



Uri Carmel

Words From Our CEO

In times of crisis and in routine, we understand more than ever the importance of strong, local leaders and connected, prepared communities. True community resilience is built through readiness and proactive planning; this allows us to face challenges along the way. As the resilience principle goes, "What works in routine will work in emergencies." Practical tools, tailored training, and creating meaningful connections are what enable us to meet these challenges—now and in the future.

This month, we focused on empowering Community Emergency Team (CET) volunteers in northern Israel, preparing them for emergency situations, and providing resource mobilization tools to communities and entrepreneurs so they can continue to create, lead, and serve as anchors for their communities—even in the most complex times.

Another significant issue currently on our minds is the proposed 2025 economic plan for the State of Israel, now up for discussion in the Knesset, which unfortunately includes a proposal to alter the structure of support for urban renewal and for strengthening and securing buildings in the periphery. The planned change would convert this financial assistance from a grant to a loan. At the 'Roundtable for Sustainable and Community Urban Renewal,' which we proudly lead alongside many esteemed partners, we are working to amend this harmful legislation that would have a severe impact on the security and urban renewal efforts in the north and south of Israel.

In continued doing and faith,
Uri

Community Emergency Teams

Providing Training and Equipment for Northern Communities

The situation in the north has been challenging for a long time, and our Community Emergency Teams (CET) program is more relevant than ever. Training sessions for these teams are actively underway in 45 northern communities.

Community leaders from all segments of the population in northern towns are gaining skills to help them organize and mobilize their communities in times of crisis. Additionally, the teams are being equipped with essential emergency supplies, including generators, radios, flashlights, vests, and more.

We are deeply grateful to the volunteers for their dedication to the public good, and we hope their services won't be needed.



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The Urban Renewal Roundtable

Working Together for Policy Change

Today, the government is voting on the 2025 economic plan, which includes a clause titled "Improving the Use of Assistance Mechanisms for Urban Renewal, Strengthening, and Securing Buildings." According to this proposal, state assistance for financing urban renewal, building reinforcement, and security measures will no longer be provided as a grant, as it has been until now. Instead, it will be offered as a loan, which homeowners would be required to repay upon selling their property. Implementing this proposal could significantly impact building security in the north and hinder urban renewal efforts, particularly in social and geographical peripheries.

So, why are we telling you all of this?

As part of the 'Multi-Sector Roundtable on Sustainable and Community Urban Renewal' led by EretzIr, we convened an urgent discussion on this topic with approximately 40 participants from government ministries, local authorities, the Manufacturers Association, the Planning Association, civil society organizations, and more.

Despite the diversity of perspectives, there was a clear consensus that the current proposal, as written, would make it more challenging to advance urban renewal outside high-demand areas of the country (low-demand areas = the periphery that we are working so hard to strengthen and develop). The roundtable members agreed on the need to either update the proposal or work to remove it from the agenda. Over the past few days, numerous partners from both the field and the roundtable have actively highlighted the challenges this proposal presents to government ministries, city leaders, and additional stakeholders.

Alongside addressing this specific proposal, we have seen new opportunities emerge as more partners express interest in collaborative action and in bringing urban renewal in the periphery into the public spotlight.

A big thank you to the Carasso-Hagar Program at Tel Aviv University for their help with this important topic.

Resource Development Course

Giving Our Communities and Entrepreneurs Skills to Succeed

Success in the evolving world of resource development for communities and social entrepreneurs requires ongoing learning, refining writing and communication skills, and networking effectively with potential donors. We've made it a priority to develop these capabilities within our network of social entrepreneurs and communities, enabling them to develop skills that will help them succeed. In September, we hosted a course just for this including four digital sessions and culminating in a two-day seminar at Nes Harim in the Jerusalem hills.

Some 20 representatives from our communities and social entrepreneurs participated in the seminar. The connections and collaborations that emerged among them were some of the most inspiring we've witnessed and are a testament to the power of networking.



[Check Out the Album from the Seminar](#)

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Eretz-Ir is a professional, organizational, and economic platform that enables and encourages the influence of residents on the space around them. We help active residents who want to create positive change in their environments to organize by helping them develop professional tools and meet like-minded partners, while increasing their sense of ability to create cities that are simply good to live in, specifically in Israel's periphery regions.

Help us continue to serve these champions of civil society and social action.

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