



YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AROUND THE GLOBE



THE GLOBAL
JEWISH
9-1-1

CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE

SUMMER 2020



YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPORT IS REACHING **185,000+** OF THE MOST VULNERABLE JEWS WORLDWIDE SO FAR, IT HAS HELPED PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

ISRAEL



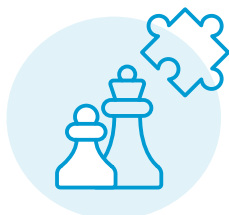
95,000+

Quarantined elderly, and young people and their families, received critical assistance, including:



40,000

Quarantined elderly and people with disabilities received essential aid and protective gear



28,000

Activity kits for the elderly



8,000

Food vouchers for young adults without family support

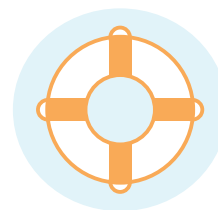
EUROPE



10,000

People will be receiving financial aid from emergency relief fund

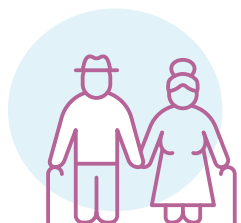
ARGENTINA



2,000

People will be receiving financial aid from emergency relief fund

FORMER SOVIET UNION



80,000+

Elderly continued to receive life-saving support, including:



550,000

Units of PPE including masks and gloves



22,000

Calls to homebound elderly through volunteer hotlines

A Global Response to a Global Crisis

The coronavirus pandemic has affected every single one of us in different ways. Jewish communities everywhere are struggling to respond to increased needs of isolated elderly and newly unemployed, while still helping the people they were caring for before the crisis. **Your gift is enabling rapid and crucial aid that provides exactly the right help at the right time.**

Your gift has helped immensely in relieving the pandemic's crushing effect for thousands of people, in the many countries and communities where JDC works. Thank you for being part of this vital response. **Thank you for sending a message of community and hope!**

JDC's mission — to rescue Jews in danger, help the most vulnerable Jews, develop solutions to Israel's most complex social challenges, cultivate a Jewish future, and lead the Jewish community's response to humanitarian crises — remains steadfast through both routine and emergency situations.

The coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented in its global reach and physical, emotional, and economic impact. But it hasn't stopped JDC. Even as JDC shuttered its physical offices in New York, Israel, and across the globe, its professionals continued working remotely. One of JDC's greatest strengths is its flexibility and capacity to respond rapidly, to muster resources so that the most vulnerable have a lifeline in their times of need.

Israel: Aiding Vulnerable Israelis through the Emergency

Throughout its history, JDC has worked with the Israeli government to help the country care for its vulnerable citizens. With your emergency assistance, that powerful partnership was able to provide aid and expertise as part of the national response to the pandemic.

On March 19th, as the nation's coronavirus cases increased with frightening speed, Israel declared a national emergency. JDC immediately activated its network of programs and government partnerships, and reached out to provide aid to 95,000 of the most vulnerable Israelis.



How you are helping:

- **When the independence of older adults and people with disabilities was curtailed,**

you met their basic needs: You helped 40,000 homebound elderly and people with disabilities throughout Israel by providing activity kits, deliveries of medical and hygiene products, laundry services, transportation to hospitals and clinics, and protective gear for their caretakers. You raised their spirits through telephone counseling and digital literacy training, all with the help of trained volunteers.

- **When families faltered, you extended a helping hand:**

Your help reached nearly 55,000 children, youth, and young adults, as JDC pivoted and adapted 90% of its existing programs to provide remote support for families in poverty. Your emergency gift gave poor families vital assistance spanning extra help with hygiene, food, health and medical needs, and games, books and computers for children. JDC also distributed 8,000 food vouchers to young adults without family support.

**As one senior said,
“The greatest threat to
us seniors is isolation.
My life is worthless if
I am home alone – with
no purpose or interaction
of any kind. Thank God,
JDC understands this.”**

- **When people lost jobs, you gave them job counseling and the chance to upgrade their skills:** JDC moved its job counselling services online, so that job-seekers could continue to receive support. You have been helping Israelis who were laid off or furloughed, by offering them upskilling – raising the level of skills they have in their profession or learning another. This means that when companies re-open, these workers will be able to re-enter the workplace at a higher level than

before, or apply for better-paying work. In addition, JDC held webinars on financial management and debt reduction for families during the coronavirus crisis.

- **When Israeli nonprofits buckled under the strain of lockdown, you bolstered them: JDC helped establish a first-of-its-kind \$15M joint government-philanthropy grant fund** to help nonprofits endure this challenging period. With the government committing to cover 75% of the fund, JDC raised the remaining 25%—over \$3M—from philanthropy. The money will go to nonprofits that usually operate without any government support, in recognition of the essential role that these organizations play in Israel's social service system. This fund will benefit up to 1,400 nonprofits, with a maximum grant of \$100,000 per organization.

Shaul is one of the thousands of isolated elderly whom your gift reached these past few months. Your emergency gift made sure that Gil, his regular volunteer, received specialized training and instructions so that Shaul could get the help he needed through this very difficult period:

Coronavirus lockdown was a terrible prospect for Shaul, who is virtually blind and lives alone. It brought back memories of a Nazi-inspired pogrom that broke out in Baghdad, during which he spent days hidden in the home of Arab friends who protected him and his family. Understandably, the idea of being cut off and helpless was overwhelming for Shaul.

Your gift helped train thousands of volunteers in how to handle the new situation. Gil was one of those volunteers, and when lockdown started, he knew what to do. "I called Shaul more frequently, and, periodically, would come to his apartment building to talk. Shaul sat on his balcony and I sat downstairs in the parking lot. When he shared his worries about getting groceries and filling prescriptions, I told him not to worry. I brought Shaul food packages and picked up prescriptions for him." Gil recalls, "I could literally hear the relief in Shaul's voice."

Choosing to give a gift through JDC meant reaching out to help the weakest members of Israeli society across thousands of cities and towns. It also amplified the ability of the Israeli government, and non-profits, to provide the best possible help through this pandemic.



In Israel, your gift brought support and financial aid to:

40,000

homebound elderly and people with disabilities

55,000 children, youth, and young adults

6,600 volunteers mobilized to distribute aid

4,800 professionals trained to provide effective care remotely

\$15M emergency grant fund for nonprofits

The Former Soviet Union: Protecting Fragile Jewish Elderly

For over 80,000 impoverished Jewish elderly living in the former Soviet Union, life was bleak well before the pandemic. Due to their desperate poverty and fragile existence, these poor Jewish seniors already relied on JDC for necessities — food, medicine and help at home. Because of coronavirus, they are at even greater risk. JDC ramped up its ongoing assistance to these frail elderly, to enable them to weather their new and even more difficult challenges.



How you are helping:

- Ensuring that **groceries and medicines are safely delivered to elderly** who can no longer leave their homes
- **Delivering cooked meals** to those who can no longer pick up hot lunches at their local day center
- Covering **private transportation for JDC homecare workers** when public transportation was unavailable
- Empowering and **training volunteers** to check in on homebound elderly by phone
- **Providing PPE** — masks, gloves, and sanitizers — for essential care workers, so they and their clients can remain safe
- Establishing online platforms so **community engagement** continues remotely



Volunteers delivered basic goods to elderly in the former Soviet Union.

Polina is one of the thousands you helped:

Just a few months ago, 95-year-old Polina was the life and soul of her local JDC-supported day center in Novosibirsk, Siberia. She was known to be a wonderful storyteller and the expert on Yiddish theater. Then, overnight, her life was shut down. Coronavirus did what old age hadn't managed to do — reduce her independence and cut her off from seeing her friends and community.

*Now she stays at home 24/7, leaving just once a week for a short walk. This isolation could be paralyzing. But, thanks to you, she is receiving food at home in place of meals at the day center, her homecare worker visits, and volunteers call regularly. For this “youthful” nonagenarian, the human contact is just as important as the physical support. **“They check on my health and if there’s anything I need. It’s so comforting to know I’m not forgotten.”***

One cannot overstate the effect of your support during this coronavirus period for the elderly Jews in communities across the vast area of the former Soviet Union. You have made an almost impossible situation livable for these already vulnerable Jews.



In the former Soviet Union,
your gift provided:

11,400
Sanitizers, soaps & wipes

131,000 Masks

412,000
Gloves, caps, robes &
other protective gear

74 Homecare workers
serving hundreds of clients
were provided with
transportation

Europe: Helping Communities Reach Out to Jews in Sudden Poverty

The economic impact of the pandemic is universal. As in the rest of the world, people in Europe have lost jobs and face bankruptcy. JDC understands that if we help them now, before they fall into deep poverty and debt, they will have a better chance of bouncing back when the economy improves.

Jewish communities throughout Europe are also facing drastic reduction of income for community institutions. Jewish community leaders, many of whom are JDC-trained, have risen to the challenge, organizing their communities and volunteers to help those in need, particularly the elderly. But local funds are not enough. **JDC is working with communities to bridge that gap.**

How you are helping:

- Providing financial assistance for basic needs, such as food and medicine, to people who have lost their income due to coronavirus.
- Consulting to communities on managing the emergency effectively.
- Working with communities and partners to boost resilience and support Jewish schools and summer camps, despite the severe economic hardships faced by local communities.

Here's how your emergency funds helped 45-year-old Sarah, a Jewish tour guide in Athens, Greece:

*"I specialize in showing American tourists the Jewish sites of Greece, and I love my work. I have not had any work in the last five months. I never needed the community's help before, but today I do. **I will use the stipend I got to buy groceries and pay my rent. Thank you, and I pray that tourism will start up again soon.**"*



The emergency funds raised will bring relief to

10,000

people in 11 European countries, including Greece, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Estonia and Bosnia

Latin America: Providing Critical Aid to Families in Financial Hardship



You provided aid to Jews wherever they are.

Argentina has been hit very hard—medically and economically—by the coronavirus. Cases and deaths are still on the rise, and in late June the lockdown on Greater Buenos Aires was extended yet again. This crisis comes on the heels of the country's already pre-existing economic troubles.

JDC was helping the Argentinian Jewish community weather the country's recession even before the pandemic. Nearly 50% of the families served by the Jewish welfare organizations—with which JDC partners—are poor, and 20% are extremely poor. But now, even middle and lower-income households are struggling, and they are not eligible for State welfare programs.

With the outbreak of the pandemic, JDC worked with Argentinian Jewish community leaders to assess the most pressing needs and the best way to help. JDC now partners with these communities to make sure essential needs are met.

How you are helping:

- Immediate cash to guarantee basic supplies to those in need
- Delivery of meals to older adults who usually attend day centers, but are now staying home due to the lockdown
- Subsidies for medicines for people with chronic diseases
- Temporary support (3-6 months) for families suddenly without income

Alejandro, one man your gift reached, was struggling before the pandemic.

He felt the double blow of coronavirus and a shaky economy:

"I own a small shop. Business hasn't been good — the economy has been bad for a long time, and people don't have money to spend. Even before coronavirus, my shop wasn't bringing in enough for me to properly support myself and my four children.

"Now everything is worse. I can't even open my shop because we are still in lockdown! I'm so worried, because my debts are mounting. I can't pay my rent and feed my children, because I have no income at all.

"Thank goodness I have a community to help me, because, otherwise, I don't know what I would do. They have always listened to me and been a source of support, and now they're helping me with a stipend. Even though I've hit hard times, they give me hope and remind me that I'm part of the community, and that I'm worth something."



The emergency funds raised are expected to reach

2,000
people in Argentina

"Even though I've hit hard times, they give me hope and remind me that I'm part of the community, and that I'm worth something."

Ethiopia: Responding Swiftly to Pressing Emergency Needs

When natural disasters or other calamities strike, JDC is the Jewish response that helps communities of all backgrounds and faiths persevere and rebuild. Being there to help is how we express *tikkun olam* — *repairing the world* — the core ideal that drives Jews around the world to stand up, take action, and help rehabilitate the world's most distressed communities.

Due to Ethiopia's ongoing water shortage, only one out of every two Ethiopian families has a reliable source of water. Even health centers lack sufficient hand-washing facilities, and the general public is unaware of the best ways to protect themselves from this new disease. As a result, it is a daily struggle to protect people amidst water shortages and lack of awareness.

After years of working on the ground in developing countries, particularly Ethiopia, JDC was well-positioned to deploy water and sanitation resources to help minimize the virus spread.

How you are helping:

- **You have reached over 100,000 people to date through an awareness-building campaign** about preventing the spread of coronavirus.
- Your gift taught people about the importance of handwashing, and gave them the ability to put this information into practice, by delivering thousands of hand-washing stations and hygiene kits to the communities and health centers that needed them most. To date, over 13,000 Ethiopians have used our **handwashing stations** for better sanitization, and over 11,000 have received **food and hygiene kits**. Your gift also helped expand this assistance to Indonesia and India.
- **You empowered Ethiopian health care providers and physicians**, through remote trainings and connections with US-based doctors who have first-hand experience dealing with coronavirus patients.



In Ethiopia, your gift provided handwashing stations, used by over

13,000 people

Food and hygiene kits for over

11,000 people

Thank You!

Your gift to JDC's Coronavirus Response has circled the globe. From Israel to Moldova, from Argentina to Ethiopia, your support has saved lives and touched countless more – whether by making the pandemic bearable, empowering people to act, or creating new ways to build and maintain community. We thank you profoundly for taking action amidst this unprecedented crisis. Although effects of coronavirus have shaken the foundations of our world, your help has made the situation so much better for so many people.



About JDC

JDC is the leading global Jewish humanitarian organization, working in 70 countries to lift lives and strengthen communities. We rescue Jews in danger, provide aid to vulnerable Jews, develop innovative solution to Israel's most complex social challenges, cultivate a Jewish future, and lead the Jewish community's response to crises. For over 100 years, our work has put the timeless Jewish value of mutual responsibility into action, making JDC essential to the survival of millions of people and the advancement of Jewish life across the globe.

More information can be found at **JDC.org**



JDC

220 East 42nd St., Suite 400, New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 687-6200

Fax: (212) 370-5467