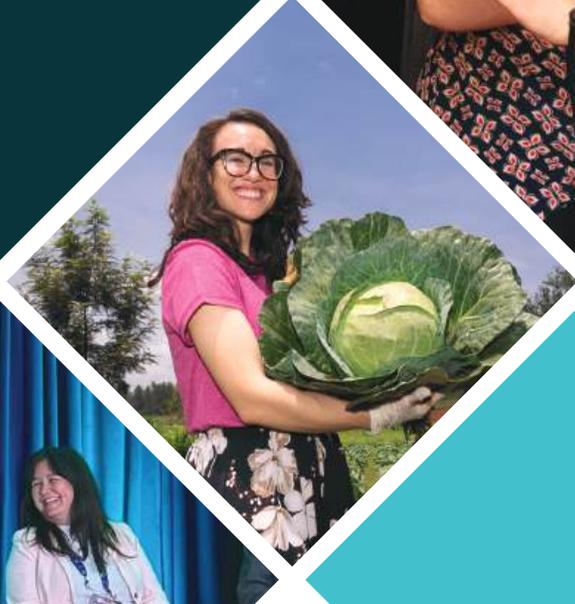


OLAM HIGHLIGHTS 2025





A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As I reflect on a year that once again tested OLAM's partners and members, I carry both the weight of profound challenges and the enduring hope that defines the organizations and individuals that make up our global Jewish network.

2025 saw foreign aid cuts lead to mass layoffs and funding shortages, impacting many of our members and some of our partners, while the ongoing war in Israel and its ripple effects continued to affect our Israeli partners and broader network.

Amid compounding crises, our network remained steadfast in its commitment to serve the world's most vulnerable, guided by deep Jewish values. In doing so, they embodied a central Jewish principle: perseverance. As the Book of Mishlei (Proverbs), attributed to King Solomon, teaches, "Seven times a righteous person falls and gets up, while the wicked are tripped by one misfortune." True righteousness is measured by the ability to rise again and again, even in the midst of repeated hardship and failure. Inspired by the resilience of our network, OLAM has continued to innovate, finding new and creative ways to support our partners and members during this challenging period, while engaging Jewish leaders around global responsibility, anchored in Jewish learning.

This year also marked OLAM's 10th anniversary, a milestone I had hoped to celebrate in person at Focal Point until the Iran-Israel war in June made travel impossible for me and our Israeli colleagues. Despite this, the outpouring of stories, memories, and renewed commitments from across our network filled me with gratitude and pride.

I am grateful to our staff, board, and funders for sustaining and strengthening this community over the past decade. Looking ahead, I am more convinced than ever that the best chapters of OLAM's story are still being written - by every Jewish organization that chooses connection over isolation, and every Jewish leader who chooses action over despair.

The road ahead will continue to demand adaptability and resilience, but also holds extraordinary possibility. Together, we will rise - again and again - to meet the world's most urgent challenges.

With gratitude,
Dyonna Ginsburg, CEO



OUR VISION

A global Jewish community that supports and partners with vulnerable communities in developing countries to foster a more just and compassionate world for all.



OUR MISSION

Inspired by Jewish values and committed to high ethical standards, OLAM convenes and mobilizes Jewish leaders, organizations, practitioners, and others to take meaningful action in support of the world's most vulnerable people.



"I love that OLAM is always there when I'm feeling isolated, whether as the only Jewish person in an international development space or when I'm far from my community. Thank you for creating space for us to show up honestly and with vulnerability."

*– Aimee Teplinsky
Individual Member*



OLAM'S NETWORK AT A GLANCE



HEADQUARTERS IN
11 COUNTRIES

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India,
Israel, Mexico, South Africa, Uganda, UK, USA



COUNTRIES SERVED
76



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS¹
83



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS²
222

+81% increase since 2024



TOTAL PARTNER STAFF
4,100

[Meet OLAM's
Partners & Members](#)

1. Jewish and/or Israeli organizations that work with vulnerable communities in or from developing countries.
2. Jewish international development and humanitarian aid practitioners working in non-sectarian organizations.



527

Jewish and Israeli practitioners engaged worldwide

41% took part in more than one program



1,193

Jewish leaders engaged



\$365,000

in funding unlocked for the field through OLAM microgrants, travel subsidies, and strategic partnerships with external funders



98%

satisfaction rate across all programs



Through OLAM, I've been able to more intentionally link my work to Jewish values and teachings that emphasize care, justice, and collective responsibility.

— Julie Richards, Individual Member

ADAPTING FOR IMPACT

2025 marked a pivotal year of transition and forward momentum. We began implementing our three-year [Adaptive Strategy \(2025-2027\)](#), focused on engaging Jewish leaders around global responsibility, strengthening connection and learning among Jewish practitioners in global service and international development, and increasing the visibility of our field in the broader Jewish community.



STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Empower Jewish leaders to become champions for global service, international development, and humanitarian aid

I. Advancing Global Jewish Service

◇ For a third year, OLAM partnered with  Hillel International's Service Engagement Internship, powered by Repair the World, to provide asynchronous trainings and consultancy on meaningful service for Hillel staff and student interns outside of North America, including Israel, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

◇ Through a partnership with Shalom Corps – an initiative of Mosaic  United – OLAM delivered multiple in-person trainings and webinars for global Jewish service practitioners. Among these were a session on integrating Jewish learning in a service context at Repair the World and Yahel Israel's inaugural Service Matters: Israel Summit in April.

◇ Drawing on Jewish texts and values, OLAM produced a suite of educational materials with support from Mosaic United that equip Jewish global service professionals with practical tools to foster meaningful encounters between young Jews in Israel and the Diaspora through service, integrate Jewish ritual into volunteer experiences, and communicate stories of service with dignity and integrity.

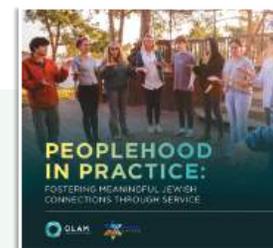
◇ **28 funders, Jewish communal professionals, and global service practitioners** came together in June for The Future of Global Jewish Service, a day-long convening co-sponsored by OLAM and Repair the World. Together, they explored the challenges facing the global Jewish service movement and opportunities for building a more coordinated and impactful field.



[Ethical Communications](#)



[Meaningful Jewish Rituals](#)



[Peoplehood in Practice](#)

II. Grounding our Work in Jewish Learning

- ◇ To equip our practitioners with Jewish language and frameworks for challenges they face, OLAM led a two-part webinar series featuring Rabbi Shai Held of the **Hadar Institute** on loving the stranger, responsibility toward refugees, and the ethics of caring for one's enemies.



- ◇ At Focal Point 2025, Rabbi Avi Killip of the **Hadar Institute** reflected on leading in uncertain times, drawing on Jewish texts to highlight how small, steady acts of goodness and community light the way forward.



- ◇ OLAM staff engaged in **32** hours of structured study through the **Jewish Learning Collaborative**, engaging in one-on-one learning with educators to deepen their connection to Jewish texts, ideas, and tradition.



OLAM's call to global responsibility reminds me why our work in Rwanda remains essential, even as needs escalate in the U.S. and Israel. Insights from OLAM's sessions using Jewish texts and language help me show both Jewish and non-Jewish donors that investing in Rwandan families strengthens our shared commitment to caring about the world.

*– Susan Moinester,
Individual Member*



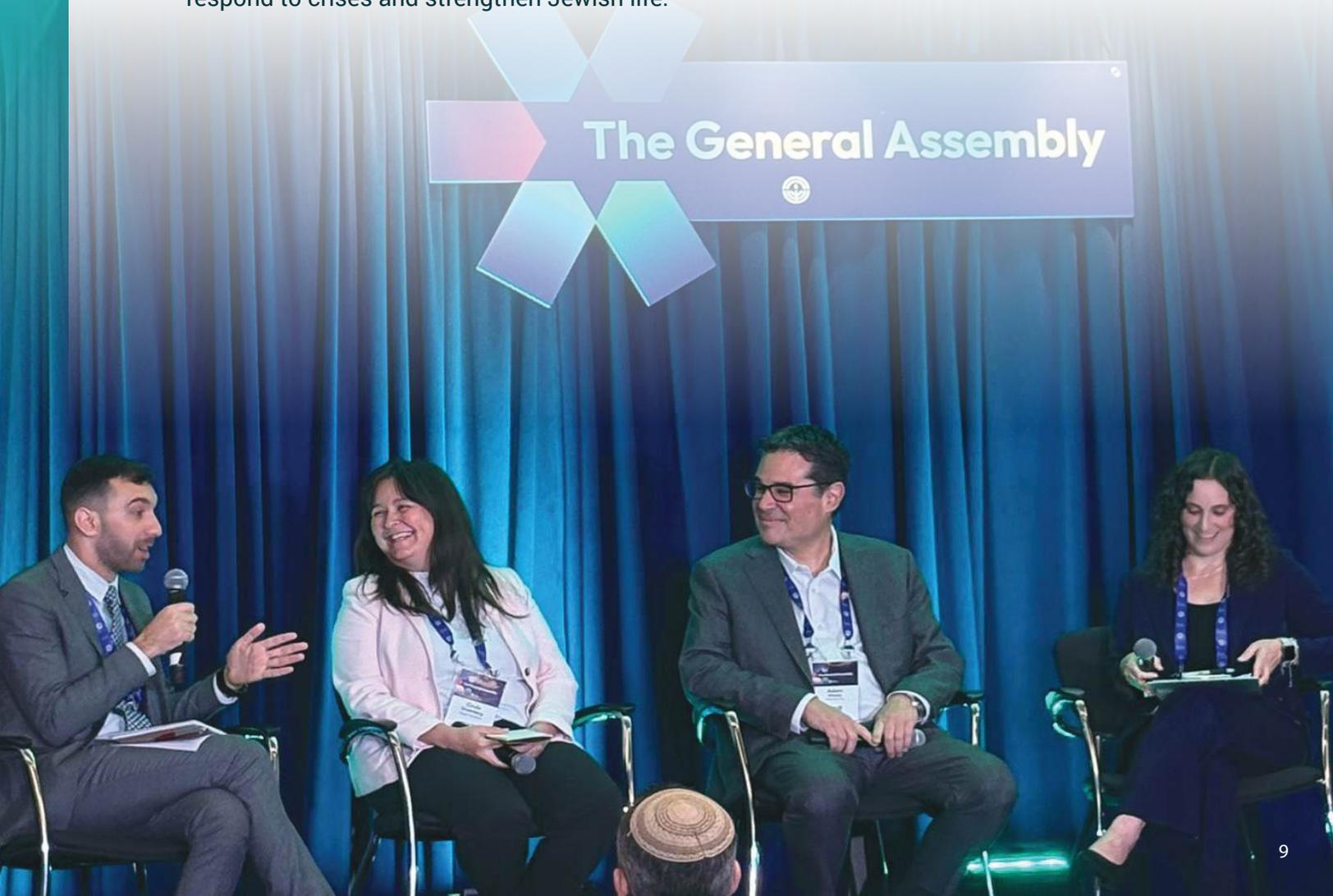
III. Cultivating Globally-Minded Jewish Leadership

- ◇ At a time when much of the Jewish community was understandably focused inward, OLAM created spaces for leaders to engage in Jewish learning and wrestle with our responsibility to broader humanity, even amid growing internal communal needs.

1,179 Jewish leaders engaged through 34 educational workshops and seminars

Host organizations included Mem Global, JPro, FZY, Kahal, Elluminate, and more.

- ◇ UK Community manager Emma Weleminsky facilitated a panel discussion with four OLAM partners and members on forgotten global crises at Limmud UK.
- ◇ Director of Jewish Communal Engagement and Learning Amy Weiss moderated a panel at the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly on global service as a tool to respond to crises and strengthen Jewish life.



◇ InterACT STUDY TRIP

In February, OLAM's flagship InterACT study trip brought **12 Jewish leaders** from the Wexner Field Fellowship and Jewish Service Alliance to Rwanda. Trip participants engaged with OLAM partners on the ground, and explored what meaningful Jewish engagement in the world can look like today.

As a result of the trip,

91% OF PARTICIPANTS INDICATED AN INCREASE IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN JEWISH WISDOM AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

92% REPORTED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF ETHICAL BEST PRACTICES IN GLOBAL SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

100% SAID THEY WERE INSPIRED TO FURTHER EXPLORE JEWISH WISDOM'S CONNECTION TO GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.

After the trip, participants reflected on how it deepened their understanding of global responsibility and strengthened their commitment to a more just and compassionate world.



The trip was transformative in every aspect. From the carefully curated site visits, to meeting with inspiring changemakers, to the thoughtful reading guide and reflections with our extraordinary group, the trip exceeded my every expectation. I could have never predicted how much I would learn, especially about the connectivity between the Jewish and Rwandan communities, and the impact it would have on me. I can't thank OLAM enough for the thought and care that made this trip so powerful.

— Jon Hornstein,
Weinberg Foundation

"A Global Journey that Changed Our Local Perspective"



STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Bring together Jewish and Israeli practitioners to network, learn, and pursue ethical best practices and excellence

I. Convening Practitioners: In Person and Online

In 2025, OLAM doubled down on what practitioners needed most: spaces to connect, learn together, and build professional and ethical excellence. These programs and gatherings reinforced the power of Jewish community within the broader humanitarian sector.

Across all of our practitioner programs:

91% OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED A REDUCED SENSE OF ISOLATION AS A RESULT OF AN OLAM PROGRAM

94% INDICATED THAT THEY PLAN TO FOLLOW UP PROFESSIONALLY WITH SOMEONE THEY MET THROUGH OLAM

45% GROWTH IN ENGAGEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WITH 41% OF THOSE ENGAGED PARTICIPATING IN MULTIPLE PROGRAMS



I am so grateful to the support that OLAM has provided to me and to our community as we have grappled with instability and loss of identity as Jews in the nonprofit world since October 7, followed closely by the assault on and destruction of our international development sector. The diverse support has fed my soul by building our community through in-person gatherings, trainings and job search resources, and helping facilitate my connection to global service.

– Deborah Horowitz,
Individual Member

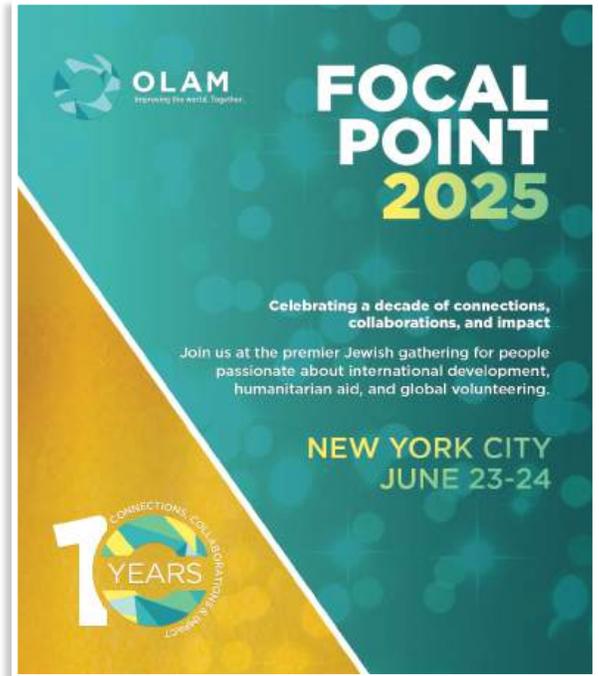


◇ FOCAL POINT

OLAM's 10th annual Focal Point conference took place in New York City, against a backdrop of the war in Israel, U.S. foreign aid cuts, and widespread layoffs in the sector.

Amidst these challenges, **150+ practitioners, Jewish leaders, and funders from 15 countries** came seeking community and connection.

Just days before the conference an additional 51 Israeli participants were forced to cancel as a result of the Israel-Iran war. OLAM quickly adapted the program, enabling Israelis to join virtually and covering the costs of those who canceled, reflecting our commitment to support our network during times of crisis.



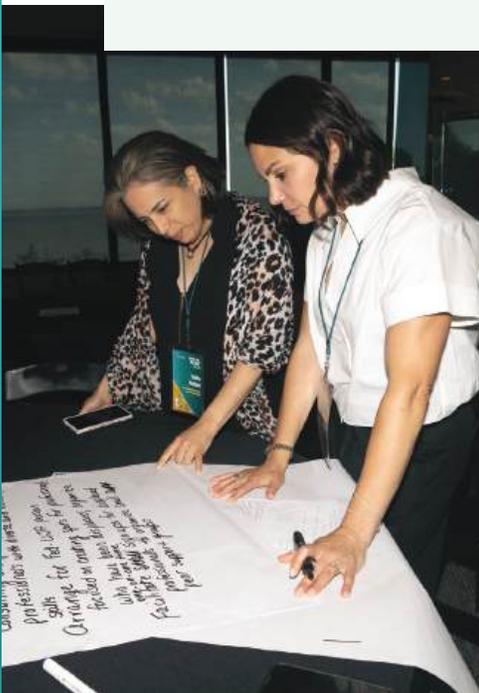
From the networking and inspiration to the strong sense of community, Focal Point was incredible. It deepened my understanding of international development, and the connections I made have supported my career growth.

– Maya Kroitoru



There have been so many crises for our community over the past few years, and Focal Point always manages to focus on the right themes and hit the right emotional note - and in such thoughtful and productive ways.

– Barbara Goldoftas



◇ MEMBERS CIRCLE

17 individual members from 7 countries came together through our 2024–2025 Virtual Members Circle cohort to connect, share experiences, and learn with one another.



◇ GROWING CONNECTIONS

Our LinkedIn community of Jewish and Israeli practitioners grew to **731** members!



I can't tell you how meaningful our conversations during the Virtual Members Circle have been for me. Reconciling the reality of the funding cuts with the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza makes this an unprecedented moment for all of us in this sector, and an especially powerful time to come together as Jews and humanitarians. Thank you OLAM for keeping me constantly connected to this incredibly unique network.

– Isaac Bencomo, Members Circle Participant

◇ GLOBAL MEETUPS

100+ practitioners from across the globe joined two virtual Global Networking Meetups, held in partnership with SID Israel and Nura.



II. Mobilizing Resources to Strengthen the Global Jewish Service and International Development Ecosystem

- ◇ By unlocking **over \$365,000** for the field, OLAM helped our practitioners expand their capacity, strengthen collaborations, and amplify their work in the Jewish community.
- ◇ OLAM catalyzed **\$298,095** through strategic partnerships, such as our emergency bridge grant collaboration with the **Livelihood Impact Fund**, and curated funder connections, such as **Jewish Helping Hands**.
- ◇ OLAM directly distributed **\$67,295** in microgrants to our practitioners via OLAM in Motion, conference travel subsidies, and Forward Together in partnership with **SID Israel**.
- ◇ As part of our efforts to increase awareness about OLAM's practitioner network among Jewish funders, we cultivated a relationship with the New York based **Jewish Communal Fund (JCF)**, which manages over \$3 billion in donor-advised funds and charitable assets.
- ◇ In April 2025, OLAM facilitated a panel in New York for JCF fundholders on the role of Jewish organizations in humanitarian relief, featuring our partners **Afya Foundation, IsraAID, and JDC**. The panel coincided with the release of an updated, co-branded edition of OLAM's **Global Giving Guide** that showcases OLAM partner organizations and offers donors guidance on aligning their philanthropy with Jewish values and global needs.



Thanks to OLAM in Motion, I was able to travel to meet a fellow OLAM member and focus on growing our capacity... My network has expanded, my to-do list has grown, and I made contacts that could lead to collaborations.

– Yael Uzan-Tidhar,
Individual Member

OLAM's microgrants enable our staff to engage in deeper learning and expand their professional networks... We love working with the OLAM team and are grateful for our partnership.

– Arielle Sokoloff,
JDC Entwine



III. Understanding and Responding to Practitioners' Needs

- ◇ OLAM commissioned a first-of-its-kind [quantitative study](#) to map the experiences of Jewish practitioners in secular international development and humanitarian aid organizations, uncover their needs, and guide OLAM's efforts to support and connect them.
-
- ◇ In November, OLAM convened **30 Jewish practitioners** from secular international development and humanitarian aid organizations for a 1.5-day retreat in Washington, DC. The "Future of Jews in International Development and Humanitarian Aid" retreat built on themes from the survey, providing space for attendees to reflect on and delve deeper into their experiences navigating multiple identities – as Jews, humanitarians, and individuals who care about Israel and its future. Participants left with practical strategies, new relationships, and a renewed sense of belonging.
-



55% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED EXPERIENCING SOME FORM OF ANTI-JEWISH HATE OR BIAS IN THEIR WORKPLACE

57% REPORTED EXPERIENCING ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS IN THEIR WORKPLACE

85% OF THOSE SURVEYED EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JOINING OR BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY LIKE OLAM

ONLY 1 IN 5 RESPONDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO A WORKPLACE JEWISH AFFINITY GROUP

Conducted by Burson Insights, Data and Intelligence between March and May 2025, the survey included 168 participants.

- ◇ OLAM supported our members affected by widespread layoffs across the international development sector by hosting a series of five events – including job-seeking trainings, a Focal Point session, and peer support spaces – attended by a total of **52 practitioners**. We also waived OLAM membership fees, a measure made possible by the generosity of a fellow OLAM member.
-

◇ VIRTUAL SESSIONS



Our Aspire webinar explored best practices for ending programs responsibly, drawing lessons from organizations affected by October 7 and foreign aid cuts.



An interactive virtual session featured mini-pitches and live funder feedback to help practitioners refine their communications and build stronger funder relationships.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Increase the visibility of OLAM and our practitioner network

Expanding Our Reach: Through thought leadership, digital engagement, and strategic communications, OLAM elevated the work of our partners and members in the Jewish community

47% INCREASE IN WEBSITE VISITORS **9%** INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

◇ Print media



[Sudan is Burning. Why Should We Care](#)

Emma Weleminsky, Jewish Chronicle



[Jewish and Israeli Relief Organizations Respond to Myanmar Quake](#)

eJewishPhilanthropy



[Israeli Overseas Development, Humanitarian Aid NGOs Hit Hard as Philanthropy Dries Up](#)

Times of Israel



[Reimagining Responsibility: How Jewish Values Drive Global Action](#)

Naomi Lipstein, eJewish Philanthropy



[Jewish and Israeli Aid Groups are Hit by Trump's Suspension of USAID, Refugee Program](#)

Times of Israel

◇ Podcasts



[Navigating Peoplehood & Humanity in a Hostile World](#)

*Shalom Hartman Institute's
TEXTing IRL*



[Jewish Service in the Global South](#)

*Uri L'Tzedek podcast with Rabbi
Shmuly Yanklowitz*



[Jewish and Israeli Humanitarian Relief Work](#)

eJP's Get Your Phil podcast



FEATURED

[JCF Featured Fundholder: How Strategic Philanthropy and Jewish Values Shape Seth Merrin's Giving](#)

Jewish Communal Fund publication

◇ Blogs



[Jewish & Israeli Organizations Responding to Hurricane Melissa](#)



[Jewish & Israeli Organizations Responding to Myanmar Earthquake](#)



[Global Voices: On the Front Lines of Crisis](#)



[Global Voices: Joining Forces to Keep the Project Going](#)

◇ Rosh Chodesh Reflections



SHEILA KATZ
[Finding Purpose in the Quiet of Cheshvan](#)



RABBI DR. SHMULY YANKLOWITZ
[Building a Better World, Wherever We Are](#)



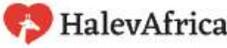
MAHARAT RUTH BALINSKY FRIEDMAN
[From Privilege to Responsibility](#)



RABBI AVI KILLIP
[Leading in the Darkness](#)



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OUR PARTNERS

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olamtogether.org

info@olamtogether.org



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