The Federation’s Partnership with JDC

The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the leading global Jewish humanitarian organization, helping to ensure the survival of millions of people and the advancement of Jewish life in 70 countries for more than 100 years.

During crises such as the current situation in Ukraine, JDC uses long-developed relationships and systems to put additional supports in place, to meet shifting needs even before, during, and after a crisis. JDC carries out its mission around the world in a nonpolitical, nonpartisan fashion and is guided by the principles of pluralism, sustainability, professionalism, and cooperation.

JDC is the Federation’s single largest grantee, receiving close to $1 million in funds for operational support throughout Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union as well as for targeted projects in Israel. The following provides an outline of JDC’s ongoing role in the Ukraine as well as its current response.

An Overview of JDC in Ukraine

- Ukraine is home to 43 million people, with an estimated 200,000 Jews.
- JDC (re)entered the Ukraine 30 years ago and touches about one-third of Jewish households in Ukraine. JDC has four field offices in Kyiv, Dnipro, Kharkov, and Odessa.
- JDC supports a network of 18 Hesed social welfare centers aiding needy Jews in 1,000 locations across Ukraine, as well as through related institutions like Jewish Family Services and JDC’s Jewish community volunteers corps.
- There are 6 major JCCs in Ukraine, a young adult leadership training program (METSUDA), a teen program, and a volunteer network.
- In Ukraine, JDC typically provides critically needed food, medicine, homecare, and other services to approximately 37,000 poor Jewish elderly (including 9,900 Holocaust survivors whose care is supported by Claims Conference funding) and approximately 2,500 at-risk children and their families.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, JDC developed and acquired tech innovations to provide widespread remote care and help combat loneliness among isolated Jewish seniors. The initiatives include specially designed smartphones that enable isolated elderly to connect with family, friends, and their larger Jewish community (750 clients) and an online training and reporting platform for homecare workers.
JDC’s Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

JDC is ready to increase their humanitarian lifeline to a vulnerable population of needy Jews and Jewish communities in Ukraine, with their care and well-being the top and enduring priorities. JDC is focused on three major activities:

Ensure people have basic needs met and maintain continuous contact.

Escalating tensions have contributed to skyrocketing inflation, food, and utility prices. JDC has continued to provide life-saving food, medicine, home care, and remote care to the tens of thousands of needy Jewish elderly and families.

Complete crisis preparations.

JDC has refreshed their emergency protocols, mapped their most vulnerable clients, provided aid for basic needs months in advance, and prepared volunteers and staff to run a hotline.

Enact contingency plans.

JDC has planned for various scenarios. They are leveraging their experience from the 2014 crisis in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, and their widespread presence on the ground to prepare for emerging needs, including possible displacement of people and increased requests for Aliyah.

When You Support the Federation, You Provide a Lifeline to Ukraine’s Most Vulnerable Jewish Communities.

MAKE YOUR ANNUAL GIFT TODAY AT JEWISHFED.ORG

“The core support that Federations provide JDC is for this moment. Whatever befalls the Jewish people, we’re there to respond. And it is JDC’s experience and prior work that leads to our readiness that make this possible.”

~ Ariel Zwang, CEO

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
121 Steuart Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 | 415.777.0411 | jewishfed.org