OLAM

2015-2020

5 YEARS OF IMPACT
A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Back in mid-March, OLAM’s fifth anniversary was the furthest thing from our minds.

Faced with the uncertainty of COVID-19, the team and I were focused on meeting the rapidly changing needs of our partner organizations and creating new ways to amplify global Jewish service and international development in a pandemic reality.

It barely even registered that five years had passed since OLAM’s launch at the March 2015 Jewish Funders Network conference in Tel Aviv.

Now that we are beginning to transition from thinking about the immediate effects of COVID-19 to “the day after,” it is a good time to reflect upon our journey — as an organization and as a network.

As we look back on the past five years, we celebrate our 50+ partner organizations. We are deeply inspired by their dedication to support vulnerable people in the developing world; their willingness to learn and share with each other; and their commitment to constantly improve their work.

We salute the growing numbers of Jewish leaders and their communities who have stepped up to volunteer, donate, advocate, and otherwise support the world’s most vulnerable people. And, we are deeply grateful to our funders and board members for their unwavering support and bold vision.

There is still much work to do, yet we are committed to continuing to play our part in improving the world, together.

With gratitude,

Dyonna Ginsburg, CEO
OUR VISION
A global Jewish people that supports and partners with vulnerable communities in developing countries in order to create a more just and compassionate world for all.

OUR MISSION
Founded in 2015, OLAM is a network of 50+ Jewish and Israeli organizations working in the fields of global service, international development, and humanitarian aid. Inspired by Jewish values and committed to high ethical standards, OLAM convenes and mobilizes leaders and organizations to take meaningful action in support of the world’s most vulnerable people.

“When OLAM first started, we weren’t sure why there needed to be a coalition. But, OLAM has really proved its worth.”
— Ruth Messinger, Global Ambassador, American Jewish World Service
OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

52 Jewish and Israeli organizations working in international development, humanitarian aid, and global service

HEADQUARTERED IN 9 COUNTRIES
Australia, Canada, France, India, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States

A GROWING NETWORK OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:
Jewish international development practitioners working in non-sectarian frameworks (e.g., Peace Corps, World Bank, etc.)

Serving the world’s most vulnerable communities in over NINETY COUNTRIES
Since our launch in 2015, OLAM has emerged as a powerful field-builder.

**RESEARCH**

OLAM has commissioned three field snapshot reports.

These pieces of research — the first of their kind — take an in-depth look at OLAM’s partners, their funding, the state of global volunteering, and track trends in the field over time.

**PRACTITIONER WEBINARS & MEET-UPS**

Over 500 practitioners have participated in OLAM webinars and meet-ups since 2015

**“DO NO HARM” TOOLBOX WEBINARS**

This five-part series, launched in 2020, facilitated conversations on ethical best practices in global service, international development, and humanitarian aid.

"The resources shared during the Do No Harm series will help us dive deeper into what ethical communication looks like and help us present a set of standards to guide all of us.”

— Jill Elias, Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village
Our COVID-19 Response

We enabled our partner organizations to re-purpose their OLAM in Motion allocation to address urgent needs due to COVID-19: reimbursing canceled travel costs, enhancing virtual technology capabilities, and providing other capacity-building services.

115 microgrants awarded since 2015

Rated the most utilized and most valued opportunity by OLAM partners

26 COVID-19 microgrants approved since March 2020

Some OLAM partners have used their microgrants to collaborate on COVID-19 related initiatives, including:

In Spring of 2020, we ran COVID-19 check-in calls with OLAM partners and collaborated with SID Israel to produce a 7-part pandemic-themed webinar series for practitioners.

THESE PROGRAMS ENGAGED 150 PRACTITIONERS.
“This opportunity would not have been an option without OLAM. NALA’s network increased drastically from the visit, and it completely changed the way I think about engaging with the Jewish community in North America. The encounters really helped ‘fill my battery’ after an intense period that left me somewhat drained.”

Michal used OLAM in Motion to speak in and explore partnership with the San Diego Jewish community.

“I spoke with the Executive Director of Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, the head of its education vertical, volunteers, interns, alumni and students. I toured the village and asked a lot of questions to better understand the best practices... The long term impact is that I see a continued relationship with ASYV once we create our initiative in India.”

Jacob used OLAM in Motion to visit Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda to learn from their expertise before planning a similar project for youth at-risk in India.
FOCAL POINT

OLAM’s annual Focal Point gathering is an exclusive opportunity for Jews engaged in global service, international development, and humanitarian aid to network, exchange ideas and best practices, and celebrate their shared commitment to serving the world’s most vulnerable individuals.

Over 680 people have participated in Focal Point over the past 5 years

FOCAL POINT 2020 explored the impact of COVID-19 on our field and was held virtually for the first time.

275 participants
17 countries represented
59 speakers over two days
19 virtual sessions

"The conference offers a moral compass, a reminder of the Jewish values that underpin our work and an opportunity to share, reflect, discuss, motivate and inspire each other."

— Focal Point 2020 participant
RAISING AWARENESS IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

CLOSE TO 5,000 Jewish communal professionals, funders, and emerging leaders have attended one-off workshops, talks, and webinars led by OLAM staff and partners on Jewish texts related to global responsibility, Israel as a global citizen, an overview of the field of global Jewish service, ethical best practices in international development, and more. We were proud to partner with the following Jewish engagement organizations among others:

One such partnership was a 12-part podcast series, produced together with Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, which featured scholars of Jewish text in conversation with development practitioners.

THE PODCAST GARNERED 15,747 UNIQUE DOWNLOADS AND VIEWS.

#70million Campaign

The #70million campaign, powered by OLAM, mobilized the global Jewish community around World Refugee Day and offered concrete ways to donate, advocate, and learn about refugees and other displaced people, who have been impacted by the pandemic.

10 DAYS
(June 17-26, 2020)

115 Jewish & Israeli organizations collaborated

400 people joined for a live conversation with refugees on Facebook

305,000 people reached through OLAM’s social media platforms
INSPIRING & MOBILIZING JEWISH LEADERS

Since our inception, OLAM HAS BROUGHT 47 JEWISH LEADERS ON STUDY TRIPS to the developing world.

STUDY TRIPS

2018

IMPACT FOR GOOD STUDY TRIP

OLAM partnered with the Office of the President of Israel and SID Israel on an unprecedented delegation of Israeli and Jewish government, nonprofit, and business leaders to Ethiopia headed by President of Israel Reuven Rivlin and Chief Rabbi of the UK and the Commonwealth Ephraim Mirvis.

2018-19

OLAM IMPACT FELLOWSHIP

The OLAM Impact Fellowship, a year-long program for Jewish professionals looking to expand their toolbox for engaging Jewish young adults with global issues, featured a study trip to Rwanda, in-person seminars, a webinar series, and personalized take action plans.

90% of Fellowship Alumni Created or Are Developing New Initiatives Related to Global Service or International Development

“I returned from Ethiopia a few months ago (...) For the first time, significant members of the Jewish world took part in a delegation of the President of Israel. Together, we deepened our partnership with Ethiopia in promoting development goals. This experience was powerful. We do good, but we can do much better together.”

— Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressing the JFNA at the 2018 GA after his participation in the Impact for Good trip to Ethiopia

"While we had been loosely working with JDC Entwine for a couple of years, the OLAM Impact Fellowship gave us the impetus, tools, and opportunity to launch an official partnership with them: a 10-day service learning opportunity for KAHAL alumni. This was the first such program in our history."

— Becca Flyer, COO of KAHAL
InterACT GLOBAL

Initiated by the Office of the President of Israel and spearheaded by OLAM in partnership with SID Israel, Gesher Leadership Institute, and Shalom Corps, InterACT Global was an exclusive, invite-only study trip to Rwanda that exposed Jewish leaders from Israel, the UK, and US to innovative Jewish/Israeli organizations and individuals working in the developing world.

“What I learned on this trip has become important to our work at Amplifier@JFNA and in my personal giving ... We were thrilled to create the Global Giving Guide to help other people explore questions of Jewish values and strategic impact in the context of international giving.”

— Liz Fisher, Executive Director of Amplifier@JFNA
We must show achrayut (responsibility) to ourselves, our families, our communities, the members of our faith and in addition, we must show responsibility towards every human being on earth, created in the image of God. It is in this spirit that I have been dedicated to social responsibility on a global scale (…). The world is about to press the reset button and it is so crucially important now for us to establish our priorities. All of our committed work, for the sake of every human being on earth, must continue with the same passion and enthusiasm as ever.”

— Chief Rabbi Mirvis at Focal Point 2020
OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

PHOTO CREDITS
Cover page: Includes photos from IsraAID, Chayli Fehler (The Step Up), Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, NALA Foundation, Project TEN, CutivAID, Tevel B’Tzedek, and others

P5: (from top to bottom) - Tevel B’Tzedek, CultivAID, Cadena, American Jewish World Service & local partner UNES, Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, Innovation:Africa, Tzedek, IsraAID, OLAM Impact Fellowship, NALA Foundation, Energiya Global, World Jewish Relief

P8: Jacob Sztokman (Gabriel Project Mumbai) at Agahozo Shalom Youth Village

P12: Yael Shapira

P13: Graham Carpenter, Ben Azzai 2019 trip to Rwanda
OLAM is generously supported by Adnim Foundation, Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin Family Fund, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Laurie and Jeff Franz Fund, Pears Foundation and Toleo Foundation.