



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

- At least 1,563 civilians have been killed since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, according to UN estimates. More than 2,200 have been injured. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told media that people in Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine — including hundreds of children — have died in Russian airstrikes.
- According to Ukraine's Armed Forces, over 300 cases of rape by Russian forces, including of girls aged 12-16, were reported in the country.
- UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told other NATO foreign ministers in Brussels on Wednesday that the “age of engagement with Russia is over.” She added that the “NATO-Russia Founding Act is dead and it is time to cast off an outdated approach to handling Russia.” (The Act, signed in 1997, rules that “NATO and Russia do not consider one another adversaries.”)
- At the same meeting, NATO’s Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg explained that although Russia is now concentrating its assault on eastern Ukraine, NATO has seen “no indication” that Russian President Vladimir Putin's aim of controlling the whole country has changed. He added that he thought the war could “stretch on for years.”
- Perhaps based on this realization, according to the New York Times, increasing numbers of Ukrainians are returning to Ukraine to rejoin fathers and husbands who could not leave. One estimate suggests that for every two Ukrainians leaving, one is returning at present.
- The White House announced that it will begin targeting major Russian financial institutions with its financial sanctions - as well as Putin's adult daughters, Mariya Putina and Katerina Tikhonova.

ISRAEL

Earlier this week, President Zelensky said that Ukraine plans to model itself after Israel and not Switzerland in the aftermath of the war, when it comes to issues of national security. “I think all our people will be our great army. We cannot talk about 'Switzerland of the future' — probably, our state will be able to be like this a long time after. But we will definitely become a 'big Israel' with its own face. We will not be surprised that we will have representatives of the Armed Forces or the National Guard in all institutions, supermarkets, cinemas, there will be people with weapons. I am sure that our security issue will be number one in the next ten years.”

Yesterday, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Israel Yevgen Korniychuk walked out of a briefing to foreign ambassadors given by Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, after Gantz called the Russian invasion a “conflict” and discussed Israel’s ties with both parties. Korniychuk said that “Mr. Gantz started to talk about the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and that they are talking with both Ukrainian and Russian friends or colleagues. Listen, if on the 42nd day of the war, with the bloodshed and massacre that Russia has been doing against innocent Ukrainian people, you are still calling this a conflict, there is really nothing to talk about.”

REFUGEES, FEDERATIONS, AND PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

In just over the one month since the fighting began, **Jewish Federations** have raised more than \$44 million for Ukrainian relief efforts. Last week, the Ukraine Allocations Subcommittee met to review and allocate a third round of funds. [Click here](#) to see the latest update on the allocations process and decisions. You can also read more on a recent JFNA blog post [here](#). The relief efforts are being undertaken by 35 NGOs including our Federation partners, The Jewish Agency for Israel, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 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

JFNA holds half-hour webinars twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, to update audiences about the rapidly evolving situation in Ukraine. If you missed Monday’s webinar, which focused on Israel’s refugee policies and other updates, 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 hear from the team on the ground leading Israel’s field hospital in Ukraine. [Click here](#) to register.

Organized by Jewish Federations, the first contingent of Russian-speaking Jewish professionals from North America arrived at the Ukrainian border this week to provide translation services and humanitarian assistance. The program is being coordinated by JFNA in collaboration with the Jewish Agency and the JDC. 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, please email [Sarah Eisenman](#).

The Jewish Agency for Israel has, so far since fighting began:

- Received **29,112** calls from Ukraine on their hotline
- Received **36,427** calls from other countries on their hotline
- Provided **200** beds in shelters in Ukraine that are currently being used (and **700** in total so far), and **2,439** beds in use in surrounding countries (and **7,890** so far)
- Handled **9,772** new Aliyah enquiries
- Facilitated the Aliyah of **5,554**
- Provided **\$559,000** in security assistance to Jewish institutions in Ukraine
- Collected **23,000** boxes of assistance from Israel for refugees

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

- Served **31,000** needy Jews in Ukraine with home visits, medical and food assistance and more (pre-war the number was **37,000**)
- Sent **150** tons of humanitarian aid
- Provided temporary housing for **12,600** people
- Fed **18,520** people meals
- Given medical assistance to **720** people
- Evacuated **11,660** Ukrainians to other countries
- Handled **14,280** incoming calls and made **20,895** outgoing calls on **11** emergency hotlines

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](#).

The **Israel Trauma Coalition** now has over **1,000** trained psychologists in Ukraine who are serving some **50,000** people. ITC's trauma hotline has received **5,000** calls from within Ukraine and a staggering **240,000** calls related to the war from within Israel since fighting began.

Hillel International worked with **4,000** Jewish students in Ukraine before the war, through **40** staff members. Many of these students and staff have now fled, including with Hillel's assistance.

See [here](#) for a moving story about a Ukrainian lone soldier, serving in Israel's Border Police, whose family was just rescued by **Chabad** in Kyiv and brought to the Jewish State where they were reunited with their son and brother.

Sanctions have now been imposed by the United Kingdom on Russian oligarch **Moshe Kantor**, head of the European Jewish Congress. The British government said that Kantor was sanctioned because he is the largest shareholder of the fertilizer company Acron, which has “vital strategic significance for the Russian government.”

Meanwhile Lithuania's major **Holocaust memorial at Ponar**, the site of the mass murder of approximately 70,000 Jews, was smeared with anti-Semitic graffiti, apparently expressing support for the Russian military campaign in Ukraine.

Tens of Israeli and **Jewish organizations** are working to provide humanitarian relief for Ukraine. JFNA has put together a summary of these efforts, which can be found [here](#). See [here](#) for an article on how Jewish organizations and the Israeli government are working together to provide humanitarian relief as a result of the war.

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.

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