

# Jewish Federation Israel Emergency Fund

## Roaring Lion Allocations

*As of March 17, 2026*

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's emergency response capacity has continued to strengthen, with measurable improvements in speed, coordination, and effectiveness across government, local authorities, and the civil sector. The current phase—shaped by lessons learned over time, including during *Rising Lion*, the 12 Day War with Iran in June—reflects more mature systems and stronger coping mechanisms at every level, from the Prime Minister's Office Emergency Roundtable to municipalities and national NGOs. Prior Federation investments have contributed meaningfully to this readiness and are generating real-time returns, both in preparedness and execution.

Despite these important advances, for nearly three weeks millions of Israelis have continued to run to shelter multiple times a day due to ongoing bombardment from both Iran and Hezbollah. Across much of northern Israel, warning systems are largely ineffective because of the short distance from which rockets and drones are being launched. The conflict is widening regionally, and the path ahead remains uncertain. Israelis are coping reasonably well with the situation, but lack of sleep, extended school closures, workplace disruption, a major call-up of reservists, and the renewed trauma of being under fire are taking a toll.

Federations can and should take pride in the impact core funding provided to our primary partners – The Jewish Agency for Israel and JDC – and earlier emergency grantmaking are having now. At the same time, however, urgent, new priority needs are continuing to surface – many of which will grow as the conflict continues and damages multiply from repeated Iranian and Hezbollah missile strikes and falling shrapnel in many locations.

JFNA's professional team are available to meet with and brief all interested Federations and support local crisis response efforts. Our point person is Vice President for Israel and Overseas, Suzie Patt Benvenisti, who can be reached at [Suzanne.Patt@JewishFederations.org](mailto:Suzanne.Patt@JewishFederations.org)

Individual Federations have already moved to designate significant emergency dollars to our overseas partners, The Jewish Agency and JDC, as well as to their partnership communities and national NGOs.

## The Jewish Agency for Israel

The Roaring Lion Emergency Fund, a new tranche of the Fund for Victims of Terror, is providing immediate assistance to bereaved families, the injured, and households where major damage has occurred; some recipients may later qualify for rehabilitation grants. The Fund is also supporting hard-hit municipalities and group interventions.

In addition, the Jewish Agency is assisting elderly residents in Amigour housing, supporting new immigrants in absorption centers, and providing respite and limited travel assistance for approximately 6,000 participants who were participating in Israel educational travel programs when war broke out.

## JDC

JDC is delivering humanitarian relief to missile-impacted cities including Beit Shemesh, Be'er Sheva, and Zarzir, supplying essential goods, medical equipment, community case workers, and municipal supports. They have renewed the All the Way Home program, providing intensive, personalized help to Israel's most vulnerable residents whose homes were destroyed and who are overwhelmed by trauma and unable to navigate government recovery systems. More than 100 families are already receiving coordinated assistance in partnership with local municipalities and NGOs to stabilize housing and rebuild their lives.

In parallel, JDC has also expanded nationwide mental health services, with targeted interventions for Arab Israelis, who face heightened risk due to limited access to culturally appropriate services and often live in places without access to shelter. JDC continues its work in employment rehabilitation, support for first responders, and improving accessibility in shelters for people with disabilities.

## Allocations of the Israel Emergency Response Committee

Following what was expected to be the Committee's final allocation in September 2025, some new funds were made available through a combination of continued upstreaming from individual Federations and the return of unspent balances from earlier grants which are being closed out as part of ongoing grant oversight.

The Committee was reconvened on March 16<sup>th</sup> and allocated \$1,408,500 in emergency funding to support acute new priority needs including:

### Emergency support for local authorities impacted by missile attacks

*More than 3300 people in across Israel have already been forced to evacuate. Most are currently housed in hotels and guesthouses, and immediate needs are being met—but we know there are gaps that philanthropy can assist with.*

**Keren Shemesh**, the city of Beit Shemesh's municipal foundation, is prioritizing psychological first aid training for community volunteers as part of the emergency recovery efforts. The program will equip residents with practical tools to identify those in distress, provide immediate emotional support, and help stabilize neighbors in the aftermath of the war's worst missile strike. This investment strengthens neighborhood level response capacity and ensures help is available quickly, even before formal clinical services can reach affected families.

Allocation: \$54,000

**Shahaf Foundation** is responding to acute community trauma and disruption following a missile impact in Beit Shemesh. Drawing on its emergency response experience, Shahaf is implementing a coordinated resilience plan that addresses immediate stabilization and essential needs for displaced and affected residents—particularly vulnerable populations—while laying the groundwork for structured recovery. The two-month initiative combines municipal coordination, community-based support, and philanthropic partnership to support both short-term recovery and long-term community resilience.

Allocation: \$97,000

### Shelter and supplies for communities under sustained attack

*Including mattresses, food, water, activity kits for children and the elderly, and resilience programming during extended shelter stays.*

**Amanina's** Alternative School provides a fully remote, community-based learning framework that can be activated immediately during emergencies, helping elementary age Arab Israeli

students maintain daily structure, independent learning skills, and emotional resilience when schools cannot operate normally. The model combines small group Zoom sessions, digital learning materials, and local coordination to preserve educational continuity and strengthen family and community stability throughout prolonged crisis periods.

Allocation: \$70,000

**Dror Israel** is providing critical support to essential workers by operating emergency childcare frameworks so medical staff, security personnel, and other frontline employees can continue their work. At the same time, educators are running daily educational and emotional support activities for evacuees staying in hotels, helping restore routine for children and provide relief for parents. In parallel, teams are leading structured activities in public bomb shelters, bringing safe supervision, connection, and a sense of normalcy to families sheltering overnight.

Allocation: \$60,000

**Hamal Ezrahi's** program serves children in northern and central Israel who are spending prolonged hours in public shelters and experiencing heightened anxiety during repeated security alerts. It provides rapidly deployable emotional relief kits—including games and calming tools—to help children regulate stress and to ease the burden on families during extended shelter stays.

Proposed Allocation: \$60,000

**Israel Association of Community Centers** serves communities across Israel—children, families, youth, seniors, and people with special needs—experiencing prolonged disruption, isolation, and stress during Operation “Roaring Lion.” Through its national network of community centers, it provides age-appropriate activity kits, online and in-person resilience programming, neighbor-to-neighbor support models, and targeted assistance to maintain continuity, connection, and emotional stability.

Allocation: \$100,000

**Israel Volunteer Council** is providing two unique interventions. The first is to operate and manage the national volunteer coordination system during Operation Roaring Lion, serving as the central command hub for hundreds of civil society organizations. This includes 24/7 coordination, emergency training for volunteer leadership, and real-time data management to ensure safe, synchronized, and effective civilian support nationwide. The second program will serve children and families in Arab municipalities who lack adequate private shelters and spend long hours in insufficiently prepared public spaces during sirens. The intervention equips local Volunteer Leaders with emergency training and distributes group and individual activity kits, alongside tools for purposeful engagement for older adults in shelters, to reduce anxiety and ensure equitable access to emotional support.

Allocation: \$150,000

**Or Movement** is serving residents of peripheral and mid-socioeconomic level municipalities facing prolonged shelter stays and disrupted community life during Operation Roaring Lion. Its response focuses on equipping local authorities with shelter supplies and relief kits.  
Allocation: \$30,000

### **Specialized care for vulnerable populations**

*Including elderly individuals, people with disabilities, immigrants, and those without family support—through food delivery, accessible evacuation, therapeutic continuity, and emotional support.*

**Access Israel** serves people with severe disabilities and older adults, many of whom lack accessible protected spaces and are unable to evacuate safely during missile attacks. Immediate support includes accessible evacuations and specialized transportation.  
Allocation: \$75,000

**Beit Issie Shapiro** serves children and adults with disabilities and their families, including during emergencies with a focus on a national hotline for real-time emotional and professional guidance, virtual support sessions for families, and continuity of therapeutic and educational services for children during the crisis.  
Allocation: \$25,000

**Chimes Israel** serves children and adults with disabilities, including families facing extreme vulnerability as day centers, workplaces, and support frameworks are forced to close. Its emergency interventions include delivering in-home therapies for children, providing food, diapers, medicine, and basic necessities to high-risk families, and supporting adults with disabilities who are left isolated and without income or services due to program shutdowns.  
Allocation: \$25,000

**Connections 20-80** scaled its national hotline and volunteer dispatch system to respond to a sharp surge in emergency requests from older adults during active rocket fire. The intervention focuses on rapid, community-based assistance— such as food and medication delivery, emotional support, and shelter preparation—coordinated with local welfare authorities.  
Allocation: \$50,000

**House of Wheels** serves people with physical disabilities and their families. They have opened their facilities to provide accessible emergency accommodation— beginning with the Herzliya house in coordination with the Ministry of Welfare, as well as providing activities and support for their members.  
Allocation: \$25,000

**Israel Midwives Association** will expand a nationwide midwife-led support model for pregnant and postpartum women, with a particular focus on women whose partners are serving in reserve duty as well as women unable to access regular support due to the emergency situation. The intervention scales home visits and continuous telephone support to provide medical, emotional, and practical care during a period of heightened stress and instability.

Allocation: \$150,000

**Pink Glasses** is providing immediate evacuation for Holocaust survivors with complex medical conditions who are unable to reach protected spaces independently in high-risk areas. This includes providing specialized, lifesaving transportation to move survivors to safe locations.

Allocation: \$6500

**Project Keshet Israel** provides Russian and Ukrainian speaking immigrant women and their children, many of whom face poverty, language barriers, and unsafe housing conditions with emergency basic needs along with sustained coordination, information, and virtual programming to stabilize families under fire.

Allocation: \$20,000

**The Nirroot Forum** serves young adults ages 18–30 without family support, who face severe financial distress and food insecurity exacerbated by the war. Its core intervention is the rapid distribution of food vouchers through a national NGO network, providing immediate humanitarian relief and basic stability during the ongoing crisis.

Allocation: \$100,000

### **Supporting reservists and their families**

*More than 110,000 Israeli reservists have been called up for active duty in addition to those already serving. Families are once again carrying the burden on the home front.*

**HaOgen for Reservist Families** is a nationwide volunteer-based organization supporting tens of thousands of families while a parent serves in reserve or permanent duty, providing practical, day-to-day assistance so families can stay afloat during prolonged mobilization. Current needs include grocery vouchers, enabling volunteers to cook meals for reservist families, easing both financial pressure and daily stress.

Allocation: \$30,000

The **National Reservists Headquarters**, founded with Federation support, is mobilizing community-based local coordinators to support new and existing reservists in their communities. Two new programs will be launched – activity kits to engage children and digital parenting programs to enable tailored guidance and support.

Allocation: \$281,000