



UKRAINE: ESCALATING CRISIS, SPIKING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Since troops began amassing on Ukraine's border in November, a steep rise in prices of daily essentials – food, medicine, and utilities – is forcing tens of thousands of needy Jews to make a desperate choice between buying food or keeping warm through this freezing winter. This mounting economic crisis adds to Covid's lasting financial toll, casting the most vulnerable into extreme risk and suffering.

Jews who were already living in dire poverty – **some on only two dollars a day** – are now facing even more impossible costs in the context of the current tensions. These include:

- Spiking prices on food and other staples, including projected increases of 35% for bread and potatoes, 25% for sugar, 20% for meat, and 15% for dairy products.
- Increased utility costs resulting from Russia's stoppage of coal exports and Russia's largest gas company cutting natural gas transport by 50%.
- Electricity tax rising by 36.6% in January, heat costs increased by up to 50% depending on location, and water bills by 19%.

These actions have increased costs for JDC's frail elderly clients, who now face a harsh winter.

OUR RESPONSE: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Ukraine is home to 200,000 Jews, one of the largest Jewish communities in the world.

JDC provides a lifeline to 40,000 vulnerable Jewish elderly and children across the country through our network of care services, Jewish community programs, and Jewish leaders.

Today, our presence in Ukraine includes four field offices (in Dnipro, Odesa, Kyiv, and Kharkiv) and 18 *Hesed* humanitarian aid centers reaching poor Jews and Jewish communities in 1,000 locations across the country. This infrastructure enables us to address existing needs, respond quickly to emerging needs, and prepare for dangerous future scenarios.

We are currently planning for **three main scenarios**:

Scenario 1: Events remain as they are

Scenario 2: Localized conflict may erupt and impact one region

Scenario 3: Large-scale conflict will erupt and impact several regions



Leveraging past experience in responding to regional crises and the Covid -19 pandemic, our offices in Ukraine have been working tirelessly over the past weeks to:

- **Map needs**, especially among the most vulnerable and homebound individuals, so that we can meet their currently increasing needs and continue care in case of escalation.
- **Prepare and equip the people we serve, our staff, and *Hesed* centers** for a range of potential scenarios and emerging needs that may follow escalation.
- **Ready volunteers and staff** to maintain online platforms and hotlines created during the pandemic to ensure remote care and maintain human connection with those we serve on the ground.

YOU CAN HELP

Join JDC to provide lifesaving support to vulnerable Jews in Ukraine. Right now, you can help us address the suffering of the most vulnerable elderly and families with young children as they face skyrocketing prices on food and utilities and the harsh winter months ahead, resulting in millions of dollars in new needs right now.

As of today, our assessment is that over 21,500 Jews in Scenario 1 are experiencing dire needs generated by the intensifying crisis. \$4.4 million dollars is required over the next 6 months to provide additional humanitarian aid including food, medicine, winter relief, and emergency one-time assistance.

We estimate that both Scenario 2 of localized conflict, and Scenario 3, that of large-scale conflict, will require millions of additional dollars to meet needs that may include responding to displacement – which is an area of intervention in which JDC has vast expertise. JDC is coordinating with key agencies on the ground to ensure that concrete steps towards building a shared emergency response are being taken.

Please consider this sensitive request and partner with us as we continue to monitor and respond to this dynamic and challenging situation.

On behalf of those we serve – both in times of calm and in times of crisis - thank you for standing with JDC.



PROJECTED BUDGET – SCENARIO 1:

PROJECTED 6-MONTH BUDGET		
FEBRUARY – JULY 2022		
Service	Detail	Funding Needed
Material support: food & medicine	\$133 on average per client	\$2,860,000
Winter Relief <i>(Feb/March)</i>	\$67 on average per client	\$1,333,000
SOS Fund	<i>e.g., subsidizing expensive medications, medical treatment, purchase of essential home appliances</i>	\$167,000
Emergency Preparations	<i>e.g., food, water, basic medications and first aid kits to be stored at Heseds, activation of hot lines, training of volunteers and staff. communication technology, emergency transportation</i>	\$67,000
TOTAL		\$4,427,000

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 to mutual responsibility into action, making JDC essential to the survival of millions of people and the advancement of Jewish life across the globe.

JDC carries out its global mission of saving Jewish lives and building Jewish life in a nonpolitical, nonpartisan fashion and is guided by the principles of pluralism, sustainability, professionalism, and cooperation.