

How Federations and core partners are making a difference in Operation Roaring Lion

Jewish Federations have been making a tangible, on-the-ground difference during this war by rapidly channeling resources through their core partners —The Jewish Agency and JDC — who already have deep infrastructure and reach across Israeli society. That combination of funding and execution capacity is what turns dollars into immediate impact.

- With the support of Jewish Federations across North America, the Jewish Agency launched a new matriculation and resilience program for students living 0–1.2 miles from Israel’s northern border in partnership with Habaita - another Federation grantee. The initiative targets approximately 1,500 11th–12th-grade students across nine municipalities, including Kiryat Shmona, Shlomi, and Metula, combining respite retreats, intensive preparation for the matriculation exams in math and English, and resilience-building activities. In addition, the program offered full scholarships to Jewish Agency pre-army academies, enabling eligible students to participate in leadership and personal development programs without financial barriers.
- With the support of Jewish Federations across North America, JDC's All the Way Home (Ad HaBayit) initiative conducted intake meetings for newly displaced residents of Beit Shemesh and Be'er Sheva. In each of these cities, up to 60 of the most vulnerable displaced individuals and families, whose needs cannot be fully addressed by existing welfare infrastructure, will receive tailored support in finding appropriate housing, accessing government compensation and benefits, and help with moving logistics and equipping their homes.
- With the support of Jewish Federations across North America, activity kits for shelters have been deployed across Israel, with emphasis on the northern region, to support children and older adults who are forced to spend extended time in shelters in Israel's hard-hit and frontline cities. These include 10,000 activity kits for older adults across more than 30 municipalities and sensory kits for children with disabilities.
- With the support of Jewish Federations across North America, JDC is working to connect hundreds of public shelters across northern Israel to Wi-Fi, improving access to communication, real-time emergency updates, and supportive content for residents spending extended periods under repeated alerts. The initiative is already underway in the Ma'ale Yosef Regional Council, where all 173 shelters across 22 communities are being equipped, and discussions are in progress with the municipality of Nahariya to connect an additional 200 shelters in the city’s most vulnerable areas. Overall, JDC aims to reach approximately 500 shelters, with implementation prioritized ahead of Passover.

Federation-funded organizations are responding across the country

Alongside these vital efforts, Federation-funded organizations are working to address new needs arising from the war with Iran across Israel. They are deploying equipment, activating networks, and fielding volunteers – helping care for the most vulnerable, responding to missile and rocket strikes, and shoring up resilience under the relentless bombardment of the past month. Here are a few examples of the ways Jewish Federations are making a difference for Israelis right now:

- The National Headquarters for Reservist Families (NHQ) has mobilized a nationwide response, deploying dozens of coordinators across 50+ municipalities to support thousands of reservist families facing prolonged disruption, shelter stays, and ongoing concern for loved ones at the front. Embedded in municipal emergency command centers, coordinators provide real-time advocacy, proactive outreach, logistical support such as childcare and home assistance, respite activities, and mental resilience services including therapist-led sessions and child coping tools.
- Through civil society organizations, the Israel Association of Community Centers, Hamal Ezrahi, the Israel Volunteer Council, and Or Movement, Jewish Federations are provided dedicated support to 58 Jewish and Arab local authorities in northern, central, and southern Israel. This assistance includes the provision of facilities, equipment, and personnel for recreational, respite and educational activities for children and the elderly, community resilience initiatives, and equipment to make extended times in shelter safer and more comfortable. These grants will help tens of thousands of Israeli children, parents, and the elderly in the most vulnerable communities cope with the ongoing stress of living under missile threat once again.
- In Dimona, equipment funded by Jewish Federations played a critical role in the immediate aftermath of a recent ballistic missile attack that left scores injured. Volunteer responders, trained with the support of Federation dollars, were the first to arrive on the scene and began rescuing the wounded and trapped. Using Federation-supported rescue kits, medic bags, megaphones, and stretchers, volunteers stabilized victims, evacuated elderly residents, and directed civilians to safety—efforts local officials say directly saved lives.
- The Yeladenu Initiative, in partnership with Sheatufim, has supported children and parents in Israel's north and south facing sustained disruption by combining immediate emergency response with strengthened community infrastructure. On March 1, they launched the "Stronger Now" app for children ages 3–7 and a national digital campaign promoting parental resilience and directing families to practical resources. At the same time, the initiative fast-tracked municipal parenting centers, expanded workshops and support groups, and strengthened institutional capacity through training and digital engagement—building lasting systems to support families through ongoing uncertainty and recovery.
- The Tamar Mental Health Hotline has launched a 24-hour Arabic-language response as missile alerts continue across the country. This service is especially critical in communities lacking adequate protected spaces, providing psychological first aid and crisis stabilization. Similar services are supporting thousands of Israelis from all parts of society.
- Connections 20–80 is an organization that links young adults and seniors via a digital platform to provide on demand assistance and social connection, reducing loneliness and strengthening intergenerational ties. Since Operation Roaring Lion began, Connections 20–80 has moved into full emergency mode, responding to a surge in urgent calls from isolated older adults—many without protected spaces, nearby help, or daily human contact.