



Annual Summary 2024 Access Israel



About Access Israel

Access Israel has been active for 25 years in improving accessibility in Israel and globally, thereby enhancing the quality of life and integration of 1.8 million people with disabilities across all areas of life in Israel and many others worldwide.

To achieve its goals, the organization promotes awareness, legislation, and accessibility for people with disabilities. In addition, on a global level, Access Israel leads an international forum of leaders from the areas of accessibility, disability and inclusion from around the world.

Accessibility in Emergencies – "Iron Swords" War and the Purple Vest Initiative

Israel has faced an exceptionally challenging 18 months, marked by war and an emergency routine. This situation was difficult and stressful for everyone, but it was even more so for people with disabilities and the elderly. Generic solutions and aid provided to the general population were often inaccessible and, therefore, unsuitable and insufficient.

To ensure that people with disabilities and the elderly were not left without support in times of crisis, Access Israel continued its Purple Vest Initiative this year, responding to needs that emerged from the field and providing various services. Through this initiative, we assisted over 5,000 individuals in different projects:

- **Purple Vest Emergency Hotline** – responding to and taking care of requests for assistance, support, and evacuation of families with disabled members and the elderly.
- **Accessible Evacuations and "Short Term" Stays** – Assisting in relocating families of people with disabilities and the elderly to accessible and safe emergency housing.
- **"As Safe and Accessible As Possible" Project** – Finding protected and accessible solutions for those without accessible shelters in their homes, in collaboration with the Joint-Israel Beyond Disability Initiative, the Home Front Command, TOM (Tikkun Olam Makers), the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, and the Ministry of Health.
- **"The Day After" Project** – Supporting newly injured individuals to promote a swift and accessible return to a good quality of life..
- **Purple Vest Training** – Training volunteers, professionals, and emergency service providers on accessible emergency assistance and evacuation. This Project expanded to a pilot project with the Joint-Israel Beyond Disability Initiative and the Israeli Volunteering Council, creating Purple Vest Volunteer Cells in 10 municipalities up north to encourage preparedness for accessibility in times of emergency.



Key Figures from the Purple Vest Initiative



1,588

Requests handled by
the emergency hotline



3,495

Homes provided
assistance through "As
Safe and Accessible As
Possible" Project



502

Evacuations



2,250

Individuals trained
in Purple Vest
basic emergency
response

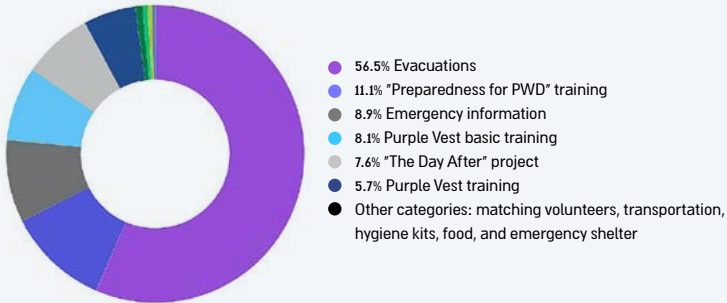


180

Participants in
"The Day After" courses



Emergency-Related Inquiries Breakdown



Awards and Recognitions

- **Global Inclusion Award** from the International Forums for Inclusion Practitioners at a UNESCO international conference on inclusive education in Paris.
- **First place award and Certificate of Appreciation** from the Israel Patients' Rights Association for outstanding efforts in assisting patients during the "Iron Swords" war.
- **Bronze Anthem Award** for humanitarian action and the Purple Vest Initiative's services as an example of a global campaign to raise awareness of human and civil rights issues (USA).



Testimonials from Beneficiaries



- "Access Israel is like family to us. The Purple Vest project gave its all during the war. They evacuated us with such a strong will to help. They found us a safe place despite the chaos, allowing us to breathe. They never rested, constantly looking for solutions. From us to you – a huge thank you and deep appreciation. You are true angels!" – Knafo Family, Ashkelon.
- "Your ongoing communication, responsiveness to every request or inquiry, and willingness to consult are invaluable. I am very grateful that in the next emergency, we will already have an established connection, and I am sure it will benefit residents with disabilities in Haifa immensely. Thank you so much to the entire team for your dedication and problem-solving at any hour."

Survey on Emergency Preparedness

In 2024, Access Israel, in collaboration with the Joint-Israel Beyond Disability Initiative, conducted a survey regarding the needs and services required for people with disabilities in northern Israel in case of an escalation in security threats.

Key findings:



36%
 of the respondents
 lack protected
 accessible shelter/
 safe room



1/3
 One-third of the
 respondents fear
 disruptions in electricity,
 water, communications,
 medication, and medical
 equipment



668
 respondents
 expressed interest
 in evacuation in
 case of escalation

Continuing Our Mission

While supporting emergency accessibility efforts, we did not stop our ongoing work in promoting accessibility and inclusion. For 25 years, we have been working on legislation, education, business training, and service accessibility.

Following the events of October 7 and the "Iron Swords" war, we recognize the heightened responsibility to ensure Israeli society is more accessible and inclusive. Over 12,000 newly disabled individuals, as well as 1.8 million people with disabilities and the elderly, need access to live with dignity, equality, and maximum independence.



2024 Activities and Impact

41

**Discussions in the
Knesset**

(Israeli parliament) and
government ministries

17

**Laws
promoted**

220

**Accessibility
surveys
conducted**

670

**Accessibility
coordinators
trained**

4778

**Service
providers
trained**



5875

**Students educated
on accessibility
awareness**

36,267

**Web pages
made
accessible**





International Activities

Over the past year, we have expanded our global impact, particularly in promoting emergency accessibility through the Purple Vest Global Initiative. Our expertise has been sought worldwide, and our model has been widely shared.



24
Countries
involved



7
Delegations to
enhance cooperation



+2,000
Participants in global webinars
and training sessions

Accessibility Accelerator is the USA collaborative partner of Access Israel, working alongside Access Israel and engaging in creative initiatives led together by the two organizations. Access Israel is an organization that embodies the mantra, "say little, do much."

As their partner, we draw inspiration from their impactful programs, such as Feast of the Senses and Sensivity Training for schools and corporations and adapt these models to our own customized efforts. Our collective focus remains on making the world more accessible and inclusive, particularly for people with disabilities and the elderly, through advocacy, education, and inclusion.

We are deeply honored to be founding members and active participants in the Purple Vest Mission globally. From the very beginning in Ukraine, we contributed by completing five tours of duty to care for and evacuate those people with disabilities and the elderly fleeing the war in their home country. We also played a key role in organizing the initial large refugee center in Przemyl, Poland, and later supported the opening of a smaller refugee center after the larger one was closed.

It has been a privilege to stand alongside Access Israel as they have worked tirelessly over the past 15 months to manage the Purple Vest Mission in Israel. We have been involved in creating programs together with Access Israel for the coming months and years, focusing on long-term recovery and support. Additionally, we assisted with evacuations and wellness visits to individuals displaced by the war.

For more information about Accessibility Accelerator and additional project led by them please visit the website at accessibilityaccelerator.org



Social Media and Outreach



34,312
Newsletter
subscribers



450
Twitter
followers



2,736
LinkedIn
followers



3,200
Instagram
followers



55,815
Facebook
followers



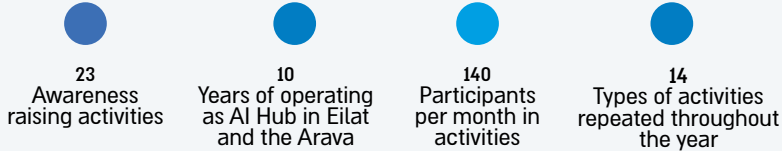
234,512
Website
visits

Our Regional Hubs

Northern Israel Accessibility Hub (N.I.TZ.)



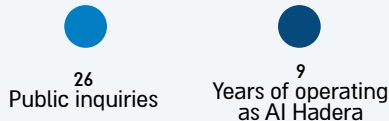
Eilat & Arava Accessibility Hub



Upper Galilee Accessibility Hub



Hadera Accessibility Hub



Proud of our employees, our volunteers and our dear partners who all enabled us to truly impact and help directly and personally for thousands of people all over Israel in this challenging year. Together we were a beam of light in these dark and difficult times.

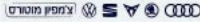
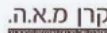
Collaborations and Support

Collaborators

None of our efforts would have been possible without partnerships with organizations such as the Joint-Israel Beyond Disability Initiative, Home Front Command, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Tourism, TOM (Tikkun Olam Makers), Fattal Hotels, Prima Hotels, Intel, and Chemitech.



Supporters



הועדה לחלוקת כספים שנפסקו בסעד לפי חוק הובענות ייצוגיות





Ways to Get Involved

Since the outbreak of the war, the vast majority of Israeli citizens have demonstrated an unparalleled collective spirit, proving that even today, mutual responsibility is stronger than ever. This spirit of volunteerism can continue through Access Israel in many ways:

- Professional accessibility promotion
- Volunteer opportunities
- Donations
- Training programs

By joining forces, we can ensure that all newly injured individuals and their families regain their independence and live as equally as possible.



For more information and ways to support
visit Access Israel

Donations

Tax-exempt contributions to Access Israel Org. may be made through

1) Our U.S.A partner Accessibility Accelerator org

2) The New Israel Fund – The check should be made payable to "New Israel Fund". The contributions should be marked as donor-advised.

Address in Washington:

New Israel Fund

P.O.Box 91588

Washington DC

20090-1588

U.S.A

Citibank

1000 Vermont Ave NW

Washington, DC 20005

ABA #254070116

Acc# 66796296

3) U.S. tax deductible contributions to:

P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds., Inc.

630 Third Avenue, 15TH Floor

New York NY 10017 USA

Please include a letter of recommendation that the contribution is designated to Access Israel # 58-0341204). All checks must be made payable to P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds. In addition, P.E.F. does not accept contributions under \$25.00.

If you do not require a U.S Deductible donation, donations can be made via post to:

Access Israel, P.o.Box 5171, Kfar Saba, 4415101, Israel

Or by a bank transfer to:

Bank Name: Bank Hapoalim

Account Name: Access Israel

(IBAN) IL17012-626000000-0417-760

Swift: POALILIT



גישות ישראל
Access Israel