



Dear Israel Impact Fund Community,

It has been 89 days since the horrifying Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. As the new year begins we wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support of the Israel Impact Fund (IIF) and to share with you the significant impact your donations are having on the lives of those people most critically affected by the massacre and ongoing war.

Since our inception on November 7, 2023 The Israel Impact Fund has raised over \$650,000. Your generous commitment has allowed us to act on our mission of directly benefiting the individuals, families, and communities whose lives were devastated on October 7 with hands-on support and resources.

We are excited to share that per this mission we have entered into a collaborative relationship with [Kibbutz Holit](#) to enable their continued survival and revitalization after the decimation of October 7. The IIF team has members on the ground in Israel working hands-on with the surviving members to assess their needs and envision future strategic opportunities as the community is rebuilt. We are sensitive to the unique decision-making mechanism and governance of the kibbutz and the ways in which members are navigating serious trauma, individually and collectively.

KIBBUTZ HOLIT

<https://israelimpact.org/kibbutz-holit/>

Movie about Holit:

https://youtu.be/hE4vAjOyESc?si=ENN_Js-3Viruycdk

Situated only 1.2 km from the Gaza border, Kibbutz Holit does not have the clout or the checkbook of higher profile and wealthier kibbutzim, yet they are in dire need of help to heal, retain, and rebuild their community. Fifteen members of their kibbutz were brutally murdered while defending the community, and six were kidnapped into Gaza. You may know Kibbutz Holit from several news stories:

- Asha and Bilal Ziyadne were two of the children returned on the final day of hostage release in November before the resumption of the war. They are part of a large Bedouin family that worked at Holit - their brother, Hamza, and father,

Youssef Hamis, remain hostages in Gaza. [Aisha, 17, and Bilal, 18, Ziyadne released: father and brother captive | The Times of Israel](#)

- Avital Aladjem was kidnapped along with the children of her neighbor, Adi Kaploun, who was later confirmed murdered. Inexplicably, their Hamas abductors released them at the Gaza border, allowing her to carry the children back to the kibbutz. <https://www.intheirlight.org/avital-alajem>
- Deborah and Shlomi Matias died while shielding their son, Rotem, with their bodies [Deborah and Shlomi Matias, 50 and 49: Died shielding their son | The Times of Israel](#)
- Kibbutz Holit was famously liberated from the terrorists by the heroic all- female tank unit. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjy0wpdSAI0>

קיבוץ חולית כואב על יקירנו וחברינו האהובים
שנרצחו במתקפת הטרור ב-7 באוקטובר 2023
Kibbutz Holit is mourning our loved ones who were murdered in the terrorist attack on 7.10.2023

 <p>פרנייה טאמקאנג ז"ל Parinyo Tamkang RIP 1986-2023</p>	 <p>עדי ויטל קפלון ז"ל Adi Vital Kaploun RIP 1990-2023</p>	 <p>פטרי בוסקוב ז"ל Petri Bascov RIP 1988-2023</p>	 <p>מאיר אלחרר ז"ל Meir Elharar RIP 1965-2023</p>	 <p>ליז אלחרר חלפון ז"ל Liz Elharar Halfon RIP 1977-2023</p>
 <p>תהילה קטאבי ז"ל Tehila Kastabi RIP 1991-2023</p>	 <p>אודום צ'אן ז"ל Oudom Chan RIP 1999-2023</p>	 <p>שחר טרואן מתיאס ז"ל Debbie Shuhar Troen Mathias RIP 1973-2023</p>	 <p>שלומי מתיאס ז"ל Shlomi Mathias RIP 1976-2023</p>	 <p>ד"ר חיים כצמן ז"ל Dr. Hayim Katzman RIP 1991-2023</p>
 <p>משה רידל ז"ל Moshe Ridler RIP 1931-2023</p>	 <p>לילי קייסמן ז"ל Lily Keisman RIP 1960-2023</p>	 <p>רולאנד צ'ארלס זוסף סולטן ז"ל Roland Charles Joseph Sultan RIP 1955-2023</p>	 <p>ד"ר רונית טל סולטן ז"ל Dr. Ronit Tal Sultan RIP 1968-2023</p>	 <p>רס"ם אבי קורין ז"ל MSG. Avi Korin RIP 1967-2023</p>

יהי זכרם ברוך

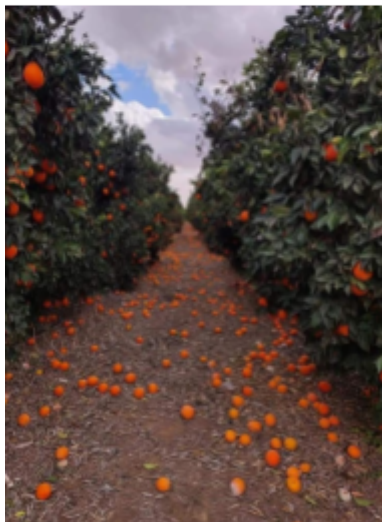


The people of Holit are true survivors who are now temporarily living in hotel rooms at Kibbutz Ein Gedi. Anyone who has visited Ein Gedi knows it is a gorgeous holiday spot

but it is not a vacation for these people. They are highly traumatized and many are struggling to resume their lives. Kibbutz Holit itself is currently in ruins: houses shot up and burned, cows in the *refet* (cowshed) dead or in shock, the fields razed or unable to be harvested due to the ongoing shelling from Gaza. With no immediate possibility of returning to their home or livelihoods they feel their communal identity eroding. As one of three kibbutzim living out of hotel rooms in Ein Gedi they have no real way to be the community they once were, let alone deal with their collective and individual trauma. They have voted to move to Kibbutz Revivim while their own kibbutz is rebuilt, but this transition will not take place until late summer or early fall 2024 and the earliest Holit will be liveable again is 2025.

During extensive and frequent meetings with these Holit survivors, members of IIF have toured what is left of the physical Kibbutz, their temporary refuge of Ein Gedi, and their future temporary “home” at Kibbutz Revivim.

Working with these survivors we can make an enormous IMPACT on their lives as they work to heal, maintain their community, and revitalize the kibbutz.



Kibbutz Holit before October 7, 2023



Kibbutz Holit after October 7, 2023



HOW IIF IS IMPACTING KIBBUTZ HOLIT

Your generous commitment has allowed the Israel Impact Fund to supply surviving members of Kibbutz Holit with immediate needs such as:

- food vouchers for local supermarkets near their temporary housing in Ein Gedi
- vouchers for to purchase fall and winter clothing from local clothing stores
- trauma support services

Kibbutz members won't be able to return to their home until approximately 2025. Living out of hotel rooms they miss their former communal life and are worried about the erosion of their community whilst in "exile." To **preserve and enhance their community** while their physical home is rebuilt the Israel Impact Fund is providing for the:

- design and build-out of an **interim kitchen facility** in Ein Gedi so that the kibbutz members can cook and eat together.



Opening of the interim kitchen at Ein Gedi on January 1

- design and build-out of an **interim community recreation room** in Ein Gedi in which members can hold art, yoga, and other classes or meetings during the day and congregate for music and other entertainment in the evening.



IIF team members and Holitniks toast the creation of plans for a community rec room in the bomb shelter. From left to right: Dina Kleiman, Sarit Kleiman (IIF), Zviki Saffer, Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen (IIF), Shir Azoulay, Sveta (taking the selfie)

- accounting and book-keeping services for Kibbutz Holit
- project management services for the transition to Kibbutz Revivim, where they will live as community-within-a community until their home is rebuilt
- planning of an anniversary celebration on January 18th for Kibbutz Holit
- production and editing of a [Kibbutz Holit documentary video](#)

As part of our commitment to their mid and long term revitalization, the Israel Impact Fund is facilitating the following partnerships so that Kibbutz Holit can build back stronger and better than ever before:

- Intel Ignite for regional Agro-Tech, Clean-tech activities
- Deloitte Israel on long term planning project for Holit 2.0

IIF is in daily contact with members and management of Kibbutz Holit and we have Israeli team members on the ground. Despite the trauma and pain that they continue to work through, they are incredibly appreciative of not just our funding their immediate needs but also our commitment to partnering with them on their long term revitalization.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity in support of the Israel Impact Fund and we will continue to provide quarterly updates. In the meantime, please visit our website at <http://israelimpact.org> to learn more about Kibbutz Holit and share with anyone who might be interested. Many people are traveling to Israel these days on solidarity missions or to volunteer on the homefront. You can make a huge difference helping farmers bring in the harvest at a time when the foreign workers are unavailable and Israelis have been called up to defend the country. Should you be planning to travel to Israel and would like to meet members of the Israel-based IIF team including leaders from Kibbutz Holit, please let us know.

ISRAEL IMPACT FUND MISSION

Since launching on November 7th, the IIF has:

- Established a national Advisory Board which includes two Israel-based members working on the ground
- Committed to monthly meetings of the IIF Advisory Board
- Ensured the presence of US-based Advisory Board member in Israel every month (privately funded, not by IIF) to assess needs
- Ensured no administrative fees are drawn support of its activities
- Established a close and collaborative relationship with Kibbutz Holit
- Launched a website in support of initiatives for helping Kibbutz Holit

As a reminder, the IIF is dedicated to:

- Helping individuals, families, and organizations directly, in the areas most impacted by the terrorist attacks and ongoing war. We differ from other non-profits in that the IIF is not restricted to supporting other 501(C)3 organizations solely, rather we can **dedicate resources directly to people in need**.
- This is an important founding principle for us as it means we can support people and initiatives where we can have a real **impact with hands-on support and resources** that we know make a real difference. Our focus is further on **people and places that may be overlooked and underserved** by larger and more mainstream organizations, but that are no less in need.

- The IIF is dedicated to investing our resources and time in **building lasting relationships that will have an impact over time**. We are not transactional; we carefully consider how to **empower our recipients while respecting the trauma they have faced and their unique situation**.
- The IIF is dedicating resources to initiatives which have a wide IMPACT on the lives of people and organizations - **from household items to trauma centers, administrative support costs to community activities and celebrations**.

May 2024 bring the release of all our hostages, the return of our brave young men and women fighting to keep Israel safe, the end of Hamas. We at IIF wish you and yours a safe and peaceful new year.

ביחד ננצח!