A TALE OF TWO HEARTS

Last week, a disturbing video made the social media rounds. It shows an armed rebel dismembering a dead soldier’s body. He then extracts and eats the soldier’s heart. According to Human Rights Watch, the cannibal is a Syrian rebel leader named Abu Sakkar. His snack was a Syrian government soldier.

While cutting away at his victim, Sakkar says, “We swear to Allah that we will eat your hearts and livers, you soldiers of Bashar the dog.” Bashar Assad is the Syrian President the rebels seek to topple.

We’ve seen this movie before. We’ve seen the bloody beheadings of Daniel Pearl and hundreds of others. We’ve seen the lynching of Israeli soldiers by men who then held up their blood-drenched hands in celebration. We’ve seen the blood lust of Assad himself, who’s already killed tens of thousands of his citizens in his effort to cling to power.

The same day that this video was posted, a group of Israelis was engaged in a similar activity. They too surrounded a prostrate Syrian. They too cracked open her chest. But the Israelis did not consume her heart. They healed it. The Israelis were a team of doctors. Their patient was a four-year-old Syrian girl born with a life-threatening heart defect.

This tale of two hearts provides a penetrating insight into what has driven the Arab-Israeli conflict for the last two decades. The radical element in Islam which rejects our reverence for human life cannot be appeased by words, compromises or dialogue. This culture of death demands corpses. Eating them is optional.

As Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has stated it: “The Jews love life, so that is what we shall take away from them. We are going to win, because they love life and we love death.” This culture of death is what drives members of Hezbollah, Hamas and other terrorist organizations to blow themselves up in Israeli buses and cafes. This culture is what drove members of these organizations to dance in the streets last month upon hearing that Americans had been murdered in Boston.

Israel, like America, celebrates life. That is why the group which performed this operation – the Save a Child’s Heart Foundation – is so widely celebrated in Israel for saving the lives of Arab children from Syria, Iraq, the Palestinian Authority and elsewhere. This is also why Israeli soldiers repeatedly enter dangerous neighborhoods on foot – rather than bombing them from their air – in their effort to capture or kill terrorists. They are seeking to minimize civilian deaths. Many Israeli soldiers have paid the ultimate price for this caution.

This situation defies the modern drive towards moral relativism. Yes, Israelis – like their American counterparts – do kill innocent civilians in their effort to combat terror. But when they do so, it is not a success to be celebrated. It is a tragedy to be lamented and a mistake to be corrected. Israelis have never celebrated the deaths of innocent Arabs. I pray and believe they never will.

There are of course many Arabs and Muslims who reject this culture of death. Many do so in words. Some have done so in powerful deeds. In March 1997, for example, a Jordanian soldier – Corporal Ahmed Daqamseh – opened fire on a group of Israeli schoolgirls visiting the Jordanian border. He killed seven schoolgirls and wounded six others before his rifle jammed.

A few days after the attack, King Hussein of Jordan did something extraordinary. He travelled to Israel to express his remorse. He actually knelt down before each of the grieving families. “Your daughter is like my daughter. Your loss is my loss,” he told them. At that moment in time, peace – real peace – seemed possible.

Sadly, not all Jordanian’s share the late King’s heart. Speaking on Al Jazeera in 2001, Daqamseh’s mother said, “I am proud of my son. My son did a heroic deed and has pleased Allah and his own conscience.” Last month, over ninety percent of the members of the Jordanian Parliament – 110 out of 120 – signed a petition calling Daqamesh a “hero” and demanding a special pardon to release him.

And therein lies the problem. It seems that time has been kinder to Daqamesh than to King Hussein. Time has been kinder to the Egyptian Islamic Jihad than to Anwar Sadat, the Arab peacemaker they murdered. The radicals are not on the run. Will the Arab world be led by people with King Hussein’s heart, or will it be led by people who eat hearts? At various times during the past decades, there was reason for optimism. This is not one of those times.

David Brog is the Executive Director of Christians United for Israel (CUFI); He is the author of In Defense of Faith: The Judeo-Christian Idea and the Struggle for Humanity and Standing With Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State. David’s website.
Drip irrigation is an Israeli invention, first developed in the 1960s, that is now a cornerstone of the country’s agricultural diplomacy.

Israel is currently training farmers in the West African nations of Senegal, Ivory Coast and Gabon.

Standing in the university garden in Dakar, Israel’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Shalom Simhon, said irrigation technology is fundamental to farming in semi-arid environments, something Israel has learned firsthand in its desert climate.

He says drip irrigation is a very efficient use of water, and it allows farmers to respond to the specific needs of each plant without overwatering. The world is getting drier, he says, and water sources are becoming scarcer. Countries, he says, can not afford to rely only on rain for agriculture, and irrigation technology is essential.

Nearly 10 million people in the West African countries of Niger and Chad currently face severe food shortages brought on by erratic rains and poor harvests in 2009. Aid workers say poverty and lack of irrigation make farmers in the Sahel region vulnerable to even slight climate changes.

Simhon says improved farming practices, like drip irrigation and water recycling, have helped Israel conserve water and almost double its farming output in the last decade, leaving the country with a food surplus.
A team from the Israel Trauma Coalition, an association of Israeli agencies specializing in post-trauma resilience, will be arriving in the Boston suburb of Watertown next week to help develop “a recovery process” for the local school system.

Watertown, a village of some 32,000 residents, was the epicenter of the manhunt April 19 that killed one suspected Boston Marathon bomber and captured another. The manhunt forced the shuttering of much of the area, with residents told to stay indoors and businesses and schools closed for over a day as state and local police, together with federal forces, pursued the two suspects through the streets of Cambridge and Watertown.

“The events of a few weeks ago left us reeling and wanting to do whatever we could to help out,” wrote Barry Shrage — president of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Boston Jewish federation which arranged the connection between Watertown and the ITC — in a letter to federation staff on Thursday. “Our partners in Israel, who are all too familiar with the fear and anxiety of the aftermath of terrorist attacks, reached out to us with support, making the collaboration with the ITC possible.”

On Sunday, a team from the ITC will arrive in Boston and begin work with Watertown school district administrators, staff, community groups, and parents “to create a coordinated coping and recovery process that will be offered to the entire community,” Shrage said.

“Our Israeli friends called. They were saying, “You came to us when we had trouble. How can we be there for you?’ There was a feeling in Israel that, at this point, the American Jewish community needed help, and they wanted to be helpful. And I thought, that’s such a beautiful thing’.

Israel Trauma Coalition partners with local Jewish federation to help develop ‘recovery process’ for Watertown schools.
In January 2001, the Israeli Foreign Ministry dispatched a medical team and a shipment of medicines and medical supplies to assist the victims of the earthquake in El Salvador. Leading the delegation were the Director of the Foreign Ministry’s Latin America Division, Mr. Alex Ben-Zvi, and the Director of the Schneider Hospital Trauma Center, Dr. Yehezkel Waisman.

The delegation conveyed to President Francisco Flores of El Salvador a letter from Prime Minister Barak, expressing the solidarity of the people of Israel with the people of El Salvador.

In addition, the Israeli Humanitarian Aid organization “Latet” (“to give”) collected approximately 22 tons of clothing, blankets and assorted aid for homeless refugees in El Salvador.

When an earthquake again struck El Salvador on February 13, destroying the village of Jerusalem in San Vicente, Israel again extended assistance.
Prime Minister Netanyahu on the IDF’s work in Haiti

“You showed the world the IDF’s true face.”

During its stay in Haiti, the Israeli medical delegation treated more than 1,110 patients, conducted 319 successful surgeries, and delivered 16 babies. The IDF Search and Rescue force rescued or assisted in the rescue of 4 individuals.

**BACKGROUND ON THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE**

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 4:53 PM a 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti. An estimated 3 million people were affected by the quake and the Haitian government reported the death toll at 230,000. The earthquake cause 250,000 homes and 30,000 commercial buildings to collapse or be severely damaged.

**TIMELINE**

- January 14, 2010: A 220-person delegation, headed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, left Israel for Port-au-Prince on two Boeing 747 jets leased from El-Al by the IDF. The relief package includes a Home Front Command field hospital and rescue unit, as well as teams from Magen David Adom and Israel Police.
- January 15, 2010: The first Israeli delegation landed in the capital of Port-Au-Prince on January 15, 2010 and established its operation center in a soccer field near the airport.
- January 16, 2010: The Israelis open a field hospital. The field hospital includes 40 doctors, 25 nurses, paramedics, a pharmacy, a children’s ward, a radiology department, an intensive care unit, an emergency room, two operating rooms, a surgical department, an internal department and a maternity ward. The hospital can treat approximately 500 patients each day, and in addition will perform preliminary surgeries.
- January 17, 2010: A resident of Port-au-Prince gave birth to a son at the Israeli field hospital. As a token of appreciation and gratitude, his mother decided to name him “Israel” in honor of the country that helped her.
- January 18, 2010: The field hospital established by the IDF is one of the most advanced and includes a medical lab, pharmacy and an x-ray center. Approximately 200 patients were admitted to the hospital thus far, most of them in moderate condition. Furthermore, 39 life-saving surgeries and three births, one of which was the delivery of a 1.8 kilogram premature baby, were carried out.
- January 19, 2010: Two children were found alive under the ruins of a building, where they had been trapped for almost a week. A joint team of New York fire department and police forces succeeded in rescuing them. The children were transferred to the IDF field hospital in Port-au-Prince.
- January 22, 2010: After nearly 10 days, an Israeli Search and Rescue team saved a 22-year-old Haitian man, Emanuel Bito, from the ruins of a three-story building, near the presidential residence in the southern side of the city.

A search conducted by Population Management officers from the Home Front Command, headed by Lt. Col. Rami Peletz, was directed to the location of the trapped man by local residents. “American and French doctors were unable to rescue the trapped man and called upon the Israeli delegation’s search and rescue teams who rescued the man within half an hour, from a tunnel, 2.5-3-meters long and were able to release him whole and healthy,” said Maj. Zohar Moshe, a member of the rescue team.

A resident of Port-au-Prince gave birth to a son at the Israeli field hospital. As a token of appreciation and gratitude, his mother decided to name him “Israel” in honor of the country that helped her.

Mike, a four year old Haitian boy, was brought to the IDF field hospital in Port-au-Prince this morning by his father because of vomiting and weakness. Mike, his two siblings and his parents had been living on the street since the earthquake because their house was destroyed.

**STORIES**

Because the IDF field hospital is not equipped to deal with such long-term and complex treatments, and because his condition was urgent, we tried to find an organization to arrange for him to go to the United States and receive treatment there. There was an overwhelming and rapid response from many different individuals and organizations, and a few hours ago a group called “God’s Planet” came to the field hospital to pick-up Mike and take him to Miami Hospital where he will be receiving treatment for his cancer.

**PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISRAELI MISSION TO HAITI:**

“On January 13th, tragedy struck Haiti. Approximately forty hours later, may-be even thirty-six hours later, when I requested that a delegation be sent, they were already on their way! Less than one day later, they were already in the field. The plan was to erect the field hospital within twenty hours - it took just ten. The 240 members of the delegation - officers, regular soldiers and reservists - began working in record time. The Chief of General Staff told me that the other armies were in awe, expressing their amazement at how quickly our soldiers arrived and were ready to work.

Anyone familiar with the IDF, and the ever-changing situations and impossible missions it has dealt with in the past, was not surprised. Thorough planning is a necessity in any mission. However, the greatest test of our power, both as a people and an army, is our ability to react and rescue people quickly, while simultaneously making life-and-death decisions. You have once again proven to the world your vast abilities and expertise. But you have also done so much more. You lifted the spirits of men and brought honor to the State of Israel and the IDF; especially at a time when there are so many who at-tack us and distort the truth. By the way, I didn’t see too many of the armies of those who attempt to vilify us in Haiti. I am proud to say that you showed the world the IDF’s true face.

For me, the IDF and its importance was again manifested in yesterday’s experience. I returned yesterday from another place where there was a horrifying tragedy; not a natural disaster, but one caused by human nature - the most atrocious cruelty directed against our people and towards all people in history. In Auschwitz, no one came in the hour of need to rescue our people. But today, there exists a force, the Israel Defense Forces, which defends first and foremost our people, but as you demonstrated, not only our people. It mobilizes to help people in need all across the globe.

Yesterday, you were on the other side of the planet. Today, I salute you. Be sure that the entire world is appreciative. On behalf of the State of Israel and the entire fair, sincere and honest human race, it gives me great honor to say, thank you and well done, IDF.” - Prime Minister Netanyahu
It has been 26 years since India embarked on a lofty plan to restore the heavily polluted Ganges river. But the project has seen many setbacks. Now, with fresh cash from the World Bank, the river might make a recovery.

On its journey south and east from the Western Himalayas, through the Gangetic Plain of North India and on to the Bay of Bengal, the Ganges flows for over 2,500 kilometers (1,553 miles). More than 400 million people dwell in its basin and depend on its life source. It’s one of the world’s 20 largest rivers - and also one of the most polluted on the planet.

In places, the once sacred, life-giving Ganges has become a cesspool, polluted with fecal waste, semi-cremated bodies, and water-borne disease.

In its $3 billion (2.4 billion euros) quest to restore the Ganges to health, the Indian government is turning to an unlikely source - Israel - a tiny, arid Middle East country that is producing world-leading water technology.

Israel NewTech, an initiative led by the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour, is matching Israeli clean-tech companies with Indian partners to tender solutions for the Ganges.

The Indian government aims to have no untreated municipal sewage or industrial runoff enter the Ganges by 2020, but according to Oded Distel, head of Israel NewTech, cleaning the Ganges is more like a 20-year mission.

“It’s a huge project. It combines technological aspects and elements from waste water treatment and water management up to irrigation,” he said. During dry season, “it becomes more a kind of canal for waste water rather than a real living river.”
On March 26, 2011, a shipment of aid from Israel was flown to Japan. The aid was organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense and the Home Front Command.

A delegation of 50 people from the Home Front Command and the IDF Medical Corps was accompanied by 18 tons of aid that includes blankets, coats, gloves and portable toilets.

Israel was the first to send a medical team to Japan. Rescue teams from a limited number of countries had been operating in Japan, but no medical teams. The Home Front Command’s medical delegation was stationed in the city of Kurihara, in the Miyagi prefecture about six hours north of Tokyo, an area which was hit hard by the tsunami. The plan was to set up a field clinic to treat the wounded and refugees concentrated in that area. All of the arrangements for the medical team’s arrival and operation vis-à-vis the Japanese authorities were coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli embassy in Tokyo.

The aid shipment of essential items (10,000 coats, 6,000 blankets, 8,000 pairs of gloves and 150 portable toilets) were coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to the request of the Japanese National Disaster Center, and sent in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense.

Japan noted that Israel was one of the first countries to send aid as per the needs and request of the Japanese.

The Japanese ambassador in Israel, HE Haruhisa Takeuchi, expressed deep gratitude, on behalf of the government and people of Japan, for the Israeli aid and said that the Israeli government’s response to the Japanese government’s requests for aid was very quick.
In 2011 the horn of Africa, suffered the worst drought in a 60 year span and was dubbed the “world’s worst food crisis” by the UN. Hundreds of thousands died leaving an additional 12 million people at risk of death from further famine and violence. IsraAID, the Israeli forum for international humanitarian aid, responded with emergency relief items and distributed food to tens of thousands of refugees in Kenya’s poorest district of Turkana. IsraAID provided 77,500 meals, 1,000 blankets for children to tackle famine-induced hypothermia, and 1,000 treated mosquito nets to prevent Malaria. Currently IsraAID is supporting 120,000 plus refugees residing in Kakuma Camp which has a population capacity of 100,000 people through intensive and continuous trauma training, infrastructure support, and relief distributions.
Washington may have rebuffed Israeli offers of expert assistance in the days after Hurricane Katrina, but a team of Israeli rescue personnel managed to deploy in some of the worst-hit areas around New Orleans, JTA has learned.

The 18-member team - which included physicians, mental health professionals, trauma specialists, logistics experts and a special unit of Israeli police divers - arrived in St. Bernard Parish and Plaquemines Parish on Sept. 10 and spent a week and a half assisting fire department search-and-rescue squads and sitting in on daily planning meetings that included local leadership and a complement of FEMA, police, military and fire representatives, the Israeli team’s leader said.

The team administered first aid to survivors, rescued abandoned pets and discovered victims of the storm, which ravaged the Gulf Coast. Carting equipment ranging from axes and ropes to electrical generators, satellite phones and three weeks’ worth of food, the group arrived in the United States in civilian garb, waiting until they hit the decimated areas to don T-shirts featuring the group’s logo and other identifying garb that would mark them as uninvited rescue personnel.

“We had tools like Jack the Ripper,” said Gal Lusky, a diver who founded Israeli Flying Aid, a non-governmental organization that undertook the mission along with the IsraAID relief group. “We had plenty of stuff and we had to justify it at immigration. When we were asked what is all that equipment, we said we were going to the Jewish community to teach youth groups how to prepare summer camps.”

Asked about the Israeli personnel aid, a spokesman for FEMA said only that “there were many volunteer groups from different countries who came to Louisiana to help the people and the state.”

“FEMA wants to thank them for the assistance and the hard work they did,” he said.

Rep. Bobby Jindal (R-La.) said he was grateful for the Israelis’ work.

“The work being done by IsraAID and their team members to help the people of Louisiana is greatly appreciated,” Jindal told JTA in an e-mail message. “They are providing support services for people who have been devastated by the tragedy, offering whatever assistance is needed as it is needed. Their presence will make the effort to get people home and on with their lives that much easier.”

Rep. Charles Melancon (D-La.) said the Israelis “performed courageously in south Louisiana when we needed them most.”

“I’m personally very grateful for their efforts and I know that those they touched will always remember the generosity of the Israeli people, who sent help from so far away,” he said in an e-mail to JTA.

“The soldiers were shocked seeing us,” Lusky said. They asked the Israelis, “How come you came from so far? You have your own troubles. You’re such a small country.

“The answer,” Lusky continued, “is that we’re a small country but big friends. For us it was so obvious. America has been such a good friend for ages.”

Source: Deep South Jewish Voice
When ISRAEL21c spoke with Israeli relief volunteer Joel Leyden in New York yesterday, he had just received a phone call from the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management on New York’s Long Island.

“They confirmed that there is a police escort waiting to bring in Israel Flying Aid’s delivery of fuel, which will go to county hospitals to be dispensed to doctors and nurses so they will be able to get to and from work,” he tells us.

One of the consequences of the October 29 Hurricane Sandy has been unavailability of gasoline because of difficulties in getting the fuel to gas stations, as well as power outages that have left gas pumps useless. But transportation is certainly not the only problem facing residents of hard-hit areas of New York and New Jersey, and that is why Leyden and other Israeli volunteers are pitching in.

“Just because people are not seeing pictures of destroyed homes anymore, does not mean there isn’t a critical situation going on in Long Island and Staten Island,” Leyden tells ISRAEL21c.

“Of course, we’re talking about devastation close to a nuclear bomb having gone off, with hundreds of homes completely leveled and thousands of people without electricity, without food, without water, without shelter. It hasn’t changed since the storm hit.”

Though there is reportedly an effort to bring an Israeli military medical delegation to the United States in the coming days, for now the official offers of help have been turned down.

However, that has not stopped members of various non-governmental organizations, such as Israel Flying Aid and Israeli Humanitarian Aid-Latet, from taking up the challenge even if it means digging into their own pockets. Most of them are Israelis living in or visiting the United States, says Leyden, who resides in Ra’anana and worked with Israel Flying Aid in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake.

“Every Israeli can be proud of what we are doing to represent them,” he says.
Typhoon Haiyan, which had sustained winds of over 200 mph and has been deemed the most powerful typhoon to have made landfall in modern times, displaced approximately 4 million people, injured more than 27,000 and killed over 6,000, affecting a total of 16 million people. Within 48 hours of the storm, IsraAID’s first emergency team was in route from Israel. Arriving in less than 4 days after the disaster, IsraAID first deployed to Tacloban spending time supporting local health workers in hospitals and finally settling in Ormoc for permanent operations. Currently IsraAID is operating hand-in-hand withOrmoc’s municipal government to implement programs in medical support, psychosocial training, and reconstruction. IsraAID intends to remain in Ormoc till December 2015.
An Israeli aid group and Canadian Jewish federations are teaming to help ease the famine in Somalia.

IsrAID is partnering with the Canadian Jewish organizations UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and UIA Canada to bring food and water to suffering populations in Africa. The relief efforts are targeting Somalians who are crossing the border into Ethiopia and Kenya in order to escape the famine.

IsrAID is communicating with the United Nations and government officials to determine distribution logistics and the types of food that are needed.

The United Nations has declared a state of famine in several regions of Somalia; some expect the entire Somali South to be similarly declared in two months.

Droughts, rising food prices, conflict and other factors and have left approximately 11 million in need of assistance in Somalia and neighboring countries. Large numbers of Somalians—approximately 2,000 a day—are fleeing to Kenya seeking food and aid.
Many North Koreans have attempted to flee their homeland since the end of the Korean War in 1953. Many have crossed over into China, and are now living in daily fear of being discovered and deported back to North Korea. An attempt to flee to its southern neighbor becomes even more risky with approximately only 25,000 making the successful journey in 60 years. IsraAID, the Israeli forum for international humanitarian aid, arrived in South Korea in 2012 and after meeting with government agencies and organizations discovered a need for psychosocial rehabilitation. IsraAID immediately got to work on addressing this issue and held its first training workshop in February 2013.

Source: http://israaid.co.il/projects/south-korea
South Sudan is one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world and though it officially became a nation in 2011 the challenges facing its economy, infrastructure and population remain colossal. Forty years of civil war, tribal conflict and poverty have had devastating effects on the country. Violence against women is extensive, leaving many children without a proper family structure, education and/or healthcare. For every 100,000 births there is a maternal mortality rate of 2,054 which is currently the world’s highest. In July and December 2011, IsraAID, the Israeli forum for international humanitarian aid dispatched a humanitarian team to assist with the distribution of relief items. During the course of its relief operations, IsraAID provided emergency aid to 140 Nuba refugees, relief to 1,200 lepers, and supplies to incarcerated prostitutes, most of whom were minors.
A serious humanitarian crisis emerged after the civil war in Syria began in 2011. Four million have been displaced within Syria and 2 million refugees have fled to neighboring countries. There are over 500,000 refugees in Jordan alone, with an additional 3,000 crossing daily. IsraAID, the Israeli forum for international humanitarian aid first came to Jordan in 2013 and started distributing emergency family and hygiene kits. Each kit contains a month’s worth of supplies for a family of 6-8 people. The kits include items such as sugar, rice, powdered milk, beans, canned tuna, tomato paste, lentils, soup, cheese, pasta, tea, blankets, clothes, and cooking utensils. IsraAID is also conducting assessments on the need for trauma assistance, and the support of child friendly spaces and women shelters. To date, over 10 tons of aid has been distributed.
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Amid the scenes of horror and death that afflicted this country during earthquake in 1999, the brightest sign of life was a field hospital operated by doctors and nurses from the Israeli Army.

Eight babies were born in the week following the quake. One boy was named Israel, and one girl is called Ziona. Their names are symbols of how firmly the earthquake has sealed the alliance between Israel and Turkey.

“God bless the Israelis,” said one new mother, Serap Balcioglu, whose child was born blue and seemingly lifeless but was revived by an emergency team at the hospital. “They’re taking beautiful care of me. What would we do without them?”

Source: The New York Times
IsraAid, the Israeli forum for international humanitarian aid, is currently assisting with the physical and psychological needs of millions of Americans who are struggling to rebuild after several natural disasters. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall twice, first in Florida and then again in Louisiana and Mississippi which caused extensive destruction. In Louisiana storm surges in excess of 20 feet overran levees which were in place and meant to protect metropolitan New Orleans. This left over 80% of the city under 20 feet of water. Since 2005, IsraAid has been sending relief to the U.S. to support, facilitate, and implement relief operations.

In late October of 2012, Superstorm Sandy, in combination with strong winds, ocean surges, and heavy rain, was a storm the likes of which had not been seen in over 80 years. The first IsraAID team arrived in early November, and deployed straight to the Breezy Point and Far Rockaway areas, staying for nearly 3 months. They assisted in the clearing of mud, muck, silt, and other semi-solid material from homes. They also assisted in the removal of other items that were not structural components of homes but submerged or damaged by floodwaters. The main goal for IsraAid was to focus on individuals that did not have the insurance coverage and who came from middle to low income status. They assisted 61 households, rehabilitated 2 faith-based institutions, and coordinated and facilitated the work of over 330 volunteers.

Three IsraAID relief teams were sent to assist after a series of devastating tornadoes in Oklahoma. They assisted local authorities with debris removal and initial rehabilitation, which included the first removal of wreckage such as trees, cars, roofs, etc. Like Superstorm Sandy, IsraAID’s main goal in Oklahoma was to assist those individuals whose homes were damaged and who did not have the necessary insurance to cover removal of debris. During this time, IsraAID cleared more than 50 households of debris and, coordinated over 320 volunteers from other relief groups.

During the week of September 9th, 2013 “biblical rainfall amounts” descended along Colorado’s Front Range Mountains, cutting off small towns and forcing thousands to evacuate their homes. Over 17,500 homes were affected and the cities of Lyons and Jamestown were left completely devoid of basic utilities. IsraAid deployed an emergency response team to Colorado to provide immediate relief and to guide local communities in their efforts to clean out destroyed homes. This cleaning stage is crucial to avoid major health and hygiene issues from contaminated water, open sewage, and the onset of dangerous mold. IsraAid and its partners are currently still focusing resources on Lyons which remains closed to the public. All utilities are disconnected, and the water is contaminated with sewage, leading to fears of widespread E.Coli outbreaks. To this day, IsraAid has assisted over 40 households in its relief efforts.