



# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



# A MESSAGE FROM TALI NIR, 121's Executive Director

## 121 IN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Photography: Meital Azulai

Dear friends,

2021 was another incredibly challenging year for us all.

As the ongoing pandemic continued to disrupt our lives and livelihoods, the many social and economic challenges we faced in Israel highlighted the urgent need to strengthen public services and close long-standing social gaps.

At 121, we responded by stepping up our unique combination of developing policy and legislative proposals, campaigning, and partnership building to promote real and lasting change.

With the formation of the new government, we enlisted the support of key decision-makers as partners in catalyzing significant policy changes: Our **Springboard: Investing in the Workforce of the Future** led a successful campaign to significantly increase government investment in vocational training for the first time in decades; our **Headquarters for Employment Advancement** worked tirelessly to lift the ban on 'double benefits' and ensure that some 40,000 newly unemployed recipients of government stipends received full unemployment benefits;

and our **In Good Hands: Headquarters for Investing in Early Childhood** secured an unprecedented commitment of the Ministry of Education to provide 220 hours of fully-funded training for 10,000 early childhood educators (25 times more than the total annual government investment in previous years).

Our impact over the past year demonstrates the power of working across differences to advance common goals.

I'm proud to share some of our achievements in 2021. A huge thanks to our remarkable staff, board, partners, and supporters for making everything you read in this report possible.



Tali Nir  
Executive Director



# YEAR

## In numbers

# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



# 3,000,000,000 NIS

Secured government investment totaling more than 3 billion NIS in social policies that we promoted



# 7

Developed and advanced 7 detailed policy and legislative proposals accompanied by high-impact campaigns



# 14

Researched and wrote 14 expert issue reports



# 1,000,000

Reached over one million people through media and social media



# 133

Worked in tandem with 133 civil society and business partners representing diverse groups across Israel



# 120,000

Directly benefited 120,000 people through policy changes



# 15,000

Mobilized over 15,000 digital activists to call for change

# OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 1. PROMOTING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING

We worked intensively with our partners at **Springboard: Investing in the Workforce of the Future** to advance governmental reforms and increase investment in vocational training programs. As a result, the new government consolidated the various employment bodies under the Ministry of Economy; after decades-long reluctance to invest in vocational training, the **government allocated an impressive 1.5 billion NIS for professional training** and increasing the number of jobs in academia; some 30,000 people participated in vocational training programs, more than double the number before the pandemic; and the Ministry of Labor adopted "The Green Track," an innovative model that we developed to enable employers and training institutions to initiate and receive full funding for courses that are relevant to the current labor market.



Photography: VeHadarta – The Third Strength

### 2. STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

We waged a successful campaign, together with our partners in the **Headquarters for Employment Advancement**, to ensure full unemployment benefits for recipients of disability, old age, alimony, and income supplements. Due to a ban on 'double benefits,' they weren't eligible for full unemployment benefits even though they'd lost their jobs in the wake of COVID-19 and faced poverty. We met and advocated before decision-makers from the Government Budget Division, Bituach Leumi (National Insurance), and government members and ministers, including the Minister for Social Equality. In response, the government issued a temporary order that lifted the ban on double benefits until December 2021, and Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman recently announced that the payment of double benefits will continue in 2022. As a result of our efforts, around 40,000 people received unemployment benefits totaling 800 million NIS.

### 3. PROTECTING UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE AGED 67 AND OLDER

Together with our partners at **the Headquarters for Employment Advancement**, we persuaded the government to continue granting a monthly stipend to older people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Our joint efforts led to the stipend being extended from December 2020 until October 2021 - in spite of opposition from the Government's Budget Division. By October 2021, some 50,000 laid-off workers aged 67 and older had received **stipends totaling 1.5 billion NIS**. This supplemental income was an economic lifeline for the recipients, who either had little or no pension coverage.

### 4. INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

We expanded **In Good Hands: Headquarters for Investing in Early Childhood**, a forum that we initiated in 2020, to include 43 diverse partner organizations. Together, we hit important milestones in driving change. We mobilized broad support from decision-makers, heads of local authorities, parents, and educators and persuaded the Ministry of Education to **invest 25 times more** than in previous years in the training and education of early childhood educators working with children from birth until the age of three. In response to our work, the Ministry of Education has pledged to provide 220 hours of fully-funded training for 10,000 early childhood educators in 2022.

# OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 5. HIGHLIGHTING THE URGENT NEED FOR A NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

We formulated a proposal for a national program to address food insecurity in schools together with our 13 partners at **Recipe for Success: The Forum for the Promotion of Nutrition in Education**. Our partners include educational networks, social organizations, food security organizations, and parent organizations. We're advocating for the adoption of a meals and nutrition program in high schools for at-risk youth, where the need is most acute. The goal is to protect students from dropping out of school while enhancing their mental and physical health, academic performance, and potential to succeed as adults. We're also pushing for the Ministry of Education to conduct an in-depth study examining the scope of urgent needs in the remaining schools and how to best address them. We've garnered support for our policy proposals among the professional staff from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education. In a joint discussion with the Knesset's Education Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in December 2021, we presented our proposed program. A further discussion will take place in March 2022.

### 6. REFORMING THE SENIOR WORKER BENEFITS SYSTEM

Even though an increasing share of Israelis work beyond retirement age, the state penalizes them by cutting their senior citizen benefits according to their income. Before the pandemic, we launched a campaign with our partner, VeHadarta: The Third Strength, to

fix this flaw in the system. Following the formation of the new government in 2021, we ramped up our work around this issue, recruiting new partners for our **60 and Up Forum** and campaigning for legislative reform. In November 2021, an amendment to the law was passed by the Knesset, increasing the income threshold before the offset in benefits to 6,750 NIS per month in 2022 and to 7,750 NIS per month in 2023.



Photography: Gal College

### 7. ENSURING FULL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

With our partners at **Springboard: Investing in the Workforce of the Future**, we demanded an end to the policy of deducting 30% in unemployment benefits from participants in vocational training programs. We prompted decision-makers to acknowledge that unemployed people should be encouraged and not deterred from enhancing their career skills and opportunities through training. The Knesset recently approved a legislative amendment suspending the cuts until the end of 2022.

### 8. SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY TO DEVELOP FORWARD-FACING POLICIES

Through **Springboard: Investing in the Workforce of the Future**, we approached the new Minister of Economy, Orna Barbibai, and proposed principles for building a national employment system. She subsequently convened a forum on technology training and established a new committee on realizing the potential of human capital, and we were invited to meet with both. We have since been asked to take an active role in the subcommittee - making us the only non-governmental organization involved in the committee's discussions (with the exception of employer bodies).

### 9. LAUNCHING A "SOCIAL ROADMAP" FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH N12 USERS

During the March 2021 elections, we launched a special media campaign with N12, a leading Israeli news site, in partnership with the Rashi Foundation. Under the hashtag #Li\_Zeh\_Meshaneh [it matters to me], we encouraged Israelis to share which social issues they have in mind when they decide who to vote for. More than 80,000 N12 users took part in the viral campaign. There were 20 different items on Channel 12's website and TV programs about the project and the social insights that emerged from it. Using the input from the campaign, we compiled a detailed social roadmap that we submitted to the new government.

# OUR SUPPORTERS

**121 IN 2021**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**We are incredibly grateful to the following donors for supporting our work in 2021:**



**The Arkin Family  
Foundation**



# OUR PARTNERS

# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

We're proud and privileged to work alongside the following 133 partner organizations:

### THE SPRINGBOARD

Investing in the Workforce of the Future

- Rashi Foundation
- Beyachad Foundation
- The Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life
- Zurim
- Manufacturers Association of Israel
- Association of the Chambers of Commerce
- Atid Network
- Forum of Employment Organizations for Young People
- Israel Hotels Association
- Manpower
- Zionut 2000: Social Responsibility Association of Youth Centers
- Consul
- Erez College
- Al Fanar: Advancing Employment among Arab Citizens in Israel
- Moona
- Gal College
- Association for Craft and Industry
- ORT
- KMH Foundation: Haredi Professional Advancement
- San Francisco Jewish Community Federation
- Be-Atzmi
- MOMENTUM
- Israel Adult Education Association
- Cisco
- Engineering College Tel Aviv
- Beit El Industries
- Kivun Center
- Prog College
- Ross Foundation
- Taasiyeda
- Experis Israel
- Ramla Foundation/Navon Campus
- Webschool: Digital Training
- XTRAS
- Etgar College
- Israel Garage Association
- Central Negev College
- Paamonim: The Responsible Way Dialogue
- WIZO
- MBC: College of Technology and Science Access Israel



Photography: Yariv Weinberg

### IN GOOD HANDS

Headquarters for Investing in Early Childhood

- Beracha Foundation
- Rashi Foundation
- Carasso group
- Northern Goals Association
- WIZO
- Na'amat
- Beit Yaakov Daycare
- Emunah
- Oranim College
- Kibbutzim College
- SEED Center, The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa
- Yalduta
- Ben Gurion University, Duet
- The Mental Health for Infant Association
- Tel Aviv University, The Early Childhood Research Laboratory
- The Israel Organization for Early Childhood Education
- Haifa University, Center for the Study of Child Development
- The Fund for Innovative Education
- The Ziam Arkin Infancy Institute, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC)
- Yanbua Association
- Batuach b'Gan Sheli
- The Israeli Association for Psychologists
- Dabru Iti
- ITACH - MAAKI: Women Lawyers for Social Justice
- Eitan Generation: Advancing the Status of the Child in Israel
- Ramla Foundation
- Baderech LaGan
- Coalition for Education from Birth
- Leading Education from the Field: Early Childhood in Israel
- Reggio Emilia
- HaGan HaKibbutzi
- Goshen: Community Child Health & Wellbeing
- Dialogue
- Ganim b'Ramah Acheret (Daycare on Another Level)
- Fighting For the Children
- InfoGan
- The Center for Ganim and Families
- The Adler Institute
- Smart Start, Israel Association of Community Centers
- Horut Bizchut
- Neot Margalit
- Anu: Big Changes Are Made Together Early Starters
- The Israel Association for Infant Mental Health



# OUR PARTNERS

# 121 IN 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

### **RECIPE FOR SUCCESS** Forum for the Promotion of Nutrition in Education

- Mazon Foundation
- Branco Weiss Educational Network
- Atid Educational Network
- Na'amat Educational Network
- Amal Educational Network
- The Follow-Up Committee for Arab Education
- Leket Israel
- Nevet
- Orenstein Project
- National Parents' Organization
- Taking Responsibility
- Arab Parents' Association



Photography: Yariv Weinberg

### **Headquarters for Employment Advancement**

- Union of Social Workers
- Association of Youth Centers in Israel
- Al Fanar: Advancing Employment among Arab Citizens in Israel
- Be-Atzmi
- Israel Adult Education Association
- The Israel Women's Network
- Women's Spirit
- VeHadarta: The Third Strength Disabled, Not Half a Human Being
- The Headquarters for People with Disabilities in Israel
- The Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Populations, The Clinical
- Legal Education Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- The Bar Ilan Law Faculty Legal Clinics
- Legal Clinics, College of Management Academic Studies
- The Clinic for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors and the Elderly, Tel Aviv University
- The Beyachad Foundation
- Zionut 2000: Social Responsibility
- Bizchut: The Center for the Rights of People with Disabilities
- Akam: The Community for a Better Tomorrow
- Special Families Coalition
- KESHER: Connecting Special Families
- The Israel Center for the Blind
- Keren-Shemesh
- Rabbis for Human Rights
- Unemployed Union
- Access Israel
- Israeli Deaf Studies Center
- Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- Adva Center
- The Legal Clinics, the Academic Center for Law and Business in Ramat Gan
- The Association for Civil Rights in Israel
- KMH Foundation: Haredi Professional Advancement
- ITACH - MAAKI: Women Lawyers for Social Justice
- Koach LaOvdim: Democratic Workers' Organization
- Gal College

### **The 60 and Up Forum**

- VeHadarta: The Third Strength
- The Israel Gerontological Society
- One Million Lobby
- The Bar Ilan Law Faculty Legal Clinics
- Union of Social Workers
- Israel Adult Education Association
- The Clinic for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors and the Elderly, Tel Aviv University
- Adva Center
- The Legal Clinics, Academic Center for Law and Business in Ramat Gan
- The Association for Civil Rights in Israel
- The Association for the Law in the Service of the Elderly



Photography: Yariv Weinberg



### **CONTACT US:**

[info@120plus1.org.il](mailto:info@120plus1.org.il)  
[www.120plus1.org.il/en](http://www.120plus1.org.il/en)