

First Person: Lighting up the Nations

FACING EVERY PROBLEM THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER—
BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS TO FACE IT.

Photography courtesy of Glenn Yago

There is a whimsical snapshot that inspires our work: It is the iconic image of David Ben-Gurion's 1957 headstand on Herzliya Beach. It is an easily accessible metaphor for how to create a fresh perspective on a problem—when asked why he stood on his head, Ben-Gurion responded: "I stand on my head so that the State of Israel can stand on its feet."

That goal of securing sustainability—social, environmental, and financial—now underscores global challenges as well. Our shared future on this planet as a member of the family of nations will be determined by accelerating the time from mind to market for new solutions. In our field school, we are preparing the next generation of knowledge workers, technologists, and analysts from Israel and the world for this task through their projects.

Pretty much every problem the globe faces is highly refracted and concentrated in Israel—think ethnic conflict, immigration, natural resource constraints, climate adversity, and environmental limits. The basic economic solution is accelerating growth by decoupling it from resource utilization through technological and financial innovations. The world now faces the imperatives of sustainability requiring us to do more with less by relying on human resources, ingenuity, and novelty that can lead to unprecedented impact.

Our local challenges have become global. Israel, in recent decades, is largely driven by daunting challenges that result in technology-driven growth. This has enabled us to make transformative leaps in addressing scarcity in agriculture, food, energy, water, and health. It will only be sustained by advancing our ongoing research fellows and by creating partnerships with other new developing economies that seek to emulate



Israel's technology-based growth. More transformative financial and technological innovation will remove barriers to a more inclusive and regenerative economy.

Out-of-the-box thinking inspires our unique research and training program which links innovation labs (at our Blum Lab for Developing Economies) with our ongoing efforts at our widely respected Fellows and Research Program building bridges to other global hubs for innovation.

Over the past decade, there's been an emerging national consensus about gaps within Israel and throughout the world that growing inequalities reduce economic growth and are unsustainable. Income, social, productivity, and capital gaps in and between communities, small- and medium-sized businesses, and regions all must be continuously addressed. Social cohesion requires sustainable economic growth that creates higher rates of labor force participation, business formation, access to new technologies, and financial inclusion. Our Fellows have worked hard on those questions linked with our research assignments through our center's role in the business and public policy ecosystem in Jerusalem and throughout the country has grown.

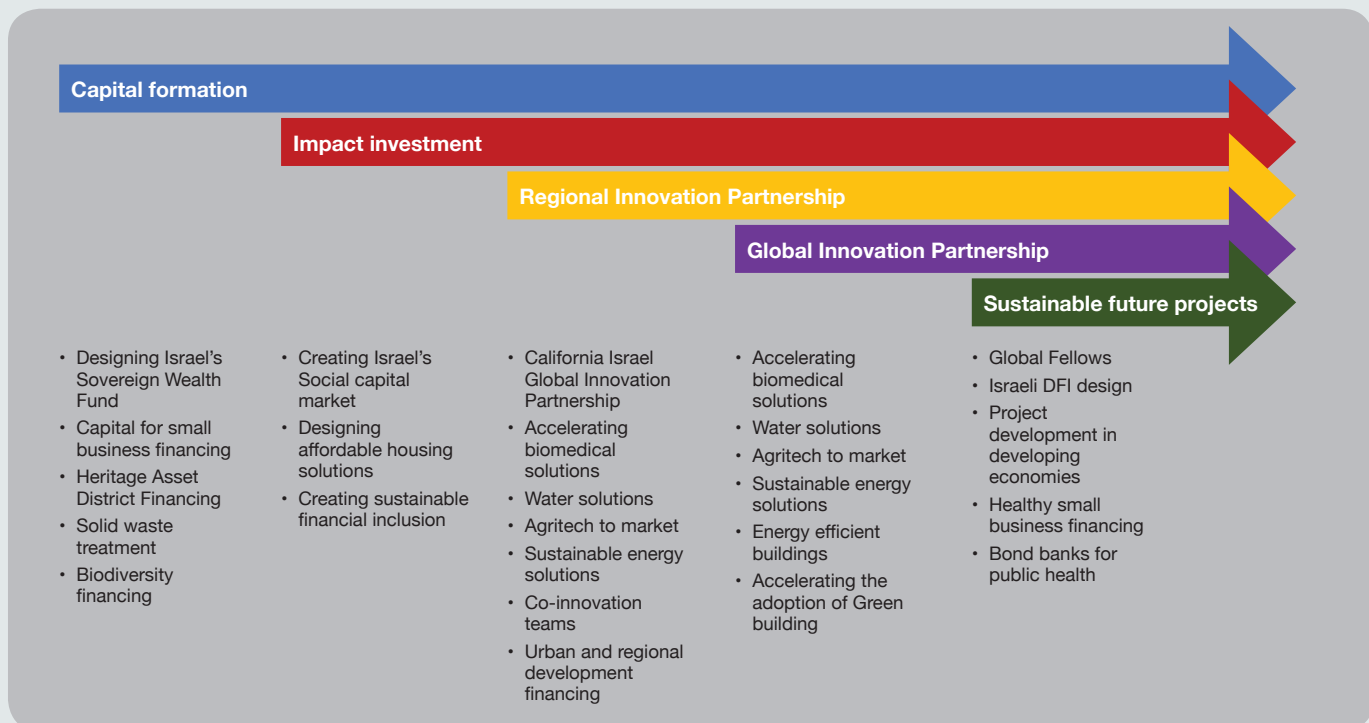
As a field school, we link training and research focused on practical impact. By addressing global challenges from Israel's global laboratory, we train and deploy the best and brightest young professionals from Israel and the world

that launches innovative financial and economic solutions.

Our program expands by our Israeli and Global Fellows program to leverage as co-innovation teams that building bridges to new developing and frontier economies. Below are examples of the project pipeline we've built that combine building capacity and training, identifying new technologies, and how to translate them into solutions that create investable projects.

mitigate risks in food production, biodiversity conservation, and environmental change to create buffers to contain and prevent future pandemics.

We focus on technology transfers that decentralize diagnostics and treatment that can lower the costs of disease management by linking big data to medical research



The list of our achievements include: new capital structures of water sustainability; financing accelerated medical solutions through financing translation medical research; creating a social discount rate for evaluating longer-term government capital projects; demutualization of the capital markets; alternatives for financing affordable housing; a new social bank; rooftop solar generation for public housing; commercializing agricultural and financial tech products to address post-harvest loss; environmental technologies to address climate change; Israel's first social investment fund; and many others.

Nowhere has this been clearer in recent months than our work on overcoming pandemic hindsight and the current crisis in arresting contagion from emerging infectious diseases. How do we keep this pandemic crisis from happening again? We've been working on how to drastically

for testing, tracing, and treatment. Working with firms and applications covering protection and prevention, home-care remote monitoring, diagnostics, decision support, and social and mental health dimensions. We've helped design successful novel capital structures, backed by government guarantees and leveraged with philanthropic grants, to accelerate solutions.

We must all rise to meet these challenges and we stand on the shoulders (and heads) of those giants of previous generations who gave us this opportunity. Join us. **LM**

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