In 1957, when the State of Israel was still a newly independent developing country facing harsh natural conditions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Agency for International Development Cooperation and began implementation with a historic visit to Africa by then-Foreign Affairs Minister Mrs. Golda Meir. Known by its Hebrew acronym, MASHAV, the Agency’s mission is to share the know-how and technologies which provided the basis for Israel’s own rapid development with the rest of the developing world. MASHAV began as a grassroots human capacity building initiative, training motivated local professionals to take projects forward independently, as a design for sustainable growth. Over the past six decades, with Israel transitioning from a developing country to a member of the OECD, MASHAV has blossomed into an extensive program in the social, economic, and environmental arenas, in alignment with the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

MASHAV is the leader and coordinator of Israel’s official development cooperation, aiming to alleviate poverty through empowerment.

Revolutionizing Agro-Technology
Despite harsh climatic conditions, scarce land, and a water shortage, Israel succeeded in developing effective and sustainable technologies and solutions for all agricultural sectors. One of the keys to Israel’s success is the close collaboration and interaction between Israeli agricultural research, farmers, and extension services (which facilitate the transfer of agricultural research and techniques to the field level). MASHAV’s activities abroad are based on Israel’s own agricultural development experience; MASHAV introduces regions to innovative Israeli irrigation techniques, which revolutionize farming in arid and semi-arid lands; shares post-harvest know-how, dairy farming technologies, and works to enhance economic viability through storage, transport, and financial solutions. These and other projects contribute to the food security of nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Monitoring the concentration of nutrients in the water in Malawi.
How we work

**MASHAV**

In Israel

- Professional training programs*
- International conferences
- Thematic delegations
- Humanitarian assistance
- Short-term training programs**
- Expert consultancies**
- Centers of excellence for professional training**

MASHAV

In partner countries

- Professional training programs*
- Thematic delegations
- Humanitarian assistance
- Short-term training programs**
- Expert consultancies**
- Centers of excellence for professional training**

*In English, French, Spanish, Russian & Arabic

**including bilateral, trilateral & multilateral cooperation

MASHAV’s Vision

“We envision a world in which those living in poverty are empowered to improve their own lives.”
Overcoming Climate Challenges

Israel is famous for “making the desert bloom” by developing advanced technologies in the fields of irrigation, water desalination, cloud seeding, combatting desertification, and wastewater recycling. For many decades, Israel has successfully overcome harsh climatic conditions and knows how to maximize resources in an arid environment. Now that many countries face the need to adapt to climate change, Israel finds itself in a unique position to provide both expertise and technology. MASHAV shares this precious know-how with developing countries, alleviating food and water shortages through capacity building.

Areas of Expertise

- Medicine and Public Health
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Education
- Climate change
- Rural and Urban Development
- Entrepreneurship
- Community Development
- Gender Equality
- Humanitarian Aid

Advancing Public Health

MASHAV provides doctors in developing countries with cutting-edge technologies and training in fields such as emergency medicine and maternal healthcare – empowering them to revolutionize their communities’ public health. In addition, MASHAV regularly dispatches Israeli physicians to provide specialized care in remote areas; for example, teams of Israeli eye doctors have treated more than ten thousand cases of preventable blindness and ocular disease since 1959, in all corners of the earth.
Transformation through Education

Israel’s multicultural and multilingual population, which includes large immigrant communities, gave rise to an educational system that fosters integration and excellence across all populations. MASHAV adapts this Israeli model to the needs of other countries with socio-economic diversity, underscoring gender parity and training local educators, field workers and senior decision-makers to provide quality education for all ages - from early childhood to adult literacy programs. The education professionals are empowered to transform their own societies in a sustainable manner. Attesting to the depth of these changes is a teachers’ association formed by MASHAV graduates in Ghana under the slogan: “Trained to transform.”

Did You Know?

Israel has initiated two UN resolutions inspired by MASHAV’s Development Cooperation approach: Agricultural Technologies for Development (since 2007) and Entrepreneurship for Development (since 2012). The resolutions are adopted by the UN General Assembly on alternating years, and gain the support of approximately 140 countries.

Innovation for Development

Launched by MASHAV and the Office of the Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Economy, the “Grand Challenges Israel” program offers grants to Israeli researchers, entrepreneurs, and innovators who develop technological solutions and tackle challenges facing developing countries, particularly in the fields of public health and food security.
An important part of Israel’s aid to developing countries is carried out through the many Israeli non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in this field. These NGOs specialize in emergency and post-trauma assistance, as well as long-term community development and sustainability programs.

Their activities reflect the Jewish concept of “tikkun olam,” which is the aspiration to contribute to the improvement of the world we live in.

Israeli NGOs engage in a plethora of activities: some dispatch emergency aid following natural disasters; others focus on community development and empowerment, the advancement of equality and inclusiveness, agriculture, public health and more. Most are members of the Israeli branch of the Society for International Development (SID), a world-wide civil society development cooperation network. Other prominent NGOs operate independently.

Promoting Resilience

Israel has extensive experience in the rehabilitation of communities which find themselves in crisis due to terrorism, war and natural disasters, and it shares this expertise with other countries in post-emergency situations. Many Israeli NGOs participate in post-trauma community support, resilience building and refugee aid around the world – including in Haiti, Ethiopia, the Congo, Darfur, Uganda, the Philippines and Nepal.
Volunteering Backpackers

Israeli youth culture generally includes a period of international travel, usually backpacking, before enrolling into university and “settling down.” During this period, many choose to join local volunteer programs in developing countries around the world, catering to a wide range of community needs that include helping children-at-risk, providing care to AIDS patients, contributing to women’s empowerment and promoting local environmental issues.

Temporary school built by Tevel in the aftermath of the Nepal Earthquake | tevelbtzedek.org

Youth leadership program in Burundi | tevelbtzedek.org
Israel believes that emergency care transcends ideology and politics, and is committed to delivering rapid relief to disaster areas, regardless of the status of its diplomatic relations with the country. MASHAV is responsible for coordinating Israel’s official humanitarian assistance program, at times in partnership with Jewish organizations and NGOs to maximize effectiveness.

Israel’s immediate response to emergencies includes search-and-rescue units, advanced medical assistance, food and psycho-traumatic support.

Large scale rapid response efforts are led by the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command, the army’s main authority for civilian protection, which has conducted dozens of humanitarian missions around the globe. Emergency assistance is also coordinated with NGOs specializing in disaster relief work. As urgency recedes, MASHAV undertakes the ongoing relief, reconstruction and long-term rehabilitation efforts.

In April 2015, shortly after a terrible earthquake shook Nepal, two Israeli planes were among the first to reach the disaster zone, bearing more than 200 emergency care professionals and 100 tons of equipment, including a fully-equipped field hospital. The delegation was soon on the ground saving lives. Since then, Israel has remained highly involved in the long-term rehabilitation efforts.

Israel’s humanitarian assistance is also offered closer to home. Its northern neighbor, Syria, which waged war on Israel several times in the past, has in recent years been embroiled in a bloody civil war, in which many of the victims are civilians. Israel operates a field hospital near the border to treat wounded Syrian civilians. Those who require complex surgical procedures are transported to Israeli hospitals for further treatment.

The First to Respond

Israel, by tragic circumstance, has become an expert in dealing with mass casualty and emergency situations. Israel has gained vast experience in responding to situations resulting from war and terror attacks against its civilian population, leading to the development of extremely effective rapid response procedures. It is no wonder that it is often the first to send assistance when disaster strikes.
In 2014, MASHAV sent Israeli medical experts with fully equipped emergency mobile medical clinics to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, joining the global effort to combat the local Ebola epidemic. The personnel, equipment and protective gear effectively enabled local medical staff to isolate and quarantine affected populations. Israel then followed up with a pledge of $8.75 million in long-term assistance, becoming the largest donor per capita in fighting Ebola.

In January 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 200,000 people and wounding many more. Israel responded within hours by dispatching 220 personnel, including volunteers, doctors and search-and-rescue teams, to provide immediate relief. The IDF’s field hospital, equipped with the best technology, was the first to open its doors to the victims, saving numerous lives. Long-term rehabilitation assistance wasn’t far behind. MASHAV established a permanent hospital trauma unit complete with state-of-the-art medical equipment, and trained local doctors, nurses, and technicians to staff the center.
Israel is a key player in the international effort to improve synergies among the stakeholders involved in development cooperation. It has recently played a pivotal role in negotiating the UN's 2030 Agenda, adopted in September 2015, which establishes clear goals to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and bring about sustainable development.

**MASHAV**, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, is actively committed to advancing the international community's 2030 Agenda as a top priority.

In the belief that global goals can best be achieved through coordinated and combined efforts and resources, MASHAV has entered dozens of international agreements on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral basis. These activities position Israel as a substantial contributor to the global efforts to improve human living conditions, on local, regional and international levels.

**Women’s Empowerment in Africa**

In April 2013, UN Women and MASHAV signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the economic empowerment of women, focusing on the fields of agro-business and technology. The result was the establishment of the Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL) in Kenya, which has provided leadership training to hundreds of participants from over 25 nations since its inception.
The Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project was launched in response to the government of India’s request that MASHAV disseminate Israeli agricultural knowledge and best practices among Indian farmers, and involves the establishment of twenty-six Agricultural Centres of Excellence across India. The cutting-edge training and equipment offered by MASHAV demonstrate the newest technologies in a range of agricultural fields, including water conservation, increasing crop yields and the use of sustainable pesticides.

Indo-Israeli Partnership

As part of the growing bilateral strategic relationship between Israel and Germany, the two countries cooperated in launching the “Israel-Germany Africa Initiative.” The goals of the initiative include eradicating poverty and hunger, attaining food security and promoting sustainable development in Africa. The Initiative’s programs are being implemented in cooperation with Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Burundi.

Global Partnership

MASHAV cooperates with multilateral organizations to achieve maximum coordination and cooperation in the implementation of international development activities, among them:

UN
UNDP
UNFAO
UNWFP
UNWOMEN
UNICEF
UNHABITAT
UNEP
WHO

UN Organizations
Non-UN Multilateral Organizations

UNECE
UNFPA
UNESCO
UNODC
UNCCD
UNWMO
UNIDO
UNAIDS
OECD
WORLD BANK
YABT
IFAD
IOM
OSCE
CTCN
IRENA

Cooperation to Eradicate Hunger

Implementing new agro-technologies in India