

Annual Report 2023

Executive Summary

On October 7, 2023, during Simchat Torah, 3,500 Hamas militants infiltrated southern Israel, initiating coordinated attacks that took 1200 lives and abducting 251 hostages.

NATAN responded swiftly, immediately dispatching Social Workers and Psychologists to aid traumatized populations and train professionals in charge, like the Police HR, Youth Movements and Youth Camps counsellors. NATAN volunteers provided support to forgotten minorities like Russian speakers and workers born overseas.

Within 36 hours, NATAN established the first emergency medical clinics In Israel. Within three weeks, 5 NATAN clinics were operating in three sites, treating over 3,000 evacuees. Dental care was prioritized, with 1528 evacuees from the front line attended by 123 volunteer dentists.

In Ofakim, a Resilience Center was created, in the heart of the most affected neighborhood, aiding survivors and strengthening the community.

Throughout 2023, NATAN's global efforts continued, providing relief in Ukraine, Nepal, Morocco, and Turkey. In Israel, a mobile Dental Clinic used cutting-edge technology to tackle oral health inequalities. NATAN volunteers, from licensed professionals to 1,743 dedicated individuals from various backgrounds, embody our commitment to swift, impactful humanitarian responses



Reflecting on 2023:
A Year of Resilience and Reflection



In the aftermath of October 7, NATAN's priorities shifted significantly, prompting a reassessment of our mission. As an Israeli civilian NGO, our primary responsibility is to our people, leading to our immediate response.

This report intentionally departs from a chronological structure to spotlight the monumental NATAN operation initiated in response to emergency needs and relief efforts in Israel post-October 7. The scale and effectiveness of our capabilities during this period have set unprecedented benchmarks, with our volunteers' professionalism highly appreciated. NATAN pioneered the concept of Humanitarian Medical Care, ensuring our immediate presence, creating personal contact, and offering survivors the time they need.

On October 7, NATAN teams were concurrently engaged in missions in Morocco's Atlas Mountains, as part of a post-earthquake humanitarian mission, and in Ukraine, where educators were trained to cope with war trauma. (The Morocco mission was curtailed due to safety concerns after October 7.)

Despite the ongoing war at home, we maintained our commitment to the Ukrainian civilian population facing the ongoing Russian invasion, encompassing telemedicine, trauma training, and the facilitation of Resilience Centers.

In Nepal, our local team, guided by Israeli psychosocial experts, spearheaded programs to combat domestic violence and foster community cohesion.

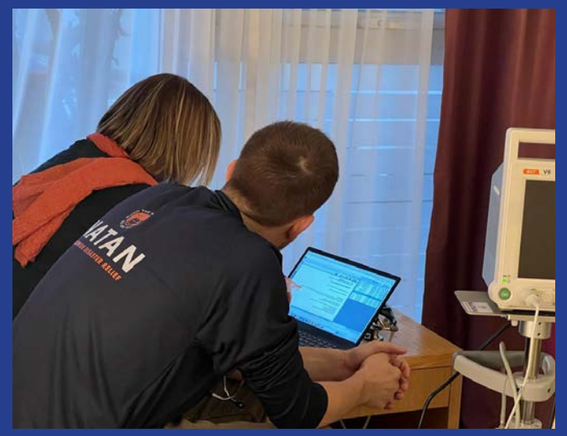
Investing in our future, NATAN's volunteer base grew to encompass 1,750 professionals, notable growth since 2020. We trained 18 Heads of Mission and strengthened the leadership team, preparing for the challenges ahead.

This narrative encapsulates operational achievements and also highlights the resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment that define NATAN's ethos. With heartfelt gratitude to volunteers, donors, and field partners for their crucial support, this Annual Report emphasizes NATAN's vital role as an independent field operator, at home and abroad.

Danny Kahn, NATAN Chair

NATAN
WORLDWIDE DISASTER RELIEF

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2 Executive Sunmary

3 Reflecting on 2023: Message from Danny Kahn, NATAN Chair

5 October 7 War

9 Ukraine

10 Nepal Project
Giving Hope to Children, Women and Families

11 Morocco Earthquake Crisis

11 Turkey Earthquake Crisis

12 Dental Mobile Clinic (Israel)

13 Message from Alan Silberstein, NATAN Advisory Board Chair

13 Fundraising Report

14 Our Volunteers

WHEN THE NEED IS THERE SO ARE WE



OUR BOOTS ON THE GROUND

October 7 War

The October 7 attacks led to the displacement of tens of thousands of Israelis.

NATAN promptly dispatched social workers and psychologists to respond to calls from various organizations dealing with traumatized populations. The Israel Police sought support for affected officers and widows of policemen killed on October 7. A group of 15 social workers and psychologists trained counselors of Youth Movement and Summer Camps to support families evacuated from the front.

Addressing the needs of oft-forgotten minorities, NATAN participated in the WARM HOME project, initiated by Friends of Ukraine in Israel, offering psychological support in Russian or Ukrainian. Assistance and cooperation was also extended with our longtime partner OPERATION BLESSING from the Philippines, who came to aid foreign workers.

NATAN, drawing on its extensive experience in emergency medical deployment, organized the first emergency humanitarian clinic in Israel within 36 hours of the pogrom. In total, NATAN created five clinics -- three medical and two dental -- in Shefayim, the Dead Sea, and Eilat, in cooperation with the HMOs. The clinics treated over 3,000 evacuees, with 353 medical and operational staff, all NATAN volunteers. (This included 96 family doctors and pediatricians, 68 nurses, 123 dentists, 24 assistants, and 42 operational volunteers.)

Medical Clinics



With the evacuees seeking refuge in resort areas, local medical facilities were overwhelmed or inaccessible. As NATAN has experienced in similar situations, refugees require treatment for injuries sustained in escaping, for chronic diseases, ordinary illnesses, and most of all, for conditions induced by stress.

Fully equipped, staffed by experienced doctors and nurses, the NATAN Medical Clinics provided free primary care to patients of all ages. The clinics were open seven days a week for two shifts, with a night doctor on call.

Shefayim Resort Clinic:

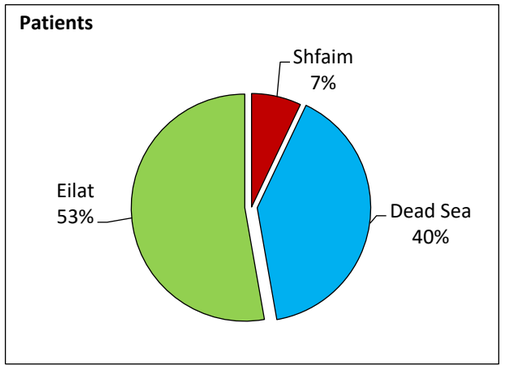
Opened on October 9 for the evacuees of Kibbutz Kfar Aza, the NATAN clinic operated for 19 days, when the HMO Clalit was prepared to take over. 240 survivors from Kibbutz Kfar Aza were treated by 68 NATAN volunteers

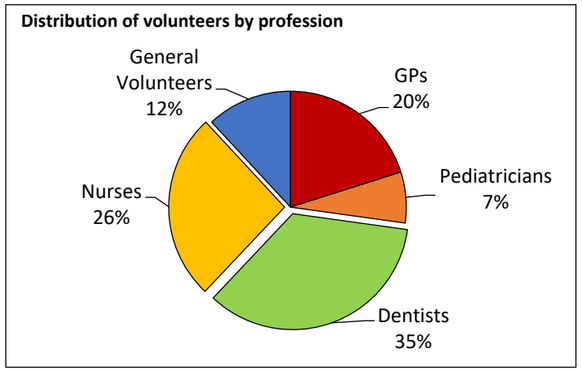
The Dead Sea Clinic:

Opened on October 13, situated in Hotel Leonardo Club, serving the displaced population of Sderot, for 32 days, until Clalit was prepared to take over. 699 evacuees were treated by 59 NATAN volunteers.

Eilat Clinic:

Opened on October 25 in the Leonardo Resort Hotel, serving the population displaced from Sderot and other southern districts. Over 59 days, 953 evacuees were treated by 50 NATAN volunteers.





Dental Clinics

NATAN is the only organization which provided dental care to the evacuees. We operated two clinics in hotels located at the Dead Sea and in Eilat. In total, 1,528 patients received treatment, facilitated by 123 volunteer dentists and 24 assistants.

In the Dead Sea clinic, 672 evacuees were treated by 45 dentists and 7 assistants during 51 days of service.

In Eilat, during 60 days of operation, 856 patients were treated by 78 dentists and 17 assistants.

The range of treatments was extensive, with a focus on emergency dental procedures. Additionally, NATAN has two fully equipped mobile dental units to provide dental assistance for the benefit of populations affected in disaster zones around the world.



Ofakim – Resilience Center:

On October 7, Ofakim suffered a devastating attack with 52 casualties when terrorists invaded the city. Unlike other places in the region, Ofakim, with its 30,000 inhabitants, lacked an organized resilience center. In response, NATAN was invited by the Municipality to establish and operate a Resilience Center for the population of Mishor Hagefen, the neighborhood most profoundly affected by the tragedy. Spearheaded by a dedicated NATAN staff member, the center commenced operations in November and quickly became embedded in the community, providing workshops for children, forming activist groups for men and women, addressing the diverse needs of new immigrants, and recruiting staff members from among Ofakim residents. The speed of these activities began reflects NATAN's agility and commitment.



In January 2024, 400 residents of Mishor Hagefen attended a Thanksgiving Dinner organized by the Center, with volunteers from the neighborhood. The event commemorated the victims, honored the heroes, and expressed gratitude to God for their survival.

Recognizing NATAN's effectiveness, experience, and impartiality, the coalition of the organizations committed to Ofakim, among them the Municipality, the JDC, and the Metrowest Jewish Federation, asked NATAN to coordinate and guide the implementation of the "Restoring Spirit" project, a multi-year psychosocial resilience program for Ofakim. It is a challenge NATAN is proud to accept.

NATAN Community Resilience Center Model





Ukraine

Ukrainian War Relief:

Since March 3, 2021, NATAN's relief efforts have been dedicated to providing ongoing assistance to survivors of the Ukrainian war. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict in Israel, NATAN's has maintained its commitment to Ukraine..

Trauma Care and Resilience for Schools:

In 2023, NATAN conducted a comprehensive trauma care training program primarily aimed at educators. Throughout the year, highly skilled experts with experience in emergency situations delivered resilience training to 385 education workers, including 44 psychologists and social workers from various regions of Ukraine. Our training is in high demand.

Resilience Centers:

Emulating the Israeli Resilience Centers model, NATAN collaborated with the Lviv Regional Council to initiate the creation of Resilience Centers in the Yavoriv rural district. A NATAN staff member co-leads the project alongside a director appointed by local authorities. Coordinating with both formal and informal local organizations, these Centers aim to provide an integrative response to trauma and foster community-based resilience. NATAN was invited by Ukraine's first lady, Mme. Olena Zelenska, to adapt its Resilience Training protocol for Ukrainian communities.

Telemedicine in Eastern Ukraine:

NATAN joined a Telemedicine project in the Donetsk region of Eastern Ukraine, facilitating digital access to medical services for residents in vulnerable areas. Local volunteers operate cutting-edge technology that connects patients in conflict zones, such as Konstantinivka, with volunteer doctors from Israel and the US. The telemedicine project has assisted 489 patients, ensuring continued medical care despite challenging circumstances.

Nepal

Hope Project:
NATAN partnered with Relief Nepal to launch the "Hope Project" in the Sindoly District, seven hours from Katmandu. This initiative focuses on establishing a community system for preventing domestic violence and identifying and treating victims among women and children at risk. NATAN's professionals coordinate with government officials, local service providers, and the community, conducting training sessions on preventing domestic violence and actions to strengthen the community.







Morocco

Earthquake Response:
After a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Morocco on September 8, 2023, NATAN's rapid response team provided emergency medical care in remote villages of the High Atlas region. Transitioning to trauma and psychosocial care, NATAN partnered with the High Atlas Foundation to provide ongoing support until early October.

Turkey

Earthquake Relief:
In response to a series of devastating earthquakes in Turkey in February 2023, NATAN deployed a delegation of volunteer staff to the disaster zone. Integrating with local efforts, they provided emergency medicine and psychosocial support until compelled to leave by Turkish authorities.



Dental Mobile Clinic

Extreme oral health inequalities exist for the most marginalized and socially excluded groups, even in Israel. NATAN has resolved to tackle this issue by introducing a state-of-the-art dental mobile clinic.

Haifa: Operating for the third consecutive year, NATAN's Dental Mobile Clinic in Haifa expanded its activities, partnering with the Vehaavta clinic to provide dental services to the underprivileged and women from rehab shelters. The clinic, run by 11 volunteers, plans to open a second location in Tel Aviv in 2024.





Message from Alan Silberstein, NATAN Advisory Board Chair

The Advisory Board promotes awareness of and support for NATAN outside Israel. We are grateful for the generous support of our donors and partners during this difficult year.

Following the Hamas massacre on October 7th, for the first time, NATAN directed most of its life-saving resources toward survivors in Israel. (The organization continues to operate projects in Ukraine and Nepal.) The conditions following the attack — mass casualties, dislocated populations, unsafe conditions, and overwhelmed government resources — are familiar to NATAN's leadership and volunteers. As a result, NATAN knew immediately how to help and, by October 8th, was already assisting survivors and first responders.

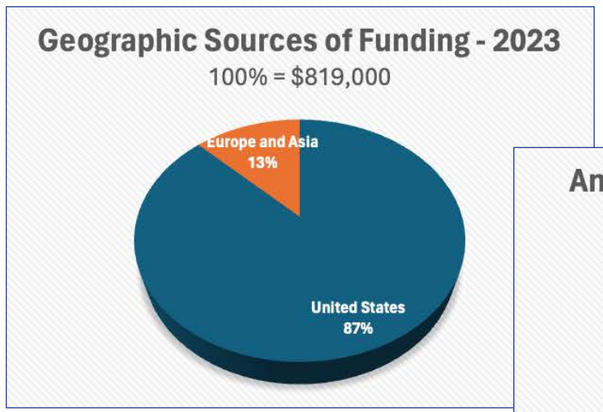
Although NATAN is an Israeli NGO, its mission is not to help mainly Israelis or Jews. Rather, it serves survivors of natural disasters and man-made refugee crises wherever they occur. NATAN does not discriminate among its volunteers or the people it treats based upon their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or other characteristics. In the first nine months of 2023, NATAN assisted individuals in Ukraine, Nepal, Turkey, and Morocco — often as the first foreign relief organization on the scene.

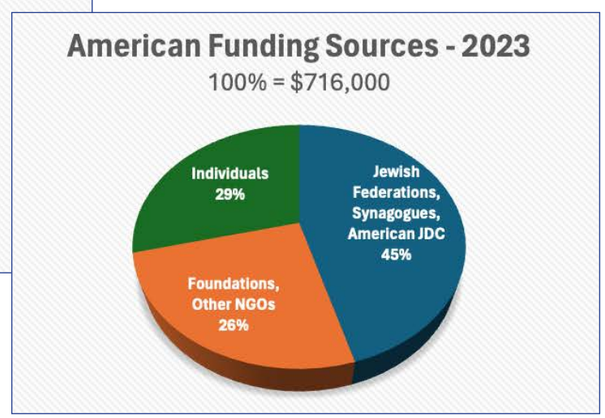
NATAN remains ready to aid survivors of natural and man-made disasters, wherever they occur. Our all-volunteer professional team, consisting of some of the best-trained clinicians in the world, is both effective and cost-effective. The financial support we receive makes our life-saving responses possible by paying for volunteer transportation and lodging, and for medical supplies.

We don't know what – or where- will be the most pressing needs for medical care and counseling in the year ahead. However, you can be certain that when the need is there, so are we.

FUND RAISING REPORT:

In 2023, worldwide donations to NATAN totaled $819,000 (unaudited), of which funds from the United States accounted for $716,000. Of the American gifts, $326,000 were grants from Jewish federations, the American Joint Distribution Committee, and synagogues. Foundations and other non-governmental organizations provided grants totaling $183,000. The remaining $207,000 came from individual donations. We are grateful to all of you for your support.





Our Volunteers

NATAN volunteers are our heart, soul, and brains. As of 12.31.23 we had 1,743 volunteers aged 30 to 80, all licensed and experienced professionals—doctors, nurses, dentists, psychosocial workers, educators and logistics experts.

Our volunteers are ready and willing to drop everything, leave their homes, families and workplaces to head to where their experienced hands are desperately needed. Very often, our volunteers are among the first to reach a disaster site.





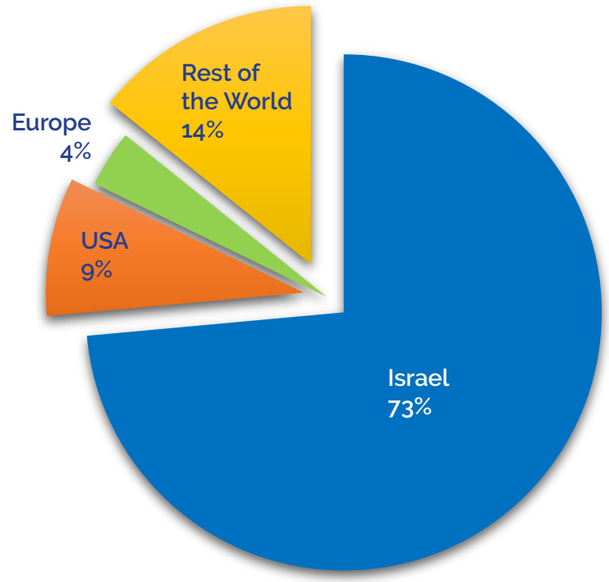






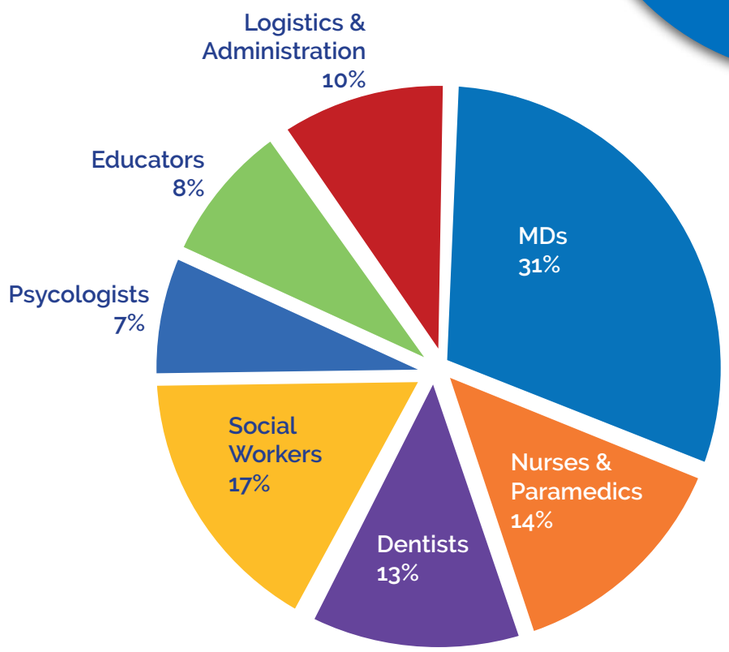


Our Volunteers by the Numbers:



VOLUNTEERS BY ORIGIN:

1,282	Israel
151	USA
62	Europe
248	Rest of the world, mainly Canada, South America. and Oceania.



VOLUNTEERS BY PROFESSION:

459	Medical Doctors
201	Nurses & Paramedics
185	Dentists
246	Social Workers
103	Psychologists
121	Educators
97	Logistics
47	Administration and Management
284	Different professions

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