JOIN THE LARGEST JEWISH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT SINCE WWII.
NEARLY 100,000 JEWISH LIVES ARE ON THE LINE.
Today, nearly 100,000 Jews live a desperate life of hunger, in dire conditions and dilapidated apartments across the former Soviet Union (FSU), in countries like Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus. Many are victims of the Holocaust and lived for decades under an oppressive communist regime that discriminated relentlessly against them. Despite it all, they were accomplished professionals — doctors, lawyers, scientists, and educators just like you — but today, they live in unthinkable poverty.

These Jews are all alone, barely surviving on minuscule government pensions as low as $2 per day. Often, they have to make the grim choice between heat and food. Most times, they give up meals or medicine just to get through the brutal winter. Many are bedridden and have no family. And, they live in a reality where no social safety net exists other than JDC. They are the poorest Jews in the world — and their lives are on the line.
elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union live in dire poverty.
“Because I’m Jewish, I survive. Our people have a difficult history. I think that’s why we help each other.”
WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY.

Jewish lives are on the line. If you don’t act now, many may not survive — because without you and JDC, they have no one.
With each day, life for these vulnerable Jews becomes more dismal. An already desperate situation is exacerbated by a volatile political and economic climate. Rampant inflation has made even life’s barest necessities cost-prohibitive. Two cartons of milk alone depletes a full day’s pension allowance.

We need your help now more than ever. Much of the funding available for this essential aid comes from Holocaust reparations grants from the Claims Conference, which are designated specifically for Holocaust survivors. But more than half of the impoverished Jews we help are not survivors, and their situation is increasingly desperate. As Holocaust survivors pass on, the funds available to these communities will decline, which reduces our capacity to provide care for the other frail Jewish elderly who continue to live in dire conditions. While we also rely on steadfast support from Jewish Federations across North America, the needs of the world’s poorest Jews are so great, and so urgent, that we need you — today.

There’s no time to lose and more work yet to be done. This past year, we rushed lifesaving relief to nearly 100,000 of these desperately poor elderly Jews. Now, in this uniquely challenging time, we’re turning to you.
“The most important thing is that I started feeling as a human being. Heavy times kill personality, and JDC helped me to keep it.”
FREE/SUBSIDIZED MEDICINES
On $2/day, our clients would be forced to choose between food, heat, and medicine.

FOOD
We provide food packages, hot lunches, and food cards to purchase groceries at local supermarkets.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
When disaster strikes, JDC provides accommodation subsidies, clothing and food, and post-trauma counseling.
HOMECARE
Clients receive compassionate assistance with bathing, cooking, cleaning, laundry, dressing, and more.

WINTER RELIEF
In the coldest months, we provide firewood, charcoal, warm blankets, and winter boots.

JEWISH HOLIDAY PACKAGES
On holidays like Passover and Rosh Hashanah, we deliver special packages to help needy Jews celebrate.
For a mere $21 a month — or $252 a year — you can provide food and medicine for one person in the former Soviet Union. For an additional $160, you can provide an elderly Jew who is alone, frail, and bedridden with compassionate care — help with cooking, cleaning, bathing, and other essential services needed to survive. Imagine the desperation they feel, the isolation they experience. It’s a modest investment to save the life of one of the world’s most vulnerable Jews living in shocking poverty.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE THIS.
“The only sunshine that comes through my window is the JDC homecare worker who takes care of me.”
A Tradition of Saving Jewish Lives.

JDC has a long, boots-on-the-ground tradition of helping Jews in crisis or need. Since 1914, we’ve been a trusted member of the community, partnering with Jews around the world to bring lifesaving relief to our community’s neediest members. In 1993, we established the first Hesed social welfare center to assist Jews in the newly formed republics of the former Soviet Union. Every day, dozens of these centers are building and strengthening the Jewish community.

We know how to work in the former Soviet Union, reaching across 11 time zones, through extreme conditions of brutal winter snowstorms and bone-chilling cold to bring vital aid to communities, despite isolation by distance and/or political conflict. No other organization in the world has the know-how, the experience, the history, or infrastructure across the globe to get the job done like JDC. We are the only organization entrusted with reparations funding to care for Holocaust survivors in post-Soviet states, and we are fiercely committed to changing conditions for the world’s poorest Jews for the better. You can help us continue this lifesaving work.
104 YEARS OF LIFESAVING SERVICE
Throughout history, Jews have proven that we are survivors. We are a strong community because we help each other, wherever in the world we are. Now the fate of our fellow Jews in the former Soviet Union is in your hands.

We don’t always have the opportunity to avert looming catastrophe before it strikes, but that’s the challenge in front of us now. The poorest Jews in the world are part of us, and when one suffers, we all suffer. We have the chance to solve this now, and that’s why we’re asking you to take action with a generous gift that will help us continue our people’s tradition of saving Jewish lives.

IF NOT YOU, WHO?
Born in Kharkov, Ukraine, the year after the Nazis were defeated, 72-year-old Margarita Yakovlevna Lubashevskaya was raised in a family that cherished Jewish values and traditions.

Like many Soviet Jewish women of her generation, Rita never married. Instead, she threw herself into her work as a piano teacher at the Kharkov Music School, where she taught for 53 years. Her apartment is filled with pictures of former students, friendly faces who give her comfort on lonely days.

Rita has had medical problems since she was a child. Polio and scoliosis meant her left leg was much shorter than her right, and she was unable to move freely until spinal surgery at the age of six. Her father worked as the chief engineer of a local factory, and her mother stayed home full-time to care for her.
“I just never thought that, after everything that’s happened, at the end of my life it would be like this. If not for JDC, I just really don’t know how I would live.”
Continuing muscular problems and bone pain have left her confined to a metal corset, a therapeutic device that nevertheless restricts her movement and causes her intense pain. Several years ago, Rita underwent a complicated surgery to remove an ovarian tumor—yet another painful setback.

Still, Rita eked out an independent life, able to walk with the help of special shoes and a cane, until she stumbled last year and fell, breaking her thigh at multiple points. Her doctors have now forbidden her to get out of bed and walk for at least six months.

Rita suffers on her own, with no family to help support her, financially or otherwise. She knows there’s no way her meager government pension will stretch to cover both food and medicine, let alone the life-saving assistance she now needs with cooking, cleaning, and even just getting into her corset every morning. This classically trained pianist, fiercely independent for her whole adult life, now finds herself with her mind as sharp as ever but unable to wash herself without her homecare worker’s help.

To help Rita, we provide her with a food card to purchase groceries at her local supermarket. We also give her critical, dignified support with homecare assistance and rehabilitation equipment.

Rita says she’s sometimes short on optimism these days, but not when she thinks about JDC and generous donors like you who care about her well-being—simply because she is Jewish.
The world’s poorest Jews are counting on you. Make a generous donation today. Together, we can end the suffering of our Jewish brothers and sisters.

DON’T WAIT. SAVE LIVES TODAY.
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in 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.

JDC receives significant funding support from Jewish Federations across North America through cooperation with JFNA and UIA 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.

For more information, please visit JDC.org/needtoknow.

Thank You.