



2023 Impact Statement American Friends of NATAL

For 25 years, NATAL has been delivering critical mental health support and services to individuals with trauma and PTSD. Since October 7, 2023, the landscape of NATAL and AFN's work has undergone a profound transformation.


9.7
MILLION
ISRAELIS


1,900
WEEKLY
PATIENTS


300
NEW
HIGHLY SKILLED
THERAPISTS


164
NEW HELPLINE
VOLUNTEERS


1000
COMMUNITY
INTERVENTIONS



American Friends of NATAL
Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center

Virtually overnight, the need for NATAL's expertise expanded to encompass a nation traumatized, reflecting an unprecedented surge in demand for services. Responding with remarkable agility, NATAL rapidly expanded its capacity, integrating **164 dedicated volunteers to our Helpline**, nearly **200 highly skilled therapists into our Clinical Unit**, **14 adept facilitators into our Community Resiliency Unit**, and **26 new professional staff members**. NATAL's commitment to meet the growing needs is unwavering, filled with compassion, expertise and efficiency.

The generosity of American Friends of NATAL's supporters have helped provide the highest levels of service, promoting healing and resilience. Though the wounds of trauma and PTSD are invisible, AFN's support of NATAL has been steadfast at the forefront.

- Our national lifeline, **NATAL's Helpline** has had over 24,000 calls since October 7th, the equivalent to our total calls in 2022.
- **Our Clinical Unit** has tripled the number of patients and therapists, coordinating dozens of new referrals and therapist-patient placements every day. Before the war, NATAL had 365 weekly patients; as of January 2024, that number had risen to nearly 2000. The number of therapists increased from 100 pre-war to 300 today.
- **Training has been conducted** for hundreds of professionals specializing in trauma in Israel and around the world. This includes the expedited training of mental health professionals in NATAL's Trauma Studies Center in coordination with Tel Aviv University.
- NATAL is working in the hotels housing **displaced communities**, coordinating an ad hoc mental health intervention initiative for over 9,000 displaced evacuees. After forming a team of volunteer therapists in cooperation with municipal welfare departments, NATAL trained senior supervisors to manage this system and train therapists.
- **The Community Resilience Unit** has conducted over 1000 sessions for organizations seeking support and guidance on dealing with trauma. This includes 2,000 intervention hours for first responders, NGOs the Joint, the Jewish Agency, corporations, government ministries, youth organizations, banks and more. NATAL has added 12 new facilitators to field the 500+ inquiries.
- **NATAL Global** is partnering with organizations in the US and around the globe who seek expertise in the field of trauma preparedness and recovery, providing tailor-made training and support to communities affected by traumatic events.

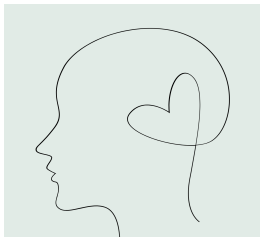
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Your commitment sustains us, allowing NATAL to provide essential support services and ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of Israelis now and for the future.

With your support, we've successfully provided assistance to:

- **Survivors:** 'The second circle' of family members, Helping the Helpers - rescue and support organizations, medical and educational organizations, displaced citizens and evacuees in hotels, youth villages, corporate companies, governmental staff, and the general public.
- **Special Populations:** Appointed by The Ministries of Welfare and Social Affairs / Health, NATAL is coordinating various initiatives treating victims of three music festivals, including the NOVA Festival in Rei'm on October 7th.
- **Families of Gaza Hostages:** NATAL is assisting the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, preparing a protocol for the reintegration of returning hostages in schools, and treating the families of missing persons confirmed as deceased.

Looking forward to the year ahead, American Friends of NATAL is helping to provide mental health programs for:



- **Families Experiencing Loss and Displacement**
- **Survivors of Sexual Violence**
- **Reserve Soldiers Return to Civilian Life**
- **Patients with Preexisting PTSD**
- **Members of the Druze Community**
- **Veterans of Specialized IDF Units**

NATAL has built expertise over 25 years, remaining dedicated and dutifully prepared when called to meet the needs. As we look to the future, we are reminded that every minute counts in helping those with trauma and PTSD. Through your support we have the opportunity to provide critical and life-saving interventions to an entire nation experiencing trauma.

There are many ways you can continue to support American Friends of NATAL. Visit our website to make a donation, follow us on social media, join an upcoming event or organize one of your own! Please also take a moment to watch a moving video ([QR LINK BELOW](#)) from our annual gala, focused on hope and healing as we paid recognition to two exceptional leaders, Ofer Yardeni, Chairman and CEO of Stonehenge NYC and Dr. Itamar Barnea, NATAL's Chief Psychologist.



**2023 STAND WITH ISRAEL
GALA VIDEO**



NATAL IN THE NEWS



American Friends of NATAL
Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center

NATAL is an apolitical non-profit organization that offers psychological and emotional treatment and support to victims of trauma due to war and terror. Since its establishment in 1998, NATAL has provided psychological assistance to individuals in Israel from all sectors of society, irrespective of age, gender and ethnicity. NATAL has had an impact on the lives of over 500,000 people to date through its Helpline, Community Resilience Unit, Clinical Unit, Trauma Studies Centre, and Testimonial Center.

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American Friends of NATAL, Inc.

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