

Prof. Dorit Nitzan joined Ben Gurion University (BGU) in 2022 and directs the Masters Program in Emergency Medicine Preparedness and Response at the School of Public Health, and Chairs BGU's Food Systems, One Health, and Resilience Initiative.

For 17 years, Prof. Nitzan served in the World Health Organization (WHO) including as Regional Emergency Director from 2016 until 2022, and as WHO representative and Head of Country Offices in Ukraine (2012 to 2016,) and Serbia (including Kosovo and Montenegro) and as the Public Health Manager for the South-east European Health Network.

She returned to Israel in August 2022 after leading the Incident Management Team and the WHO humanitarian response in Ukraine.

Prof. Nitzan is a pediatrician and dietitian, having completed a specialty in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition and Public Health studies at Columbia University and Children's Hospital in New York. From 1996 to 2005, she headed the Nutrition and, later, the Food Services Departments in the Israeli Ministry of Health.



Besides her academic endeavors, Prof. Nitzan participates in national and international committees covering numerous issues on health, the environment, disasters, emergency preparedness, and social justice. She has received awards from the World Health Organization, the United Nations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the hospitals where she served. She volunteers in humanitarian organizations and as a Senior Advisor to the Director General of the Ministry of Health on access to health services for conflict-affected populations.