



EDEN

WOMEN CHANGING REALITY

2023

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Eden assessment report is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the events of October 7th 2023 – and the Iron Swords War

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

The annual report presented to you recounts the story of the year 2023, a year that began like any other year with dreams, plans, and actions, and ended in the tragedy of October 7th 2023, and the war that followed.

A war that confronted us like all of Israel, with depths of fear, sorrow, pain, and uncertainty. On this day, the girls of the Eden residential care facility which is located 3 km from the border with Gaza, were on vacation; Someone watched over us from above.

Many of our team's employees live in the Gaza periphery and experienced the horror of October 7th 2023, in shelters under intense terror attack. Two sons of Eden Association employees were murdered, one on October 7th and the other one later as a hostage.

Two weeks after the outbreak of the war, we established Eden residential care facility and school in Jerusalem in a temporary location. Some of our staff moved to live in Jerusalem, and we recruited new staff members in Jerusalem and faced the challenge of training them very quickly.

Starting from October 7th, we operated on several fronts. On one front, we accompanied the employees who were affected on October 7th. On another front, we worked tirelessly to establish and stabilize the entire treatment and education system for the girls in Jerusalem, in order to provide them with a safe haven amidst the chaos.

Simultaneously, within the harsh reality, two new exciting initiatives flourished. The first, 'October 7th herstory' is a documentation and community inspiration center for women's stories from October 7th and the Iron Swords War.

The second initiative is 'Eden For You,' a regional community center for trauma treatment for girls and women in the Gaza periphery following the events of October 7th, 2023. Both initiatives began operating in January 2024 in Kibbutz Dorot.

Until the events of October 7th, 2023, it was a good year for Eden. We successfully established and operated the Eden 51 center, which became a knowledge hub specializing in women and trauma in the entire region. We also ran the second cycle of Eden Preparatory program, and the Eden residential care facility and school continued to be a home for dozens of girls, with two groups of girls going on trips abroad during the past year.

In the report presented in the following pages, you will find the story of the year 2023 from various perspectives and angles of data collected throughout the year, divided into two chapters, until October 7th and from that date.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the board for their extensive support throughout the year, and to you, the partners and supporters of the Eden Association, who have been assisting us for many years, enabling us to do and give more each day.



**Yours with great recognition
and appreciation,
And with hope for peaceful
days for all of Israel**

Ronit

We would like to thank all our partners, both in Israel and abroad. Your support and trust in us, along with the strong spirit you imbue in us, fill our hearts and inspire our actions. It is thanks to you that we can develop, grow, and achieve our goals.

· V.I.D. DESALINATION COMPANY LTD. · Alumot Or · Efi Properties · Lion of Judah
Big Mega Or Ltd. · Mizrahi Tefahot Bank · The Guardian General and Director of Inheritance affairs ·
Hekdesh Hakochav · Hekdesh in memory of Menachem Bar On · Abandonment Committee of the
· Ministry of Justice · Gev Yam Company · Haifa Negev Net · JCA Israel
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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FROM ALL OF US AT EDEN



EDEN ASSOCIATION

Eden Association is a feminist organization established in 1997. Since 2005, it specializes in providing trauma-focused therapy according to a unique model. The association has set equality as its goal and operates to promote this objective by developing and implementing programs for girls, young women, and individuals, particularly those suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

EDEN MODEL

The association's activities are based on the Eden Model, a unique model developed by the association. The model is based on three central theoretical approaches: The feminist perspective, the dialectical behavioral therapy, and the motivational approach. The model is unique in its integration of non-judgmental worldview based on professional knowledge and theory with effective daily practice, which enhances emotional regulation skills and guides the work methods in trauma-focused spaces.

The association has six main programs:

EDEN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

A unique therapeutic framework for adolescent girls aged 12–19 with a post-hospitalization profile suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

EDEN SCHOOL

Middle school and high school for adolescent girls aged 12–19. The school operates in collaboration with the HILA program of the Ministry of Education and enables our residential care girls to complete 12 years of study and receive a matriculation certificate.

EDEN PREPARATORY PROGRAM

A unique holistic program in Israel for young women aged 19–25 who have experienced trauma, aimed at integrating them into the workforce and adult life. After two independent pilot cycles, the program was accepted as part of a three-year pilot by the Israeli National Insurance Institute. The third cycle was supposed to start in November 2023, but due to the war, it was postponed to September 2024.

EDEN 51 CENTER

A knowledge center for trauma treatment and gender equality promotion that offers organizations and businesses physical space to host workshops and lectures based on the Eden model. It provides training for therapists and space for meetings of women from the area, focusing on our residential care girls aimed at promoting gender equality.

EDEN FOR YOU CENTER

Regional community center for assistance and trauma treatment for adolescent girls and women in the Gaza periphery and surrounding areas following the events of October 7th.

OCTOBER 7TH HERSTORY

Documentation and community inspiration center for women's stories from the events of October 7th 2023, and the Iron Swords War.



PART 1

EDEN ASSOCIATION

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2023

EDEN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

During 2023

55 
girls

were treated in
Eden residential
care facility



1 staff member
for every **2** girls

9-12

The age range
of the girls

16

Average age

95%

of the girls are in
the age range
of 14-19

Eden's residential care facility is a post-hospitalization framework for ages 12-19, established in 2005 in Kibbutz Karmiya. The girls residing in the facility cope with crises and complex and dangerous life situations, suffering from complex post-trauma.

The therapeutic model developed in the facility, the "Eden Model," provides girls with practical skills, teaches them to set personal goals, regain control over their lives, take responsibility, and rewrite their life stories. The success of the therapeutic process is reflected in the reduction of risk behaviors and hospitalizations, improvement in life skills, emotional regulation, and high recruitment rates of the facility graduates into the IDF, national service, and preparatory programs, thus helping them live meaningful and quality lives.

The facility consists of 5 houses that form a continuum from admission to completion of stay. Each year, about 60 girls are treated in the facility, and since its establishment, over 1,000 girls have been treated there.

The organizational model of the facility is based on grouping the girls in houses, with each house having a dedicated team providing comprehensive care to the girls. The facility is headed by the internal ward manager, and the professional team in each house includes social workers, house coordinators, guidance counselors, and volunteers. The girls receive round-the-clock therapeutic support that supports them in their process of change and growth.

8-14 

girls in each house



**5 houses in Eden
residential care facility**

85%

of the girls are in
a post-hospitalization profile

52%

of the girls were referred to
the facility under a court order

48%

of the girls are in
a therapeutic profile

48%

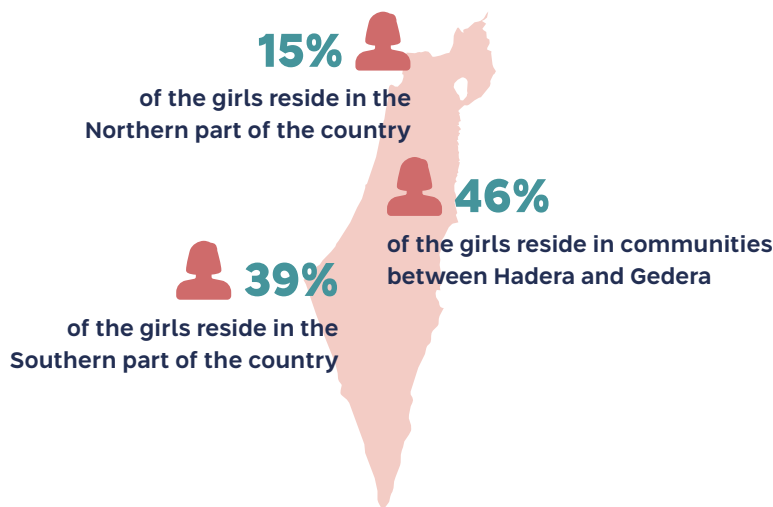
were referred without
a court order

One of the significant strengths of the residential center is working according to the EDEN model, which provides a structured therapeutic process that the girls undergo. At the beginning of 2023, we started implementing the "Cultural Capital" program, which complements the therapeutic work according to the EDEN model. The concept of cultural capital refers, among other things, to the world of knowledge, abilities, and values that a person develops throughout his life, especially during childhood, and is a significant factor in determining social status and social mobility throughout life. As part of this program, the girls participate in enrichment activities and culture supplementary to the regular curriculum to enable them to achieve equal opportunities in adulthood.

In April 2023, some of the senior girls participated in the "March of the Living" in Poland, which is a journey for connecting identity and the desire to act for a more tolerant world and against anti-Semitism. As part of the journey, the girls also experienced empowering personal processes that helped them in the life-changing process they undergo.

In February 2023, girls from the senior house visited a Jewish community in Italy, where they experienced encounters with a different culture, exposure to a different way of life, different customs, and learned how to present themselves and communicate in English. For most of the girls, this was their first-time leaving Israel, and the experience was unique and very empowering for them.

Additionally, as part of the program, the girls attended performances, movies, participated in enrichment lectures, went on tours to museums, the new national library, and participated in weekly enrichment activities, including a music workshop, art class, psychodrama group, swimming, yoga, fitness, and more.



27 
of the girls were admitted to the residential care facility during 2023

28 
Girls were admitted in previous years and continued for an additional year



51% & 49%
respectively

In 2023, almost half of the girls in the facility were those for whom it was also their intake year



For the girls who stayed in the residential facility in the year 2023:

3
years

Average length of stay for a girl in the residential care facility

25%
of them have been in the residential facility for more than three years

EDEN SCHOOL

Eden School was established in 2010 to provide tailored education for girls in the residential care facility in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's HILA program. Eden School admits girls from their first day in the residential care facility, serving as a significant anchor in the therapeutic process. At the school, each girl has an individualized education plan, and with close guidance and small group settings, they manage to narrow the often-significant learning gaps accumulated due to traumatic events, complete 12 years of study, and graduate with a full or partial matriculation certificate.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the school operates an additional study program with two main objectives. The first aims for academic excellence, providing girls with specialized reinforcement in subjects such as mathematics, English, and Hebrew to help bridge educational gaps. The second objective is enrichment and exposure to additional content areas beyond regular subjects. As part of this program, the girls participate in museum tours, presentations, enrichment clubs, workshops, and trips. Some obtain a driver's license, participate in a psychometric preparation course, vocational training, and more.

The girls in
high school study

30 

hours per week

The girls in
middle school study

20 

hours per week

5 

days a week

In the school
there are

12 

teachers

The studies take
place in small groups of

6-10 

students



Over 90%

of the girls achieve a full or
partial high school diploma



100%

of the girls graduate
complete
12 years of study



EDEN SCHOOL

The Eden Association developed and operates the Eden preparatory program designed to assist young women aged 19–25 in acquiring tools and skills that will enable them to integrate into adult life and hold stable employment over time. The program takes place in a residential setting for 8 months and is based on the Eden model, providing a holistic framework in which young women reside in a safe space with emotional and material security, allowing them to engage in a meaningful personal process.

During the program, the young women undergo vocational assessment to identify their aspirations and strengths, receive personal and group emotional support, and acquire soft skills required for the job market, such as emotional resilience, interpersonal communication, positive attitude reinforcement, and work motivation. They also strengthen their knowledge of English and technological literacy, participate in life skills workshops covering financial management, job search preparation and guidance, interview preparation, knowledge of rights and obligations, advocacy with government agencies, professional training, and job placement support.

In the years 2022–2023, we conducted 2 independent pilot cycles for 12 participants each. Due to the small group size, we were able to qualitatively assess the effectiveness of the program. In both cycles, at the beginning of the program, most participants generally indicated the field in which they wanted to work, but none could explain how they would realize their aspirations.

Throughout the program, all participants began working and even managed to maintain their jobs during the program.

”

My achievement is to succeed in keeping a job and advancing within it

”

Today I am achieving my goals – to create a daily routine for myself, to wake up in the morning for work

”

I connected to work at the kinder garden. It's quite tiring, but I really love the job. It prevents me from sinking into depression. The training provided me not only with finding work in the meantime but also with creating a career direction and purpose for the future

Number of quotes from the words of the young women



The vocational diagnosis at the end of the preparatory program revealed that most of the young women improved their sense of capability, learned to seek help, and to exercise their rights in removing barriers standing in their way, both personally and occupationally:

”

I discovered things about myself that I had forgotten, that I can ask for help and not deal with things alone

”

I feel like I can breathe now

”

The non-judgmental approach of DBT has changed my perception of myself and others. Also, the validation – allowing space for things without invalidating them – helped me speak as someone who hadn't spoken for years. It gave me space. It significantly reduced my anxiety and allowed me to build strength – not to behave as in the past and sit next to my brothers and sisters. Rather, to be aware of what I'm feeling and be able to disconnect it from actual behavior

In summary, from the girls' testimonies, both in the professional and personal realms, we learned that the process they underwent in the preparatory program was a significant one, providing them with tools to cope with various situations they will encounter in their adult lives, both in work and in interpersonal relationships. In these two cycles, we dealt with challenges typical of the establishment and development stages of a program, and after the independent pilot stage, we will be able to improve and refine the program's structure and components with our partners for the next three years: the "Yated" program of the Ministry of Welfare and the Israeli National Insurance funds. Due to the events of October 7th and the Swords of Iron War, the opening of the November 2023 cycle was postponed to September 2024.



EDEN 51 CENTER

Eden 51 Center was established a year ago as a business-social center with the desire to serve as a space for promoting and inspiring women in the Negev region, and as a catalyst for the economic growth and resilience of the Eden Association.

Eden 51 Center operates in three main areas:

01 Professional Axis

Professional training of professionals for trauma-focused therapy and support for women undergoing change processes according to the Eden model.

02 Business Sector Axis

A center for hosting conferences and events for business companies within a complex that provides added value to the activity alongside workshops and lectures for developing gender awareness in the workplace and personal life, and for developing practical skills based on the Eden model.

03 Professional Axis

A space for community gatherings, workshops, and support programs, fostering growth and change for young people and women - creating partnerships, developing and implementing programs to promote gender equality and empower women personally and within the community based on the Eden model.



During January – September 2023 we held:

Trauma training courses

4 training sessions for **70** professionals on the topic of trauma treatment and complex post-trauma disorder.

Lectures and workshops

15 lectures and workshops on a variety of topics by Eden model such as: creating a safe space for change, decision-making workshop with a gender perspective, post trauma through gender lens, crisis intervention workshop, exposure to the content world of gender violent lecture.. Around **550** people participated in all lectures and workshops.

Red South events

As part of "Red South annual event", we hosted local entrepreneurs in Eden 51 center and conducted lectures and workshops for the general public.

Gender awareness – Lecture series

A series of **5** meetings to increase gender awareness. The meetings brought a fresh feminist perspective on topics such as economics, medicine, and politics. Among the speakers were Osnat Trabelsi and Efrat Shalom Danon, who shared the story of women in politics from the establishment of the state to today; Dr. Shiri Tenenbaum, who lectured on attention and concentration disorders, postpartum depression, and the effects of medication; Yael Abukasis presented her film "Raymond Al Bidawea" and discussed motherhood, femininity and language.

In total, **260** women from the community participated in the entire series. The young women from the preparatory program operated a food track and a second-hand shop at the venue.

Women not waiting" – activism program

A program developed based on the Eden model focusing on training women for initiative and action in the field of violence against women. Within the framework of the program, participants developed ideas to combat violence against women tailored to the needs of the community in which they reside. Through program support, initiatives were transformed into practical plans and activities in their residential areas. So far, **5** cycles have been held with a total of **90** participants in Ashkelon, Jerusalem, Ofakim, Ashdod, and Beer Tuvia.



"Women are choosing"- proactive program

A program designed to guide young women in their journey to choose their professional future. The pilot program operated in 2022 in Beer Sheva, and this year another cycle was held in Kiryat Malachi with **15** participants.

Business events

41 events of companies took place at the Eden 51 Center. Each event started with a short lecture describing the activities of the Eden Association while addressing the issue of gender equality in Israel. Among the events held were team-building days, management team meetings, management workshops, offsite days, and more.



In this year, which is essentially the year of establishing Eden 51, around 1,000 women enjoyed the lectures and workshops based on Eden model.





PART 2

EDEN ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

The events of October left us shocked and pained. As an association mainly operating in the Gaza periphery, all our activities came to a halt. Quickly, we relocated Eden residential care facility and school from Kibbutz Karmiya to a temporary location to enable the girls to receive continuous therapeutic care during this heightened period of trauma. The residential care facility building suffered a direct hit, resulting in destruction and damage to its infrastructure, furniture, equipment, and the surrounding area. Fortunately, the shelter was empty of girls and staff due to the Sukkot holiday.

The place that was a safe haven for them for the first time in years was destroyed, and the entire area became a closed military zone and a combat zone for an unknown period. For now, they cannot return there.

Most of the residential care facility staff are residents of the Gaza periphery and nearby towns. Some of them were personally affected, some were trapped in bomb shelters for 30 hours until they were evacuated, some lost dear friends and family members, and some lost their property.

Starting from the second week of the war, we began operating Eden residential care facility and school in a temporary alternative location in Jerusalem, until we can return to Karmiya. To ensure the optimal operation of the facility and school in Jerusalem, we recruited additional staff and created a holistic framework for the girls.

We want to thank all the donors throughout the year and all those who volunteered in the last quarter of 2023, whose generosity allowed us to continue providing life-saving treatment to the girls, maintain stability in our operations, and even develop new programs for the benefit of the women's population in the Gaza periphery and the surrounding.

During these days, we are beginning a process of physical rehabilitation (renovation, construction, and adaptation) of the Eden residential care facility in Kibbutz Karmiya. This will include, among other things: repairing the destroyed house, fixing damaged infrastructure, restoring the garden, repairing houses affected by secondary damage, renovating the damaged building, and more.

Additionally, we are starting a process of adapting the school building in the kibbutz, which will include: renovating old buildings and adding reinforcement, landscaping the schoolyard, constructing and equipping therapy rooms for art, music, and sensory integration therapy.

With the outbreak of events, work at the organization's headquarters in Kibbutz Dorot was suspended, work at the Eden 51 Center was suspended - company events, public events, lectures, workshops, and training sessions were canceled. In January 2024, we resumed operations at the organization's headquarters in Kibbutz Dorot, resumed Eden 51 activities to conduct lectures and training, and established two new initiatives: "Eden for You" and "October 7th Herstory". We are preparing for an exhibition to be held as part of the "October 7th Herstory" project between April-August 2024.

Furthermore, the opening of the third cycle of the Eden preparatory program, funded by the National Insurance Institute funds and the Yated program, was postponed to September 2024.



We mourn and strengthen the employees of Eden and our close colleagues who have lost family members: Ronit Edri, Talya Sessportas, and Avi Lulu Shamriz whose son was abducted and murdered in captivity. We support the employees of Eden association who reside in the Gaza border communities, who have been evacuated from their homes four months ago, and those who have family members fighting for all of us on the front lines.

October 7th Herstory

The events of October 7 shook us all, and we are exposed to horrific, cruel, and brutal acts of violence against thousands of victims.

The special documentation project "October 7th Herstory" was established out of the understanding and recognition that it is important for the stories and voices of women to be heard and recorded in the history books being written now. As part of this project, we have begun producing podcasts and filmed interviews of women who recount the female perspective in war.

 [Podcasts >](#)

* The podcasts are recorded in Hebrew

In a special and interactive center in Kibbutz Dorot, which will be opened to groups and the general public, the stories of the mothers, commanders, soldiers, observers, young girls, grandmothers, and heroines from the war that affected us all will be presented. Through various presentations, art, texts, and filmed testimonies, we will commemorate the bravery and resilience of the women of the Gaza periphery and the surrounding area, as well as the young women from the Nova music festival and women from the security forces.

 [Video >](#)

The visit to the center will be accompanied by guidance and group workshops in full collaboration with the community's women.

In addition to the physical center, a virtual center is being established these days, where women's testimonies, virtual exhibitions, and the possibility of commemorating the victims of October 7 will be presented.

Eden for You Center

At this time, when the entire population of Israel is shocked, hurting, and affected, we are preparing to harness our expertise in trauma care for over 25 years, as well as our geographical location, for the benefit of the community facing a long recovery process in establishing the Eden for You Center.

As in other crises in the country and the world, the intensity and manner in which women are affected differ and are often greater than men, both among women in the general population and especially among women at pre-crisis risk (such as women in abusive relationships, single mothers, and more). The full extent of the impact of the October 7th disaster on the status of women in the Gaza periphery area, both in the short and long term, has not yet been fully revealed, but it is clear that these women will have unique needs. Therefore, their treatment needs to be tailored accordingly.

These days, we are in the process of establishing the Eden for You Center in Kibbutz Dorot, and assessing collaboration opportunities.

 [Video >](#)



**See you next year from
all of us at the Eden Association**