



# GLOCAL

M.A in International Development

## 2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

A word on this year,

Glocal welcomed the 2023–2024 academic year with great expectations. Planned to begin our orientation week on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, we had international students in the country and on route to Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023. While overwhelmed and saddened like the rest of the country, we offered assistance and support to our students and alumni during the first few months of the war, and began academic teaching on campus in early December 2023, a month earlier than the rest of the university.

Exploring the past year in retrospect, we are proud to show that despite the challenging time, Glocal succeeded in providing students with a supportive environment, high quality education and inspiring experiences, which have strengthened their professional journeys. We're happy to share some of our activities in the following pages.

## Glocal welcomes students of Cohort 14

This past academic year Glocal welcomed 20 students of Cohort 14, coming from the USA, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Russia, as well as Israeli and Palestinian students. We had more Israeli students than in previous years, as three international students decided to drop their planned studies with us after the war began. While some students began the year from their home countries, all joined us on campus by mid-January 2024.

This year's semesters were shorter than usual (11 weeks each) but successfully provided the vast majority of curriculum and activities. In addition to our regular curriculum, this year, for the first time, Glocal introduced a new course titled **"Topics in Food Security"**, instructed by Dr. Shira Bukchin-Peles. This course delves into the key dimensions of food security, including availability, access, utilization, and stability. The course also features interactive elements like working groups, journal article readings, and recorded presentations akin to TED Talks, aimed at providing practical perspectives and insights.

As usual, our courses involved various guest lecturers and development experts, who introduced our students to relevant development from the field. This spring semester, Glocal's Migration and Development Track continued its ongoing collaboration with the African community in Jerusalem. We hosted the Jerusalem African Community Center (JACC) for an insightful lecture and discussion with our students. Our students learned of the communal, social and legal aspects in the life of the African community in Jerusalem through a local-municipal and global comparative lens.

Additionally, students enjoyed several field trips which allowed them to learn first hand about the activities of various organizations working in Israel in the field of community development. For instance, as part of the mandatory course on Project Design, taught by Mr. Yossi Offer, students were exposed to successful projects in the Negev Desert, and learnt about their initiation, operation and the key role of local government in developing and operating such projects. As part of the tour, which took place in May 2024, students visited the City of Rahat- the largest Arab city in Israel. The students were exposed to a partnership between the municipality's development corporation, community center (Matnas) and health services (Kupat Holim Clalit) aiming at creating a safe environment for sport activities for women: organizing and supporting a walking group utilizing a new developing stream park (Nahal Grar) which is somewhat hidden; and a gym with significant daily hours dedicated and operated by women.



Further, the group visited Wadi Attir Project – a model farm operated in partnership between Hura town council, academia (BGU, Sustainability Lab), civil society (AJEEC–NISPED) and government. The farm combines traditional Bedouin knowledge with modern technologies that are utilized to introduce environmental, social and economic sustainability in Bedouin communities. The project activities – education center, visitors center, sustainable energy production, a modern sheep and goats farm and more – generates income to increase its financial independence.

Lastly, the class visited **AJEEC–NISPED** an Arab–Jewish organization, dedicated to social change in the Negev. The organization develops, supports and operates innovative projects in the Negev Bedouin society through partnerships between local government, civil society and in some cases private sector as well. Glocal alumni are employed in the organization and AJEEC will host one of our current students for their internship within the upcoming months.

### **Cohort 13 students' internships in the field**

Between August and December 2023, Glocal students of Cohort 13 embarked on a learning journey, working alongside communities worldwide during their field internships. Internships spanned continents, with placements in Zanzibar, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Palestine, Israel and Mexico.

Students delved into a broad spectrum of development fields. They specialized in areas of their interest: gender equality, urban planning, education, migration,

environmental protection, disability inclusion, social entrepreneurship, human rights advocacy, humanitarian protection, mental health and psychosocial support, and global health. This immersive experience provided students with a firsthand perspective on development challenges and solutions at the community level.

## Cohort 13 Pears Seminar and Graduation Event

Upon completion of their internships, due to the uncertainty created by the war, we have decided to run the post-internships Pears seminar: Between Theory and Practice online. Ms. Joanne Moore, a development expert with over 25 years of experience in International Development around the world, led the course successfully, and we supported students get together outside of the course time. Students shared their experiences in the field, received more tools to advance their careers in international development, and met experts who work in various relevant sectors. You can find more internship stories in our [Perspectives From the Field booklet](#).



Cohort 13 graduation was celebrated in an online event, which included a keynote speech from Glocal alumna and Chief Humanitarian and Resilience Officer at IsraAid, Naama Gorodischer, students talks, a cultural fashion show, and a trivia. Some 200 participants joined the event from around the world, including our dear supporters from the Pears Family Foundation and Vital Capital.

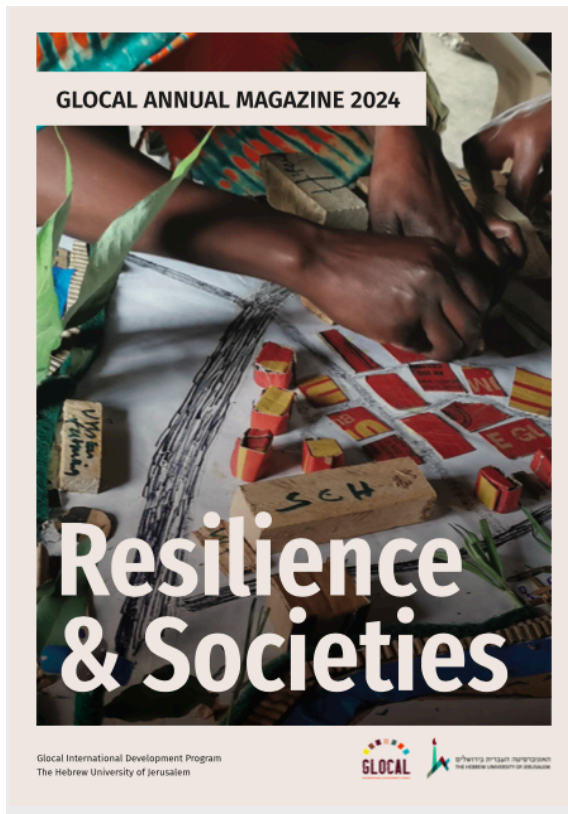
## Cohort 14 students prepare for their internships in the field

Our cohort 14 students will intern this year in Israel, the Palestinian territories, the Dominican Republic, India, Ethiopia, Zanzibar, Malawi, Uganda, and Rwanda. They will engage in diverse sectors in the development arena, such as entrepreneurship, agriculture, community healing, community resilience, health access, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, sexual and reproductive health rights, refugee protection, and more. Students have been preparing for their internships in recent months. Here are a few examples of our students' internships in the summer of 2024:

**Chiara Kaisig**, a German cultural psychologist, will intern at [Plan International Dominican Republic](#). There, she will support the implementation and evaluation of a Sexual and Reproductive Rights program dedicated to girls from marginalized areas. At the end of her internship, Chiara will have developed her technical skills related to the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the organization expects her to deliver a set of operational recommendations for future activities.

**Naini Esther** from Kenya will intern in the social enterprise [Red Rocks Rwanda](#). She will support the enterprise's mission to promote locally-led initiatives that conserve the environment and empower communities in the Virunga Mountains area. Naini will participate in designing, executing, and evaluating a cultural festival created by local communities. The festival will promote sustainable tourism in the area and serve as an educational platform. In addition, Naini will support Red Rocks' ongoing livelihood projects. Throughout her internship, Naini will gain skills in managing social tourism projects and creating community-led livelihood projects.

**Ziv Rotshtein**, an Israeli Environmentalist, will intern at [Fair Planet](#) and conduct an Impact Assessment of 2 major projects the organization runs in Ethiopia. During his internship, Ziv intends to enhance his research abilities. His work will help Fair Planet evaluate the effectiveness of its interventions in improving agricultural productivity and food security.



## Glocal alumni: A community in the field

This year our annual magazine concentrated on the topic of “Resilience & Societies” and featured articles from a variety of perspectives and fields including gender, peacebuilding, urban planning, migration, emergency response and psychology with contributions from our graduates and partners working in Mexico, the Horn of Africa, Sierra Leone, Turkey, and the local Israeli-Palestinian context.

We were proud to launch the Magazine in May 2024 in

collaboration with SID Israel at The Social Space in Tel-Aviv. The event program included an encounter and discourse discussion session with the Rana Arab-Jewish Women's Choir from Jaffa. TED Talks by Glocal alumni on their incredible work, including Ronnie-Lee Sneh of Street Medicine Tel-Aviv and Alon Cohen Lifshitz on his work in Slum upgrading. This was followed by a panel of esteemed professionals, Dr Ilan Amit Co-CEO of AJEEC-NISPED, Michal Strahilevitz Senior Director of Regions and Resilience at IsraAID and Chana Weinberger Deputy CEO Training and Content Development at El Halev, all facilitated by Glocal alumna Gili Navon, founder of Amar-Majuli.





## Remembering Aran

With a heavy heart, Glocal mourns the loss of Aran Goren who was murdered with her mother, Tova, in Kibbutz Kfar Aza on October 7th.

Originally from Israel, Aran grew up in a small fishing community on the Mediterranean coast. She completed her bachelor's degree in communications at Sapir College, where she specialized in journalism and

rhetoric. Aran received her MA at Glocal, and held managerial roles in the fields of industrial design and humanitarian aid. Since 2022, Aran had been working for *Comeback*, an NGO dedicated to the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-prisoners in Israel.

Within the magazine and during the event, Glocal paid a special tribute to Aran, highlighting the exceptional work she was doing at *Comeback* and remembering her through the words and memories of her friends and colleagues. She will be remembered as a deeply kind, strong and inspiring person who touched the lives of many.

---

## Glocal's Alumni Seed-Funding 2024

With the generous support of the Pears Foundation, Glocal has established an annual seed-money granting mechanism for preliminary development of community projects envisioned by alumni. The goal of this program is to stimulate initiatives by encouraging alumni to explore new directions in international and community development.

This year the seed-funding committee awarded alumni Eric Matabaro \$5000 to implement his capacity building program on good agricultural practices to coffee smallholders' farmers located in the Nyaruguru District in the Southern Province of Rwanda. We are excited to follow the impact of this promising project.

---

Our alumni and staff are in constant contact through our alumni social media including Facebook and WhatsApp groups, where we keep graduates informed of relevant job openings, conferences, workshops, events and department collaborations. We also remain active on LinkedIn and Instagram.

## Glocal's activities at the Hebrew University and the International Development Arena

As always, Glocal took active part in various activities and events at the Hebrew University and in the International Development Arena in Israel. This spring semester, Glocal collaborated with the Sophie Davis Forum on Gender, Conflict Resolution & Peace, the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, the Hebrew University's Center for Sustainability and the Department of Geography in a co-sponsored film screening and academic event. The event focused on the documentary *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* and included an academic discussion that followed with Dr. Amit Tubi of the Geography Department. The film focuses on Dr. Vandana Shiva's life-long battle against multinational food corporations. More broadly, the film touches upon two alternative visions of feeding the world—one based on chemical processes and a capitalist model of profit, and the other based on local farming, biodiversity, sustainability and community. The discussion that followed offered a critical perspective to evaluate and rethink both of these models.

Glocal staff, Mrs. Maayan Frenkel, represented Glocal at **OLAM Focal Point Event** which took place in May 2024 in New York. At the event, Maayan built relationships with relevant organizations for student internships, as well as for marketing the Glocal Program.

Glocal also supports social initiatives and agents of change in the community. With our support, Fouad Motaz Osman, a Darfurian asylum seeker, a Hebrew University student of Business Administration and the founder of the Sudanese Community Center in Israel, won the Hebrew University's Dean of Students award for social involvement and contribution to the community. Fouad received the award for his advancement of the Sudanese community in Jerusalem, and for his ongoing work – in collaboration with the Glocal Program for International Development, JACC (the Jerusalem African Community Center), and other organizations, to advance the legal, cultural and social and well-being of the Sudanese community in Israel.

Finally, this year, Glocal has provided consultancy services to organizations operating in the field. First, Glocal acted as a consultant to **CoCuDi** (Center for Cosmopolitan Cultural Dialogue) and assisted the organization in developing its M&E framework for its academic exchange program. Second, Glocal continued providing support to **Fair Planet's** M&E work, this year in Tanzania. Finally, Glocal started a relationship with **TOV JDC**, and has been leading an impact assessment to two of their projects in Ethiopia. Glocal is thrilled to continue and act as a knowledge center for organizations working in the field of international development in Israel. These services have been led by Dr. Reut Barak Weekes, Glocal's Academic Head.

## Plans for the next Academic Year

At this time, we are close to completing our planning for the next academic year. We hope to have a quick resolution to our war in our region, but know that even if it continues, we will be able to provide excellent academic education to our students. In addition to our usual curriculum, we will offer two new international courses. The first is a joint course in *Political Ecology*, which will be provided by Dr. Shira Buckchin Peles in collaboration with Dr. Andrei Dorre from the Institute of Geographical Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin. The course will include both online and in person lectures, as well as students own individual research projects.

Secondly, we are very happy to welcome back Prof. Vally Koubi, (ETH Zurich/ University of Bern) to give a course on *Environmental Change and Migration* at the Glocal Program. Prof. Koubi gave a keynote lecture at our Academic Conference on this topic last June, and we are thrilled that she has agreed to provide a short, two weeks intense course to our students.

Especially in the challenging environment we experience daily, and with growing academic boycott of Israeli institutions and researchers, we are thrilled to be able to provide such excellent opportunities to our students and to strengthen our academic ties with academic institutions from around the world.

---



## List of Cohort 14 students



### **Noga Eisenstein**

BA graduate in political science, sociology and anthropology. She is a project manager in the field of religion and secularism in Israel at the Van Leer Institute. Noga has a great interest in gender-related issues such as sex-based violence and gender equality policies.



### **Shir Efrat**

The founder and director of “Mishpachti – Children of LGBTQ+ families”, an Israeli activist organization working towards equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community. Shir holds a BA in international relations and communications and journalism.



### **Maayan Haas**

A graduate of sociology and anthropology, gender studies, and African studies in a dual department program of the faculty of humanities and social sciences at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Maayan has many community-based interests such as climate and refugee issues.



### **Noga Haytner**

BA graduate in psychology and cognitive science. Took part in the lab for cooperation and social dilemmas in light of game theory. Noga has experience working with women who experienced sex-based violence and who raise children at risk.



### **Sara Weiss**

Holds a B.A. in Geography and Environmental Development and Middle Eastern Studies, graduated with Honors with distinction. Sara has experience in managing volunteers, community organizations, and instruction of educational activities, as well as experience in diverse and international settings.



### **Stav Yosefian**

Holds a B.Sc. in Cognitive and Brain Sciences, and Business Management. Stav took part in Project Ten of the Jewish Agency in which she worked in various fields such as education, sports, health, and agriculture.



### **Ruth Meller**

An effective, passionate, and pragmatic leader with extensive for-profit and non-profit experience. Ruth is a mentoring program developer at YELADIM, an organization that aims to provide opportunities to children with no family backing.



### **Elvira Songoro**

Innovative, creative, and talented Sociologist and psychologist. Elvira has experience in working with slum dwellers and unhoused families. She takes part in a number of wide-ranging voluntary roles in order to help individuals achieve their highest potential.



### **Tatiana Petrushkevich**

An English teacher and private tutor with international experience. Tatiana holds a B.A. in public relations and advertising, as well as a graphic design and photography diploma. She is interested in understanding better the education systems in developing countries and how socioeconomic factors impact educational achievements.



### **Chiara Kaising**

Holds a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in psychology and intercultural relations. Chiara has worked in victim support in Portugal, cross-culture development in Colombia, and policy development in Brazil.



### **Paul Kenney**

A part-time lecturer at the Institute for Continuing and Distance Education at the University of Ghana. Paul holds a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in development studies. He is interested in many current issues such as natural resources management, energy policy, and public health.



### **Gillian Rose**

Outreach Coordinator at "Sulha", an organization that wishes to develop discourse in conflict zones with a special focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict and antisemitism. Gillian also holds a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration of international development.



### **Nata Sack**

A family social worker for asylum seekers in the Jerusalem social services. Nata holds a B.A in social work and has gained training for working with asylum seekers from the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and the UN refugee agency. She also has a diploma in water therapy.



### **Naini Esther**

Coming from the Maasai community in Kenya, Naini Esther aspires to promote gender empowerment and girl education in her home community. With a BA in Community Development and Psychology from Daystar University, Kenya, Naini has a variety of experience in project management and coordination of educational Programs.



### **Njoki Maina**

With a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Kenyatta University, Njoki Maina has worked in the past four years in Kenya's Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Directorate and Immigration Services. At Glocal, she aims to improve her Project cycle skills and gain understanding on sustainable and efficient methods to support incoming migrants.



### **Ziv Rotshtein**

Ziv holds a BSc in Environmental Science and International Relations from the Hebrew University and has significant experience in environmental protection in Israel, both from working in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and as the Director of Israel Partnerships at Adam Teva Va'Din.



### **Fatmeh Hammad**

Holding a BA in Law from Birzeit University, Fatmeh wishes to support youth and women participation and empowerment in peacebuilding and sustainable development. She is active in various activities in the civil society, including being a board member of Qalandia Camp Kids Center and an active member of QatarDebate Center.



### **Mike Moritz**

Mike holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York as well as experience in local and national activism by advocating for climate and social justice. At Glocal he hopes to gain knowledge and skills in the meeting points of development and the environment locally and globally.



### **Omer Givon**

Omer holds a B.A. Sociology & Anthropology, Spanish & Latin American studies from the Hebrew University. She has experience in youth education and is eager to get training in multicultural work.