



ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM TALI NIR, 121's Executive Director



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2022



Photography: Meital Azulai

Dear friends,

The past year was marked by ongoing political instability which complicated our efforts in the social policy and legislative arenas. 121 met these challenges with resolve, adapting our strategy and finding innovative ways to continue delivering meaningful results.

Together with our 150 partners from the social change, philanthropic, and business sectors, we achieved major wins, positively impacting the lives of tens of thousands of people.

These successes include a NIS 120 million government investment in the professional development of early childhood educators, the initiation of governmental monthly subsistence grants for participants in vocational training programs, and the launch of a government nutrition program in high schools for at-risk youth.

While the fifth round of elections in three and a half years interrupted our work, we were still able to make significant progress with the government in the first half of the year. With the collapse of the coalition, we pivoted to working with the professional ranks of the government departments, establishing relationships with key political players during the election period, and investing in knowledge infrastructure and partnerships to strengthen our existing efforts and develop new ones.

The achievements you'll read about in this report are not just ours, but yours as well. During a year marked by so much instability, we're deeply grateful for your unwavering partnership and support. Together, we're creating a better future for all.

Sincerely,

Tali Nir
Executive Director

IMPACT

In numbers



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7

Detailed policy and legislative proposals amplified by powerful public outreach and media campaigns.



14

In-depth policy papers providing an expert analysis of critical issues and offering potential solutions.



150

Partners for change representing diverse groups across Israel and comprising social, educational, and business organizations.



1,000,000

People reached through impactful media and social media outreach.



130,000

Citizens have tangibly benefited from government investment we've secured since 121 was founded.



3,230,000,000 NIS

In government funding has been allocated to the social causes we've advanced over the past 5 years.

OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



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1. PROMOTING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Most early childhood educators in Israel, including those working in government-subsidized settings, lack adequate training for their demanding roles. This reality has had a negative impact on the quality of care that many children receive and has contributed to high turnover rates among staff.

Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, we took a key role in securing a **NIS 120 million government investment** in the professional development of early childhood educators working with children from birth to three years old. We worked tirelessly to advocate for this important cause together with our 55 partner organizations in **In Good Hands – Headquarters for Investing in Early Childhood**. Thanks to our joint efforts, the Ministry of Education adopted our proposal and invested in the professional training of **9,000 educators** across the country, with another **4,000** set to begin their training in 2023. Our policy proposal was instrumental in shaping the training program, which includes the provision of training by specialized academic institutions in early childhood education and the allocation of stipends to educators to support their participation. This significant investment will have a lasting impact on the quality of early childhood education in Israel, while also advancing the professional development of thousands of women.



"In Good Hands" leadership program at Oranim College, August 2022.

2. EMPOWERING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS THROUGH ONGOING TRAINING PROGRAMS

In addition to the foundational training program, we persuaded the Ministry of Education to invest in ongoing training that provides crucial support to directors and educators at daycare centers nationwide. **232 local authorities** are now offering pedagogical training, funded by the Ministry of Education, to educators in both private and subsidized daycare centers. The program incorporates our recommendations in several key areas, including setting high standards for the program and its instructors, as well as the option to increase training hours beyond the minimum required by official regulations.

3. ADVANCING A SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH IN ARAB SCHOOLS

Some 54,000 Israeli middle and high school students from low-income families suffer from hunger and food insecurity. This adversely affects their health and their academic performance.

Recipe for Success - Forum for the Promotion of Nutrition in Education, the partnership we established comprising 18 education and social change organizations, convinced the Ministry of Education to adopt a governmental **nutrition program in all high schools for at-risk youth in Israel**. The program will help prevent thousands of students from dropping out of school due to food insecurity. Our campaign included high-impact social media efforts, as well as investigative research conducted in partnership with Shomrim: The Center for Media and Democracy, generating extensive media coverage. As a result, the Ministry of Education developed a detailed position paper requiring the Ministry of Finance to allocate funding toward an immediate response to the problem. Meanwhile, the program was launched in schools across the Arab sector, at a cost of 5 million NIS per year. As part of this framework, some **5,000 students in 25 schools for at-risk youth now receive hot meals every day**.



"Recipe for Success" - A tour with the Chairman of the National Council for Food Security, Prof. Roni Strier, June 2022.

OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



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4. TRANSFORMING EMPLOYERS INTO ACTIVE PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT-FUNDED VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

We believe that everyone deserves access to the skills needed to succeed in today's labor market. Through **The Springboard – Investing in the Workforce of the Future**, our groundbreaking partnership comprising 49 social change organizations and businesses, we continued to push for much-needed reforms in the country's vocational training system.

We collaborated closely with senior representatives from the Labor Branch of the Ministry of Economy, advocating for new models that facilitate employer involvement in determining the areas and content of training programs.

Our efforts have paid off. A new "Classroom at Work" program has been launched integrating many of the principles we promoted, including the definition of professions and content by employers. In 2022, an unprecedented majority of participants in training programs funded by the Labor Branch attended courses involving employers.

We're encouraged to see the government finally recognize the critical role employers play in vocational training. In 2022, the government allocated **NIS 74 million** to vocational training programs with employer participation, surpassing the budget for other training programs.

5. BREAKING DOWN FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Through The Springboard, we successfully pushed for a permanent repeal of the **30% statutory cut in unemployment benefits** for training program participants. Unemployed participants can now receive full unemployment benefits while they undergo training, allowing them to focus on their skills development without being held back by financial constraints.

After three years of ongoing efforts, we also **secured monthly subsistence grants** for participants who are not eligible for unemployment benefits. These grants, which range from NIS 1,500 to NIS 3,500 for up to six months, provide vital financial support to training participants. Thanks to a **NIS 25 million budget allocation from the government**, we estimate that these grants will benefit around 2,500 participants.

6. STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC SAFETY NET FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

In 2022, we continued to lead efforts to protect the rights and economic resilience of seniors in Israel. Together with our partners in the **Headquarters for Employment Advancement**, a coalition of 34 social change organizations, we achieved an extension of the lifting of the ban on "double benefits." This means that recipients of senior citizen benefits (as well as other benefits) who are laid off from work can still receive full unemployment benefits.

In addition, we conducted a **comprehensive policy study on the social-economic safety net of seniors**.

Our research involved an in-depth analysis of data on the financial situation of people aged 65 and over, as well as interviews with researchers, experts, and seniors who face financial hardship. Based on our findings, we developed a detailed policy proposal that includes increasing the old-age pension, changing eligibility conditions, and expanding rights and benefits for pension recipients.

7. PROMOTING INDEPENDENT HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

We recently formed a new partnership with 16 civil society organizations to advocate for independent housing for people with disability. The current government housing assistance for people with disability is woefully inadequate, and skyrocketing housing costs have only compounded the problem. The lack of community services and economic constraints often make it difficult for people with disability to live independently, resulting in over 100,000 individuals living involuntarily in institutions or with family members.

In 2022, we began working with 16 organizations with extensive knowledge and experience on this issue, to promote government investment in independent housing for people with disability. Together, we have developed a policy proposal that aims to **provide a model to adjust the level of government assistance to meet the needs and circumstances of people with disability**. Our goal is to bring the level of assistance in line with the actual costs in the housing market, allowing people with disability to live autonomously within their communities.

OUR SUPPORTERS



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We are incredibly grateful to the following donors for supporting our work in 2022:



OUR PARTNERS



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We're proud and privileged to work alongside the following 150 partner organizations:

THE SPRINGBOARD

Investing in the Workforce of the Future

- Rashi Foundation
- Beyachad Foundation
- The Azrieli Foundation
- The Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life
- Bank Hapoalim
- Bituach Yashir
- Manpower
- Israel Discount Bank
- Bet Shemesh Engines Ltd.
- Atid Network
- Cisco
- Zurim
- Israel Garage Association
- Xtras Israel
- The Craft and Industry Association
- Israel Hotels Association
- The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce
- Experis Israel
- Beth-El Group
- Manufacturers Association of Israel
- Zionut 2000: Social Responsibility
- Be-Atzmi
- KMH Foundation: Haredi Professional Advancement
- Prog College: Higher Education and Vocational Training for Haredim
- Webschool: Digital Training
- Kivun Center
- ORT Colleges
- Yedidut Toronto
- Erez College
- Moona
- Geffen College
- Ross Foundation
- Paamonim: The Responsible Way
- Etgar College
- Forum of Employment Organizations for Young People
- Association of Youth Centers
- Consul
- Al Fanar: Advancing Employment among Arab Citizens in Israel
- Gal College
- MOMENTUM
- Israel Adult Education Association
- Central Negev College
- Encouraging and Developing the Construction Industry Fund
- Dialogue
- MBC: College of Technology and Science
- Eilat Hub



"The Springboard"- A meeting with MK Miki Zohar, October 2022.

IN GOOD HANDS

Headquarters for Investing in Early Childhood

- Beracha Foundation
- Carasso Group
- Rashi Foundation
- Ram and Shulamit Amar
- Andrea & Howard Finger
- Oranim College
- WIZO
- Na'amat
- Northern Goals Association
- Emunah
- Kibbutzim College
- Beit Yaakov Daycare
- InfoGan
- HaGan HaKibbutzi
- Goshen: Community Child Health & Wellbeing
- Smart Start, Israel Association of Community Centers
- Horut Bizchut
- Yalduta
- Ben Gurion University, Duet, and The Mental Health for Infant Association
- The Israel Association for Infant Mental Health
- The Ziama Arkin Infancy Institute, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC)
- Haifa University, Center for the Study of Child Development
- The Israeli Association for Psychologists
- The Israel Organization for Early Childhood Education
- The Seymour Fox School of Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Dialogue
- Tel Aviv University, The Early Childhood Research Laboratory
- Baderech LaGan
- Coalition for Education from Birth
- Yanbua Association: Promoting the Status of Women and Children in the Village of Reina
- Ganim b/Ramah Acheret (Daycare on Another Level)
- The Academic College Levinsky-Wingate
- ITACH - MAAKI: Women Lawyers for Social Justice
- SEED Center, The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa
- The Fund for Innovative Education
- Nir Golan - Early childhood education
- Eitan Generation: Advancing the Status of the Child in Israel
- Early Starters
- The Adler Institute
- The Center for Ganim and Families
- Anu: Big Changes Are Made Together
- Reggio Emilia
- Gordon College
- Hop! Channel - To Grow Up in Good Hands
- Dabru Iti

OUR PARTNERS



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- Leading Education from the Field: Early Childhood in Israel
- Fighting For the Children
- National Council for the Child
- The Directors of Education Departments in Local Authorities Association
- Toddler Center - Tirat Carmel
- Kulanu Mishpacha
- Mom2Mom
- Eretz-Ir Society and Community
- Peoteva Eretz-Ir



"The Springboard"- A meeting with MK Oded Forer, October 2022.



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Forum for the Promotion of Nutrition in Education

- Maor Foundation
- Strauss Group
- Mazon Foundation
- Taking Responsibility
- Leket Israel
- Nevet
- Orenstein Project
- Branco Weiss
- Atid
- Na'amat
- National Parents Organization
- Amal Educational Network
- The Follow-Up Committee for Arab Education
- Arab Parents' Association
- National Council for the Child
- The Directors of Education Departments in Local Authorities Association
- Mehayom Association
- Israel Bar Association



Photography: Yariv Weinberg

Headquarters for Employment Advancement

- The Beyachad Foundation
- Zionut 2000: Social Responsibility
- 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
- Akam: The Community for a Better Tomorrow
- Bizchut: The Center for the Rights of People with Disabilities
- Special Families Coalition
- KESHER: Connecting Special Families
- The Israel Center for the Blind
- Keren-Shemesh
- Rabbis for Human Rights
- Union of Social Workers
- 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



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