

---

# Keeping Jewish Life Strong Around the World

## **AND BUILDING AND SUPPORTING THE U.S. JEWISH-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP**

For more than seven decades, we have been committed to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship and safeguarding and enhancing the lives of Israelis and Jews around the world. And our commitment continues unwaveringly. We have built buildings and communities, engaged in ongoing dialogue with Israel's leadership, and helped countless Jews and Israelis imagine a better future. We work tirelessly to deepen connections between the Jewish State and the global Jewish community.

### **We Help Millions Create New Homes and Lives in Israel**

Since 1948, we have worked with The Jewish Agency to help millions of Jews move to Israel, including the latest group of 2,000 Ethiopian Jews slated to arrive by early 2021. We assist with everything from travel arrangements and new housing to Hebrew language courses and job training. We have provided crucial support for historic aliyah movements, including 700,000 people from the former Soviet Union via Operation Exodus and tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews via Operations Moses and Solomon, and are always at the ready to assist when aliyah of rescue is needed and warranted.

### **We Provide Urgently Needed Resources for the World's Most Vulnerable Jews**

In partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), we have established programs in more than 70 countries to ensure that Jewish communities everywhere remain resilient and delivered critical aid to populations in need. For example, tens of thousands of impoverished Jewish elderly people and families in the former Soviet Union—who are among the poorest Jews in the world—depend on JDC's social welfare centers for nutritious meals, stimulating activities, and social interaction. We also provide them with lifesaving medications and heating to survive brutal winters.

With World ORT, which operates in Israel, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, Asia, South Africa, and Europe, we have helped establish an educational network of schools and programs with 300,000-plus beneficiaries.

At times of crisis, whether in Israel or elsewhere around the world, we lead the collective response on behalf of Jewish Federations. This work which is a hallmark of the Federation system, has delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance providing essential real time relief and helping rebuild once the crisis has passed.

**We Foster Lifelong Personal Connections Between Israelis and Jews from Around the World**

Helping North American Jews, particularly young adults, find powerful and positive ways to connect to Israel is a top priority for Jewish Federations. Our support of Taglit-Birthright Israel has helped bring more than 750,000 young Jews from 66 countries on free, 10-day peer trips to the Jewish State since 1999. We provide ongoing assistance for longer Israel immersion programs for young people like Masa Israel Journey and Onward Israel, and keep alumni connected to local Jewish life and Federations in their home communities.

Partnerships between Israeli and North American communities are an essential part of creating and maintaining strong connections with Israel. These programs run alongside “shlichut” initiatives that bring Israeli emissaries into our communities serving as summer camp counselors, on college campuses, and in a range of roles in schools, community centers, synagogues and beyond. Some 85 Federations have supported Jewish Agency programs such as Partnership2Gether, which has built community-to-community relationships over the past two decades.

**We Strengthen Israeli Society**

Over the past 60 years, Federations literally helped build Israel’s educational and cultural infrastructure, with 860 properties remaining under oversight today. A series of initiatives helps expose leaders from across Israeli society to North American Jewish life, practices and values in ways which reinforce Israel’s democratic and inclusive practices. And, we partner with The Jewish Agency to bring senior lawmakers and political leaders to North America for immersive experiences in our communities. A significant effort to recognize and support opportunities for diverse religious practice which enjoys both collective support and backing from many individual Federations is a mainstay of our work in Israel.