



# Rebuilding Kibbutz KFar Azza: A Mission Statement



## About Kibbutz KFar Azza

Kibbutz KFar Azza was established in 1957, about two kilometers east of the Gaza Strip. On the evening of October 7, 2023, there were about 950 residents living in the kibbutz, including 233 children and 135 seniors. Despite numerous rocket attacks, the members of the kibbutz enjoyed an economic prosperity thanks to its plastics factory Kafrit, diverse agricultural branches, and about 120 large and small businesses. The Kibbutz also had a superb educational system and flourishing cultural life, including many traditions, such as the large-scale Seder Night on Passover, the Book of Esther Show on Purim, the Kites Festival on Sukkot, and the Shavuot celebration of the Kibbutz's growth.

## October 7th Massacre

On Saturday, October 7th, hundreds of Hamas terrorists infiltrated the Kibbutz from Gaza. They invaded the Kibbutz residents' houses, slaughtered, burned, abused and kidnapped. As of today, 61 kibbutz residents were murdered, 18 were kidnapped, 8 are still hospitalized. The kibbutz residents became refugees in their own country overnight. They were evacuated from their homes under fire with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. They lost family members, close friends, their home, their livelihood, and their community. Most of them were evacuated to Shefayim Hotel, where they remain together, trying to heal and rebuild their lives as individuals and as a collective. The destroyed kibbutz is currently a closed military area, and it will take at least two years before it is possible to return and resettle there.

## Rebuilding Kfar Azza

Our vision for the rehabilitation of KFar Azza includes three stages:

### In the immediate term:

Most of the Kibbutz residents are currently staying in Shefayim Hotel, and the rest are scattered throughout the country. The immediate challenge is to provide their material, physical and mental needs in their personal journey to recovery. In addition, resources are required for the restoration of the community, specifically: supporting large and small businesses, reviving cultural and educational activities, providing each individual's distinctive needs, and maintaining close community ties among all survivors.

### In the mid-term:

a temporary settlement will be established for the KFar Azza community, adjacent to an existing settlement in the Negev (currently under negotiations). This will require the establishment of temporary educational systems, cultural life, and a financial structure. During this period the Kibbutz structure will remain scattered, as some will continue to live in various housing arrangements around the country. At this stage, the members will have to re-equip their temporary homes, find employment solutions, and maintain collective ties and community life.

### In the long term:

our goal is the rebuilding of Kibbutz KFar Azza as a prosperous, joyful, and safe community. It requires the reconstruction of the physical surroundings, and the reestablishment of the Kibbutz social, cultural, educational, and occupational infrastructures. Special resources will be dedicated to those families who have experienced loss and bereavement.

**Despite the excruciating pain, we consider the restoration of Kibbutz Kfar Azza and its return to its original site to be of the highest national, moral, social and personal importance. We believe that from the destruction and pain we will bloom, renew our days as before and return to being a source of personal and national pride.**