

Activities

Activity 3

Humanitarian Programs: What Countries and Whom Could Israel Help?

Preparation:

Estimated Time: 1-2 class periods • **Materials:** Background information from *Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas!*, *Israel 101*, and Internet access. (Students can also look at the resources listed in the Resource guide below.)

Background: Israel's humanitarian programs have helped developing countries, improved the health of people around the world, and brought aid and relief to victims of natural disasters. Israel has even tried to bring emergency aid to countries that do not recognize it. The purpose of this activity is to have students learn about Israel's various humanitarian programs and to have them choose a developing country, an illness, or a crisis situation where Israel's expertise could be of service. This activity will help students learn about other countries or human health problems that could benefit from Israel's programs or expertise. Inspired students might even try to facilitate the spread of such programs as part of their community service.

Activity:

1. Explain the background to students. Help them review Israel's humanitarian programs by referring to *Israel 101*, the *Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas!* DVD, and by skimming information about Israel's Mashav at mashav.mfa.gov.il/mfm/web/main/missionhome.asp?LanguageID=0&Question2=&MissionID=16210&MissionID= and IsraAID programs at www.israaid.org.il or www.Israel21c.

After reviewing some of the humanitarian programs, have students choose which one interests them most. Divide the students into groups based on their interest. Have them choose a developing country that might benefit from Israel's expertise in desert farming, environmental innovations, desalination, etc., or have them choose an illness or disaster situation where Israel's expertise would be helpful.

2. The groups should then research the areas/countries/illness they have chosen, and examine how Israel could help. They should define the problem in some detail (the country or disease or disaster) and why and how Israel would be helpful—whether it has helped with such problems in the past or has the expertise to help. They should be specific.
3. Finally, the groups should present their findings to the class.

Wrap-up: Israel's know-how and expertise and its commitment to “repairing the world” has led it to make extraordinary efforts to provide humanitarian programs to the world.