



CHIMES ISRAEL

Improving the lives of people with disabilities
in everything they do, at every stage of life

Standing Together to Protect Those Who Cannot Protect Themselves
**Building a Protected Space for Preschool
Children with Disabilities in Modi'in**



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At Chimes Israel, we believe that every child deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to grow, even during times of crisis. We are seeking support to build protected institutional shelter spaces (MAMAMs) at our Chimes Or Early Childhood Center in Modi'in, ensuring that preschool children with disabilities can remain safe and continue receiving essential care and therapies during security emergencies. This project addresses an urgent and ongoing need for some of Israel's most vulnerable children.

Who We Are

Chimes Israel is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, from infancy through adulthood. We operate under the supervision and partial funding of Israel's Ministries of Welfare and Health, in partnership with local authorities. Our mission is to promote dignity, independence, and meaningful community participation for people with disabilities, through professional, compassionate, and innovative therapeutic, employment, and care services. Today, Chimes Israel operates 27 centers and programs, serving over 1,300 children and adults annually, across multiple communities and life stages.

Our Early Childhood Centers – A Pioneering Model

Chimes Israel is a national pioneer in early childhood rehabilitation. We were the first organization in Israel to recognize how overwhelming it is for parents when they learn that their young child has a disability. Instead of allowing parents to remain in an exhausting maze of separate diagnoses and treatment appointments, we created a comprehensive model providing all needed services "under one roof."



Our early childhood centers integrate diagnosis, therapy, daycare, education, and parental support in one safe and nurturing setting. Municipalities continue to trust us with their most vulnerable children. Today, we operate nine early childhood centers across eleven buildings. Our newest center in Herzliya opened a few months ago, further reflecting the confidence municipalities place in Chimes Israel's professional leadership and depth of experience.

Why the Chimes Or Center Needs an On-Site Shelter

During the first month of the war, Home Front Command ordered the Chimes Or center closed. When limited reopening became possible, the municipality moved us to a temporary alternative building with an onsite shelter since our building does not have one. The temporary municipal building was entirely unsuitable. There were severe water leaks and a rat infestation. Children actually napped on floor mattresses while rats were present in the space. There was no functional kitchen, so food had to be brought in from outside. This was harmful because many of our children have eating challenges. Our freshly prepared, carefully adapted, meals are an essential part of their therapeutic care.

The Chimes Or center's only available protected space is a synagogue on the street behind the building. Reaching it requires staff to take the children approximately 50 meters outside the fenced backyard, down concrete stairs, through a locked gate, and into a locked building. Because the structure is a synagogue that houses valuable items, it must remain locked at all times, even during periods of conflict.

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The Chimes Or center currently serves 32 preschool children, with capacity for 40. Many of these children rely on standing frames, walkers, or other therapeutic mobility equipment. Staff need time to safely release, lift, and support them. There are not enough adults required to carry all of the children who cannot walk while simultaneously guiding those who can.

From the moment a siren sounds, staff have a minute and a half to reach shelter. Israeli safety standards already consider this a long response time. In some regions, including our centers in Ashkelon, the required response time is 15 to 30 seconds. In Israel, the actual time available to reach shelter varies depending on the type and origin of the threat, and it is not predictable when a siren sounds.

Given the physical layout of the site, the children's significant mobility needs, and staffing realities, reaching shelter in one and a half minutes is simply impossible.

We do not know what the future holds, but the past has shown us clearly that Israel remains in a precarious security reality. No one can expect preschool children with disabilities to move fast in moments of crisis. It is our responsibility to adapt the environment to them, ensuring both physical safety and emotional stability, and allowing our staff to function without panic when every second counts. This is why the Chimes Or center must have an on-site protected space.



Our Partnership Request

We are therefore seeking your partnership in adding three prefabricated protected institutional shelters to the Chimes Or center, located at 33 Sderot HaOmerim, Reut, Modi'in-Maccabim-Reut.

Because the average is one square meter per person, we are estimating the very conservative need of 45 meters. Each prefabricated shelter is 15 square meters, therefore the center would need three. The proposed shelters will be located outside each classroom's garden doors, accessible immediately without going out the common front entrance or down any stairs. They will be fully compliant with Home Front Command requirements and designed for extended stays, with air conditioning and an internal toilet, so that children and staff can remain calm, safe, and regulated during emergencies.

Protected Space Budget

For this project, we have sourced the vendor Ofarim Ltd., a recognized expert in the design and construction of prefabricated institutional protected spaces (MAMAMs). Ofarim designs its MAMAMs to protect against air attacks, short-range land-based missiles, and anti-tank missiles, in accordance with Israeli Home Front Command standards.

They construct their structures from high-quality pumice concrete, a durable material that is weather-resistant, fire-resistant, and provides effective insulation against heat and cold. The material ensures long-term durability with minimal wear over time. Ofarim creates these protected spaces exclusively for public-use settings such as kindergartens, schools, offices, and industrial facilities.

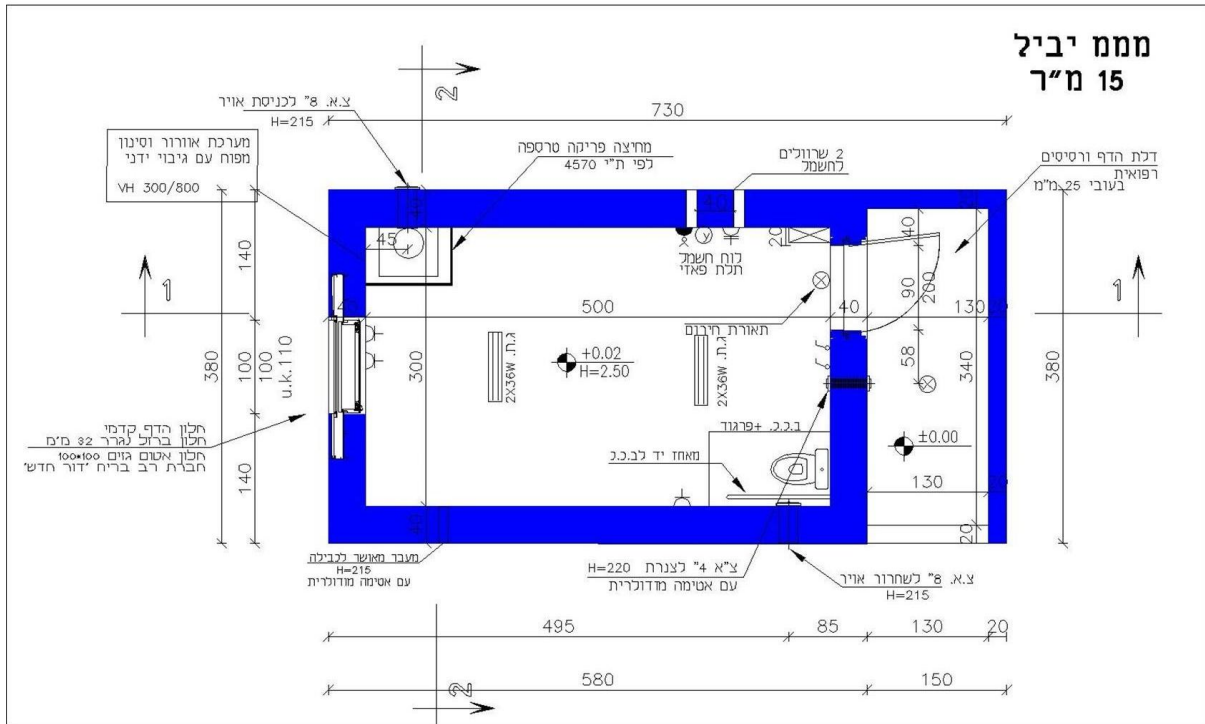
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The costs on the table below reflect Ofarim's direct quotation, including all required ancillary expenses.

| Budget for Three Protected Institutional Spaces (MAMAM) – 15 square meters* | |
|---|--------------------|
| One prefabricated shelter (base cost) | 160,000 NIS |
| Transportation & Installation with crane | 38,000 NIS |
| VAT (18%) | 35,640 NIS |
| <i>Total cost for one protected space</i> | <i>233,640 NIS</i> |
| Grand total for three protected spaces | 700,920 NIS |

*Includes reinforced steel plan, engineer's certification, and Home Front Command approval.

Below is the architectural diagram of a proposed Ofarim prefabricated protected space.



Grateful for Your Time, Care, and Shared Vision

This project will provide immediate, life-saving protection for preschool children with disabilities and the professional teams who care for them every day. Beyond physical safety, these shelters will allow vulnerable children to maintain continuity of care, emotional stability, and therapeutic routine during times of crisis and uncertainty.

We are deeply committed to protecting and empowering people with disabilities across Israel. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this urgent need and welcome the chance to partner with those who believe that every child deserves safety, dignity, and the opportunity to thrive.