



ANNUAL REPORT

2 0 2 3



A MESSAGE FROM TALI NIR, 121's Executive Director



ANNUAL REPORT
2 0 2 3



Photo by Nicole Feinholz

Dear friends,

2023 was a tremendously difficult year for Israeli society, especially following the horrific massacre of October 7 and the ensuing “Swords of Iron” war. These events have shaken us all to our core and exacted an unbearable toll on so many.

This painful new reality, along with its lasting ramifications, underscored the urgent need to address pressing social issues through policy and legislation.

In collaboration with our 173 partners, encompassing social change and educational organizations, philanthropic foundations, and businesses, we adapted our activities to the situation. Together, we achieved major milestones that positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of Israelis.

Our successes in 2023 include: Convincing the government to provide assistance to workers who were laid off from their jobs in the wake of the war and left without an income; integrating a significant part of our policy proposals for early childhood education into government programs; and persuading the Knesset to repeal arbitrary legislation that prohibited “duplicate benefits,” thereby ensuring full unemployment benefits for dismissed workers who

receive subsistence benefits. We are also proud to see thousands of at-risk Arab students benefiting from the funding we secured for school meals which has prevented them from dropping out of the school system.

Unfortunately, the war disrupted our hard work on a campaign whose main purpose was to increase senior citizen benefits, for which we'd mobilized many partners. We hope we will soon be able to resume and redouble our efforts on this important initiative.

The achievements and actions you will read about here are both yours and ours. In this time of deep insecurity, we are grateful for your unwavering support and partnership.

Together, we're creating a brighter future for everyone.

In 2024, we will continue to pursue our shared mission of rebuilding the social services infrastructure that affects the lives and wellbeing of us all.

With gratitude,

Tali Nir
Executive Director

THE YEAR

In numbers



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



8

Comprehensive proposals for influencing policy and legislation, amplified by public and outreach and media campaigns.



13

Policy papers addressing specific focus areas were developed and submitted to both the government and the Knesset.



173

Partners, encompassing social, educational, and business organizations, and representing diverse groups within Israeli society.



1,000,000

People reached through our impactful media and social media campaigns.



235,000

Citizens have directly benefited from the government investments we've secured since 121 was founded.



3,700,000,000 NIS

Additional government funding that has been invested in social services since our inception.

OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. “SWORDS OF IRON” WAR: ENSURING VITAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISMISSED WORKERS

At the onset of the war, we mobilized 50 social change and business organizations and presented the government with proposals for supporting unemployed workers. Drawing from lessons learned during the Covid pandemic, we defined a clear goal: Immediate government assistance to all workers who faced partial, temporary, or complete job loss.

Despite initial opposition from the Ministry of Finance, the assistance plan that was approved included most of the measures we demanded:

- (1) Employees who were dismissed or placed on unpaid leave were eligible to receive unemployment benefits from the first day, with no deduction from their vacation days. Additionally, the threshold for receiving unemployment benefits was reduced from 30 to 14 days of unpaid leave, ensuring the income of those who were furloughed for a briefer period.
- (2) The qualification period for eligibility to receive unemployment benefits was reduced to six months of employment; for people with disabilities, it was cut to just three months.
- (3) Individuals re-entering unemployment (who had received unemployment benefits within the last four years) were granted a full period of unemployment benefits without any reduction.
- (4) Individuals aged 67 and above received monthly grants equaling 75% of their monthly salary, capped at NIS 4,000.



Yekutiel Mashi, Advocacy & Government Relations Director at 121, Knesset Finance Committee.

Overall Impact: Tens of thousands of workers who were laid off or placed on unpaid leave received either unemployment benefits or monthly aid grants.

2. IN GOOD HANDS: CREATING A PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE GOVERNMENT’S APPROACH TO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Together with 60 partner organizations that make up In Good Hands – Partnership for Investing in Early Childhood, we promoted quality, subsidized public education for infants and toddlers aged 0-3 years. Through our collective efforts, we achieved key milestones, laying the essential groundwork for transformative change.

At the start of the war, we swiftly mobilized, urging the Ministry of Education to fund and create daycare facilities in evacuation centers housing displaced

families from southern and northern Israel. Earlier in the year, in May, the government adopted a significant portion of our policy proposals within its new program for early childhood education. This includes introducing a “perseverance grant” for staff in subsidized daycare centers, allocating funds to enhance the caregiver-child ratio, and committing to invest NIS 400 million annually in professional development for daycare staff working with children aged 0-3 years.

Overall impact: During the summer of 2023, more than 11,000 early childhood caregivers graduated from their initial training courses, in a model based on the proposals we developed. Some 90,000 infants and toddlers will directly benefit from the professional tools they acquired. Toward the end of 2023, a further 12,000 early childhood caregivers embarked on their training courses. Additionally, government-funded pedagogical instruction was budgeted for all staff in supervised daycare centers nationwide, averaging ten hours per month for each center.



Activist mothers and the 121 team, the Knesset

3. PARTNERSHIP FOR EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT: SECURING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ALONGSIDE SUBSISTENCE BENEFITS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

The campaign we waged since the Covid crisis, in collaboration with 35 partner organizations comprising the Partnership for Employment Advancement, concluded in 2023 with the complete and permanent repeal of the legislative provision banning “duplicate benefits.”

This arbitrary ban led to unjust treatment for dismissed workers who receive subsistence allowances (including senior citizen benefits, alimony, disability supplements, and income security benefits). They were denied full unemployment benefits and could only receive the higher of the two benefits.

In May, three years of hard work pushing for legislative change culminated in the Knesset approving our proposal, leading to the permanent repeal of the problematic sections of the National Insurance Law. This legislative amendment ensures that dismissed employees who are recipients of subsistence benefits will now receive full unemployment benefits.

Overall impact: An annual government investment of approximately NIS 70 million, positively impacting the lives of at least 13,000 families each year.



Aviva Vidal, social activist, and Tali Nir, CEO of 121

4. THE SPRINGBOARD: ADVANCING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Following the success of The Springboard – Investing in the Workforce of the Future, our groundbreaking partnership of 50 social change organizations and businesses, in persuading previous governments to amend and expand their models of professional training programs funded by the government, our ongoing efforts in 2023 sadly came to a standstill. A dispute between the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Economy regarding under whose authority these programs should be operated led to the freezing of all funding for the training programs.

From the beginning of the year, we held meetings with all relevant government decision-makers, exerting pressure to expedite a decision on the issue of ministerial responsibility. Our pressure paid off, and in September, just before the High Holidays, the Ministry

of Economy published a call for training programs in partnership with employers, in alignment with the model we proposed. In the wake of the “Swords of Iron” war, the funding was directed toward fast-track programs and professions deemed necessary during wartime.

Overall impact: Since 2018, our work at The Springboard has led previous governments to implement significant changes. In 2022, for the first time, the majority of professional training program participants, approximately 12,000 men and women, studied in training programs based on our proposed model – in collaboration with employers. These training programs were conducted with the support of a joint initiative of government, employers and trade unions, which was also based on our proposal.



"Recipe for Success" Forum, discussion at the Knesset Education Committee

5. RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: GUARANTEEING SCHOOL MEALS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH IN ARAB SOCIETY

Together with 20 partner organizations from the project, Recipe for Success: The Forum for Advancing Nutrition in Education, we continued to advance our proposal for government funding of meals for students in middle and high schools who suffer from food insecurity. We worked in both the public and political spheres to convince the government to allocate a budget for breakfast and lunch at all middle schools and high schools for at-risk youth, and not just within the Arab community, as the government decided in 2022. By the end of 2023, the Minister of Education had not yet made a decision on this matter.

Overall impact: In 25 schools for at-risk youth in Arab society, students now receive a hot lunch every day. These institutions have reported a significant improvement in students' attendance and academic performance, alongside a reduction in violence and tension within the schools.

6. SOCIAL SECURITY: EMPOWERING SENIOR CITIZENS TO LIVE IN DIGNITY

In 2023, we launched a project focused on reshaping policy and legislation to strengthen the social safety net for senior citizens. Following in-depth research, we developed an awareness-raising campaign advocating for increased benefits for the elderly. Unfortunately, our plans and activities were disrupted by the war, but we remain committed to resuming this project once conditions in Israel allow.

Our efforts to engage decision-makers concentrated on a few key areas: Increasing senior citizen benefits, establishing a system for supporting elderly people in need, expanding access to dental treatment for senior citizens, and combating exploitation of elderly people.



Campaign photoshoot with "Citymedia" to raise public awareness about the need to increase old-age pensions

7. THANKS TO OUR INVOLVEMENT: INTRODUCING AN AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CARD FOR EVERYONE

In August 2022, the option of paying by cash on public transport was cancelled, disproportionately affecting individuals who struggle to pay the minimum fee of NIS 30 for charging the Rav Kav travel card. Social worker Avia Waldman, from the Tel Aviv Municipality's homeless assistance unit, highlighted the adverse impact on homeless people. Together with Waldman and other partners active in this field, we formulated a proposal to address this issue which we subsequently promoted together with MK Miri Regev, the Minister of Transport, MK Uri Maklev, Deputy Minister of Transport, and MK Avraham Bezalel, Chair of the Special Committee for Bridging Social Gaps in the Periphery.

Overall Impact: As a direct outcome of our advocacy, starting from August 2023, Rav Kav travel cards can be loaded with a minimum of NIS 10. This enables individuals to pay for a one-time or two-time trip, resembling the previous cash payment system.

OUR SUPPORTERS



ANNUAL REPORT
2023

A heartfelt thank you to all the supporters of our projects and our organization in 2023:



רם ושולמית עמר
Ram & Shulamit Amar



יד הנדיב יاد הַנְּדִיבִיף
Yad Hanadiv

The Arkin Family
Foundation



קרן דליה ואלי הורביץ בע"מ
DALIA AND ELI HURVITZ FOUNDATION LTD



אנדראה והווארד פינגר
Andrea & Howard Finger



OUR PARTNERS



We are proud to work together with hundreds of incredible partners:

“SWORDS OF IRON” WAR

- Kav LaOved
- Israel Disabled Struggle Headquarters (NPO)
- One Million Lobby
- Disabled, Not Half a Human Being
- Smart Start, Israel Association of Community Centers
- Erez College
- Ben Gurion University, Duet, and The Mental Health for Infant Association
- The Center for Compassionate Mindful Education
- Orenstein Project
- Atid Network - Education
- Northern Goals Association
- Women's Spirit
- Merhav - Movement for Israeli Urbanism
- Forum of Employment Organizations for Young People
- Be-Atzmi
- Ganim b'Ramah Acheret (Daycare on Another Level)
- Moona - A Space for Change
- OTI – The Israeli Autism Association
- Simcha Layeled
- Tic People of Israel
- Yad Mordechai Museum
- Paamonim: The Responsible Way
- Al Fanar: Advancing Employment among Arab Citizens in Israel
- Koach LaOvdim: Democratic Workers' Organization
- Rabbis for Human Rights
- Tsah"i: Unique Educational Consumers
- NAS Research and Consulting
- Taking Responsibility

- Ger'in Yachad Beit She'an and the Valley
- Shivat Zion Fund
- Lavi Israeli Educational Institutions
- PNIMA
- Economic Empowerment for Women
- The Fund for Innovative Education
- ITACH - MAAKI: Women Lawyers for Social Justice
- Gal College
- Maavarim Baemek
- TECH-CAREER
- The Faculty of Law at Bar-Ilan University
- Civic leadership
- Ono Academic College's Military Disability Recognition Clinic
- Special Families Coalition
- The Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Populations, The Clinical Legal Education Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- KMH Foundation
- Bet Shemesh Engines Ltd.
- Reichman Legal Clinics
- The Association for Civil Rights in Israel
- The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce



- Beracha Foundation
- Rashi Foundation
- Yad Hanadiv
- Ram and Shulamit Amar
- Andrea & Howard Finger
- Freesbe

- Northern Goals Association
- WIZO
- Na'amat
- The Directors of Education Departments in •
- Local Authorities Association
- Oranim College
- 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 Ziam 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
- The Academic College Levinsky-Wingate

- Ganim b'Ramah Acheret (Daycare on Another Level)
- 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 - grow up in good hands
- Dabru Iti
- Leading Education from the Field: Early Childhood in Israel
- Fighting For the Children
- National Council for the Child
- Toddler Center - Tirat Carmel
- Kulanu Mishpacha
- Mom2Mom
- Eretz-Ir Society and Community
- Peoteva Eretz-Ir
- ASSAF - Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel
- Hiba - The Private Kindergartens Organization
- Fulfilling Dreams - Union Kindergartens
- CMA - Community Managers Activists
- Rashi Foundation - knowledge community
- The Harris Program - Faculty of Education | •
- Bar-Ilan University
- Newton

OUR PARTNERS



Partnership for Employment Advancement

- Be-Atzmi
- Al Fanar: Advancing Employment among Arab Citizens in Israel
- The Beyachad Foundation
- Zionut 2000: Social Responsibility
- Association of Youth Centers in Israel
- 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
- Coalition to Ensure Child Support Payments
- Gal College

THE SPRINGBOARD

Investing in the Workforce of the Future

- Rashi Foundation
- Beyachad Foundation
- Mega Or
- The Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life
- Bank Hapoalim
- Bituach Yashir
- Manpower
- 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
- Prog College
- Webschool: Digital Training
- Kivun Center
- ORT Singalovski
- Yedidut Toronto
- Erez College
- Moona
- Geffen Ac
- 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
- Israel 2050 Movement
- Falcha Workers Organization
- amutat51



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Forum for the Promotion of Nutrition in Education

- Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- Strauss Group
- Branco Weiss
- Atid
- Na'amat
- Amal Educational Network
- National Parents' Organization
- National Council for the Child
- The Directors of Education Departments in Local
- Authorities Association
- Israel's National Student and Youth Council
- Israel Bar Association
- Taking Responsibility
- Leket Israel
- Nevet
- Orenstein Project
- The Follow-Up Committee for Arab Education
- Arab Parents' Association
- Mehayom Association

Social Security for Senior Citizens

- Migdal Group Insurance & Finance
- Dalia and Eli Hurvitz Foundation

OUR PEOPLE



contact us:
info@120plus1.org.il
www.120plus1.org.il

121 Staff

Tali Nir | Executive Director
Roi Maor | Deputy CEO & Policy Director
Liat Eilam | Partnerships & Activities VP
Yekutiel Meshi | Advocacy & Government Relations Director
Shira Lorenz | Advocacy & Activism Coordinator
Yael Evron Dagan | Resource Development Coordinator
Ruth Stern-Katry | Policy Researcher
Keren Arkin | Policy Researcher & Partnerships Coordinator
Snir Shefer | Digital Director
Noam Hugji | Spokesperson
Tamar Rosenthal | Administration & Human Resources Coordinator
Meital Shushan | Graphic Designer & Illustrator

Public Council

Rina Matzliach
Yossi Kuchik
Meital Bonchek
Hanan Rubin
Tali Yariv-Mashal
Bambi Tzuri
Eitan Singer
Nasreen Hadad Haj Yehia
Ishai Wureit
Granit Almog-Bareket
Lior Finkel-Perl
Yosef Zeira
Iris Fried-Mayzel
Ilan Karwan
Shoshi Shtub
David Ben Gigi
Yoav Shechter
Rabbi Rafi Feuerstein