

# One Year Later

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**Philly Stands with Israel  
Emergency Fund's Impact  
and Ongoing Commitment**



**Jewish Federation  
of Greater Philadelphia**



**WE STAND WITH HUMANITY**



**WE STAND WITH ISRAEL**





October 2024

Hello,

In the year since the Oct. 7 massacre in Israel, the Jewish people’s strength, resiliency and unity have been tested in unprecedented ways. Through these trials, we have also been motivated by core values of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia by bringing our community together – Here As One – both in times of crisis and in moments of peace.

We are proud to share that through your generous support, the Philly Stands with Israel Emergency Campaign has raised \$16 million to date. Because of the Jewish Federation’s year-round work and established partnerships, we have been on the frontlines, working tirelessly to rebuild the south, protect the north and take care of all of those affected across Israel.

**Thank you.**

As we know, our work is far from over. The path to healing and rebuilding is long, and we will continue to stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel as we work toward an even brighter and more resilient future. The Jewish Federation has continued to focus our emergency efforts in the following strategic areas:

- Basic Needs
- Resilience, Mental Health and Trauma Support
- Security and Medical Needs
- Recovery and Rebuilding

We are proud to share this most recent update on the impact we have been able to make over the past year with your support.

Together, we will persevere. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

Daniel Eisenstadt, Emergency Response Committee Chair

Adam E. Laver, Immediate Past Emergency Response Committee Chair

Michael Markman, Board Chair

Michele S. Levin, Campaign Co-Chair

George Danneman, Campaign Co-Chair

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# Recipients of Emergency Funds

Abraham Initiatives

Asif

Association for the Advancement of the Residents of the Eshkol Region

Atidim

Ayalim Association

Bar Ilan University

Branco Weiss Institute

Bshvil Hamachar

Camp Kimama

Community Centers Network of Kiryat Shmona

Dror Israel

Emergency Volunteers Project

First Hug

Gumat Chen

Habayit Bamishor

Israel Trauma Coalition

ITWorks

Jewish Agency for Israel

Jewish Federations of North America

Keren Shutafut

Kibbutz K'far Aza

Leket Israel

Loewenstein Hospital

Machon Shitim

Magen David Adom

Matnas Netivot

Matnas Sdot Negev

Mechinat Yonatan

Olim Beyahad

Open University

Orr Shalom

Pitchon Lev

Rachashei Lev

Rahat Community Center

Sahar

Sar-El

Sheba Medical Center

Social Delivery

Sunflowers

The Association for Israel's Soldiers

The Lone Soldier Center in Memory of Michael Levin

Unistream

United Hatzalah

Upper Galilee Regional Council

Yahel

Yashar LaChayal

ZAKA Inc.

# Thank you.

Over the past year, the Jewish community has faced immense challenges that have called for extraordinary resilience and unity. The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia has remained dedicated to supporting Israel from the very beginning, leading recovery efforts empowered by the Philly Stands with Israel Emergency Campaign. **With \$16 million raised and over \$12 million already allocated**, we have been at the forefront of supporting the Jewish homeland during these challenging months: providing critical support to those affected by the atrocities of Oct. 7 and the ensuing war, enhancing security, and aiding in the rebuilding of communities.

These vital dollars provided life saving services, mental health and trauma support, and educational materials for communities directly impacted by the attacks.

The Jewish Federation has a full-time team in Israel working closely with partner agencies, government officials and municipalities, particularly in our partnership area of Netivot and Sdot Negev. Our Israel team has identified the most imminent needs which are reflected in the following four categories:

- Basic Needs
- Resilience: Mental Health and Trauma
- Security and Medical Needs
- Community Services: Recovery and Rebuilding

Thanks to your incredible generosity, our collective impact continues to strengthen and uplift the people of Israel as we work toward a brighter Jewish future – today and for years to come.

**We are Here as One. Am Yisrael Chai.**



Daniel Eisenstadt  
*Emergency Response Committee Chair*



Adam E. Laver  
*Immediate Past Emergency Response Committee Chair*

**\$16 million raised**

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**\$12.5 million allocated**

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**3,731 donors contributed**

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**65 agencies supported**



To review the report published  
in February, scan this QR Code.

# Basic Needs

The Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*, the sacred duty to save and protect human life, is at the heart of our mission at the Jewish Federation. Following the Oct. 7 attacks, this commitment guided our response to help Israeli citizens like Rachel, a resident of Netivot in the south of Israel, who faced unimaginable challenges.



“The help that I received really saved my life.”

RACHEL HAMDI, NETIVOT RESIDENT



With the support of the Jewish Federation, Rachel and her children received the essential food and financial assistance they desperately needed. This swift response not only upholds the principle of *pikuach nefesh*, but also embodies the spirit of *tzedakah* which is philanthropy for social justice, ensuring that families like Rachel's are never left alone in their time of need.

## RECIPIENTS OF EMERGENCY FUNDS

**ASIF** is an organization in Tel Aviv dedicated to cultivating and nurturing Israel's diverse and creative food culture. Emergency funding provided meals to 6,000 Israel Defense Forces' soldiers in Netivot and Sdot Negev.

**KIBBUTZ K'FAR AZA** is a kibbutz in southern Israel located between Netivot and Sderot, approximately five kilometers east of Gaza. The kibbutz was one of the hardest hit on Oct. 7, with militants murdering over 69 residents and kidnapping 19, 5 of whom are still in captivity. K'far Aza is home to Edit Asor, a member of Jewish Federation's Israel team. In honor of Asor and her community, emergency funding went toward rehabilitation and immediate educational needs.

**LEKET ISRAEL** is Israel's leading food rescue organization and food bank, located in Sdot Negev. Emergency funding provided formula for 500 infants for two months. It also provided stipends of \$620 each for 100 families of farmers for two months, who found themselves out of work because of unsafe travel conditions.

**PITCHON LEV** is an organization that aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in Israel by helping with social welfare rights. Emergency funding went toward assisting evacuees in accessing government benefits.

**THE LONE SOLDIER CENTER IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL LEVIN** is located in Be'er Sheva. It provides a "home away from home" for thousands of lone soldiers (those who do not have family or a home in Israel) each year. Emergency funding provided housing, food and mental health support for reservists.

**SOCIAL DELIVERY** bridges the gap between discarded goods and vulnerable populations, transferring items to nonprofits. Emergency funding provided trucks for eight evacuated communities in Sdot Negev, along with a new forklift.



**94 Pitchon-Lev mobile hubs to help residents access social benefits**

**500 infants received formula for two months through Leket**

**12,500 residents from Netivot and Sdot Negev received basic needs support**

**1,650 education kits supplied for bomb shelters in Netivot**



# Resilience: Mental Health & Trauma

The Jewish value of *shleimut*, or wholeness, reminds us that true wellbeing encompasses not only physical health, but also mental and spiritual wellness – which was compromised for the people of Israel on and since Oct. 7. This value has guided the Jewish Federation’s commitment to supporting those in Israel who have endured unrelenting trauma over the past year.



**“[After Oct. 7], I remember being very scared and anxious all the time and feeling like everything changed around me. I had no energy and was constantly looking for information about what was happening. A friend took me to a Unistream event where we shared our thoughts. Being surrounded by friends with a shared understanding helped me through the first few weeks. Slowly, I started feeling energized again. The Unistream workshops helped me discover that I was able to concentrate and come up with innovative ideas.”**

**SIVAN COHEN, 16 YEARS OLD**

Thanks to your generosity, the Jewish Federation has provided emergency funds to organizations like the Unistream Entrepreneurship Center in Netivot for teens. The emergency funding received from the Jewish Federation supported community-based volunteering and onsite activities to build resilience, two additional days of experiential learning about entrepreneurship and innovation, and two days of respite. In addition, funds supported the Unistream on Wheels program, an intensive five-week program in Sdot Negev communities.

## RECIPIENTS OF EMERGENCY FUNDS

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE ESHKOL REGION** advances programs in education, welfare and culture to promote equal opportunity for Eshkol’s peripheral communities. Emergency funding supported therapists at hotels and evacuation points to create therapeutic spaces for evacuees and ongoing trauma support for children.

**BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY** equips partners with tools to support their loved ones and learn about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Emergency funding supported this initiative to offer couples counseling for those dealing with PTSD.

**BSHVIL HAMACHAR** assists IDF combat veterans with acute emotional and psychological effects and equips families with tools to support their loved ones. Emergency funding aided two programs for 30 veterans to receive immediate psychological support and full scale treatment and participate in retreats.

**FIRST HUG** supports hospitalized babies and toddlers without families. After Oct. 7, the organization expanded their services to support wounded soldiers admitted for long term hospital stays. Emergency funding trained 60 new volunteers in six months to meet this new need.

**GUMAT CHEN** boarding school in Kibbutz Sa’ad empowers at-risk women and girls. Emergency funding supported food trucks for evacuated students to use for cooking as part of a therapeutic intervention as well as four months of meals made by a culinary professional in the mobile kitchen.

**HABAYIT BAMISHOR** The Ofakim Community Resilience Center was established as a community clubhouse and therapy center in Mishor Hagefen after 52% of the community was murdered on Oct. 7. Emergency funding went toward therapy programming, a multi-sensory room, and events, such as concerts, holiday programs, and memorials.



**ISRAEL TRAUMA COALITION (ITC)** operates 12 resilience centers, providing national trauma response. Emergency funding supported ITC's centers in the Jewish Federation partnership areas of Netivot and Sdot Negev to address rising mental health and trauma needs.

**ORR SHALOM** cares for children and youth at-risk. Emergency funding went toward psychosocial support for the organization's two family group homes in Be'er Sheva and toward relocation services for graduate students who evacuated.

**SAHAR** provides rapid, professional and free-of-charge emotional online support to all in need in Israel. Emergency funding was allocated to train 15 new volunteers on how to proactively monitor the web, using cutting edge technologies that scan and analyze hundreds of keywords and phrases every day to locate those in situations of severe depression and suicide risk.

**SUNFLOWERS** is a national organization that works with children who have lost at least one parent. Emergency funding allowed the organization to open a center in Rahat for Bedouin youth orphaned due to the events on and after Oct. 7.

**UNISTREAM ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER** in Netivot enables youth in Israel's geographic and socioeconomic periphery to unlock their hidden potential by acquiring professional and life skills through hands-on entrepreneurship programs. Emergency funding was provided to Unistream for the entrepreneurship center in Netivot as well as its Unistream on Wheels program in Sdot Negev that provides resilience-building activities.



**3,500 people received mental health support through the Israel Trauma Coalition Resilience Centers in Netivot and Sdot Negev**

**30 veterans received psychological support through Bshvil Hamachar**

**60 new First Hug Association volunteers trained to help hospitalized babies and toddlers without family and wounded soldiers**

# Security and Medical Needs

The Jewish value of *shmirat haguf*, or guarding the body, emphasizes the vital importance of preserving and protecting human life and wellbeing. This tenet guides the Jewish Federation's efforts to help soldiers and citizens recover from injuries and restore Israeli's sense of safety.



**IDF Communications Sergeant Natan (name changed for anonymity) was shot in the knee during a raid in Beit Hanoun, located on the northeast border of the Gaza Strip. Following Natan's initial surgery, he was transferred to Sheba Medical Center for rehabilitation. After spending several months in intensive rehabilitation, he was discharged in late June and is currently undergoing outpatient rehab through the Sheba Medical Center a few times a week.**

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Jewish Federation has played a crucial role in helping initiatives like funding a new rehabilitation center for soldiers and civilians at Sheba Medical Center, the leading medical center in the Middle East. This commitment to *shmirat haguf* reflects our dedication to protecting and healing the bodies and spirits of those who have sacrificed so much.

## RECIPIENTS OF EMERGENCY FUNDS

**THE LOEWENSTEIN HOSPITAL** - Orenstein Project was created to increase the care for wounded soldiers and war victims in addition to the Lowenstein Hospital's regular patients. Emergency funding supported the renovation of three rooms for rehabilitation programs to help integrate patients back into civilian life.

**MAGEN DAVID ADAM (MDA)** is responsible for providing disaster relief, ambulance and blood services as Israel's official representation to the International Red Cross. Emergency funding supported MDA's emergency response efforts.

**RACHASHEI LEV** provides emotional, financial and social support to children. Emergency funding secured mobile ultrasound machines to perform rapid triage for medics in the field.

**SHEBA MEDICAL CENTER** is the leading medical center in the Middle East and an internationally recognized healthcare facility. Emergency funding went towards a new rehabilitation center for soldiers and civilians.

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL'S SOLDIERS** provides services for the wellbeing of Israel's soldiers. Emergency funding went toward five simulators used to train civilian doctors to become army doctors in the reserves.

**THE UPPER GALILEE REGIONAL COUNCIL**, home of about 22,000 residents from 29 Kibbutzim, has an 80-volunteer rescue unit that conducts year-round search and rescue exercises. Emergency funding provided permanent and mobile equipment, like special rescue and communication equipment and trailer.

**UNITED HATZALAH** maintains a network of more than 6,500 volunteer medics that help save thousands of lives annually across Israel by providing medical treatment in an average response time of three minutes or less. Emergency funding supported critical assistance to first responders and victims of terror.

**YASHAR LACHAYAL** was created in 2006 during the second Lebanon War and has been at the forefront of providing humanitarian support for soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces. Emergency funding provided winter gear for soldiers.

**ZAKA INC.** is Israel's dominant nongovernmental organization, providing services handling deceased victims of terror and other disasters. With over 3,000 volunteers nationwide, volunteers are on call 24/7 to respond to any terror attack, disaster or accident. To meet the increased need, emergency funding provided forensic identification equipment for volunteers.



**\$2.5 million for medical services in the military and hospitals**

**1,179 deliveries of emergency winter gear sent to soldiers through Yashar LaChayal**

**40 American firefighters to assist in disaster relief and rescue through the Emergency Volunteers Project**

**16 communities in Sdot Negev received security resources for first responders**

# Community Services: Recovery and Rebuilding

The Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world, calls upon Jews to take action by improving the world around us, especially in times of crisis. This guiding principle is at the core of the Jewish Federation's support of organizations such as the Rahat Community Center, a predominantly Arab Bedouin city in southern Israel.



“After the shock of Oct. 7, we began receiving calls from organizations and friends asking for ways to help us. It created a new reality for all of us – Jews, Arabs and Bedouins – to work side by side helping to support our communities. The assistance we received from the Jewish Federation was important and essential, but even more importantly, it helped us to create a better and shared future for all of us in Israel.”

FUAD AL-ZIADNA, RAHAT COMMUNITY CENTER CEO

Thanks to the support from the Jewish Federation, Rahat Community Center provided 75 computers for children attending school online. The Rahat Community Center is located in a predominantly Arab Bedouin city in southern Israel. The Jewish Federation has been a long-standing and proud supporter of Rahat, ensuring that all of Israel's diverse citizens have access to opportunities to live in a dignified, meaningful and impactful way.

## RECIPIENTS OF EMERGENCY FUNDS

**ABRAHAM INITIATIVES** specializes in civilian protection during crises or war. Emergency funding enabled the organization to create and distribute a video in Arabic for the Bedouin community to prepare and protect Arab citizens during the ongoing war.

**ATIDIM - EMERGENCY STUDENT FUND** - Atidim's Futures initiative addresses socioeconomic disparities in Israel through innovative educational programs. Emergency funding went toward the organization's emergency efforts in Israel.

**ATIDIM - ROBOPHYSICS IRON SWORDS EDUCATION PROGRAM (RISE)** is a groundbreaking initiative designed to help high school students in 11th and 12th grades, who have been displaced from their homes and, as a result, lack educational and social frameworks. Emergency funds supported scholarships for students who were impacted by the events of Oct. 7 and provided summer camp for high schools from Kiryat Shmona who weren't able to attend school due to the war.

**CAMP KIMAMA** is an international summer camp in Israel. The camp implemented activities and educational content for evacuees from the surrounding communities, including families and children, who are in hotels throughout the country. Emergency funding supported a three-to-five day camp for children in Sdot Negev, offering accommodation, meaningful experiences, a safe social space, and an opportunity to learn English.

**COMMUNITY CENTERS NETWORK OF KIRYAT SHMONA** is based in the Northern District of Israel. Emergency funding was allocated to cover three months of its municipal emergency security framework and assist with its long-term evacuation management, which includes strengthening municipal infrastructure and promoting community resilience.

**DROR ISRAEL** provides therapeutic emotional and educational support by establishing makeshift schools and day care centers for thousands of evacuee children and families. Emergency funding provided trauma response support for those evacuated and are staying at hotels in the Dead Sea, Mitzpe Ramon and Tel Aviv.

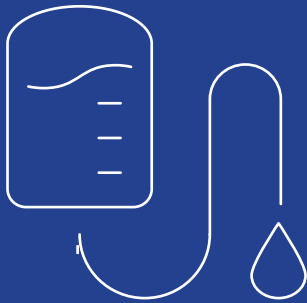
**HABAYIT BAMISHOR** is an initiative of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which works in 70 countries around the world as a leading Jewish humanitarian organization. Emergency funding provided life-saving social services for at-risk children, the elderly and people with disabilities, along with economic relief for distressed Israelis and psychosocial training for frontline responders.

**JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA (JFNA) - ECONOMIC RECOVERY** provides economic relief through grants and loans to small- and medium-sized businesses in frontline communities, ensuring a resilient and flourishing economy. Emergency funding contributed to these efforts.

**MECHINAT YONATAN** in Kibbutz Alumim is a longstanding pre-military leadership program. Emergency funding supported the program's extension to Kibbutz Sa'ad, which will play a significant role in the healing and renewal of the Western Negev communities.

**OLIM BEYAHAD** helps members of the Ethiopian Israeli community with employment, residence, education and social life. Emergency funding supported 25 students studying and working remotely due to rocket fire.

**3,000 international volunteers matched with relief projects through Yahel Volunteering Hubs**



**139 Open University of Israel students from Netivot and Sha'ar Hanegev received tuition, tutoring, computers and mental health support**

**59 daycare centers and kindergartens established by Branco Weiss**

**10 communities in the north received equipment for first responders**

**KEREN SHUTAFUT** addresses growing conflict between Arab and Jewish communities. Emergency funding was allocated to this organization's work to alleviate tensions between these two groups while also creating initiatives to foster general inclusion.

**MACHON SHITIM** is operated by young communities who are committed to social change through humanistic Zionist Jewish values while preserving and rejuvenating the celebration of the Jewish holidays and culture. Emergency funding went toward the costs associated with providing after-school activities for evacuated Kibbutz Sa'ad families and children.

**PEF ISRAEL ENDOWMENT FUNDS, INC.** collects and distributes money to charities in Israel. Supported initiatives include primary and secondary education and the promotion of greater tolerance and understanding between religious and secular communities. Emergency funding went toward the organization's wartime efforts.

**RAHAT COMMUNITY CENTER** is a predominantly Arab Bedouin city in southern Israel. Emergency funding provided 75 computers for children attending school online.

**SAR-EL** brings foreign volunteers to work alongside soldiers to meet basic logistical needs. Emergency funding supported the expansion of Sar-El's volunteer network by more than 50% due to the war.

**THE BRANCO WEISS INSTITUTE** aims to develop educational materials to promote learning and cognitive thinking in schools throughout Israel. Emergency funding helped open schools, provide pedagogical and psychological support, and hire additional teachers, educational staff, and social workers for evacuated students from both the north and south of Israel.

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY** aims to make higher education accessible to all individuals seeking it. Emergency funding covered 139 student scholarships, totaling \$1,000 each, for those evacuated from their homes in Netivot and Sdot Negev.

**THE YAHTEL VOLUNTEERING HUB** manages the surge in international volunteers following the Oct. 7 attack by pairing them with meaningful and responsible opportunities throughout Israel. Emergency funding enabled participants to volunteer annually through a variety of projects, designed in partnership with local organizations.





For over 25 years, the Jewish Federation has fostered a deep-rooted relationship with our Partnership2Gether regions of Sdot Negev and Netivot, located in the south of Israel, just miles from the Gaza border. Our Annual Campaign empowers this work, and it is why we were positioned to respond immediately on Oct. 7 in Israel and in our own backyard.

**While our annual efforts remain critical, the emergency funding we mobilized was a direct result of the strong foundation we've built through our partnership. In addition to the funds highlighted in this report, this long standing collaboration enabled us to channel additional funds to the region when they needed it most:**

### **Adopt a Community**

The Jewish Federation mobilized the local Jewish community to support long-term efforts to rebuild its Partnership2Gether region of Sdot Negev, and its 16 communities, located in the south of Israel on the border of Gaza. Emergency funding supports the rebuilding of these communities, which have been greatly impacted by destruction from rocket fire, mass displacement, and various other factors that have hindered quality of life and socioeconomic progress.

#### **Matnas Netivot**

Emergency funding covered a variety of needs, including food for 750 families for 2 months, equipment for volunteer first responders and vital items for the Netivot for Animal Therapy Center, 2 large emergency portable bomb shelters and supplies, such as an emergency generators, air conditioners for bomb shelters, activity kits for 1,500 children while in shelters, and emergency lighting.

#### **Matnas Sdot Negev**

Emergency funding covered a variety of needs, including equipment for volunteer first responders, 20 emergency portable bomb shelters, 35 air conditioners for new protected spaces for educational institutions and communities, and 32 small emergency generators and educational materials for kindergartens in Kibbutzim Sa'ad and Alumim.



With the support of the Annual Campaign and our year round partners, we are able to be **Here As One**:

*Embracing resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges*

*Celebrating Jewish life and our ancient heritage with pride*

*Empowering the whole community to thrive and live with dignity*

We remain united and strong.

To learn more about the Jewish Federation's impact each and every day, contact Annual Campaign Director Alix Caplan at 215.832.0832 or [acaplan@jewishphilly.org](mailto:acaplan@jewishphilly.org).

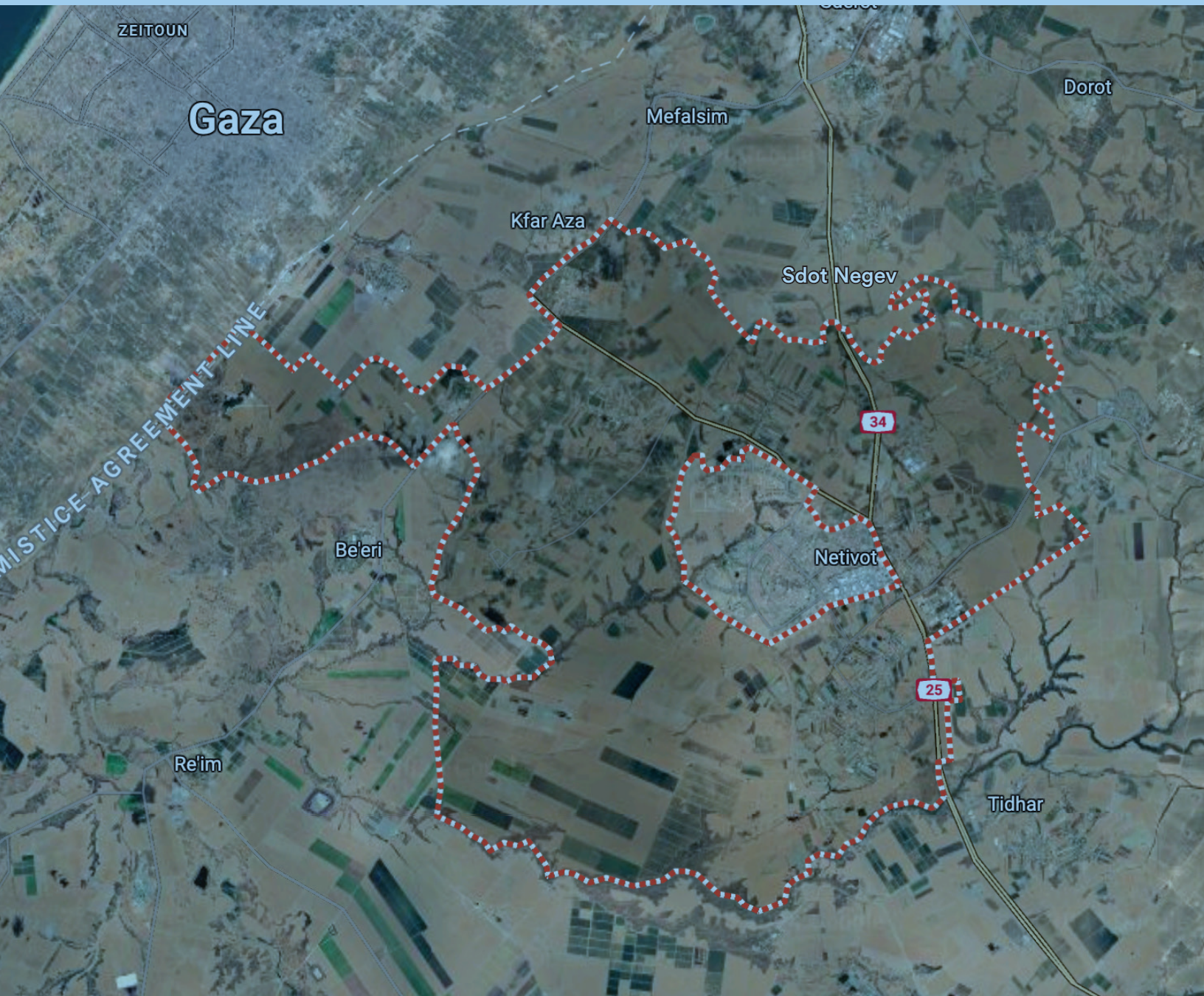




## OUR PARTNERSHIP2GETHER REGIONS IN THE SOUTH

Netivot population: **52,000**

Sdot Negev population: **11,500**





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of Greater Philadelphia

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Chief Development Officer

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mobilizes financial and volunteer resources to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, in Israel and elsewhere around the world.

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