



Emergency Response and Coordination

Arab Citizens and Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel

UPDATED: November 6, 2023.

One response to the horrific attacks launched by Hamas on Saturday, October 7th, has been an overwhelming mobilization of Israeli citizens and organizations in support of those in need. This includes efforts to address immediate emergency needs in Arab communities (i.e. shelter, food and medicine, advisory information, trauma counseling, education and more); and to prevent potential escalations and limit deterioration of relations between Arab and Jewish citizens.

Implementation of these efforts falls into three major areas:

- [National](#) coordination and provision of safety and welfare needs for Arab citizens and communities, ranging from shelters and medical equipment through high rates of arrests and dismissals from workplaces and academia.
- [Negev Bedouin](#) focused activity addressing unique needs in the south, including lack of shelters and alert systems, access to trusted information, food and medicine and mental health support.
- [Jewish-Arab relations](#), addressing rapidly intensifying concerns about escalations in mixed cities, regions, spaces and work places, and looking at the impact on the future of Israeli society.*

** A separate IATF briefing on Jewish-Arab relations in Israel in the current crisis is forthcoming.*

Database: The report below focuses on the major levels of emergency coordination that are emerging in the field. This coordination is intended to strengthen the impact and work of dozens of organizations and initiatives - more than can be named here. To view a **growing database** that compiles the emergency response activities of individual organizations, [click here](#).

The focus on Jewish-Arab relations is becoming more prominent and pressing as the war continues. Therefore, **this update now lists new developments in this arena up top**. It is important to note that the Emergency Centers already included in earlier versions of this report (now listed further below) are also part of these efforts.

OVERALL COORDINATION

The emergency context has prompted unprecedented efforts to coordinate and organize among organizations and agencies. Today there are roughly four levels of coordination across dozens of initiatives:

- **Emergency Centers** that connect government, local authorities, communities, and field organizations that are predominantly focused on immediate safety and welfare.
- **Civil Sector Forums** that coordinate activities and information across numerous NGOs. These are working on both immediate emergency needs and Jewish-Arab relations.
- **Civil Sector Partnerships:** Arab and Jewish-Arab organizations, large and small, joining forces to implement different types of emergency needs.
- **Funder Coordination:** Groups of funders, or funder-focused organizations pooling resources or coordinating their giving along certain impact strategies.

I. JEWISH-ARAB RELATIONS

Since October 7, dozens of shared society organizations have been convening to share information, identify major priorities, and prevent escalations and further deterioration of Jewish-Arab relations. Significant efforts are now underway to coordinate, formulate and implement strategic action plans. Both coordination efforts detailed below build on this rapid mobilization and existing capacities on the ground. **(See database)**

In general, the areas of work identified as most potentially impactful are:

- **Advocacy and media:** de-escalation campaigns and engagement of leaders
- **Shared spaces and institutions:** education, employment, mixed cities
- **Protection of individual rights:** working with law enforcement
- **Supporting shared society organizations:** training and resources
- **Focus on youth and young adults.**

Two major coordinating initiatives are described below:

SHATIL FORUM OF SHARED SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

This forum of more than 30 organizations has been coordinated by Shatil since 2021. It is currently formulating a strategic action plan to increase the collective impact of participating organizations. According to the literature, it can take 6 months after the conflict ends to achieve calm. Based on comparative research and mapping, the plan emphasizes two main priorities:

- 1. Calming tensions** in the public domain, the networks, among decision-makers, and fighting provocations.
- 2. Sustaining and disseminating a positive image** of the desired vision.

The Forum's partnering organizations promote these two priorities as part of four working groups:

- **Advocacy and media,**
- **Shared spaces:** education and employment,
- **Working with law enforcement authorities,** including protection of individual rights,
- **Strengthening shared society ecosystem,** including the professional infrastructures, overall capacities, and capacities to work in emergencies of shared society organizations.

Forum partners will share data and knowledge and will be accompanied by Shatil's campaign advisors and organizational consultants. The initiative will be accompanied by an evaluation process that will track the ecosystem's success in preventing violence. Funds can be directed to the participating organizations for specific projects.

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EMERGENCY PLAN TO PREVENT VIOLENCE BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS IN ISRAEL | A joint process of foundations and organizations:

A group of Israeli foundations have joined forces to outline and support a multi-front prevention plan in cooperation with civil society organizations and local leadership to prevent violence and escalation during wartime. The goal is to support joint efforts over the next three months along four channels of activity:

- 1. Mixed Cities:** Establishing or strengthening local coordination centers to support local leaders (formal, political, civic, and religious leaders), and foster collaboration among organizations and civic groups in the community to create calming messages, strengthen positive forces, and promote cooperation around local interests.
- 2. Young People:** Establishing a forum/coalition of organizations working with young people to address emotional issues, foster a sense of belonging, build civic forces of volunteering, and curb negative trends.
- 3. Online Campaign:** Launching a major bilingual campaign in which Arab and Jewish opinion leaders and influencers will work together to calm the situation, prevent violence, and serve as a counterweight to incitement and negative influence on social networks.
- 4. Training and support:** Assist organizations and institutions that work with diverse populations, such as hospitals and academic campuses, to manage their internal organizational space in a way that will prevent or reduce friction between different groups.

Several philanthropic organizations, including the San Francisco Federation, Lautman, Gandyr, Russell Berrie, Arison, NextGen, Bloom, and Armoni Foundations.

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An initial effort to map and coordinate among organizations was spearheaded on October 7th by [Shatil's](#) Forum of Shared Society Organizations, [Tzedek Centers](#), [The Abraham Initiatives](#), and [Givat Haviva](#). Dozens of organizations and hundreds of civil sector leaders convened to identify and coordinate efforts along in three main areas: (i) **communications and media**, (ii) **local authorities**, and (iii) **civil sector initiatives in mixed spaces**.

JEWISH-ARAB PARTNERSHIPS

Another set of initiatives emerged in recent weeks to support and create opportunities for Jews and Arabs to work for the preservation of Jewish-Arab relations in the country. Examples include:

- **Jewish-Arab Emergency Center in Rahat.** A joint Jewish-Arab emergency center was set up in Rahat to provide for needs in Bedouin communities and unrecognized villages and as a statement of solidarity between Jewish and Arab citizens. Goods and volunteers were collected from across the country. **Partners:** Alanshimat, [Desert Stars](#), [Have you Seen the Horizon Lately](#), [Itach Maaki](#). Contact: Horizon.lately@gmail.com
- **Guardians for the Preservation of Jewish-Arab Partnership in Tel Aviv-Jaffa.** The Guardians was established on October 7 to exert pressure on decision makers to ensure the personal and public order of the residents of Jaffa, to calm the situation and prevent incidents of violence and incitement, and to establish a rotation and alert system that will ensure the safety of the residents, should the police and municipality not provide the appropriate response, and reinforce the importance of retaining a shared social fabric. It was launched by Adv. Amir Badran who engaged all the major community organizations in Jaffa into coalition. Contact: amir@badranlaw.com
- **Rov Ha'Ir Movement - The Majority of the City (Haifa).** This movement which emerged as part of a local elections campaign turned their resources and attention to shared emergency needs. Jewish and Arab citizens mapped, cleaned and prepared city shelters for all to use. <https://www.rovhaifa.org/haifa-shelters>
- **Keeping Haifa Shared,** A group of prominent social organizations and civil society activists in Haifa came together to form the Emergency Forum Network. The network comprised more than 40 organizations, community leaders, and senior officials from the Haifa Municipality, all united by a common objective: to strengthen the bonds of shared life in Haifa and prevent hostility and

violence between Jews and Arabs in the city. In the face of uncertainty, rising violence, fake news, and endless online and offline incitement, the Forum established a beacon of hope in Haifa. Contact: elad.harel@gmail.com

Shared society organizations large and small are engaged in supporting their communities and networks in similar ways: **Givat Haviva, Itach-Maaki, Mahapach Taghir, Standing Together, Tzedek Centers, aChord, Co-Impact, Merchavim, Abraham Initiatives, Neve Shalom School for Peace**, and [many others](#).

DATABASE:

IATF's growing compilation of individual organization's activities aims to highlight the dozens of organizations participating in the emergency response, and illustrate the diversity and sophistication of efforts, large and small, in the field. We will continue to update the list over the coming weeks.

- [Main View](#)
- [Jewish-Arab Relations](#)
- [Coordination and Coalitions](#)
- [Negev Bedouin](#)
- [Add an initiative \(form\)](#)

II. EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND COORDINATION CENTERS

NATIONAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION CENTER FOR ARAB LOCALITIES

(Previously: "National Situation Room for Arab Localities")

The Authority for Economic Development for Arab Society in the Ministry of Social Equality, in cooperation with the National Committee for Heads of Arab Local Authorities (NCHALA) and the municipality of Kfar Kassem, opened an emergency information center. This center serves as a hub that coordinates information sharing between the field, local authorities, and government agencies to improve implementation of emergency response efforts. The center is operated by teams that:

- map local authority needs and communicate them to the government,
- ensure Arab communities' needs are part of government allocation of emergency resources and activities,
- support Arab local authorities develop and implement their emergency response,
- coordinate response with civil society organizations,

- carry out related trainings in the coming period,
- monitor for misinformation,
- collect and share information on a regular basis, and
- publish reports to the media and public.

The emergency center coordinates with the Home Front Command, the police, the Ministry of Education, fire and rescue services and government offices, with the aim of receiving information from them and passing it on to local authorities and associations. The emergency center will also work to provide cross-cutting solutions and engage government agencies and NGOs.

Different civil sector organizations act as arms of the center. For example: [Taware](#), the coalition of Arab NGOs detailed below, gathers information from the field and coordinates civil sector implementation; [Injaz](#) supports mapping needs and developing emergency centers in local authorities; and others.

NEW: Needs Report: An Oct 24th report on needs presented by Arab local authorities can be found here: [PowerPoint Presentation \(iataskforce.org\)](#)

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SHARED EMERGENCY CENTER FOR NEGEV BEDOUIN

Operated from the city of Hura, this center works in close coordination with National Emergency Information Center, focused on identifying and addressing emergency needs of Negev Bedouin communities. In partnership with government and local authorities, regional clusters, and dozens of local civil sector organizations, the center works to provide essential shelter in unrecognized villages, to identify needs and coordinate provision and support, and to provide information, equipment, and personal assistance to the community. The work thus far has been divided according to teams:

- **Local emergency response.** Responding to incidents in unrecognized villages.
- **Missing and kidnapped.** Team tracking information on the missing and kidnapped.
- **Medical:** Tracking the treatment of wounded in hospitals and providing family support.
- **Communications:** Preparing public campaigns and disseminating accurate information in Arabic to residents.

- **Volunteer management:** Deploying volunteers in the fields of informal education and advancing community initiatives.
- **Policy:** Organizing mobile shelters in unrecognized villages and other issues concerning government agencies.
- **Social-emotional support:** Operating hotline providing mental health response as well as individual treatment.

Dozens of local organizations and leaders are cooperating through the center, including but not limited to: AJEEC-NISPED, Union of Arab Doctors, Shatil, Itach Maaki, Desert Stars, Tamar Center for Counseling, Arabs of 48', Siraj, Lena, The Council for Unrecognized Villages, Negev Coexistence Forum, Hura young adults center, Israel Trauma Coalition, High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel, and others.

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Local Organizations: In parallel, many organizations are active in the region. For example, [Yanabia](#) is prioritizing provision of physical shelters; [Bimkom](#), the [Negev Coexistence Forum](#), and [The Abraham Initiatives](#) jointly launched an app to map where shelters are most needed; and many Jewish-Arab efforts around the country are raising awareness and collecting goods.

View Database: View the growing list of civil sector for [Negev Bedouin](#)

TAWARE: CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION FOR EMERGENCIES IN THE ARAB COMMUNITY

Taware (*Arabic for 'Emergency'*) was formed at the beginning of this year to ensure safety and welfare needs of Arab communities have the capacities, resources, and platform for coordination to act effective in emergency situations.

Taware acts as an arm of the National Emergency Information Center for Arab Society that gathers information and needs from NGO partners and coordinates among them. Taware also works in cooperation with the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel, the National Committee for Heads of Arab Local Authorities. With a broad spectrum of functions, currently, the coalition's core activities include:

- communicating critical information to and about the community,
- documenting incidents of violence, dismissals and arrests in Arab society,

- Legal support to employees, arrestees, detained students.
- providing essential mental health support via a network of volunteer psychologists, and
- ensuring the availability of crucial medical equipment for healthcare needs.

Participating organizations: Taware is adding more organizations daily. Current members include:

ACRI	I'lam
AJEEC-NISPED	Injaz
AITufula	Mossawa
Amanina	Qadaya
Arab Academic Guidance Association	Sanad
Arab Center for Alternative Planning	Shared Emergency Center in the
Association of Arab Psychologists	Negev
Belonging and Giving Association / Intima' w Ata'	Shatil
Citizens for the Environment	Sikkuy-Aufoq
Coexistence forum in the Negev	The Abraham Initiatives
Givat Haviva	Tishreen
Hasoub	Women Against Violence
Humanity Crew	

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In parallel, the [Forum for Arab Civil Sector Organizations](#), led by Nidal Othman, and [Qudra, the Arab Philanthropy Network](#) are also collecting information from additional Arab NGOs and advocates for their resources and support.

III. FUNDER COORDINATION

Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society (SVF): EMERGENCY FUND

In response to the war in Israel, and to continue advancing its goals at this extraordinarily difficult time, the Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society in Israel is raising an Emergency Fund to support prevention of incitement and inter-communal violence in Israel and to Arab communities that are

outside the traditional social service and crisis safety net.

SVF Emergency Fund: <https://svfisrael.org/svf-emergency-fund/>

EMERGENCY PLAN TO PREVENT VIOLENCE BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS IN ISRAEL | A joint process of foundations and organizations

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[Details above.](#)