



Operation "Swords of Iron"

Widows Campaign





"Operation Swords of Iron" Widows Campaign

"A person must be careful with orphans and widows, for their spirits are lowly, and their souls are deeply humbled."

(Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De'ot 6:10)

In initial conversations with the widows and their close circles, we identified—along with immense pain and sorrow—a sense of confusion, loss of control, discomfort in asking for or receiving help, and significant anxiety about the unknown future. Nearly all expressed gratitude for the discussions, which helped them focus, define their challenges, and even explore potential solutions.

More than 300 widows have joined the circle of bereavement as a result of the war.

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family

Mother to 2-year-old and 3-year-old daughters. Their son was born after the tragedy.

Background

A combat engineer, was killed in battle in Gaza at the age of 25 in November 2023.

They met five years ago and soon married—he was an educator and builder, she a nurse.

“He was a hands-on father,” says the mother. “We shared everything—chores, values, dreams for our children. He never left the country, loved traveling it, and had a gift for building, especially with local stone.”

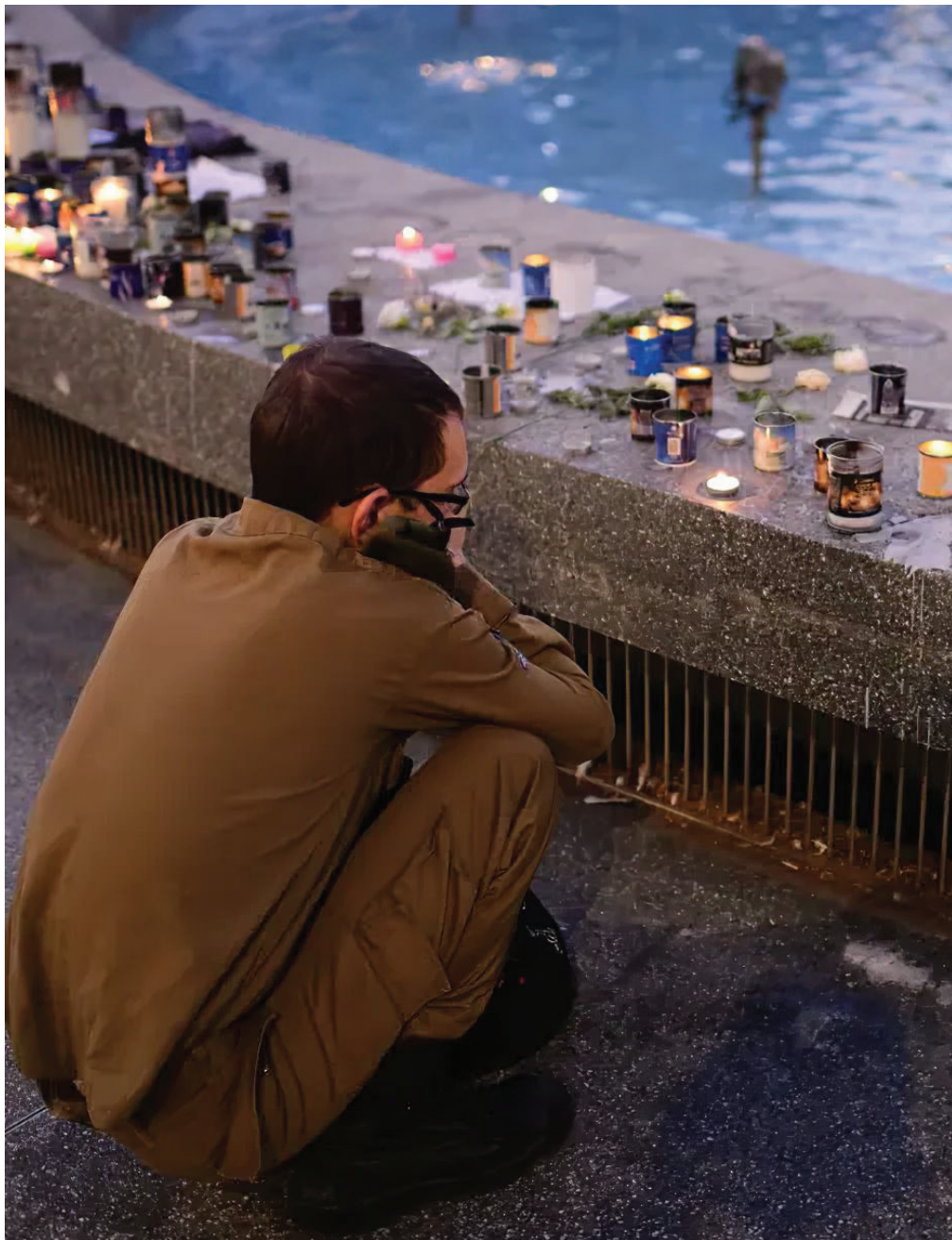
Needs

Support includes memory preservation, house maintenance assistance, and group support days.

Recently Remarried



Prayer near the Gaza Strip border on Hanukkah. (Photo: Amir Levy / Getty Images)



Mourners in Dizengoff Square (Photo: Tomer Neuberger/Flash90)

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family

Mother of three children aged 1-5. Son was born after the tragedy.

Background

Her husband, was killed in a shooting attack near their settlement. He was 29. He posthumously received a certificate of excellence from the commander of the division.

"My world collapsed yesterday. You were my love, my partner, the father of our children—and now you're gone. How can I sum up who you were? Anyone who knew you already understands. Thank you for the magic you brought into my life.

You made every moment count. For my birthday, you surprised me with a piano because you knew how much it meant to me. You were my rock—the first I'd call, the one who could fix anything, fearless and full of insight. Your hugs gave me instant strength. Thank you for everything."

Needs

House management support and assistance with childcare.

Examples of Widows in the Project



Family

Mother to 2 children, one born after the tragedy.

Background

Her husband fell in battle on October 7, 2023. The day after his passing, his wife shared about their young child: "He woke up in the morning, and the first thing he asked was, 'Where's daddy?' I'm sure he is watching over us — it's so typical of him. He was always the first to rush to help."

Needs

Elder sibling programs, morning assistance, and home-building support.

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to a 1 baby.

Background Her husband was a commander and fell in battle in northern Gaza in January 2024, at age 31. Posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was a dedicated soldier and a role model for leadership and love of the land.

The father of the fallen shared: "The Holy One, Blessed be He, did not take him—You gave us [him], please give us the strength to continue. Grant us all strength, for we are broken."

He survived the 2008 attack at Mircaz HaRav religious seminary.

A family friend eulogized: "Your father was in the field because he was dedicated, full of love for the land. He went out to fight for the State of Israel, leaving us with his noble values, leadership, and love for the homeland. He was a role model, a hero. I learned so much from you. We will not rest until victory. I salute you."

Needs Support in raising her child.
Continued participation in existing widow support groups.



Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to six children.

Background Her husband, Senior Staff Sergeant Major (Res.) served in the Armored Corps. He fell in southern Gaza in December, at age 38.

He immigrated from the U.S. and spent 10 years in yeshiva. His wife, a Baalat Teshuva and popular speaker, eulogized him:

"He was a Torah and character genius. Even after working long days, he studied Maimonides and the daily Talmud page—never wasting a moment, even on Shabbat. He called all his family every Friday.

Though exempt, he volunteered for reserve duty, believing this was a religious war. I told the kids the truth—Dad went to fight evil, and evil took him. We're not alone—we have an incredible family."

- Needs**
- Transportation for medical treatments.
 - Technical assistance in the household.
 - Individualized home management solutions.



Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to six children (aged 15, 13, 11, 7.5, 4, and 1.5).

Background Her husband, Senior Staff Sergeant (Res.) served in the Armored Corps. He fell in northern Gaza in November 2023, at age 41.

While his children cried out at the grave, his parents eulogized him:

"Our son. You were born on the evening of Yom Kippur, and even at birth, you gave us a blessing. You grew up to be a child who loved health and peace. You always cared for our well-being, and when we needed you, you were the first to stand by our side. We will remember you forever, and your Torah will remain before our eyes."

- Needs**
- Household organization and family management.
 - Family outings with friends.
 - Support to pursue studies in art therapy.



The four orphans of the Ginsberg family near their father's grave, Photo: Oren Cohen



A soldier puts on tefillin near the Gaza Strip border on October 9 (Photo: AP Photo / Tsafir Abayov)

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to one child.

Background Her husband, Staff Sergeant (Res.) was killed on October 7, 2023.

When 2 brothers heard about the invasion of terrorists into nearby communities, They quickly left their homes and went to defend a nearby community.

They were both honest with God and people, sharing a deep bond and courageously fought together against dozens of terrorists armed only with a handgun. Their father recounts: *"Someone who fought alongside them saw them from across the street and told us they fought like a coordinated machine, covering each other. When they ran out of bullets, they took the rifles of the terrorists they killed and continued defending the kibbutz until they fell. I knew their bond as brothers and their unity helped them succeed in their final mission, but I was certain that if only one of them was found, the other had fallen too. There was no way one would leave the other behind to be hurt, die, or be captured."*

Needs Household assistance and babysitting (financial limitations prevent hiring help).

Continued nurturing of widow support groups.

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother of one.

Background Her husband, Senior Staff Sergeant Major (Res.), a combat medic on October 7, 2023, defending Kibbutz Alumim. He was posthumously promoted.

When 2 brothers heard about the invasion of terrorists into nearby communities, They quickly left their homes and went to defend a nearby community.

They were both honest with God and people, sharing a deep bond and courageously fought together against dozens of terrorists armed only with a handgun. Their father recounts: "Someone who fought alongside them saw them from across the street and told us they fought like a coordinated machine, covering each other. When they ran out of bullets, they took the rifles of the terrorists they killed and continued defending the kibbutz until they fell. I knew their bond as brothers and their unity helped them succeed in their final mission, but I was certain that if only one of them was found, the other had fallen too. There was no way one would leave the other behind to be hurt, die, or be captured."

Needs Household management support.
Joining appropriate widow support groups.



Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to four children.

Background Her husband, Master Sergeant (Res.) served as a platoon commander. He fell in southern Gaza in January 2024, at age 35. He was a graduate of Orot College.

A retired sergeant major left behind a wife, four children, parents, and seven siblings. He was injured during a previous conflict but chose to reject the option of staying home during the war: *"I don't regret it. This is the best decision I ever made."* In a letter he left for his family, he wrote: *"Don't be sad when you say goodbye to me. Sing, support each other. We are a generation of redemption."*

Needs

- Support for household organization.
- Assistance with family routines.

Recently Remarried





Gal Moreno, widow of Sergeant Major Itai Moreno, visits his grave on Mount Herzl Photo: Chaim Goldberg, Flash 90

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family

Mother to three children, including her youngest, born after her husband's passing.

Background

Her husband, Captain (Res), was a team commander. He fell in southern Gaza in January 2024, at age 28.

At the funeral, his wife tearfully said:

"My love, I saw your greatness from the start. I fell for you through your Torah journey, listening to every class just to feel close. You gave so much to us—I tried to match it. How could you leave me with all this? I'm breaking without you. I wore a strong mask for the fight, but I thought you'd come back.

Someone needs to bring calm to our home. Tomorrow is the anniversary of Gush Katif, and my only comfort is believing we'll return there someday."

Needs

- Calm and structured support at home for raising the children.
- Assistance with education and family management.

Examples of Widows in the Project

Family Mother to five children.

Background Her husband, Major (Res.) served as the operations officer for the Commando Brigade Commander, fell in the Khan Younis area. He was the 18th fallen soldier in the war from the "Bnei David" pre-military academy.

A father of five, soldier, educator, Torah scholar, and man of kindness, he stayed to fight even after reservists were released. He once donated a kidney to a stranger.

A colleague said: *"Though his role was logistical, he was an educator at heart. He connected deeply with students, speaking honestly and fearlessly. In a world of filters, they valued his truth."*

Needs

- Support with household routines and technical management.
- Resources for continued family care and educational support



Project Activities:

- **Grant from the Netzach Yehuda Fund** – in collaboration with Yossi Krasmatti.
- **Passover gift** – personalized selection, delivered privately.
- **Shavuot gift** – personalized selection, delivered privately.
- **Rosh Hashanah gift** – a card deck set created by Rabbanit Dr. Chana Katan.
- **Hanukkah gift** – a self-care oil set.
- **Tu Bishvat gift** – a tea set and herbal tea package.
- **Purim** – Mishloach Manot (traditional gift packages).
- **Planned development of support systems in partnership with Orot Israel College:**
- Students and alumni from Orot College “adopt” the orphans of the project through mentorship meetings, conversations, study sessions, and more:
 - Mapping the orphans and matching them with students and alumni “mentors.”
 - Aligning expectations with the mother, school, and other relevant frameworks.
 - College support through scholarships and emotional-educational guidance.
 - Open line for professional support for mentors.
 - Expanding the project based on collected data.
 - Connecting volunteer professionals to assist in maintaining the widows’ homes as needed.
- **9. Home maintenance assistance for widows, repairs, etc.** – in collaboration with "Engineers Without Borders."
- **10. Free access to performances:**
 - During Sukkot – nationwide, in collaboration with the Department for Jewish Culture.
 - During Hanukkah – high-quality performances across the country.
- **11. Growing Together** – a strengthening conference for widows held in the month of Shevat.

