

Impact Report | Issued January 2024



# Jewish Federations' Response in Israel

Our Impact Since October 7th



## The Unthinkable

On October 7th, Jewish communities around the world awoke with horror and disbelief as we learned that terrorists from Gaza had infiltrated Israel. More than 1,200 innocent Israelis lost their lives, 240 Israelis and people of other nationalities were abducted and taken hostage to Gaza, and nearly 2,000 people were wounded during the brutal terror attacks.

Our hearts were shattered. From grief and anger emerged a shared determination to ensure our brothers and sisters in Israel could feel the strength, warmth, and unwavering support of their North American Jewish family as they began to navigate the challenging months ahead.

## Our Approach

As communities around the world processed the worst atrocities in modern Jewish history, they knew they could count on the Jewish Federation system. Thanks to our powerful network across North America, global reach, and vetting process that allows us to get dollars where they are needed most, Jewish Federations were there, ready to respond. Our system launched in full force, assessing needs, connecting with NGOs on the ground, and coordinating in real time with foundations and the Israeli government. We raised an incredible amount of funding and began making a significant impact.

As part of the allocation process, our team developed four strategic pillars. Our immediate response focused on offering lifelines, including delivering critical resources, strengthening vital infrastructures, and caring for individuals. We also quickly began giving to lasting medical and mental health efforts. Now, we are taking steps to strengthen Israel's economy. We will soon turn our collective attention toward rebuilding communities and restoring Israel's national resilience. In every stage of Israel's need, we will be there.

## Israel Emergency Fund

**\$768.5M** raised

**\$270.2M** allocated

**472** organizations supported

## Strategic Pillars:

1. **Lifeline Services**
2. **Medical and Trauma Relief**
3. **Economic Relief and Recovery**
4. **Community Resilience and Rebuilding**

\*Data in this report includes all reporting to Jewish Federations of North America as of December 31, 2023.

# The Need

Hundreds of thousands of people have been impacted across Israel – especially those communities in the Western Negev and in the North – ranging from victims of terror, evacuees, and hostage families to lone soldiers, families of reservists, and more.

We work with Incredible local community organizations, leaders, first responders, and individuals who are set up to deliver goods, dollars, and services to those who need them most. While the scope of needs is tremendous and ever-changing, our system is designed to continuously assess and meet the needs in every moment.

## Need in Numbers

**239,000+** people in Israel evacuated

**117,000+** individuals do not know when they will be able to return home

# The Response

Within hours of the attack, and in partnership with The Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, and hundreds of other organizations, Jewish Federations began providing critical resources and immediate assistance.

We were on the ground immediately, identifying new, critical partners, and coordinating with leaders and government. And, as funds kept pouring in, we were able to cater to more and more people and their needs.

## Response in Numbers

**\$7.5M** in assistance distributed to victims of terror

**190,000** volunteers trained to provide essential services

**538,000** packages of clothing and basic goods delivered

**1.2M** hot meals served to displaced individuals/families

**“We took a very bad and destabilizing hit. But what is happening [here] is a miracle. Good people coming in from the outside. And providing all the support so that things here will be different. So that we have a successful and thriving society here.”**

**Tomer Oshri**  
JDC; Community Director, Dead Sea hotels

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# 1 Lifeline Services

**\$177,060,080 Allocated**

In a crisis, the most immediate needs are also the most fundamental. We mobilized, with the aid of our partners on the ground, to provide lifesaving services. These included food, clothing, housing, financial assistance, medical care, spiritual care, classes for evacuated children, and support to the healthcare system.

**"Eilat has been hosting tens of thousands of refugees who were uprooted from their homes, and we are supplying basic needs equipment for the residents."**

**Iris Cohen**  
Eilat community center network manager

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## Impact

**142,300** nights in evacuation stays

**146,100** individuals receiving respite services

**\$10.9M** distributed in cash food assistance

**14,600** children receiving educational support

## Special Populations

As thousands of Israelis have been displaced from the Western Negev, northern border communities, and beyond, Jewish Federations are providing targeted assistance to vulnerable populations, including the elderly and their caretakers, young children, Russian-speaking Israelis, Ethiopian Israelis, Holocaust survivors, the LGBTQ community, and more.

**140,000**  
Elderly Individuals

**4,600**  
Individuals with disabilities

**61,000**  
Bedouin Israelis

**\$31M**  
for special populations

**69,000**  
New Immigrants

**25,000**  
Holocaust Survivors

# 2 Medical and Trauma Relief

**\$59,629,746 Allocated**

Jewish Federations helped hospitals obtain medical equipment and maximize their capacity. Our proactive approach to mental health and trauma relief included supporting dedicated hotlines, additional training for thousands of caregivers and responders, and ongoing support to emergency teams. We provided direct care to more than a million people, including first responders, lone soldiers, families, and caregivers coping with the loss, injury, or abduction of their relatives and friends.

**"We are all experiencing immense fear and trauma. The children heard everything...the screaming..the shots."**

Yael Yoshei  
Therapist

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## Impact

**\$46.2M**

invested in medical equipment

**19,000**

medical and mental health professionals received additional training

**1.7M**

individuals treated in healthcare facilities

**49,000**

individuals treated through mental health organizations

# What's Next?

## 3 Economic Relief and Recovery

**\$29,134,000 Allocated**

At the same time as attacks forced thousands from their homes, they also forced closures of businesses across all of Israel. Families are now also struggling with the loss of income as reserve soldiers answer the call of duty. Jewish Federations are at the forefront of economic relief efforts, investing in frontline communities and in a fund that makes loans to small and medium-sized businesses. Our investments are designed to ensure a resilient and flourishing economy.

## 4 Community Resilience and Rebuilding

**\$2,521,938 Allocated**

In the months and years ahead, our work will help enable thousands of people to return to their homes and rebuild their communities. Jewish Federations aim to bolster societal resilience, ensuring that despite the events of October 7th, we will make possible the growth and potential of the of the Israeli people. Our gifts and efforts will ensure the rebuilding and strengthening of Israeli society.

**"The difference between optimism and hope, is that optimism is just believing that everything will be okay. Hope is also actively trying to make it happen."**

**Ido Atary**

Teacher; father of four;  
evacuee from Sderot



# Thank you for making a world of difference.

In this traumatic, moment for the Jewish people, you have made an enormous difference. Every single person who has shown up, in every community — together, your unprecedented giving has made a truly significant difference in so many lives. We have empowered hundreds of organizations and thousands of volunteers and have made a difference in the trajectory of Israel's ongoing ability to respond to medical, mental health, communal, and economic needs as this crisis continues.

**We are in awe of the impact we are having together, and we thank you.**

## Our Partners

This work would not be possible without our historic partners, The Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. For more than a decade, Jewish Federations' annual campaigns have powered their global efforts and our emergency campaigns have enabled the Israelis to meet the most pressing needs.

Today, in this dark moment, Jewish Federations are also supporting nearly 500 non-governmental organizations that are helping to meet the critical needs of impacted Israelis. These groups address diverse needs and populations across Israel. For a full list of our partners, [click here](#).



**"I am very grateful. So much deep-felt thanks from the bottom of my heart. If you have money - donate money. If you have time - donate your time. If you are smart and knowledgeable - donate that.**

**Tomorrow, any of us could need help. I wish for you that you will get back more than you put in."**

**Miriam Rose**

Recipient of basic need assistance through The Jewish Agency for Israel

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