



JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)

JDC is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization, impacting millions of lives in more than 70 countries today. JDC leverages a century's experience confronting poverty and crisis around the world to save the world's poorest Jews, build Jewish life and leaders, empower Israel's future, and rescue victims of global emergencies.

JDC RELIEF FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

JDC has been caring for Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union (FSU) for over 25 years. As the Claims Conference's sole care provider in the FSU, JDC has developed deep expertise and has built an infrastructure to provide cost-effective and high quality care, providing: homecare, food, free or subsidized medicine, winter relief (heating bills, warm clothes etc.), minor repairs, SOS emergency assistance, and social programs. JDC's expertise and relief infrastructure affords unique advantages in caring for over 100,000 elderly, both Holocaust survivors as well as destitute Jewish elderly who went through the horrors of Communism and currently living through dire poverty. JDC needs to raise an additional amount to cover the gap in those costs for supervising the support for Holocaust survivors, which are not covered by Holocaust restitution/reparation sources.

JDC INITIATIVES FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN ISRAEL

Israel is home to over 200,000 Holocaust Survivors. Their average age is 85, and approximately 25% of them are homebound due to physical, emotional, or cognitive challenges. Many of their challenges are directly related to their experiences during the Holocaust – such as lasting physical injuries or traumatic memories that have surfaced and intensified with age.

Holocaust survivors in Israel receive services through Israeli government agencies and NGOs. These range from material support, medical help, housing maintenance, and legal aid.

However, when a review of these services revealed a dearth in social and therapeutic services, JDC chose to hone in on this area and develop initiatives on a national level. JDC's programs for survivors in Israel thus focus on two primary directions - providing recreational outlets to relieve social isolation, and therapeutic frameworks to process memories. Together they offer thousands of survivors solace in their twilight years, and reprieve from the burden of their histories.