and refugees

These populations—numbering in the hundreds of thousands—often lack access to basic dental care. Untreated dental issues can lead to severe pain, eating disorders, life-threatening diseases, social stigma, and a profound loss of self-confidence. NATAN's dental services help restore health and dignity, helping many individuals reintegrate into society.

Launched in Haifa in 2022, the program faced major disruptions during the war. Yet despite missile attacks that caused months-long closures and lingering fear that kept away some volunteers and patients until a ceasefire on November 27, 2024, our team of nine volunteer dentists reopened the clinic twice a month in May 2024, treating an average of 6–8 patients per day.

Plans are underway to open a second clinic in Tel Aviv in 2025.

Our experience in dental care proved critical after October 7th, when NATAN became the only organization to establish emergency dental clinics for displaced Israelis. Within two weeks, we launched operations in Eilat and the Dead Sea region, managing 81 volunteer dentists and 170 additional clinic volunteers while maintaining supplies under rapidly changing conditions. These clinics treated more than 1,000 displaced individuals before winding down in 2024.

UKRAINE

Training Local Professionals in Psychological Trauma Care

In 2024, NATAN expanded its trauma resilience efforts in war-affected regions of Ukraine. Our Israeli psychologists and social workers trained 445 Ukrainian professionals—educators, psychologists, and social workers—serving frontline areas, including Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Donetsk.

Our three-day workshops, conducted in Lviv Oblast and eastern Poland in partnership with Fundacja Humanitarna Folkowisko, focused on emotional well-being, trauma-informed care, emergency preparedness, and burnout prevention.

To expand local capacity, NATAN developed a “train-the-trainer” model. 60 selected participants received advanced instruction and led supervised workshops before being certified to conduct training independently. With online support from Israeli instructors, these trainers now lead programs in schools, social services, and resilience centers, ensuring continuity and long-term community support.

This project, funded by the JDC and the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, ensures NATAN's commitment to long-term, community-led mental health care in conflict zones.



Telemedicine in Donetsk

NATAN provides remote consultations to residents in the Donetsk region, where ongoing conflict makes medical care sparse and dangerous to access. Since July 2023, NATAN's volunteer doctors—fluent in Ukrainian and Russian and based in Israel and the U.S.—have provided virtual consultations in specialties that include cardiology, neurology, endocrinology, and internal medicine. The program has treated 718 patients, mostly older women with chronic conditions.

Partnering with the Zgraya Association, whose volunteers operate ZiphyCare diagnostic equipment locally, and the Israeli Medical Mission in Ukraine, which provides logistical support, NATAN provides high-quality care despite frontline conditions. Originally based in Konstantinivka, the clinic was relocated to Drushkivka in late 2024 as the frontlines shifted.

NEPAL

Combating Gender-Based Violence: Project HOPE

Recognizing the high incidence of domestic gender-based violence while responding to the 2015 earthquake, NATAN launched Project HOPE in partnership with Relief Nepal and the local government.

Operating in Sindhuli, Project HOPE addresses violence by creating a community-based response system with three tiers:

- **Prevention & Awareness** – avoiding violence and situations that give rise to it
- **First Response** – aiding victims quickly and intervening to defuse tense situations
- **Support & Counseling** – ensuring comprehensive, longer-term care to survivors

Urgent cases are referred to crisis centers and safe houses for immediate protection and support.

Local social workers, trained and supported by NATAN, recruit community leaders from target villages for training sessions. In collaboration with regional authorities, they also lead awareness campaigns, conduct home visits, provide counseling, and advocate for increased protection and services for survivors.

Our Volunteers

NATAN's 1,812 volunteers—doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, dentists, and logistical experts—are the heart and soul of the organization.

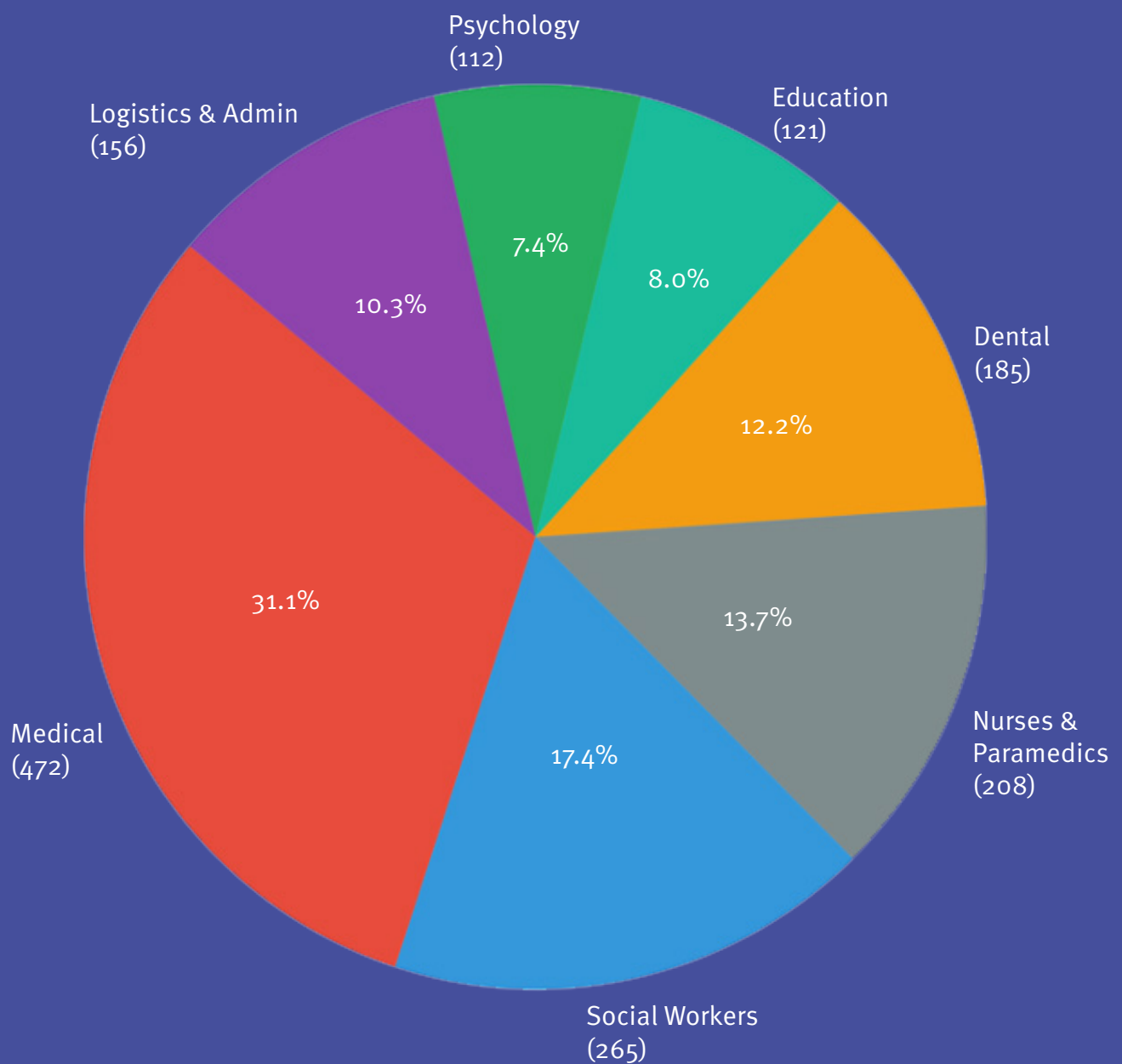
They represent Israel's diversity, bringing together Jewish and Arab professionals from across Israel who work alongside international colleagues from the United States, Europe, and Latin America, to help people in crisis.

Our volunteers bring expertise, compassion, and commitment to deliver high-quality care and support to disaster zones, war-afflicted areas, underserved regions, and refugee communities.

In a time of rising antisemitism, NATAN offers a powerful response: standing in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable—building a human connection where hatred could otherwise take root.



The professional skills of NATAN's 1,800 volunteers





Sources of Funding

As cost-effective as NATAN's volunteers are, they accomplished so much only because of our donors' generous support. Donations in 2024 came to \$317,000, 74% of which were from the U.S., with most of the remainder from Israel. Of the total gifts, about 50% were donated by individuals, about 25% by foundations, and the remainder by Jewish federations, synagogues, and schools.

Major 2024 Funders:

- Ofakim Municipality
- PEF Foundation
- Follow Your Dream Foundation
- CJP Boston
- UJA - Federation of New York
- Alpha Omega Foundation and Alpha Omega London Charitable Trust
- Operation Blessing
- Jerusalem Fund
- The Jewish Federations of North America
- Ramaz School Parents Council

We extend our deepest thanks to all our donors and partners.