



**THE GLOBAL  
JEWISH  
9-1-1**

**CORONAVIRUS  
RESPONSE**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **JDC Coronavirus Update – Highlights from Europe, Africa and Asia**

As the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly spreads across the world, stricter social distancing measures are being enforced to stem the spread of the virus. Jewish communities have demonstrated a high level of responsiveness, reaching out to community members and to partners, adapting their Care services and programs, and in general moving into crisis-management mode. In addition to our ongoing support on areas such as welfare, resilience and community development, JDC continues to reach out to Jewish communities to monitor, learn, identify and assess the growing needs. We are beginning to get a sense of the coming humanitarian crisis that will result from the economic implications of this health crisis. At this stage JDC in Europe, Africa and Asia is shifting its efforts to focus on the short and long term welfare and humanitarian needs across Jewish communities in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

### INDIA

As the virus continues to spread throughout India, the country has gone under full lockdown. Pre-empting this move, India's Jewish old aged home, Bayiti, also shut its doors to protect its vulnerable residents and reduce any exposure from the outside. Residents are currently looked after by two caretakers who have moved in to the old age home. Procedures have been put in place to ensure that there are sufficient supplies – food, medicine, hygiene material – for residents. To avoid public hospitals, private medical care has been arranged in case of emergency, with strict protocols to protect residents and staff. Visitors are no longer allowed into the old age home, but to help reduce some of the isolation and monotony, computers and other tech devices have been brought in to allow residents to communicate with family members. Additionally, young volunteers of the Jewish community have also taken on the responsibility of reaching out to the elderly members of the community to help lessen their loneliness while also assessing if there are any serious or urgent needs.

### EGYPT

JDC has been supporting the Jewish community of Egypt since the early 1950s, and over the years as it has diminished in size. Every year as part of JDC's support to the few remaining Jews, JDC sends kosher food on Passover and Rosh Hashana. These supplies remind Jews that they are part of the Jewish people, while providing some alimentary aid in their retirement years.



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This year, JDC shipped about 80 kilos of matza, haroset, pastries and chicken soup mix. Even in the complex reality of today, JDC was able to make it happen and a community volunteer will distribute the food parcels to the homes of the elderly and community members.



## MOROCCO

The Moroccan authorities and the Jewish community are facing a tough situation from the spread of the virus, and are taking the situation very seriously. The country is on lock down for about 10 days already. All Jewish community institutions are closed, and the old age home is closed to visitors. OSE Medical services are critical in supporting the Jewish community at this time. JDC is expanding its support of welfare/medical services through the Casablanca Jewish Community (CIC) - buying hygienic supplies (gloves, masks, suits, glasses, etc) and other extra supplies for the Old age home and OSE clinic as well as supporting additional temporary personnel to ensure extra care and to substitute workers in quarantine.

## PAN EUROPEAN NETWORKS

More than 30 professionals from main Social Welfare organizations across Europe met for a Zoom conference call organized by ECJC, the JDC-supported European Council of Jewish Communities, to hold



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important conversations on their current needs and strategy. Most of the organizations have set up hotlines and are reaching out to the most vulnerable members of their communities. Today we are seeing communities working on identifying the most vulnerable, and expressing concerns over the anticipated emergence of the new poor and volunteer burnout. The forum is a place of support for those leading these efforts as well as a source of new ideas and best practices.

#### JUNCTION

Junction, a young adult pan-European network/community [partnership of JDC-Schusterman Foundation], offers online programs including often highlighting efforts of activism at times of crisis. A recent session called 'What is the Responsibility of the Community of Jewish Young Adults?' was organized to explore the role of young adults in a crisis. It was incredibly moving and proved once again that young adults are not just the future of the Jewish communities of Europe, but are the present. They shared how young adults have answered the call and said, we are here for you as you have been for us. This was beautiful to witness. For example, in Sarajevo the elderly cry as they are delivered packages saying "we did this for you when you were babies during the war and now you're doing it for us." In Vienna the traditional community structures shifted and the young adults, lay leadership, professionals, have all become partners in caring for the most vulnerable.

Additionally, Junction organized a 2 part series lead by Brigitte Lipschutz, PhD on 'What makes it so stressful to be stuck at home? Part 1' and 'Regulating Your Emotions in Times of Confinement: Part 2'. In this way we are understanding and responding to the needs of young adults who are also facing isolation and the strain of this reality.



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**Junction Europe** is 😊 feeling calm.  
April 3 at 6:12 PM · 🌐

We had wonderful sessions with expert coach Brigitte Lipschutz over the last two days, we're sharing some of the thoughts that came from the workshops so you can see; you're not alone, there are strategies to cope, and there is a network across Europe to tap into!

Thank you all so much for sharing and Brigitte for teaching!

We'd love to hear your feedback on the past 3 weeks of programming...what have you liked, disliked, want more of, want, etc.? ... [See More](#)

to regulate

What are you experiencing too much (orange post-it)

**POLAND**

JCC Warsaw has shifted many of its programming to an online platform, offering ulpan, cooking classes, teen activities and children's classes, building on its strong sense of community. In addition, the JCC staff and volunteers take time to call each and every JCC member in order to map the rising needs and to express support and attention. They've also invited members to reach out to them with any issue they face. In preparation for the Pesach seder, which many traditionally spend with the community, they are offering matza for those who want to order, and Rabbi Michael Shudrich, the chief Rabbi is offering a model seder on Zoom to help prepare the community to celebrate at home. Sadly, this week, the JCC Warsaw announced that they be cancelling the upcoming summer camps



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including the children's Camp Atid and the Family Summer Camp at Bieszczady because of the health risks associated with the growing impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Given the importance of the annual summer camps for many in the community, the JCC will create Jewish programming more suitable for the current reality.

#### JDC/YESOD/JUNCTION

JDC's YESOD initiative for community professionals (together with the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe and the Schusterman Foundation) put out a guide – building on the JDC global effort – to help communities and individuals plan for their Passover celebrations and teachings to the current reality:

Top Ten Resources For Your Seder Night

<https://yesodeurope.eu/top-ten-resources-for-your-seder-night-in-the-age-of-covid-19/>

This year Pesach will be different. In the spaces that questions and uncertainty leave, we hope that you will find creativity, inspiration and light. This list of 10 resources, brought to you through a collaboration between [YESOD](#), [Junction](#), and the [JDC](#) is here to help you get started on planning a rich and meaningful Pesach during these trying times.

Whether you're hosting a seder for the first time, solo sedering, going digital with friends and family, or using the time to unplug, we hope this curated list of resources will support you.

<https://yesodeurope.eu/top-ten-resources-for-your-seder-ni.../>

