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Small Nation, Large Impact: Israel's Foreign Aid

Equipped with first-hand knowledge of the challenges that resource-poor countries face, Israel has always strived to fulfill the Jewish command to “repair the world.” Before it had even established embassies in many world capitals, Israel sent experts abroad to teach Third World nations such skills as how to upgrade medical facilities, improve schools and coax crops from arid land. Today, Israel has one of the most extensive foreign assistance programs in the world for a nation of its size.

- Israelis are all too familiar with the reality of genocide. In both the Rwandan and Sudanese genocides, Israel provided humanitarian assistance to the refugees.
- In Rwanda, Israel established a field hospital and sent several doctors, nurses, medical supplies and vaccinations. Israel is also dispersing \$5 million in Israeli state funds to aid Sudanese refugees.
- In over two dozen cases, Israel has contributed in reconstruction efforts after earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. For example, Israel sent medicine, water, food, and other supplies to Sri Lanka after the tsunami in 2005. Israel also sent humanitarian aid and equipment to New Orleans for victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- Since 1959, Israel has maintained numerous medical outreach programs. For example, Israeli doctors established eye clinics in various developing countries, where doctors and nurses undergo special training both at home and in Israel. Israel's eye clinics have operated for decades in countries such as Nepal, Mauritania, Tonga, Liberia, and Micronesia.
- When Israel was first founded, it experienced severe difficulties in agriculture production and even instituted a food rationing policy. Now that Israel has “made the desert bloom,” the Jewish state is helping others through a series of agriculture programs that include human capacity building, research cooperation, demonstration farms and agribusiness consulting centers. Israel has also established an African Growth Market, which seeks to provide higher yields of crops in arid areas through crop variation and a drip-irrigation system.
- Israel's rapid and widespread economic and community development has attracted the interest of many nations. For example, Israeli experts travel to developing countries to give “on-the-spot” courses that focus on a range of subjects including medicine,

education, agriculture, and entrepreneurship. In 2006 alone, MASHAV (Israel's Center for International Cooperation) trained participants in 108 countries.

- Israel recognizes the important role of women in sustainable development. The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) offers courses, workshops, and seminars all over the world to raise awareness in gender issues. Past courses have included crop diversifications and intensification, early childhood development, promotion of gender equality, and integrated rural planning. Israel also sponsors an International Seminar and Symposium for women leaders twice a year.

Additional Resources:

MASHAV

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

IsraAid

<http://www.israaid.org.il/>

Save a Child's Heart

<http://www.saveachildsheart.com/home1.html>

The Humanitarian Fund- Kibbutz Movement

http://www.israaid.org.il/member_page.asp?id=1

Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA>