

Living on the Edge

Northern Negev, along the Gaza strip



Hearing – Feeling – Sharing *KKL-JNF Moving Forward Together*



קרן קימת לישראל
KKL - JNF

Welcome!

Our trip will focus on sites in the Gaza area as an example of the amazing work KKL-JNF has done and continues to do along Israel's borders and confrontation lines.

We will visit a variety of KKL-JNF change-making projects that improve quality of life for those people. You will have the opportunity to meet the people who live in the area, see their faces, hear their stories, take pictures and interview them – feel the ground and understand the importance of continued support for people living on the edge. Thanks to you, those people enjoy security, a better economy and a higher standard of living. Your continued help and support make a difference!

Some of the projects we visit are still open for donation and it will be our challenge to match them with suitable donors.

Use this opportunity to collect resources for creating exciting, stimulating, inspiring marketing materials that will arouse interest and motivate donors to become partners in KKL-JNF's significant work.

Other materials are available on your "credit card" disk on key and on the Partnership site:
<http://hanof.kkl.org.il/partnership>

Bon Voyage!



1. Netiv HaAsara
2. Sderot
3. Sha'ar Hanegev
4. Nahal Oz
5. Kibbutz Alumim and Old Be'erot Yitzhak



Living on the Edge

Group no.4

Netiv HaAsara

Moshav Netiv HaAsara relocated to its present location in the Zikim sand dunes after its evacuation from Yamit as part of the 1982 withdrawal from Sinai.

Netiv HaAsara is named in honor of the ten soldiers who lost their lives in a helicopter crash south of Rafiah in 1971. To date, the moshav has some 230 families, comprising 800 people. The community is very close to Gaza and suffers from missiles and terrorist activity. Our visit to the moshav and its surrounding area will focus on getting to know moshav (cooperative farming village) life in a confrontation line community. KKL-JNF built security and escape roads and is now working to prepare land for 71 new families.



Sderot

Sderot is a development town in the Western Negev founded in 1951 by new immigrants from Iran, Kurdistan and North Africa. The city faces many economic and social challenges which have been exacerbated by severe security problems, particularly the launching of countless rocket attacks on the city from

the nearby Gaza Strip. KKL-JNF has been involved with Sderot since its establishment and with the help of its friends in the UK, South America, Canada and the US developed a number of parks and other green landscaping projects in the town. KKL-JNF also developed open classrooms and other educational projects in Sderot together with its Youth and Education Division. During Operation Protective Edge KKL-JNF contributed life-saving portable bomb shelters that were set up in the town and organized educational activities in shelters and "getaway" trips to the north. The Sderot Recycled Water Reservoir was established with the help of KKL-JNF friends in the US and Canada. The reservoir stores treated wastewater from Sderot that is used for irrigation in nearby farming communities. Due to the uncertain security situation JNF USA supported the development of a protected playground for the people of Sderot and its surroundings. KKL-JNF continues to develop additional parks and gathering areas.



Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council – Sapiir College

During our tour, we will visit the Sapiir Academic College campus at the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council compound, adjacent to Sderot. The college has 7000 students from all over Israel. You will be meeting students to gain a better

understanding of the challenges and issues the college faces due to its location in the periphery on the Gaza border. KKL-JNF German friends contributed to the establishment of an amphitheater for gatherings and large events.



Nahal Oz

Kibbutz Nahal Oz, established in 1951, was the first IDF NAHAL community. Since its inception, Nahal Oz has been infiltrated and attacked by mortar fire from the Gaza Strip, most recently during Operation Protective Edge (July-August 2014). Despite its security situation, the community strives to look

ahead, working towards renewal and growth.

KKL-JNF developed agricultural-security roads in the kibbutz and roads to protect residents from direct shots, with the help of KKL-JNF friends in France and executed security plantings with the help of KKL-JNF friends in Canada. KKL-JNF is now planning to develop a tourist center at Nahal Oz.



Kibbutz Alumim and Old Be'erot Yitzhak

Kibbutz Be'erot Yitshak was destroyed during Israel's War of Independence and subsequently relocated. The original location has been declared a historical site and houses a regional heritage center focusing on pioneering settlement in the Negev, from its

beginnings to the present. Kibbutz Alumim, which was established near the ruins of Old Be'erot Yitshak has undertaken to operate the project. The kibbutz was founded in 1966 and now has a population of 430.

KKL-JNF is involved with Kibbutz Alumim since its early days preparing land for farming and housing, and built agricultural-security roads. Current work includes landscaping and development for the regional heritage center being built at Old Be'erot Yitshak.

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Living on the Edge

General background

Group no.4



Introduction

Israel is a small Middle Eastern country, long and narrow. It is surrounded by Arab entities: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and the Gaza Strip, which at different periods in history have been more or less hostile depending on circumstances. From the early days of Zionism, settlement was used as a means of securing Israel's borders.

The people living along Israel's northern and southwestern borders suffered artillery and missile attacks from for many years, interspersed by occasional quiet periods. During these times Israeli civilians found themselves on the front line, in a chaotic fear-filled environment. School children in the north and south spent time in bomb shelters instead of in classrooms, playing on beaches or wading in cool springs. The situation also played havoc with the regions' economy – lack of stability discourages investment and in many cases leads to the collapse of businesses. This in turn reduces the number of jobs and prevents creation of new ones, affecting existing residents and stopping new people from moving to the area.

The Gaza Envelope

The Gaza Envelope (*Otef Aza*, in Hebrew) is the part of Israel surrounding Gaza and includes the town of Sderot as well as a number of rural communities – kibbutzim and moshavim. The security situation in the area has been tense for years, making life for residents of the area extremely stressful. Headlines are made when there is an increase in rocket and missile attacks, or when there are casualties – but only the residents of the area have to live with this impossible reality from day to day.



The Israeli government initiated a comprehensive program to build shelters and to reinforce existing buildings in schools, kindergartens and private homes. Early warning alert systems warn the population to take cover in time in case of missile attacks. Before all these steps were taken, life for the average school child in the region was far from normal – classes were interrupted by mad dashes to communal bomb shelters and teachers were concentrating more on listening for the next siren than on teaching. Schools were often closed down completely when the situation became too tense. In the summer of 2014 the Gaza Envelope communities were under incessant rocket and mortar fire and the situation was fast becoming unbearable and the IDF initiated Operation Protective Edge.

Operation Protective Edge

Operation Protective Edge was launched by the IDF on July 8, 2014, following months of incessant Gaza rocket fire – 450 rockets had been fired at Israel since the beginning of 2014. The goals of the operation were to restore security to Israeli civilians living under Hamas rocket fire and to dismantle the Hamas tunnel network used to infiltrate Israel. On the 10th day of the operation, after continued terrorist assaults on Israel from land, air and sea, the IDF commenced the ground phase of the operation. On Tuesday, August 26, the Egyptian Foreign Minister announced a ceasefire for an unlimited time, which Israel agreed to.?

KKL-JNF with the People on the Front Line

Throughout the years, KKL-JNF has worked on behalf of residents of confrontation line communities in many fields, from security to education, from tourism to supporting agricultural R&D. One of KKL-JNF's major

contribution is helping people lead normal lives – our activities provide fun and recreation and our forests provide calm and tranquility. KKL-JNF is leading the fight for normalcy in Israel – the best way of fighting violence and terrorism. KKL-JNF is always there, supporting the people through thick and thin, before, during and after military confrontations.

KKL-JNF works with the IDF and government offices on a variety of projects developed to improve the safety and quality of life of local residents. These include planting trees to screen roads and communities from enemy fire and landscaping the surroundings of reinforced school and public buildings. Security plantings along local roads allow the residents of the region, and schoolchildren in particular, to travel as safely and "normally" as possible. During Operation Protective Edge KKL-JNF groves served as mobilization points for IDF ground forces before entering Gaza. In many cases our security agricultural roads fulfilled an additional function as transportation routes for the IDF.

During Operation Protective Edge the solidarity and cooperation demonstrated by KKL-JNF Friends worldwide with the residents of the Gaza area was outstanding. Responding immediately at the outset of the operation, KKL-JNF countries initiated innovative emergency campaigns, raising funds for life-saving and morale boosting projects. In the heat of the conflict, solidarity missions from the U.S.A., Canada, Belgium and Luxembourg arrived in Israel, visiting Gaza border communities.



Life-saving and morale boosting projects

During Operation Protective Edge KKL-JNF went into action immediately to support local residents:

- KKL-JNF installed 209 bomb shelters in schools, public areas and open spaces, providing safety and enabling residents of the southern regional and local councils to continue a semblance of daily life.
- 2,500 children and their families went north for a respite from the events in the region. KKL-JNF Field & Forest Education Centers at Lavi and Tsiptori, among others, hosted families and engaged the children in educational activities led by KKL-JNF Youth & Education Division counselors.
- 10,000 children who were forced to spend extensive time in bomb shelter were provided with fun and educational activities led by KKL-JNF Youth & Education Division counselors.
- 2000 hygiene kits were sent to soldiers in combat.

KKL-JNF looks into the future

In addition to the emergency steps taken during the fighting, KKL-JNF looks beyond the present into a better and more promising future, encouraging economic, tourist and community initiatives. We continue to repair and rehabilitate areas damaged during military campaigns in the north and south: forests and their facilities – picnic and recreation areas, agricultural and security roads and other amenities damaged in the campaign. However, life goes on – KKL-JNF and its friends worldwide support and develop long-term projects for the benefit of confrontation line residents, some of which appear below:

- KKL-JNF developed a network of agricultural security roads that allow residents of the area to move between their communities, reach their fields and transport children to school safely and securely. Thanks to the existence of these roads the people of the western Negev can move around safely even in times of danger.
- Despite the difficulty of keeping a sense of normalcy, the people living in confrontation areas try to continue living a regular life. The various KKL-JNF projects that include community parks, restoring archaeological sites, river rehabilitation, scenic lookouts, bicycle trails and recreation areas for families and people with disabilities are one of the things that make this possible. These recreational options help bring people together and create a sense of community. Outdoor activities have been shown to improve people's psychological well-being.

- KKL-JNF strengthens the local economy by preparing land for agriculture, building agricultural roads, reservoirs and dams, and infrastructure for expanding existing communities and developing new ones. Moreover, a number of studies have shown that parks raise the value of surrounding real estate. They also help attract tourists, which in turn helps the economy.
- KKL-JNF contributes is involved in green schoolyard development and a variety of environmental education activities. Green landscaping – adding trees and shrubs to our environment – lowers temperatures by creating shade and reduces air pollution.
- KKL-JNF supports agricultural R&D stations that help keep Negev farmers at the forefront of an extremely competitive global produce market, by constantly developing newer and better farming methods.

In the Gaza Envelope region specifically KKL-JNF is involved in many projects, developed both before and after Operation Protective Edge, some of which appear below:

- The government, KKL-JNF and additional organizations, built a new safe "missile-proof" school, the Sha'ar HaNegev (Gate to the Negev) Experimental Secondary School, which focuses on the environment and works with active learning techniques to encourage creativity, initiative and environmental commitment.
- Green landscaping and the development of entranceways at Kfar Aza and sixteen additional communities in the northwestern Negev.
- A new neighborhood and security road in Netiv HaAsara.
- Landscape development in communities such as Talme Yosef.
- Green landscaping at elementary schools and academic institutions, such as the amphitheater at the Sapir Academic College in Sderot and the Da'at School at Kibbutz Sa'ad.
- Green landscaping the Ezra LeMarpeh Medical Rehabilitation Center in Sderot and the ALEH Negev Rehabilitative Village near Ofakim.
- Development of forests and parks, including two new parks for Sderot, projects for tourism at Kibbutz Zikim, Nahal Oz, Nir Moshe, Gilat, and Kibbutz En Hashlosa.
- Landscaping the Alumim Heritage Center and IDF bases in the south, including facilities for women soldiers.
- Organizing events and tours for the public.



Selected Projects for Donation throughout Israel:

12728 – Netiv HaAsara – A New Neighborhood

KKL -JNF is preparing land for the purpose of building 71 homes for young families at Moshav Netiv HaAsara. The project will strengthen Netiv HaAsara and serve to ensure its continuation.

12816 – Netiv HaAsara – Perimeter Security Road

KKL-JNF is planning to create a perimeter security road around the new neighborhood at Netiv HaAsara. The project will serve to reinforce and protect Netiv HaAsara.

10008 – Nahal Oz – Agricultural Visitor Center – Landscaping

KKL-JNF will landscape the Visitor Center that Kibbutz Nahal Oz is currently establishing, which is an important agritourism project.

12717 – Old Be'erot Yitshak – Regional Heritage Visitor Center – Landscaping

KKL-JNF will landscape the Visitor Center at the site of Old Be'erot Yitshak.

12893 – Repairing Damages after Operation Protective Edge 2014

KKL-JNF is planning to repair damages to western Negev security-agricultural roads, which serve residents and military patrols.

11931 – Sderot – Ezra LeMarpeh Medical Rehabilitation Center

KKL-JNF is developing a medical and rehabilitation center in the southern periphery city of Sderot for the benefit of its residents and those of the western Negev.

10060 – Nes Harim FFEC – Hosting Children from The South

The KKL-JNF Youth and Education's Field and Forest Education Centers host groups of children and engage them in quality activities in a serene environment.

For more information and materials:

[Visit the Partnership Site/Project Pool](#)



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