



2025 Activity Report

Growing Resilience — Across People, Across Communities



2025: A Year Shaped by Ongoing War

On October 7, 2023, Israel was struck by a massacre of unprecedented scale. Families were torn apart, communities destroyed, and the country's collective sense of security shattered. In 2025, the war's effects continued to ripple through every facet of Israeli society: reservists serving hundreds of days of active duty, border communities still displaced, and an entire generation of young people navigating collective trauma alongside their own personal struggles.

“Where would I have been without Kaima during this difficult period?”

—Kaima participant

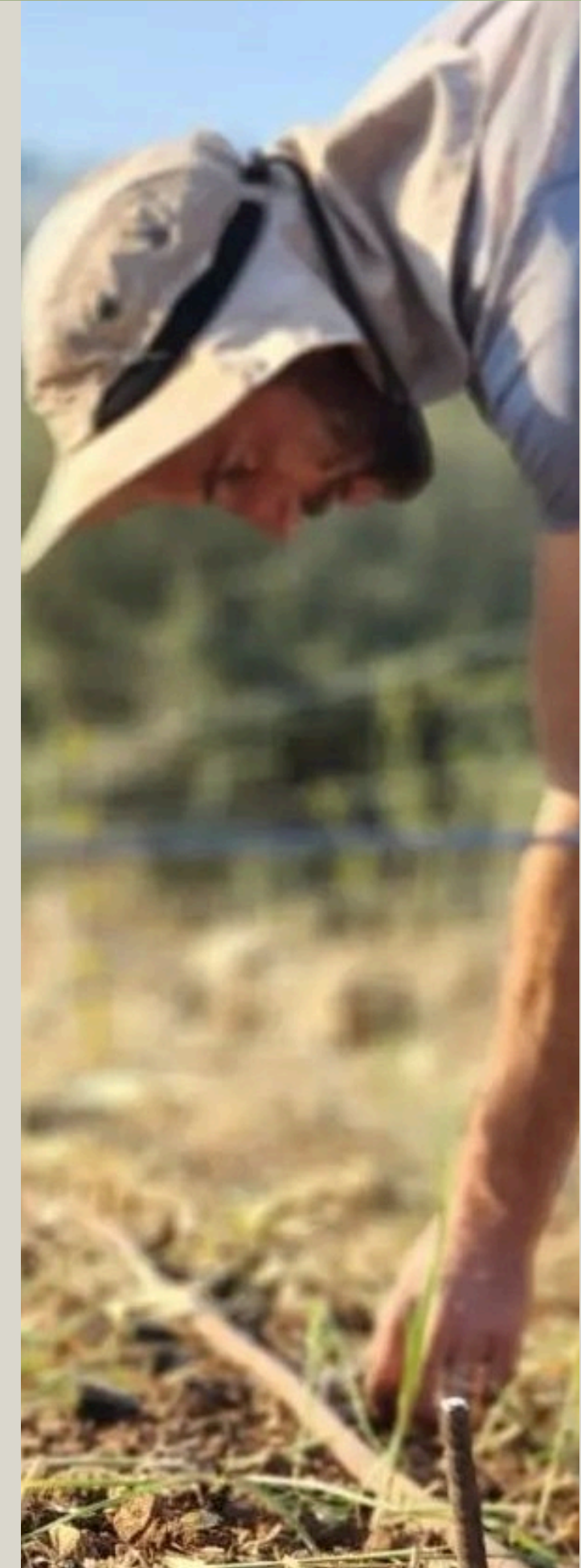
For Amutat Kaima, these years brought extraordinary challenges and an urgent call to act. A 12-day escalation with Iran in June 2025, which confined communities to their homes under Home Front Command directives, added yet another rupture to an already demanding year.

And yet, 2025 was also a year of remarkable perseverance. Kaima's youth programming continued with some minor adjustments. Alumni stepped in when their younger counterparts could not. New initiatives took root.

This report describes what Kaima's network of farms accomplished in this context, and what we are building toward.

For the Unschooled: About Kaima

- **The Land is our Classroom; Nature is our Teacher:** Kaima is the driving force behind Israel's "Return to the Earth" movement, a burgeoning national effort to reconnect communities to the land as a source of healing, meaning, and agricultural self-reliance. Founded in 2013 in Beit Zayit, in a terraced valley just below Jerusalem, Kaima today operates a network of educational farms and initiatives across Israel and abroad that use hands-in-the-earth agricultural work as a tool for personal development and social reintegration.
- **Our Roots:** Kaima was initially established as an alternative educational program for vulnerable youth (ages 15–18) unable to thrive in conventional academic settings. These are young people who have dropped out of school, struggled with addiction, experienced abuse, or found themselves adrift after leaving restrictive family or community environments. On Kaima farms, they earn a salary, develop life skills, interact in positive and constructive ways with adults, and discover a sense of purpose – conditions that consistently redirect them toward more hopeful futures.



Growing Up!

Now in our 13th year, Kaima's approach has proven effective in multiple contexts and with several vulnerable populations, including young adults (ages 18-21) unable to relate to conventional national service settings, sexual assault survivors, IDF reservists dealing with combat trauma and their families, people with intellectual disabilities, and others.

“ In 2013, we literally broke ground on a rocky hillside in Beit Zayit that people said couldn't grow vegetables. We had at our disposal little more than borrowed tools, hundreds of volunteers, twelve families willing to trust us, and some very faith-filled donors. Today, Kaima heads a national network of social farms, merging care for the earth with care for people. The land didn't change. We just learned, again and again, what it was capable of.

-Yoni Yefet Reich, Amutat Kaima CEO and Co-founder

13 Years: Impact at a Glance

9

**Farms Inspired
and/or Run by
Kaima**

across Israel

1,700+

**Youth in Full-Time
Social Farming**

redirected to
positive endeavor

80%

**Youth Returning
to Normative
Settings**

after social farming
placement

700

**Monthly
Customers**

CSA & market
subscribers

290k

**Annual Veggie
Sales**

kilograms per year

\$1.3M

Annual CSA Sales

* see breakdown
below

18k

**Annual Veggie
Donations**

kilograms donated
annually

500+

**Therapeutic
Outreach**

for those struggling
with PTSD symptoms

2,500+

**Site Visits &
Delegations
Hosted**

families, schools, the
scouts, synagogue
groups

10

**Acres of Land
Farmed**

across the Kaima
network

* % RAISED THROUGH SALES: KAIMA BEIT ZAYIT: 65% | KAIMA HUKUK: 40% | KAIMA NAHALAL: 35%

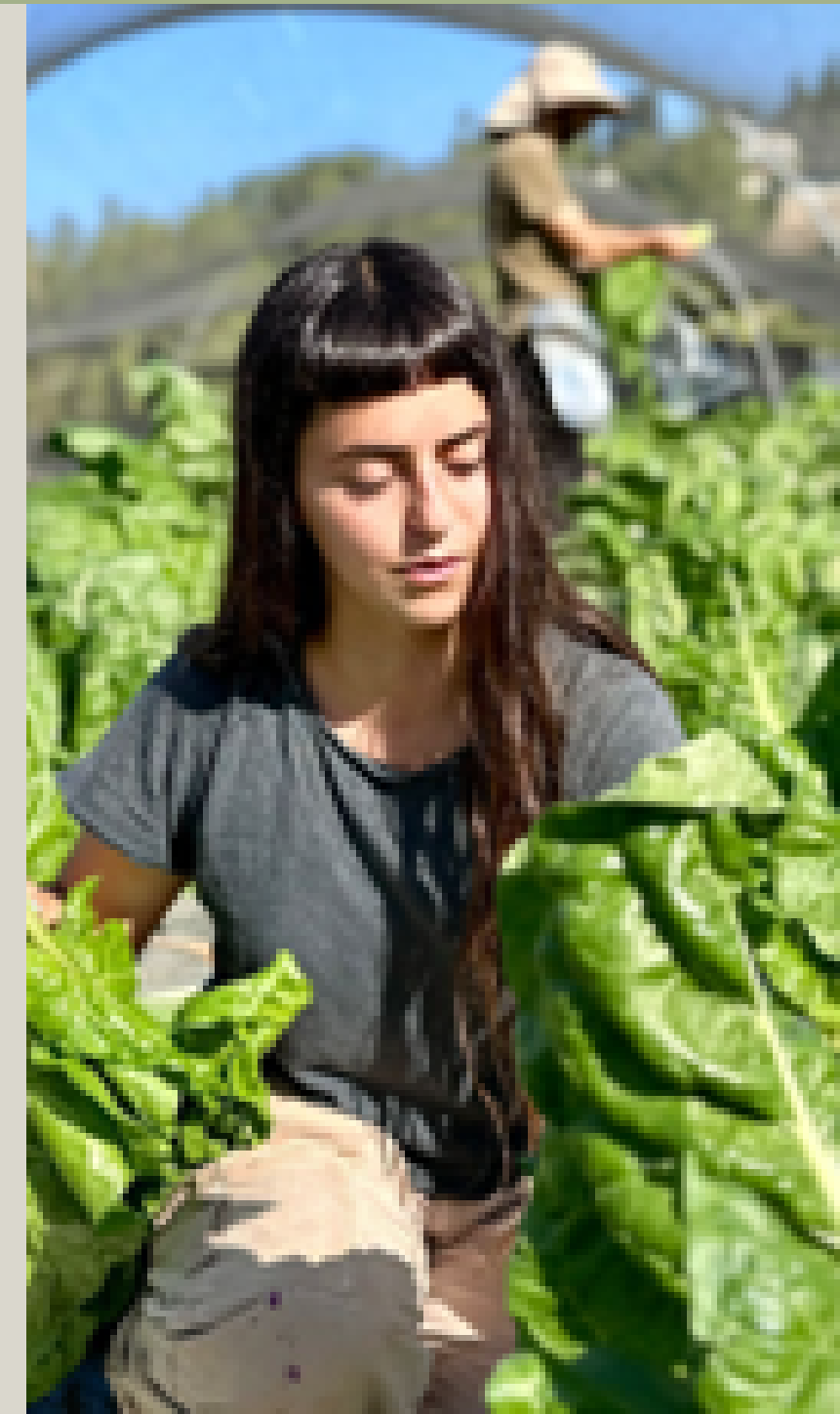
Core Programming: Educational Employment

Kaima directly oversees three of the nine farms in our network: our prototype farm, **Kaima Beit Zayit**, and our two sister farms in the north of the country: **Kaima Hukuk** and Kaima **Nahalal**.

In 2025, our flagship employment-as-education initiative provided **126** young people across these three farms with full-time work, enrichment, and workforce entry programming: 92 youth aged 15 to 18 and 34 young adults aged 18 to 21. Enrollment was somewhat lower than in prior years, partly because retention significantly increased, a notable trend during the war. Many young people chose to stay longer, finding the farm a rare source of stability.

The majority of those who completed the program transitioned to normative educational settings, entered the workforce, or were called up to serve in the army or perform national service.

In 2025, Kaima's young farmers fed **~2,600** people weekly and contributed **~175,000** hours of agricultural work, reflecting both the scale of the program and the depth of engagement the undertaking demands.



Beit Zayit, Hukuk, and Nahalal: Beyond the Farm

Kaima's agricultural employment programming offers a structured daily framework that supports healing, teaches teamwork, and helps vulnerable young people change the downward trajectory of their lives. Our **complementary vocational programs** unlock something equally vital: imagination.

Through optional off-site **certificate-granting courses** and **academic programs** in fields such as computer science, woodworking, welding, professional tractor operation, sound engineering, jewelry making, yoga instruction, and more, young people discover capabilities they never knew they possessed. A teen or young adult who arrives believing they have nothing to offer suddenly finds themselves crafting furniture, creating music in a studio, or writing code.

Participants explore interests freely, experiment without judgment, and discover new paths forward. These courses, lasting **3–9 months** (or more for those pursuing academic degrees) and chosen by each young person, prepare them for satisfying military or national service, a return to formal classroom settings, higher education, and/or meaningful employment beyond Kaima.

This past year, **59** people participated in this track, including **41** Kaima alumni, more than double the previous year.

“ I can't believe how early I wake up for my work shift and how excited I am for each day to unfold. The adults who help me are not like regular classroom teachers. I never experienced this before.

—Kaima participant

Beit Zayit, Hukuk, and Nahalal: Beyond the Farm (cont...)

- **Kaima Beit Zayit** expanded its carpentry program, undertaking more sophisticated projects under master-craftsman Michael Mizrachi. Its music enrichment program offered weekly individual and group lessons in piano, drums, flute, and strings; 21 youth took part during the year. A new 20-hive apiary initiative is promoting local pollination, sustainable honey production, and beekeeping education.
- **Kaima Hukuk** ran special arts programs and a gender identity workshop led by external professionals. Impressively, the farm also completed the Ministry of Agriculture's rigorous organic certification process — a significant milestone that formalizes what the farm has always practiced and opens new revenue opportunities.
- **Kaima Nahalal** organized several short-term enrichment activities, including yoga, woodwork, dance, agricultural lessons, and a timely session on "How to Let Go." The farm also took participants on off-site outings to the Kinneret, Mount Carmel, and the Beit Keshet forest as a counterweight to the collective stress of the past two years.



Professional Support and Evaluation:

In 2025, Kaima's network social worker, Guy Bar Navon, provided approximately 2,400 hours of professional coaching and mentoring across the network, including individual sessions, group encounters, and coordination with external service providers.

Kaima is also investing in rigorous evaluation to document and catalogue the best practices that underpin our work. Research led by Dr. Gilah Amitay – who heads the Department of Criminology and the Center for Action Research and Social Justice at Emek Jezreel Academic College – is studying the outcomes and mechanisms of Kaima's model, generating evidence that will inform the training curriculum at Beit Kaima and strengthen our capacity to share what we have learned with the broader field.

“Kaima just gave me love, space, and a place to express myself. They let me be responsible. Instead of trying to fit me into a mold, they told me: here, come, you have the whole earth...bloom, just bloom. That's all you need to do.”

– Kaima Participant



Additional Initiatives: Anchored in the Earth

The ongoing war has produced a mental health crisis among IDF reservists that the country's existing care infrastructure was not prepared to absorb. Many reservists have served hundreds of days of reserve duty across multiple call-ups; many experience PTSD symptoms, anxiety, sleep disorders, and profound disconnection from daily life.

In response, Amutat Kaima, in partnership with Bein Hatlamim Farm, launched **Anchored in the Earth** — a structured program providing sustained exposure to nature-based therapeutic activities to IDF reservists. The program is designed to welcome participants regardless of whether they have received an official diagnosis, removing a common barrier to care. The program is supported by a multidisciplinary social work team, a professional advisory group, and Kaima alumni who understand the restorative power of hands-in-earth agricultural work. Each cohort includes **15** participants, optimal for the group dynamic we seek to create.



“ The program’s agricultural work was full of meaning, giving me a starting point to process all I had been through. Working the land and being with others who understand helped me peel off layers of protection.

—Kaima participant

Additional Initiatives: Na'ama's Friends

This past year, we launched **Na'ama's Friends**, a new initiative that provides adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to earn a salary, develop skills, and participate in the life of a working farm. Participants grow, harvest, dry, and blend premium herbal teas, which are marketed through **The Pantry**—the farm's online sales platform and the brainchild of one of our national service workers—under the Kaima label.

Na'ama's Friends is not a traditional therapy program. It is a workplace — one where every participant is treated as a genuine contributor to the farm's mission.

We aim to scale the initiative—currently a pilot at Beit Zayit—by implementing similar programming at other Kaima farms and, eventually, beyond the network



“ We were committed to working with this population and remained determined to do so this past year—despite, if not because of, the war.

– Program co-creator

Additional Initiatives: Feed My Neighbor

Kaima's **Feed My Neighbor** initiative channels surplus harvest directly to populations in need – families, elderly individuals, and communities facing food insecurity – in the areas surrounding each farm.

The program transforms what might otherwise go to waste into a tangible act of community solidarity, and it involves farm participants meaningfully in that process. Sorting, packaging, and delivering produce reinforces the understanding that their labor reaches beyond the farm gate and matters to people they may never meet.

During the war years, when food insecurity in parts of Israel has intensified, and agricultural labor shortages have put pressure on supply chains, Feed My Neighbor has taken on added significance as both a practical contribution and a statement of shared responsibility.



Government Recognition

A landmark development in 2025: Kaima Hukuk and Kaima Nahalal were formally approved as government service providers under the Ministry of Welfare, joining Kaima Beit Zayit, which had previously received this status. This arrangement subsidizes youth work stipends and strengthens our capacity for sustained planning and growth.

Such recognition, renewable every three years, represents a formal acknowledgment of Kaima's educational approach by the State of Israel. It also clears the way to encourage others to replicate our outreach model with a sustainable funding source.

Looking Ahead: Beit Kaima



Amutat Kaima is pursuing an ambitious capital campaign to establish **Beit Kaima** — Israel's first national training center for social farming. To be built on the grounds of Kaima Beit Zayit, Beit Kaima will train educators, mental health professionals, farmers, and community leaders in the principles and practices of social farming, equipping them to launch and lead their own initiatives across the country.

This new multi-purpose campus will consolidate all training services, agricultural operations, and outreach to the general public under one roof, adjacent to our prototype farm. The capital campaign is approximately 40% completed.

Looking Ahead: Beit Kaima (cont...)

The timing aligns with a historic policy breakthrough. Following a 10-year advocacy campaign led by Kaima, the Israel Land Authority approved new policy allowing kibbutz- and moshav-owned land to be used for social farming purposes. This **landmark decision** opens access to agricultural land and infrastructure across the country, making it possible to bring social farming programs to communities nationwide, with Kaima uniquely positioned to lead such change.

Beit Kaima will be the hub through which this expansion becomes possible: a place where practitioners come to learn, where best practices are shared, and where Israel's social farming movement develops the professional infrastructure it needs to grow. In a country still processing the trauma of October 7 and navigating the long aftermath of war, the need for models of resilience — social, agricultural, and emotional — has never been clearer.

As we enter our bar mitzvah year, Kaima, which began with a single farm, a small team, and a conviction that working the land could change the direction of a life, has evolved into a solid social farming network.



Thank You!

2025 was a year that asked everything of us—of our staff, our volunteers, our partner organizations, and the young people who showed up to the field even when the world outside felt uncertain and unsafe. That they kept coming to work alongside our adult volunteers and professional team is the truest measure of what Kaima has built. We are deeply grateful to our funders, our communities, and everyone who believed that growing food and growing people was essential work—even in the hardest of times.

