JDC Global Funding Priorities for 2018

November 2017
This table outlines JDC’s priority areas of service in 2018, and how we plan to allocate our 2018 budget to serve these priorities most effectively.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Area of Service</th>
<th>Geographic Region</th>
<th>Total Budget 2018*</th>
<th>Philanthropic Funds Needed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helping the World’s Neediest Jews</td>
<td>Former Soviet Union (FSU), Europe, Africa and Asia</td>
<td>$133.1 million</td>
<td>$22.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empowering All Israelis</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>$81.6 million</td>
<td>$5.0 million</td>
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**Helping the World’s Neediest Jews**

Helping the world’s poorest, most vulnerable Jews to survive and live in dignity is the heart of JDC’s mission. Federation funds ensure that elderly Jews who cannot afford to meet their basic material needs and who lack a safety net are fed, clothed, kept warm in the winter, and are provided with essential medicines and medical care. Similar aid is provided for families with young children, many of whom also benefit from critical interventions to help youngsters with disabilities.

In the Former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Africa and Asia, Federation funds provide homebound elderly who have little or no family support with life-saving homecare services.

Our efforts in these areas also reduce social isolation and mitigate loneliness among the elderly and families with children at risk, ensuring the warm embrace of our global Jewish family.

Federation funds also support Jews affected by current geopolitical and economic crises — such as those hitting Ukraine and Venezuela — while helping evacuate Jews for whom such crises pose life-threatening danger.

In Western Europe, Federation funds help bolster Jewish community resilience, thereby increasing these communities’ capacity for responding to emergencies.

**JDC focuses its efforts on the neediest Jews and those who have nowhere else to turn.**

**Empowering All Israelis**

In Israel, Federation funds strengthen vulnerable citizens through the innovation of social services for the elderly, children and youth at risk, young adults, people with disabilities, and the chronically underemployed.

JDC’s role is unique as a social services innovator, designing programs to address critical needs in Israel’s national system of care and helping Israelis gain skills to help themselves.

**Federation dollars have extensive leverage (every Federation dollar is matched by $2 from the Government of Israel) while creating a more effective social safety net, achieving widespread impact, and strengthening the state.**
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building Jewish Life and Leaders</strong></td>
<td>Former Soviet Union (FSU)</td>
<td>$30.6 million</td>
<td>$5.0 million</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>North America</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Responding to Global Emergencies</strong></td>
<td>Global – developing countries</td>
<td>$31 million</td>
<td>$1.0 million</td>
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**Building Jewish Life and Leaders**

Federation funds help secure the future of the Jewish people by developing stronger, more sustainable Jewish communities and cultivating Jewish leadership — lay and professional, young and old, veteran and emerging — across the globe. These funds support Jewish Community Centers, Jewish camping, grassroots learning, Jewish youth movements, volunteerism, and leadership training. In Israel, Federation funds are invested in training for government and non-governmental agencies to increase the country’s capacity to meet the needs of its citizens.

In North America, JDC’s unique ENTWINE movement offers young Jewish adults the chance to respond to global Jewish needs and international humanitarian issues, while taking an active leadership role and expressing their global Jewish responsibility.

**Investment in community development is central to JDC’s mission of helping communities care for their own.**

**Responding to Global Emergencies**

As an expression of Jewish values and to harness Jewish collective impact, JDC provides non-sectarian humanitarian assistance to people in dire circumstances. Federation funds enable JDC to provide relief and reconstruction to communities outside North America that are hit hard by disasters. Federation funds also allow JDC to engage in selective development projects where advanced Jewish and Israeli innovation can serve the world’s most vulnerable people.

**Joining together to put Jewish values into action strengthens Jewish communities and generates positive exposure for Israel and the global Jewish community.**

*The budget figures in this table represent JDC’s global program priorities for 2018 and comprise almost 80% of our projected budget total of $314.4 million, as of October 2017. Total budget includes non-philanthropic sources such as Holocaust restitution funds and Government of Israel funds.*
PRIORITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This section highlights examples of key programmatic directions within JDC’s priority areas of service for which we are committed to raising funds in the year ahead.

Helping the World’s Neediest Jews

Caring for the Neediest Jewish Elderly in the former Soviet Union (FSU)

Elderly Jews in the FSU are the poorest Jews in the world. Nearly half are Holocaust survivors, who then spent much of their adult lives living with relentless discrimination under a communist regime and watching that regime dismantle Jewish communal institutions. While many still enjoyed professional success, they were unable to accumulate assets. Today, these elderly Jews live on meager government pensions, as low as two dollars per day. This, in addition to a lack of government or municipal safety nets, leaves these impoverished elderly Jews to make a daily choice between food, medicine, and winter heat, because they cannot afford all three. Moreover, many elderly Jews are alone, as their children, nieces, and nephews have left the FSU for a better future. Elderly who are homebound and alone are literally unable to survive without the life-saving support provided by JDC, which includes food, medical care, homecare, winter relief, home repairs, and financial assistance in emergencies. These 110,000 impoverished Jews have nowhere else to turn. Providing for their care is JDC’s top priority.

A gift of $100,000 will provide food, medicine, and other material support to 380 elderly clients.

OR

A gift of $100,000 will provide 25,000 hours of homecare to 48 elderly clients for one year.

Providing Urgent Care in Venezuela

Outside the FSU, the neediest Jewish community in the world is likely the community in Venezuela. Numbering today some 5,500 people (compared to approximately 20,000 in the past), this was once a wealthy community, thanks to significant oil reserves. Yet extreme economic mismanagement paired with low oil prices has triggered rampant inflation, a severe economic crisis, and a breakdown of law and order. Three out of four Venezuelan citizens have experienced significant weight loss in recent years because there is not enough food to go around; indeed, the average citizen has lost nearly twenty pounds. In addition, many medicines are unavailable, which affects the elderly and those with chronic illnesses most of all. JDC is helping those who cannot cover their basic material needs by themselves. This includes sending monthly shipments of critical medications to over 100 Jews suffering from illnesses including high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes. JDC is also supporting programs for elderly people, as well as initiatives to strengthen Jewish communal life.

A gift of $122,000 will provide crucial medicines to 110 elderly Jews in need in Venezuela for 2018.
Providing Humanitarian Aid for Impoverished Children and Families in Europe

Ongoing economic turbulence and political instability continue to jeopardize the well-being of Central and Eastern Europe’s most vulnerable citizens, including impoverished children and their families. JDC partners with local Jewish communities in countries across this region to ensure that these at-risk children receive the services they need. Critical aid provided includes food support, medical care and rehabilitation services, clothing and school assistance, and financial assistance with winter utility bills and emergencies.

To nourish their Jewish souls, JDC offers struggling families subsidized opportunities to participate in Jewish community activities and social services, which provide spiritual sustenance and emotional support.

In 2016, JDC assisted Jewish communities in improving the quality of life for more than 2,300 needy Jewish children in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Serbia, Bosnia, and Greece.

A gift of $100,000 will provide 100 children with material and social support including food, medicine, clothing, emergency assistance, and scholarships to attend Jewish camps and community activities.

Empowering All Israelis

Promoting Financial Independence for Every Israeli

JDC develops and pilots employment services to address the chronic poverty of Israelis who face barriers to successful integration into the country’s workforce, including the ultra-Orthodox, disadvantaged young adults, Arab citizens, and adults with disabilities. JDC tailors its services to the cultural norms and specific needs of these very different populations, focuses on training in the soft skills that are key to lifelong employability, and connects participants to vocational training courses that can lead to lucrative professional careers. To date, JDC has reached over 240,000 Israelis through its pilot services, and helped a significant percentage find and retain jobs. For example, the rate of job placement for clients of JDC’s employment centers, where the cost per participant is relatively low, is approximately 50%. JDC’s vocational training programs, which require a somewhat larger investment per participant, achieve a successful placement rate of between 60% and 70%.

A gift of $154,000 will provide an innovative apprenticeship-based training program to transition 17 chronically unemployed and underemployed young Israelis into the workforce.
Expanding Opportunities for Israel’s Young People

While Israel has a strong economy and is a world leader in areas such as medicine, science, and technology, one out of every six Israeli children lives in a situation of risk. The numbers are grim: 30% of Israeli children live below the poverty line, 20% of 18–24 year-olds are not in employment, military service, education, or training, and 9% struggle with some form of disability that affects their daily functioning. Working in partnership with the Government of Israel, JDC develops and pilots innovative services that currently give some 367,000 disadvantaged and at-risk children and youth, and some 20,000 struggling young adults, the tools to overcome the challenges they face. We focus on five areas that increase the chances that these young people will attain a brighter future: preparing children for first grade and future learning; reducing dropout among high-school students; developing life, work, and social skills; strengthening family and community resilience; and working with families to break the cycle of poverty.

A gift of $175,000 will enable 1,750 families grappling with poverty to set and meet financial targets and personal goals, will equip them with tools to improve their social, educational, and financial situation, and will help them create a better future for their children.


2 CBS Manpower Survey, 2016


Building Jewish Life And Leaders

Nurturing Volunteerism in the FSU

JDC invests substantially in developing volunteer programs across the region as a way to cultivate caring communities that take responsibility for their members’ needs and for promoting their wellbeing. JDC’s volunteerism focus began with a small grassroots initiative in Kishinev, Moldova in 2014. Today, JDC supports a regional volunteerism program across the FSU that has grown from 450 volunteers in 2015 to 2,600 in 2017. In cities across the FSU, 37 JDC-supported volunteer centers coordinate and monitor volunteer activities, and train community members to identify needs and create solutions.

JDC views volunteerism as a key strategic direction, especially as it resonates with our mission to care for elderly FSU Jews. This mission becomes more sustainable if local communities take on more of this burden over time. Indeed, two JDC-supported volunteer centers are running a “Volunteerism for the Elderly” pilot program that sets out to complement JDC’s elderly assistance programs. Currently, over 200 volunteers help elderly with daily housekeeping tasks and relieve isolated seniors of their loneliness.

A gift of $130,000 will support the activities of two large volunteer centers in the FSU for one year, fostering responsible local communities and increasing their capacity to address their own needs.
Supporting Jewish Community Centers in Eastern and Central Europe

Decades of experience has demonstrated the value of establishing Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) in building strong Jewish community life and leaders. Often standing as the nerve center of Jewish communal life, JCCs unify a broad range of activities under a single Jewish community banner, drawing Jews of all ages and diverse interests to the same physical space. Successful JCCs are thriving hubs of activity that strengthen Jewish identity, stimulate Jewish leadership, and build bonds between community members — all of which enhance communities’ purposeful survival and long-term stability.

JDC seeks to ensure that JCCs across Europe fulfil their potential for impacting their communities while also maximizing limited resources. To this aim, we work closely with local communities to provide necessary assistance, including the provision of grants for operational expenses, consultations, board development, and training professional and lay leaders. JDC’s investment has helped strengthen a network of JCCs across the region that offer social, religious, and educational activities with meaningful, contemporary content that is relevant to Jews of all ages and with any kind of tie to the community — religious, traditional, cultural, or secular. JDC supports JCCs in Bulgaria, Romania, the Baltics, Poland, and Hungary, reaching thousands of European Jews.

A gift of $200,000 will support the JCC in Riga, Latvia or the JCC in Budapest, Hungary, for one year, providing compelling Jewish activities to some 3,000 children, teens, and adults in each community.

Responding To Global Emergencies

Disaster Response

In this area, JDC offers a Jewish response to disasters, providing humanitarian relief to vulnerable populations and working with communities to recover from crises. All JDC’s programs in this area align with international best practices and emphasize disaster risk reduction and advancing innovation. JDC partners with local organizations and leaders to address the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and communities affected by disaster. JDC also works to enhance partner capacity, and to mobilize and empower communities while integrating global, Israeli, and local expertise. When disaster strikes in a country where there is a local Jewish community, JDC activates its network and partners within that community.

In 2016, JDC directly assisted 68,000 people affected by crises in 14 countries, including Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and the Syrian refugee crisis. In 2017, JDC responded to the floods in Sri Lanka, and we are currently responding to the devastation in the Caribbean region caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and to that in Mexico following the Central Mexico earthquake.

A gift of $25,000 will contribute to JDC’s Disaster Response Fund, enabling JDC to respond quickly in the event of a disaster.
TOV (Tikun Olam Ventures)

One third of the world’s population lives on less than $2 a day. Some 500 million families depend on agriculture to survive. Many of these families practice antiquated farming methods and struggle to lift themselves out of chronic poverty. At the same time, the developed world struggles to find sustainable ways of introducing the very technology that could transform the quality of life in these impoverished communities. JDC’s TOV program is breaking new ground by bringing together the ingenuity of Israeli agricultural technology with a sound business model to bring prosperity to smallholder farmers in Africa. TOV will launch in 2018–2019 in Ethiopia, and aims to bring Israeli agricultural technology (such as drip irrigation and hybrid seeds) to almost 32,000 smallholder farmers.

A gift of $25,000 will enable JDC to help 20 poor farmers in Ethiopia improve their agricultural yields through business support and packages of Israeli technology such as drip irrigation and hybrid seeds.

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JDC receives significant funding support from Jewish Federations across North America through cooperation with JFNA and UJA Canada. Major funding partners also include: the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Charitable Foundation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, World Jewish Relief (UK), and tens of thousands of generous individual donors and foundations. The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is a major operational partner.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in some 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters.

To learn more, visit JDC.org.