|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
| **September 21****Society for International Development, SID Israel****Alon Beer, Director** |

**2019**

**Semi-Annual Report for**

**the Pears Foundation**

**2019**

 **Semi-Annual Report for the Pears Foundation**

We are pleased to report to you about our activities over the past six months. Your continued support and participation have been essential in enabling us to carry out so much important work and make so much progress.

**Outstanding Achievements**

* Presenting the "Israeli Global Impact 2030" report to the Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office, Mr. Yoav Horowitz;
* Strategic Thinking Process: “The Israeli National Humanitarian Policy;”
* Strategic Partnership with Microsoft Israel, including collaboration on:
* Global Impact Awards 2020
* The “AI for Good” initiative;
* Signing an agreement with B4PR;
* Signing an agreement with the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy and Industry;
* The Israeli Voluntary Humanitarian Reserve Corps, carried out In cooperation with the Multidisciplinary Program for Emergency Management and Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University, the Rabin Medical Center and the National Emergency Management Authority (RAHEL).

**SID In Numbers**

 **145** Member organizations (20% increase over last year’s final number!)

**1,000** Participants in SID Israeli activities

**9,000** Subscribers to SID Israeli newsletter

**12,000** Followers of our activities on social networks

1. **Knowledge Center**

1. **Strategic Thinking Process: “The Israeli National Humanitarian Policy”**

Israel, unlike other developed countries, lacks a coherent humanitarian policy. It also lags behind most OECD countries with respect to investment in humanitarian assistance. While Israel’s resources are limited, it nonetheless enjoys unique assets and advantages. It is imperative that these be employed in a strategic, astute and focused manner in order to transform Israel into a significant, albeit small player in the arena of humanitarian assistance. To meet this challenge, SID Israel, together with our partners, Tel Aviv University’s Emergency and Disaster Management Program, Microsoft Israel, the National Emergency Authority (RACHEL) and the law firm of Herzog, Fox & Neeman conducted a round table discussion with key figures from the public and private sectors, academia, the civil society sector and the IDF. The subject was the necessity of devising a national humanitarian assistance policy.

The keynote speakers were the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Health, the Director the National Emergency Authority, the Director of MASHAV and the Chief Medical Office of the IDF.

The discussion was based on the following questions:

1. Is there a need for a coherent government policy setting criteria for international humanitarian aid?

2. What are the existing interfaces between the government and civil society when responding to an international humanitarian crisis?

3. In what ways can Israeli solutions and technologies be implemented in the field before, during, and after a humanitarian crisis?

4. How can international humanitarian crises serve as a basis for increased cooperation between Israel and the Diaspora?

At the conclusion of the round table, participants decided to move forward and launch a strategic deliberative process for formulating a national humanitarian policy for Israel. The process will be conducted by a small steering committee from SID Israel. The team will review and analyze humanitarian strategies and policies from across the globe, and will conduct focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with key players in the field of international humanitarian aid. At the end of the process, the team will present a policy document to all stakeholders, including the relevant government officials and representatives.

2. **Agreement with the** **Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy and Industry**

We are proud to announce that in May, SID Israel signed an agreement with the Foreign Trade Administration (FTA) at the Ministry of Economy and Industry, granting supplier status to SID Israel.

Israel is a member of numerous global financial institutions, including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the IDB and the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). Through its economic departments in Israel’s embassies around the world, the FTA is constantly seeking economic opportunities for Israeli companies, especially in developing economies. The FTA is also promoting partnerships with non-governmental agencies as part of a far-reaching vision of taking a more comprehensive approach to providing aid to developing countries. To expand the scope of its work, the FTA engaged SID Israel to undertake a number of tasks. The first involves mapping relevant Israeli actors in the humanitarian aid arena: companies, NGOs and professional consultants in the field of international development. SID Israel also undertook to conduct educational seminars and conferences for civil society organizations and the business sector in Israel on how obtain financial benefits within the global finance institutions. Finally, SID was authorized to organize and work with business and/or governmental delegations to the country.

In accordance with this agreement with the FTA, SID Israel has developed a course that promotes the goals of transforming Israel’s fundamental existing elements and developing the basic competencies necessary for the development and implementation of cooperation and business strategies in emerging markets. Participants in the program will receive tools to improve their analytical, decision-making, and planning skills, as well to enhance their ability to recognize strategic opportunities and threats.

1. **Policy & Public Outreach**

1. **Presenting "Israeli Global Impact 2030" Report to the Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office**

Working on the assumption that a coalition would be formed following Israel’s previous elections in April of this year, we presented the "Israeli Global Impact 2030" report to the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Yoav Horowitz.

Notwithstanding the uncertainty of the current political situation in Israel, SID Israel continues to work closely with Mr. Ron Eifer, Senior Economic Advisor of the Prime Minister of Israel, and lead coordinator of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for International Development. Once a new government is formed, we will continue our efforts of promoting our intitative at the governmental level.

 2. “**AI for Good”: Workshop Event for a Grant Program in Partnership with Microsoft Israel**

In collaboration with Microsoft Israel, we held an event to launch Microsoft's global grant program, “AI for Good.” This event, which sought to secure funding to help solve challenges in the developing world, succeeded in raising $125 million.

The “AI for Good” initiative is part of an international effort by Microsoft to ensure that AI is widely used to advance human endeavors and society in a broad range of fields: agriculture, climate change, biodiversity, water, accessibility, humanitarian challenges, and cultural conservation.

 It was exciting to meet and work with over 150 professionals from a variety of nonprofits, private companies, the public sector, research bodies, hospitals, and startups. All of them received a comprehensive set of tools to help them advance solutions to their challenges.

Continuing with this initiative, on Sept. 5, we held a round table offering a Q&A period and guidance for entrepreneurs interested in submitting a proposal to receive an “AI for Good” grant. Approximately 30 participants participated in the round table.

3. **Memorandum of Understanding with B4PR for Introducing Israeli Firms and NGOs to UN and World Bank Tenders**

SID Israel signed an agreement with B4PR, an organization that provides expert advice to business clients and organizations about penetrating the UN and World Bank markets. B4PR’s services include tender analysis, comprehensive support for proposal development and the bidding process, risk assessments, advice on terms and conditions, security and financial arrangements, legal consultation, conflict resolution methods, and more.

In general, the purpose of our agreement with B4PR is to expand SID Israel and B4PR’s clients/members portfolio in order to meet the parties' respective business plans.

The agreement includes: sharing data regarding potential clients/members; participating in focus groups (round tables) in order to accelerate the option of adding more clients/members (this activity will be facilitated by SID Israel); promoting SID Israel/B4PR activities via websites and conferences.

SID Israel, together with B4PR, will conduct round tables for specific sectors, such as agriculture, water, phintech, and more. The goals are to expose these players to the UN and World Bank markets, and to guide them through the process of the tenders.

4**. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in a Cross-Sectoral Meeting with Israelis Working in International Development**

In partnership with Lumos Global and the Fahn Kanne Accountant Firm, we hosted a fascinating meeting with Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the former Treasurer and Foreign Minister of Nigeria, the former Managing Director of the World Bank, a member of the board of directors of Twitter and Standard Chartered Bank and the Chair of the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI). The topic of our meeting was “Innovative Israeli Solutions for Africa.”

During the meeting, Dr. Iweala praised the Israeli government’s decision to form an Israeli investment fund to encourage Israeli entrepreneurs to operate in developing countries. She stressed that she thinks that Israel’s time to enter the African market is now.

In addition, Dr. Iweala declared that “it’s time to scale up” and move from the pilot stage to the stage of significant implementation of projects in the field.

Dr. Iweala added that while there is no need to invent space technologies for Africa, there is a need to adapt the existing capabilities and realize them on the ground.

5. **A Conference by EBRD Officials for Israeli Firms and Organizations Regarding EBRD Tenders**

As part of an agreement we signed with the Ministry of Economy, SID Israel held a successful event with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), led by the vice president of the bank. The event introduced Israeli companies, organizations, and consultants to the work that EBRD has been doing. The conference also explained the opportunities and tenders avilable to Israeli firms and organizations from the EBRD.

With 170 participants, the event was highly successful for both presenters and participants, as the workshop facilitated many networking opportunities.

6. **Meeting with Mr. Tim Evans, the Senior Director of the World Bank’s Health, Nutrition & Population Unit**

As part of our collaboration with the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy and in cooperation with the law firm of Herzog Fox & Neeman, we hosted an exclusive meeting with Tim Evans, Director of the World Bank’s Health, Nutrition and Population Unit and his delegation from the World Bank.

Around 50 participants from private companies, startups, civil society organizations, and representatives from academia and public hospitals took part in the meeting. The World Bank presented its work, explained the opportunities and challenges for low income countries, and discussed how Israeli firms and organizations could cooperate with the World Bank in its efforts to integrate technologies and knowledge in the fields of health and nutrition in the developing world.

7. **Creating a Platform for Partnerships**

SID Israel has created a platform for partnerships among the private and public sectors and NGOs to promote activity in developing countries, leverage the field knowledge of NGOs and the business and technological capabilities of the business sector, government assistance mechanisms, international tenders, and development banks. As part of this program, we have created a comprehensive database of firms, organizations, experts, and volunteers working in the developing world with the goal of creating a community within which all the parties can network and discuss their experiences, expertise and challenges.

8. **Volunteering with GivingWay**

SID Israel has partnered with GivingWay, a digital platform that helps connect people around the globe with volunteering opportunities in NGOs in the developing world. A collaborative platform was built and placed on SID Israel’s website that includes volunteering opportunities, a book for responsible volunteering and some information regarding organizations and their activities abroad.

9. **Rwanda Study Trip**

Following several successful efforts arising from collaboration between Israel President Rivlin's Office, SID Israel and the OLAM organization, such as the May 2018 Impact for Good delegation to Ethiopia, the November 2018 gathering at the President's residence, and the Global Impact Awards, we partnered again to sponsor a high-level study trip to Rwanda for Israeli key opinion-shapers and influencers and their counterparts from the Jewish world. We are delighted to announce that Mr. Harel Tubi, Director General of the President's Residence, will take part in this delegation.

The study trip has the two-fold goals of:

* Educating, inspiring and empowering these influencers to become champions for global service and international development;
* Cultivating deep connections between Israeli and Diaspora Jewish leaders anchored in shared experiences and joint action.

Between six to seven senior level Israeli opinion molders, including journalists, media personalities, popular bloggers, etc., will join the study trip. The majority of the Israeli participants will be alumni ofProject Community, a joint partnership of the Gesher Leadership Institute and the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. Also joining the trip will be six to seven senior level Jewish opinion molders from the global Jewish community, both those working for Jewish media outlets and those working for nonsectarian outlets.

The study program’s agenda will include orientation meetings, both in-person and virtual, a four-day study trip to Rwanda, and follow-up activity with participants. The study trip’s site visits, meetings, and events will focus on:

* Visiting on-the-ground international development organizations, companies, and interventions led by Israelis and Jews who are living according to the values of Tikkun Olam;
* Learning from local experts about Rwanda’s history, culture, and people as a case study of international development;
* Meeting with Rwandan opinion molders, journalists, and media peers to exchange ideas and insights, and to problem solve together;
* Learning about engagement and learning opportunities within the community that can cultivate connections as a global community of Jews.

It is planned that the delegation will travel to Rwanda at the beginning of January 2020.

10. **Meeting with the African Ambassadors Forum**

SID Israel was invited to the quarterly meeting of the African Forum, which consists of 18 African ambassadors in Israel. We presented our activities and described how Israel is involved in the developing world. We invited Mr. Ron Eifer, Senior Economic Advisor of the Israel Prime Minister’s Office and lead coordinator of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for International Development, to give a presentation explaining the governmental perspective.

11. **SID Israel in the News**

After presenting the "Israeli Global Impact 2030" report to Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office, and contacting some public figures, SID Israel succeeded in scheduling a number of interviews at some prominent media platforms, including a television interview with Riklin and Magal on Channel 20, a radio interview with Eran Sikorel, some articles in Israel’s most widely-read newspaper and an article on the Ynet website.

Additionally, we have forged some new contacts with prominent journalists in Israel for future interactions.

12. **Updating the SID Israel Website**

We have initiated a process to adapt our website to allow access to registered SID members as well as civil society individuals and organizations, and companies. The website will operate on two different levels. First, registered SID Israel members will have access to our databases, contact details and exclusive UN and World Bank tenders information, relying on the B4PR platform. For the rest of our community, the website will rely on public information currently available on our website, such as volunteering opportunities in partnership with GivingWay, an interactive display of activities in the developing world, and more.

1. **The Israeli Center for International Development and Humanitarian Aid Studies**
2. **The Humanitarian Studies Center**

SID Israel is working in cooperation with the Rabin Medical Center (Beilinson and Hasharon Hospitals), and Tel Aviv University’s International Program in Emergency and Disaster Management at the Sackler School of Medicine to advance the the Humanitarian Studies Center even further. The Center will continue to serve Israeli professionals, providing them with training at an international level, and enabling them to join humanitarian aid projects in the developing world. This year’s courses and seminars will be aimed at professionals from the medical and mental health fields.

1. **The Israeli Voluntary Humanitarian Reserve Corps**

In cooperation with the Multidisciplinary Program for Emergency Management and Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University, the Rabin Medical Center and the National Emergency Manegement Authority (RAHEL), we are working to establish the Israeli Reserve Voluntary Humanitarian Corps. Israel enjoys significant advantages in both technology and human capital, that can and should be mobilized to encourage the country and its citizens to become more deeply involved in the world. The Reserve Corps program aims to utilize professional human capital so that it will be available to civil society organizations in emergencies, both international and national, for rapid and initial response planning and effectiveness.

1. **Global Impact Studies**

The second year of the diploma program in International Development, Entrepreneurship, and Humanitarian Aid, given in cooperation with the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya began on July 31st. The program, entitled “The New Global Impact Studies: From Disaster Relief and Crisis Management to Sustainable Governance and Entrepreneurship in the Developing World,” prepares students to address pressing global challenges (disaster relief, clean water, renewable energy, infectious diseases, etc.) in emerging markets and developing countries, with a special focus on employing Israeli technology and innovation to face these challenges. It is our hope that 15 students will be the first graduates of the complete program.

1. **The Role of Social Worker in Emergency: Social Work Department, Haifa University**

This is the third year that SID Israel sponsors two credit courses in which we discuss the value of social workers in emergency situations. The courses explore the role of social workers in preparing communities for natural disaster. During the courses, we will also examine how social workers can play a potentially key role in disaster recovery by facilitating community development, restoring livelihoods, providing psychosocial support, and building capacity in local communities.

1. **Global Citizenship Educational Program**

In order to bolster the sustainability of our program, SID Israel approached all of Israel’s academic colleges of education, introducing them to the Global Citizenship Program with the goal of integrating it into the academic curriculum. We have been met with great enthusiasm about meeting with us and learning about the program.

The SID Israel team would like to wish the Pears Foundation famiy a Happy New Year.

Respectfully yours,



 Alon Beer