OLAM and Amplifier@JFNA Present

GLOBAL GIVING GUIDE

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR GIVING ETHICALLY AROUND THE WORLD
“COMPASSION IS AN UNSTABLE EMOTION. IT NEEDS TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION, OR IT WITHERS.”

– SUSAN SONTAG, AMERICAN JEWISH WRITER AND PHILOSOPHER

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“MANY STORIES MATTER. STORIES HAVE BEEN USED TO DISPOSSESS AND TO MALIGN. BUT STORIES CAN ALSO BE USED TO EMPOWER, AND TO HUMANIZE. STORIES CAN BREAK THE DIGNITY OF A PEOPLE. BUT STORIES CAN ALSO REPAIR THAT BROKEN DIGNITY.”

– CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE, NIGERIAN-AMERICAN FEMINIST WRITER

In August 1963, moments before Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his iconic “I have a dream” speech, a German-American Rabbi named Joachim Prinz addressed a sea of people in Washington, D.C.. Prinz declared that “Neighbor is not a geographic term; it is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of [human] dignity and integrity.”

Jewish tradition is rich with teachings about communal responsibility. “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Vayikara, 19:18). “Whoever saves one life has saved an entire world” (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5). Jewish texts emphasize that giving begins at home — with our families, our synagogues, and our schools — but it doesn’t end there; we are required to think, feel, and give more expansively. Yet people who live physically near to us often feel more “real” than those who live thousands of miles away.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the injustices that afflict our global community: poverty, forced migration, climate change. These crises, and countless others, don’t often make front page news. Yet as our world becomes increasingly interconnected, tackling global problems — even those that feel “too big” — has never been more important. How can we expand our giving to support people who live across oceans? Which needs, such as agricultural innovation, humane working conditions, or equitable access to schooling, will our contributions make possible?

This guide will help you clarify your values and learn about sustainable and ethical practices for giving globally.
The gap between those who live with abundance and those who live in scarcity is growing wider. This disparity is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying economic downturn — a disaster that is taking a disproportionate toll on those who are already vulnerable and marginalized.

A wealth of organizations — big and small — are harnessing creativity, grit, and resilience to make an enduring difference for millions of people around the world. OLAM, an organization committed to engaging the Jewish community in global service, international development, and humanitarian aid, has 50+ Jewish and Israeli partner organizations that are making a lasting impact on our global community in myriad ways — by promoting refugee rights, distributing food to families in crisis, creating sustainable agricultural practices, advocating for accessible healthcare, and much more.

We can do our part to support these efforts by dedicating a portion of our giving portfolio to global causes. Giving globally has a vital and far-reaching impact on reducing poverty, improving health, and boosting economic growth to build a better world for all of us.

No matter how much we give, our funds go a long way in building a world we can all be proud of — a world in which people are able to access basic healthcare and education; where people have control over their own bodies, food, land, and water; and a world where women, children, ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable populations can live with economic security and physical safety.
More than 750 million people lack adequate access to clean drinking water.

Every year, an estimated 10 million girls under the age of 18 are forced into early marriages.

Nearly 80 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced as refugees or asylum seekers.

About 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food.

10% of the world’s population or 734 million people live on less than $1.90 a day.

Investment in people, local communities, and infrastructure are making a vital difference worldwide. Ruth Messinger, the Global Ambassador of American Jewish World Service, notes, “We cannot retreat to the convenience of being overwhelmed.”
Access to electricity in poorer countries has begun to accelerate, energy efficiency continues to improve, and renewable energy is making impressive gains in the electricity sector.

Fewer girls are forced into early marriages; more women are serving in parliament and positions of leadership; and laws are being reformed to advance gender equality.

HIV infections among adults continue to decline globally.

HIAS has served over 764,000 forcibly displaced people through violence prevention programs, emergency food supplies, mental health and psychosocial services, and legal protection.

AJWS provides grants to 450 social justice organizations in 19 countries; advances human rights and works to end poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

World Jewish Relief has helped over 165,000 people in 14 countries to survive and recover from life-changing natural and human-made disasters.

Since its inception, Jewish World Watch has served 500,000 survivors of genocide through projects that not only provide relief, but restore dignity, develop vocational skills and create opportunities to improve their communities’ economies.

IsraAID has served more than 68,500 people impacted by disasters through gender based violence protection, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, psychosocial support, medical care, and vocational training.

The JDC’s TOV (Tikkun Olam Ventures) development assistance project leverages Jewish philanthropy and mobilizes Israel’s innovative agricultural technology (AgTech) and expertise to transform the lives of smallholder farmers in developing societies.
Asking hard questions and reckoning with values is at the heart of Jewish life and central to the practice of tzedakah. As you consider where and how to give globally, take stock of your interests and values. Here are some questions to guide you along the way:

**Communal Responsibility...**
Building on the value of בְּצֶלֶם Elohim (respect for all of creation), how do I want to expand my circle of obligation? How can I be a responsible contributor to global communities? How am I already globally connected, related to the food I buy, the clothes I purchase, or the causes I care about? How does this interconnectedness increase my responsibility to people around the world?

*Suggested Resource: [https://reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int)*

**Partnership...**
How might the Jewish ideas of חַבְרוּתָא chevruta (learning in partnership) inform my global giving practices? How can I be a responsible partner to vulnerable communities around the world? How can I connect with friends, colleagues and family members to invite others into global giving, build a network of support, and continue to learn more?

Humility...
How can practicing עֲנָוָה – anavah (humility) enable me to learn more about the landscape of global giving, human rights, and international development? How can I continue engaging with the issues I care about while maintaining a sense of wonder at the full range of human experience and our capacity for connection?

Suggested Resource: https://www.devex.com

Sustainability...
How can I engage in giving globally over the long-term to make a sustainable difference in the world? In what ways can I support projects or organizations that are sustainably investing in a better future?


Notes

“IF YOU ARE TRYING TO TRANSFORM A BRUTALIZED SOCIETY INTO ONE WHERE PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN DIGNITY AND HOPE, YOU BEGIN WITH THE EMPOWERING OF THE MOST POWERLESS. YOU BUILD FROM THE GROUND UP.”
– ADRIENNE RICH, AMERICAN JEWISH FEMINIST POET AND ESSAYIST
The landscape of global organizations is vast, and figuring out where and how to give globally may feel overwhelming! Consider these questions and prompts to inform your decision-making process:

**Which issues do I care about and why?**
Think about who you are, what causes you are connected to, and the impact you want to make by giving globally. Spend some time journaling or making a list of the issues that are closest to your heart.

**Is there a region of the world I care about or feel connected to?**
There are many countries and regions that will benefit from your global giving. Consider the countries of origin represented in your family, community, or city. Think about the regions of the world where you have traveled or where you want to travel. Which countries or regions are most important to you?

**Which global development strategies resonate for me?**
Your dollars can support different types of global change strategies, such as direct service delivery, emergency relief, and advocacy for policy change. Developing solutions to global problems requires multi-layered efforts and a 360-degree approach to fuel progress. Take some time to learn about different change-making strategies within the global development ecosystem.

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**STEP 2**

Decide Where and How You Want To Give Globally

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Notes
After you have identified the global issues and communities you want to support financially, it’s time to start vetting organizations. We encourage you to investigate the approaches, leadership, ethics, and philosophies of organizations that exist in the global giving landscape. Start by confirming that the organization does what it says it does, and use the questions below to assess their involvement with local communities.

Who will benefit from my gift?
Consider how local populations will be involved in determining their own futures. Are local staff in charge of initiating, leading, and overseeing programs? Are local people consulted and respected in decision-making processes?

How are people represented through images and words? Whose voices are amplified?
Take time to peruse the websites of different international development and human rights organizations. Look for how the language used portrays the people their organization is assisting. Are they described as “poor and suffering” or as “deserving of dignity, equality, and respect?” Pay attention to language that seeks to devalue, degrade, or sensationalize the people you wish to support. Instead, look for language and images that demonstrate how people exercise resilience, creativity, courage, and self-determination. It is important that global organizations understand the day-to-day lives of the people they support and honor the fullness of their humanity.

Is it important to me to give to a Jewish or Israeli organization?
Some global organizations support Jews around the world. Other global organizations anchor their work in Jewish values and Jewish wisdom, and support people of different cultural backgrounds, religions, and ethnic origins. Other organizations are bringing Israeli technology and knowledge to create more sustainable futures in the developing world and to help global communities recover from natural or human-made disasters. Are you interested in giving to a global organization in which Jews are the primary beneficiaries? Do you want to give to a global organization that supports people of other backgrounds and identities? Is it meaningful for you to give to a global organization that has Jewish and/or Israeli staff? Does it matter to you if a global organization articulates its work through a Jewish lens?
WHAT’S NEXT?
WHAT NOW?

Commit to allocating a portion of your giving to global causes.

Refer to OLAM’s partner organizations list in this guide and on OLAM’s website: www.olamtogether.org.

Share this guide with your family, friends, and colleagues.

When you identify organizations of interest, join their mailing lists to learn about their campaigns and potential gift-matching opportunities.

Start a giving circle that focuses on global issues. Contact Amplifier@JFNA to learn more.

Visit OLAM and Amplifier@JFNA for more information on how to explore the relationship between giving, international work, and global service.

Take OLAM and Amplifier@JFNA’s interactive online quiz to receive suggested organizations to give to based on your values and what you care about.

“LIVING DEMOCRACY GROWS LIKE A TREE, FROM THE BOTTOM UP.”

– VANDANA SHIVA, INDIAN SCHOLAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST
SUGGESTED ORGANIZATIONS

OLAM’s Partner Organizations are a great place to start when thinking about where to give globally: https://olamtogether.org/partners

OLAM does NOT vet the work of the organizations below, and any donation will be made directly to the organization at your own discretion. Thank you for your generosity — every dollar counts!

Some organizations work directly on the identified issue areas while others fund local partners who do.

Categories were crafted before COVID-19. Some organizations’ work may have shifted since the pandemic.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Glocal International Development
Israeli School of Humanitarian Action
Manna Center Program for Food Safety and Security
Tel Aviv University Emergency Management and Disaster Medicine Department

DISASTER RELIEF, HUMANITARIAN AID & REFUGEES
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
CADENA
Eye From Zion
Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU)
HIAS
IsraAID
JDC

Jewish World Watch
JIAS: Jewish Immigrant Aid Service
Mindset: People-Centered-Solutions
NATAN - International Humanitarian Aid
Stand Up: Jewish Commitment to a Better World
The Step Up
Tel Aviv University Emergency Management and Disaster Medicine Department
World Jewish Relief

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
AJEEC-NISPED
Amar Majuli
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
A New Dawn in the Negev
CultivAID
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– RABBI JOACHIM PRINZ

HEALTH
Amar Majuli
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
Brit Olam
CADENA
Early Starters International
Eye from Zion
Gabriel Project Mumbai
Gye Nyame Mobile Clinic
Heroes for Life
Humble Smile
IsraAID
Israel Trauma Coalition
JDC
Jewish World Watch
Tag International Development
Tzedek
NALA
NATAN - International Humanitarian Aid
Pears Program for Global Innovation
World Jewish Relief

JDC Entwine
Justifi
Mensch
NATAN
Project TEN
Stand Up
Tevel B’Tzedek
TOM: Tikun Olam Makers
Tzedek

WASH (WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE)
CADENA
Gabriel Project Mumbai
Innovation: Africa
IsraAID
Mindset: People-Centered-Solutions
NALA
NATAN - International Humanitarian Aid
Pears Program for Global Innovation
Tevel B’Tzedek
About OLAM
Founded in 2015, OLAM is a diverse community of Jewish and Israeli individuals and organizations committed to engaging the Jewish world in global service, international development, and humanitarian aid as an expression of Jewish values. OLAM’s 50+ Jewish and Israeli partner organizations work with vulnerable communities in developing countries.
www.olamtogether.org

About Amplifier@JFNA
Amplifier@JFNA ignites, strengthens, and informs giving to transform and grow philanthropy inspired by Jewish values and wisdom. Since its inception, Amplifier@JFNA has helped to create 120 giving circles that bring people together to talk about their values, pool their charitable contributions and decide together how to allocate funds.
www.amplifiergiving.org

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