

NECHAMA *names* AMANDA REFFSIN DIRECTOR OF DISASTER OPERATIONS



St. Paul, Minnesota - August 17, 2026 | NECHAMA - Jewish Response to Disaster has hired Amanda Reffsin as Director of Disaster Operations. She will join the organization on August 24, 2026.

Stephan Kline, NECHAMA's Chief Executive Officer, said "I am delighted to welcome Amanda Reffsin to our team. Amanda has spent her career in the field providing humanitarian relief while running response operations in some of the most challenging environments in the world. We needed someone who could walk in and immediately strengthen how NECHAMA plans, staffs, and executes our deployments. Amanda will provide that expertise, while strengthening our relationships with National and local VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) and government partners."

Amanda brings over a decade of experience in humanitarian response, international development, and creating global partnerships. Prior to joining NECHAMA, she was the Strategic Relationships Director for Asia and the Middle East in the New York City's Mayor's Office for International Affairs. She was the Office's designated pointperson for crisis response and oversaw engagement with consulates, permanent missions, and the United Nations.

Previously, Amanda was Associate Director for Humanitarian Assistance at Miyamoto International, where she led USAID-funded disaster response programs across Haiti, Turkey, Ukraine, Indonesia, and beyond. She also held senior roles at the International Rescue Committee, managing a \$50+ million portfolio across the Middle East and North Africa, and at CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort), where she led emergency response field operations, including for the deadly Central Texas floods of July, 2025.

Amanda is passionate about providing education in emergencies and advancing equity through upstream, social policy approaches. Her career has spanned crisis response, strategic planning, and cross-sector collaboration, with a focus on building resilient systems and advancing global cooperation.

She holds a master's degree in International Educational Development from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in Culture and Communications from Ithaca College.

Outside of work, Amanda is an avid reader, a frequent flyer, and a doting dog parent. She's passionate about the intersections of pop culture and society, and dreams of one day competing on Jeopardy! She is based in New York City.

Amanda says, "I've built my career around one question: when things fall apart, who shows up? NECHAMA takes it further and answers why: tikkun olam, lo ta'amod, showing up for communities in crisis regardless of who they are. It's an honor to take on this role and be part of answering those questions every day."

"What stood out to us in meeting Amanda wasn't just her impressive resume, it was the demonstrable compassion and empathy Amanda projects when she talks about the people behind every deployment," Kline added. "She has a rare mix of field discipline and genuine care, and that combination is going to make a real difference in how we show up for communities."

NECHAMA's Operations team will continue to build the capacity needed for future deployments.

Amanda Reffsin can be reached at amanda@nechama.org.