



It has been an exhausting week for all of us as tens of thousands of Israelis scrambled to assist the home front in various ways. Our group of volunteers at **Tech for Israel** (www.tech4israel.com) chose to focus on bringing immediate humanitarian assistance to affected Israeli communities in a decentralized fashion. Our foresight in cooperating with **Merit Spread Foundation** not only allowed us to raise more than 20M NIS (\$5M) from Israel and the US, but also to rapidly distribute and allocate 5M NIS (\$1.25M) to more than 30 initiatives. Unlike other Israeli NGOs, Merit Spread is chartered and authorized to transfer funds to small third-party NGOs, which means we can deliver aid faster than most of the large, centralized organizations.

In the first few days following the outbreak of war, our focus was on those communities that were immediately evacuated, providing them with emergency lodging, food, and supplies. Since then, the number of internally displaced Israelis has swelled to 500,000 as a result of government mandated evacuation orders in both the North and South. Unfortunately, the first response organizations are limited in scope, and State services have been slow to respond.

*Given the scale of the challenge, we have narrowed our focus to initiatives providing a critical second line of support for displaced families in three primary areas: **mental health, educational enrichment, and disadvantaged and vulnerable communities** (examples below). We are doing this by working with existing NGOs that have both the relevant expertise and volunteers in the field.*

In the mental health domain, we are being assisted by a professional committee led by Hadas Shaharabani Saidon, PhD in Clinical Psychology, mental reform advocate, and lecturer at Bar Ilan University, and Nurit Yirmiya, Professor of Clinical and Development Psychology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Thus far we have received more than 350 requests for funding from local communities and aid organizations. We are coordinating some of these allocations with other the emergency operation centers, such as that operated by Brothers and Sisters for Israel. Additionally, there is close cooperation with the emergency operation centers established by several high-tech companies. This includes both coordinating aid efforts and arranging for matching grants. Finally, we are cooperating with several of our corporate donors, including HP and Salesforce, which have come with specific initiatives within our areas of focus.

More recently, we have begun to partner with Municipality of Sderot, which is the largest city to be evacuated to date. While 90% of their 35,000 residents have been evacuated to 81 hotels around the country, they are still under the care of the city and in dire need of assistance. In meetings with Mayor Alon Davidi and his team we have identified a handful of important projects to aid Sderot evacuees where basic needs are not being met by the State or established aid organizations. We have also met with the Minister for the Development of the Negev and the Galil who promised matching funds for the Sderot projects now under evaluation.

Thank you to all of those who have generously donated and made this possible. However, based on the numerous projects we are processing, we will need to much more to make the impact last more than a couple weeks. If you know people or organizations that are able to donate, please feel to share this letter and send them to our website www.tech4israel.com where they can find wire details.

Tech for Israel Allocation Committee

Some of the projects funded to date:

- General
 - Establishment of an emergency response command center operated by [Matan Investing in the Community](#)
 - Funding an emergency response command center run by [The Kobi Mandell Foundation](#)
 - Emergency repair to water infrastructure for dairy farm and chicken hatchery on **Kibbutz Nir Oz**
 - Funding two operations centers at [The First Hug](#) which brings volunteers to sit at the bedside of injured children, adults and soldiers who don't have family
 - Expansion of activity of [Fighting to Remember](#) that assists Holocaust survivors with emergency and daily needs
 - Retreat for survivors of the Nova peace party
 - Mobile health unit for displaced families operated by [Natan Relief](#)

- Mental Health and Community
 - Mental health care center for 25 evacuees with special needs in cooperation with [Yedei Or](#)
 - Mental health services over the phone for Amharic (Ethiopian) speaking population affected by the war provided by [Wuste Tsega](#)
 - 24/7 mental health service center in Sderot
 - Expansion of mental health and assistance to at-risk girls around the country via [The Women's Courtyard](#)
 - Mental health and life assistance for former Haredi population that were injured or evacuated in cooperation with [Out for Change](#)

- Special Needs and Disadvantage Groups
 - Assistance to [Eden boarding school](#) for youth at risk that were evacuated
 - Additional sign language experts to assist the deaf at a 24/7 emergency center via [Alumot](#)
 - Computers and digital devices for volunteer counselors working with special needs children from Sha'ar Hanegev

- Lodging, Food and Education
 - Supporting the operations of agriculture community that absorbed dozens of evacuated families from the Gaza area
 - Temporary lodging for dozens of families evacuated from Moshav Shuva
 - Temporary lodging for families from Kfar Aza, Yad Mordechai, Netivot and Talmei Yosef
 - Grant to Druze families hosting displaced Israelis from around the country in cooperation with [The Druze Veterans Association](#)
 - Food safety for a population of elderly and holocaust survivors in Beer Sheva
 - Computers and tablets for the 77 evacuated families now temporarily in Netanya through [Athena Fund](#)
 - Curriculum and pedagogical development for temporary school of evacuated communities – operated by [Nitzotzot Shiur Acher](#)