



The Jewish Federations®
OF NORTH AMERICA
Israel Office

JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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After one-and-a-half months of fighting, the war continues in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians, including tens of thousands of Jews, have fled the country and millions of others are internally displaced. Jewish Federations and our partners continue to work together to ensure that urgent relief reaches the most needy.

(For background on the crisis, as well as for information on the Jewish community in Ukraine, see [here](#)).

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- The Russian assault on Mariupol continues. Russian forces bombarded several towns in Eastern Ukraine on Sunday, damaging civilian targets and a train station in Kramatorsk, leaving over 50 people dead. Ukrainian officials claim they are preparing for a major Russian offensive in the Eastern region.
- Deadly attacks on other civilian targets in Ukraine continue. Media reports have claimed the discovery of as many as 50 bodies along a stretch of highway running south from Kyiv to Zhytomyr. British military intelligence issued a report on Sunday claiming evidence that Russia's continued reliance on unguided bombs decreases its ability to discriminate between civilians and military targets. It also reported on the discovery of a mass grave near Burzova containing bodies of civilians.
- Newly released satellite images show an eight-mile long convoy of Russian armed vehicles moving east of Kharkiv, prompting Ukrainian officials to warn civilians in the Eastern region that time is running out to escape. Ukrainian officials estimate that 13,400 civilians were evacuated from the Eastern region since Friday.
- The United Nations General Assembly voted to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council over war crimes in Ukraine. Shortly after the vote, Russia announced that it was withdrawing from the council.
- Austrian chancellor Karl Nehammer met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Monday.
- According to the UN Human Rights Council, approximately 4.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the beginning of fighting. The largest influx of refugees is in Poland, with approximately 2.6 million. According to the UN Human Rights office, at least 1,842 Ukrainians have been killed and 2,493 injured since the breakout of fighting on February 24th. The office notes that the actual figures are likely considerably higher, as the relaying of information is often delayed especially in areas of intense fighting.

ISRAEL

Israel's Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata visited Israel's "Shining Star" Field Hospital in Ukraine. According to media reports, she told the Israeli medical staff, "You are a pride for Israel. You are at the forefront and saving lives every day." Israeli medical staff have treated thousands of Ukrainian refugees since the field hospital was erected. The minister was joined by current chairman of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Yaakov Hagoel, Director General of the Jewish Agency Amira Aharonovich and other officials. Tamano-Shata also visited a Jewish Agency hotel where **Jewish Federations** volunteers are on the ground lending support to refugees and Ukrainian Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel. Our volunteers joined the minister in song and dance to a joyous rendition of "Am Yisrael Chai!"

Five members of a Jerusalem orchestra flew to Warsaw where they played music for refugees, bringing some moments of respite and relief amidst the chaos of the fighting.

Israel's cabinet approved a plan that will provide monthly rental assistance for a period of up to one year to new immigrants from Ukraine and other countries in the Former Soviet Union. Most of the immigrants are arriving to Israel with little or no possessions, having left behind their property and money in order to flee for their lives. This financial support will be in addition to the stipend that every immigrant to Israel receives.

Israel's Ministry of Tourism announced that it will offer new immigrants free tours around Israel with Russian-speaking guides. Transportation for the new immigrants to and from their places of lodging is also included in this service. Over 160 Russian-speaking tour guides have already signed up for this initiative.

REFUGEES, FEDERATIONS, AND PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

Jewish Federations have raised more than \$44 million for Ukrainian relief efforts over the past one-and-a-half months since the fighting began. [Click here](#) to see the latest update on the allocations process and decisions.

The relief efforts are being undertaken by 35 NGOs including our Jewish Federation partners, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and World ORT; as well as by United Hatzalah, Hillel International, Nefesh B'Nefesh, HIAS, the Israel Trauma Coalition, Hadassah Medical Organization, Chabad, Shma Yisrael, Project Keshet, JCC Krakow, the Emergency Volunteer Program and others.

Funds allocated have already had impact in the following ways:

- 12,100 refugees have been fed and housed
- 7,000 refugees have received on-the-ground support in Ukraine
- 5,500+ Jewish Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Israel
- 7,800 beds have been rented
- 55,000+ calls have been received at various hotlines
- Served as the lifeline for 18,000 Jewish elderly and 2,500 poor Jewish children

Jewish Federations have brought over 100 Jewish communal leaders from around North America to the Poland-Ukraine border on a series of humanitarian aid delegations, to provide relief to refugees and to evaluate the ongoing needs on the ground.

Jewish Federations host half-hour webinars twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, to update audiences about the rapidly evolving situation in Ukraine. If you missed Thursday's webinar, which focused on Israel's field hospital in Ukraine, you can [click here](#) for the recording. In the next update, which will take place today

(Thursday) at 4:30pm ET/1:30pm PT, participants will learn more about the impact of the war on Ukraine's Jewish community. [Click here](#) to register.

Last week, **Jewish Federations** launched the creation of a first-of-its-kind central volunteer hub in support of refugees fleeing Ukraine. The first cohorts are on the ground in Poland, Budapest and on the Ukraine-Poland border providing humanitarian assistance, aiding olim in their immigration process and working with children. The initiative is being run in partnership with the Jewish Agency, the JDC and IsraAID.

Jewish Federation of Columbia Executive Director Ana Sazonov who was born in Ukraine and grew up in Israel is one of our volunteers on the Poland-Ukraine border. She shared the following remarks after her first week on the ground:

"This is my calling and my service to be here and to serve my people on multiple levels – by being Ukrainian and by saving my Jewish brothers and sisters. I am seeing so much good from multiple organizations that are collaborating together to help. I see flags of Israel everywhere. To witness humanity coming together warms my heart and keeps me optimistic about our future. I am thankful that I am part of the Jewish Federation world and the Jewish world, and that Federations are making it possible for our partner organizations on the ground to do the impactful work they are doing and to save lives, no matter what their backgrounds are."

To volunteer for this program (please note that only those who speak Russian and/or Ukrainian are being selected at this time), [click here](#). For a list of FAQ's, [click here](#). For more information, email Sarah Eisenman at sarah.eisenman@jewishfederations.org.

The (JDC) continues to operate in Ukraine and bordering countries. JDC's relief efforts, since fighting began include:

- Served 32,000 needy Jews in Ukraine with home visits, medical and food assistance and more (pre-war the number was 37,000)
- Sent over 200 tons of humanitarian aid
- Provided temporary housing for 18,600 people
- Fed 21,300 people with meals
- Treated 1,800 people via Israeli telemedicine
- Evacuated 11,900 Ukrainians to other countries
- Handled 15,300 emergency calls across 11 hotlines

UJA-Federation of New York and Jewish Funders Network are mobilizing to deliver Passover for Ukraine, which will bring Passover and the embrace of the Jewish community to thousands of Jews in Ukraine whose lives have been forever changed. UJA is leveraging its network to distribute matzah and Passover food to residents still in Ukraine, and organizing communal seders for displaced refugees and heroic volunteers who are helping them in neighboring countries. For more information [click here](#).

Jewish Federation volunteers will help lead a communal seder for refugees with Jewish Agency shlichim in Budapest. Seders will be hosted in other cities as well, in partnership with the local Jewish community and Jewish organizations.

JDC has shipped more than two tons of matzah, over 400 bottles of grape juice and over 700 pounds of kosher for Passover food for refugees in Poland, Moldova, Hungary and Romania. The organization is also providing nearly 16 tons of matzah to tens of thousands of Ukrainians, in addition to special holiday material assistance for food. The distribution of matzah will be carried out by JDC's Hesed social service centers and Jewish volunteer corps and is supported by Jewish Federation funds together with the Claims Conference, **Jewish Federations** and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. The organization is also providing Haggadot in Russian and Hebrew for use at seders.

The Jewish Agency has announced that it has handled 10,000 new aliyah inquiries since the outbreak of fighting, and over 30,000 calls have from Ukraine have been received through their emergency hotline.

A cargo plane full of 16 tons of supplies donated by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust that includes medications, food and humanitarian aid left Ben Gurion airport for Slovakia. The medical equipment will be used by Hatzalah volunteers on the ground to evacuate the ill and injured from Ukraine. They will be brought for treatment in Poland and in certain cases, flown to Israel.

The Jewish Agency and JDC have both established [emergency hotlines](#) to assist the Jewish community in Ukraine. For more about JDC's efforts, see [here](#); for those of the Jewish Agency [here](#).

Jewish Federations have activated our emergency protocols and are working closely with the Government of Israel and our partners to do everything in our power to support efforts that ensure the safety and well-being of the entire Jewish community in Ukraine, as well as to provide as much general humanitarian aid as we can.

*For more information, please contact: Jewish Federations of North America's Alisa Bodner:
alisa.bodner@jewishfederations.org.*