

## SPOTLIGHT ON 2005

In 2005 MASHAV was active in 108 countries, training thousands of participants in courses focusing on human capacity building. The courses, taught in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, were offered in a wide range of disciplines, including Agriculture, Education, Economic and Social Development, Community Development, Rural and Urban Development, Medicine and Public Health, and Science and Technology. Some 2,271 participants were trained in 94 courses in Israel, while 4,365 took part in 91 on-the-spot courses (in host countries) offered in a total of 32 countries. MASHAV experts were dispatched throughout the world on 116 short-term consultancies and humanitarian medical missions to 39 countries and 9 long-term experts were serving on MASHAV demonstration projects around the world, in a total of 6 countries. Following are examples of MASHAV activities in the year 2005.

### International Conference for Women Leaders

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) held its 24th International Conference for Women Leaders entitled "Migration and Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals", in Haifa in September 2005.

The Conference, hosted by MCTC in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), was supported by MASHAV in cooperation with the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Over 50 senior women leaders from around the world participated in the Conference, including 20 ministers, members of parliament, judges, representatives of the World Bank, UN agencies officials and representatives of international organizations.

The Conference was officially opened by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women. The Hon. Mme Ndiro

Ndiaye, Minister and Deputy-Director General of the IOM was the Conference Chair.

The Conference focused on the changes and trends in the migration of the twenty-first century as they affect women, exposing the obstacles and special challenges facing migrant women. In addition, the participants discussed the empowerment of women undergoing the process of migration; emphasized the special role of migrant women as agents of change; and examined their vulnerability, referring, among other things, to the phenomenon of the trafficking of women, family crises and violence against women. The Conference also examined the unique contribution of women in the Diaspora to the promotion of development in their countries.

The conclusions and recommendations that ensued in the form of the **Haifa Declaration** will be brought to the attention of a high level dialogue of the UN General Assembly by Ms. Mayanja in 2006, with the aim of advancing migration and gender issues within the context of the debate on the Millennium Development Goals. The full report of the Conference proceedings was disseminated by MCTC and IOM through UN specialized agencies and international and national organizations throughout the world.



Participants in the 24th International Conference for Women Leaders on Migration and Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals

## New Course on Security of Education Institutions

MASHAV broke new ground in April 2005 when it coordinated a unique on-the-spot course on "Security of Education Institutions" together with the Aharon Ofri International Training Center and the Israeli Embassy in Moscow.

MASHAV organized this challenging course held at the local Teachers' Training Center in Samara, Russia, at the request of the Samara Regional Ministry of Education following the devastating terrorist attack in Beslan. The 36 participants included teachers, educational supervisors, security-coordinators and representatives from the regional Ministries of Interior and Emergency Situations. At the opening ceremony, the regional Minister of Education stressed the importance of such a course for both the education and the municipal systems.

MASHAV is at present considering additional requests to conduct similar courses in other regions of Russia.

## International Agreements

MASHAV recognizes the importance of coordinating with other donor partners responsible for regional-based programs. Forging partnerships with international organizations and NGOs, often on a cost-sharing basis, broadens the impact of MASHAV's contribution and the effectiveness of the projects undertaken.

MASHAV's international partnerships in 2005 include:

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UN-HABITAT

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in March 2005 between MASHAV and UN-HABITAT (The United Nations Human Settlement Program).



Signing ceremony: Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka and Ron Prosor

The MOU, co-signed by Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, and Ron Prosor, General Director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will provide a framework for collaborative efforts on international programs and activities to advance the technical training of professionals in the field of Human Settlements. Cooperation will be through training activities in various areas such as water management and community development, as well as gender issues, agricultural development and agribusiness. During her visit, Dr. Tibaijuka officially inaugurated MASHAV's 25-day International Course on Income-Generating Activities in Rural Areas. 22 participants from 17 countries took part in this course.

### JOINT PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA WITH SAVE THE CHILDREN NORWAY

MASHAV and Save the Children Norway Ethiopia (SCNE) signed a three-year cooperation agreement aimed at establishing a joint program to support child development activities in Ethiopia. The agreement is part of an on-going and growing collaboration with SCNE. It will enable MASHAV and SCNE to strengthen the capacity of Ethiopian organizations dealing with child development issues, by benefiting from the training programs to be provided in Ethiopia, at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center and at other training centers in Israel. According to the agreement, MASHAV will also assist in bringing Israeli experts both for on-the-spot training and short-term consultancies that will take place in Ethiopia as well as facilitate and coordinate the participation of Ethiopian trainees in international and specially created programs in Israel.

MASHAV's agricultural program is based on Israel's Tried and Tested solutions for problems such as: semi-arid and arid-zone agriculture; combating desertification; irrigation and water management; high-yield agriculture; dairy farming and more. Israel assists countries in the developing world to transform their agriculture from traditional subsistence to sophisticated market-oriented production. For this reason, international organizations seek partnership with Israel in addressing agricultural challenges facing the developing world.

Following are some of the partnerships that MASHAV has with international organizations in the field of agriculture:

### JOINING FORCES WITH USAID TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHIOPIA'S AGRICULTURE

MASHAV and USAID are cooperating in a joint program with Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to assist the development of Ethiopia's agriculture. In February 2005, at the



At the signing ceremony (from left to right): US Ambassador H.E. Aurelia Brazeal, USAID representative Mr. William Hammink, Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture Mr. Belay Ejigu, and Israeli Ambassador H.E. Doron Grossman

successful conclusion of a series of working discussions, an agreement was signed for a three-year program to provide technical support in order to accelerate the transfer and adoption of modern agricultural technologies and practices in Ethiopia. With USAID budget assistance, the activities specified in the agreement will focus on capacity-building for small holders and commercial farmers, cooperative members, and water user groups as well as on the areas of dairy herds improvement, small scale irrigation and water management, horticulture crop production, soil conservation and biotechnology.

Training and technical assistance will be provided by MASHAV's experts in the fields of disease and pest control, soil management, post-harvest handling, drip irrigation, water use efficiency, and water harvesting. The biotechnology component will build capacity to use tissue culture for rapid propagation of food and tree crops and may use embryo transplants to improve livestock breeds.

**MASHAV-USAID-PFID PROJECT FOR UPGRADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NICARAGUA**

A new project to upgrade Nicaragua's agricultural and dairy production will introduce new agro-technologies. The project is being carried out by MASHAV in cooperation with Michigan State University's "Partnerships for Food Industry Development Project" (PFID), and USAID – the U.S. Agency for International Development. The project targets three main areas: Matagalpa and Jinotega; the Sebaco Valley; and the Leon and Chinandega region. The goal of phase one was to identify the most suitable areas to carry out the project and to determine the appropriate crops and technologies to be introduced in each area. The project includes open field and greenhouse crops and state of the art irrigation systems. On-site training is provided by a long-term Israeli expert. In December 2005, the President of Nicaragua paid a visit to the project.



Transplanting onions at the MASHAV-USAID-PFID Project in Nicaragua

**AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTER IN THE PHILIPPINES**

In May 2005, an Implementation Agreement was signed for the establishment of the Philippines-Israel Center for Agriculture Training (PICAT). The new training center will strengthen development cooperation and enhance relations between the Philippines and Israel, in the hope of achieving a more efficient delivery of extension and outreach for the benefit of surrounding farmers. It will also provide extension services to farmers in growing high value and off-season crops and in livestock raising and production. Field trials for the advancement of progressive agro-technology will be established.

**ISRAEL AND DENMARK SIGN REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT**

The Foreign Ministers of Israel and Denmark signed the second stage of the Regional Agricultural Program on November 2005. Partners include Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority. The agreement is supported by DANIDA, the Danish International Development Agency. The special agricultural project is the offshoot of a successful project undertaken from 1994-1999, in which hundreds of Egyptian farmers, instructors, and experts came to Israel each year for advanced study. At the initiative of the Danish government, the project was expanded to include Jordan and the Palestinian Authority under the framework of a new regional agreement.

The Regional Agricultural Program covers six main subjects: Small Ruminants, Low Cost Fodder, Drylands Agriculture, Saline Water, Post Harvest Technology and Marketing and Aquaculture. Special attention to the role of women in agriculture development and production is on the agenda.



Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom (left) and Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller sign the Agreement

Expert meetings and courses were held throughout the region on the different subjects during 2005. Courses were conducted in Israel on the following subjects: Pistachio, Feed Formulation Software, Irrigation under Saline Conditions, GIS – Pilot Project Presentation, Quality Standards for Fresh Produce.

**Regional Cooperation**

Cooperation with the countries of the Middle East is a MASHAV priority. This is an expression of our support for the peace process with the Arab world. MASHAV believes that working together to solve common problems and meet common challenges can contribute significantly to establishing personal tie.

Educational/social/economic benefits become building blocks for fostering peaceful relations. Professionals from Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania participated in a variety of MASHAV courses during the year. International courses are offered as part of MASHAV's regular program and specific courses are designed to meet the requests and needs of individual Middle Eastern partners.

Following are some of the activities that took place during 2005:

Over 250 Palestinian and Israeli women from non-governmental organizations took part in a series of seminars offered at the Mount Carmel Golda Meir International Training Center (MCTC). These seminars were aimed at creating a dialogue between the women in which to discuss possible ways of cooperation and education for peace. Offered within this framework were a course on "Entrepreneurship and Community Leadership," a Seminar on "Education for Peace", and a three-day seminar on "The Role of Civil Society – Women Create a New Reality."



Demonstration of Ultrasound technology during the course on Small Ruminants Herd Management offered in Israel as part of the Regional Agricultural Program

The Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) conducted two seminars on "Civic Education and Training Young Leadership."

In the framework of Israel-Egypt cooperation in Agriculture three courses were held in Israel late in 2005. Some 6-8 more courses are planned for 2006 in subjects that will serve Egyptian priorities.

MASHAV hopes to involve more third party donors who believe in the peace building value of regional cooperation and expects that 2006 will see increased activity for the benefit of the peoples of the region.

## Medical Activities

MASHAV coordinates an extensive network of Israeli hospitals, medical schools, research institutes and HMOs which serve as a bridge between Israel's medical community and the developing world. We are able to draw upon a large reservoir of experts in all fields, for activities both in Israel and in host countries. This enables us to implement programming with a high degree of speed and flexibility. Training activities in medicine and public health are conducted in a wide range of fields such as crises and emergency medicine, infrastructure projects, community and public health, epidemiology of infectious diseases and infection control.

The following are examples of MASHAV activities in the field of health during 2005:

### ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL STAFF TRAINS IN HIV TREATMENT

Two courses especially designed for medical staff from Ethiopia on "Training of Trainers - HIV Antiretroviral Therapy" took place at the Aharon Ofri International Training Center in collaboration with the Israeli Hospital Consortium which include Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Hadassah Hospital and Tel Hashomer Hospital. These activities are sponsored by MASHAV and funded by I-TECH through CDC-US Ethiopia.

Over 27 doctors and nurses participated in the courses. According to this model, the health care teams include physicians and nurses as well as social workers and cultural mediators who have a role in providing care and in combating non-adherence to drug treatment. A meticulous chain of reporting is maintained within the team. In addition, the training covers the issues of HIV drug resistance and that of Pediatric AIDS.

### UZBEKISTAN: COMMUNITY NURSES EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

MASHAV, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development's Regional Mission for



Community nurses at work in Uzbekistan

Central Asia (USAID/CAR), concluded a 5-year program in Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley to develop a Community Nurses Education Program to improve local primary healthcare.

The program aimed to achieve improvements in the quality of health care, education and counseling at primary health care delivery points, focusing on training selected nurse leaders and staff nurses (this latter group including nurse educators, the district chief nurse, the regional chief nurses, and the head nurses from the primary health care practices in the regions of Yazzevan, Quva and Besharik.) Since the beginning of the program, over 375 Uzbek nurses have received advanced training through Israel's Hebrew University's Kaplan School of Nursing and the Beilinson Medical Center's Dina Academic School of Nursing, as well as in on-the-spot nursing courses in Uzbekistan. During the training period, nurses were given courses to improve professional competence in nursing management, diagnosis and community assessment.

### SACKLER 50TH INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM IN MEDICINE

The Sackler Faculty of Medicine School of Continuing Medical Education of the Tel Aviv University celebrated its 50th International Training Program in Medicine. Three times a year physicians from all over the world participate in the eleven-week individualized professional training program tailored to meet the participants' chosen specialized field of interest. The visiting doctors are attached to one of the teaching hospitals affiliated with the Sackler Faculty of Medicine in the greater Tel Aviv area. Since its inception, over 1,000 doctors from more than 95 countries have graduated from the Postgraduate Medical Training Program.

### COOPERATION WITH GUYANA

MASHAV initiated its first-ever international cooperation project with Guyana. The purpose is to

upgrade the Central Public Hospital in Georgetown. To this end four Israeli doctors have been sent at one-month intervals for two-week missions. The medical areas to be covered are: Internal Medicine, Oncology, Radiology, Gynecology, Cardiology and Nursing.

**BLINDNESS PREVENTION AND EYE-CARE MISSIONS**

For many years MASHAV has been conducting blindness prevention and eye-care missions in partner countries with limited eye treatment facilities. These missions, designed to treat patients suffering from various degrees of blindness and ocular disease, are undertaken by teams of 2-3 Israeli ophthalmologists and operate on the premises of local hospitals or clinics. Hundreds of surgical procedures are performed by the visiting Israeli teams which work together with local staff, restoring sight to many of the patients. Israeli ophthalmologists also train the local personnel, and ophthalmologic equipment and supplies are donated by the Government of Israel. During 2005 such missions took place in: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Ecuador, Kenya, and Tanzania.

**ISRAELI ANESTHESIOLOGISTS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Following a cooperation agreement signed by MASHAV and AUSAID, two Israeli anesthesiologists were sent on a one-year long-term mission to the Central Hospital in

Honiara, to assist in the upgrading of the existing medical services.

**Study Tours**

**MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS FROM LATIN AMERICA**

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) hosted a distinguished delegation of 32 mayors and high-ranking municipal and governmental officials from 12 Latin American countries. The study tour, under the auspices of MASHAV, provided the guests with a glimpse of municipal development in Israel, both in the Jewish and Arab sectors. During the closing ceremony the delegation members festively announced that during their stay they co-signed Twin Cities Agreements between 14 of the cities represented.

**SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF INDIA'S NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

A 10-day study visit and professional seminar for senior executives of India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development took place in May 2005. The members of the delegation were guests of MASHAV and the visit was organized and conducted by the Weitz Center in Rehovot.



Eye care mission in Ecuador

## Humanitarian Assistance

Following are some of MASHAV's medical and humanitarian assistance activities in 2005:

**Aid to South East Asia:** Following the devastating earthquake that struck South East Asia the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through MASHAV, organized immediate assistance to the victims of the countries affected: Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. A coordinating umbrella body was created: The Israel Campaign for South East Asia Disaster Relief, including 45 organizations and spearheaded by IsraAID – the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid – a coordinating body of Israeli and Jewish NGOs. Donation points were organized throughout Israel, collecting tons of food and humanitarian supplies. The State of Israel transferred a donation to UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), which coordinated the provision of assistance to the victims of the Tsunami in January 2005. The following is a short resume of some of the aid presented by the State of Israel and Israeli NGOs to South East Asian countries:

**Sri Lanka:** On the initiative of the Foreign Ministry and the IDF (The Israeli Defense Forces), a plane carrying medical personnel and 82 tons of food, medical equipment and other humanitarian assistance was immediately sent to Sri Lanka. A second plane carrying 10 tons of emergency equipment arrived in Sri Lanka at the beginning of January carrying emergency food kitchens able to provide 4,000 hot meals a day. Later on a team was sent to oversee a Feeding Station and to provide logistical and humanitarian assistance. A delegation of doctors and social workers was sent to the capital Colombo aimed to provide guidance to professionals working with the population in the disaster areas. The program, coordinated with the University of Colombo, continues to this day.

A delegation of medical personnel from the Magen David Adom Organization arrived in January to establish a First Aid Treatment Centre in the city of Matara, working in a donated mobile clinic.

Air-water machines that operate on solar energy and extract up to 500 liters of pure water per day from air humidity were also provided. A delegation was sent to formulate a multi-stage program involving the provision of drinking water in badly affected areas.

**Indonesia:** On January 2005, a plane carrying 75 tons of equipment landed near the Tsunami-affected area of Aceh. This was only the second time an Israeli plane had ever landed in Indonesia, a country with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations.

**Thailand:** Immediately after the Tsunami, the Thai authorities requested that Israel dispatch a police forensic unit to assist in the identification of victims. A medical delegation including doctors and nurses, and a delegation of experienced personnel, including a police forensic crew and members of the *Zaka Rescue and Identification Organization* were dispatched to Thailand four days after the Tsunami disaster hit the country. Thousands of body bags, hundreds of gas masks and special protective suits for the disaster areas were also provided. Baby food, 2 tons of blankets and clothes and 5 tons of medicines were also donated.

In December 2005, with the occasion of the first anniversary commemorating the disaster, the Israeli Embassy in Thailand conducted a series of events in two areas severely hit by the tsunami: Krabi District and Phi Phi Island. A donation was made by Israel's Magen David Adom of two fully-equipped ambulances to Krabi Hospital. The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) donated a Mobile Heart Monitor for the ambulance-ship stationed at Phi Phi, and medical equipment for the island's local clinic. The Embassy also coordinated the donation of a fully equipped computer-classroom



IsraAID nurse in Israeli renovated clinic, Sri Lanka



Ron Prosor, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry presenting Thai officials with medical supplies for tsunami victims



Medical supplies arrive in the Central African Republic

and a library to the Krabi School. School bags and equipment was donated by an Israeli company for the school children.

The Israeli Government and Israeli NGOs continue to be active in South East Asia providing medium to long-term assistance to the affected regions.

**Guatemala:** Two Israeli doctors traveled for a working visit to Guatemala. The purpose of the visit was to assess the damage caused by Hurricane Stan and offer concrete proposals for assistance in the field of public health to the hit areas, where thousands of people were left homeless and millions of dollars were lost in infrastructure. The recommendations were presented to the First Lady of Guatemala, who heads the organization which invited the Israeli doctors.

**El Salvador:** In October 2005, El Salvador was struck by two natural disasters causing much suffering and hardship: the Llamatepec volcano erupted and the country experienced heavy rains, flooding and landslides



The First Lady of Guatemala Mrs. Wendy de Berger with the Israeli doctors and Israeli Ambassador to Guatemala

as a result of the passage of Hurricane Stan through the region. Two MASHAV medical experts arrived in El Salvador in November 2005 to assess the situation and outline an emergency medical relief efforts plan to effectively respond to natural disasters and emergency situations.

**Central African Republic:** The Israeli Embassy in Cameroon, in charge of the Central African Republic jointly with MASHAV's medical advisor organized a donation of humanitarian supplies following the devastating floods that swept through the country in the summer of 2005. Nearly 20,000 people were affected by this natural disaster. The medical supplies were received by the Minister of Social Affairs.

**Kenya:** Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MASHAV donated two ambulances to the Kenyan Red cross in July 2005. The emergency vehicles will be the first to serve a region of some 600,000 people. Israel's Zim navigation company transported the ambulance without cost.

**Senegal:** An expert on dialysis units was sent by MASHAV to Senegal to assist the local medical staff in repairing the unit at Dakar's Hospital. The dialysis unit was donated by MASHAV and Israel's National Health Fund – Kupat Holim in 2002.

**Eritrea:** MASHAV's experts conducted an on-the-spot course for hyperbaric chamber operators in the coastal town of Massawa, Ethiopia. In May 2000, a team of MASHAV experts arrived in Massawa as part of the plan to reconstruct, equip and train local staff for a hyperbaric chamber unit on site. The chamber, for deep sea divers with decompression problems, allowed the area to develop its tourism facilities.