COVID-19: A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO A GLOBAL CRISIS

In early 2020, the whole world changed. COVID-19, which has since affected most people on the planet, presented new challenges to our everyday work. Homebound elderly Jews became even more vulnerable; JCCs could no longer host gatherings; and thousands of people suddenly found themselves struggling to make ends meet.

But when the world needs us most, JDC is there. With the invaluable support of our partners and funders, our most vital programs continue to care for the neediest, and we’ve launched and expanded programs to respond to this unprecedented crisis. Here is a snapshot of our initial response.

THE CARE CONTINUES — SAFELY

For the more than 80,000 isolated and at-risk elderly Jews JDC serves in the former Soviet Union (FSU), the pandemic has made a difficult situation worse. To continue providing aid safely, JDC instituted new protocols to protect both clients and homecare workers.

PPE DISTRIBUTED TO HOMECARE WORKERS:

- 5,942,320 total personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 4,245,600 gloves, caps, robes, and other protective gear
- 1,576,187 masks
- 120,533 sanitizers, soap, wipes, etc.

Dozens of homecare workers were able to reach clients by private transportation when public transportation was not available.

SOCIAL WELFARE SUPPORT

When the pandemic struck, we leveraged existing infrastructure to provide support to these front-line responders.

AIDING FAMILIES

The pandemic pushed thousands of Jewish families into economic distress and left those already struggling with even greater challenges.

- 21,860 calls JDC opened volunteer hotlines to ensure quarantined elderly had human contact.
- 5,492,320 children and young adults in 21,993 families received hygiene kits, medicine, food and basic supplies, games for children, and computers.
- 40,000 homebound older adults living in 140 of the country’s poorest municipalities benefited from a cross-sector effort designed to meet basic needs.
- 5,000 volunteers maintain daily contact with homebound Holocaust survivors and safely provide services like cooking and shopping.
- 28,000 activity kits were distributed to homebound elderly and those in residential institutions.
- 175 of Israel’s most vulnerable municipalities had their digital capabilities mapped by JDC in partnership with the country’s Main Jewish Community Care organizations.
- 1,000+ geriatric care professionals in the U.S., Latin America, and Russia attended webinars led by JDC’s Israel experts, sharing knowledge and best practices.
- 190,000 of the most vulnerable people reached throughout Ethiopia, India, and Indonesia with handwashing stations, ration and health kits, and more.

IN ISRAEL, A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE

When the coronavirus emergency hit Israel in March, it set off two parallel crises: one medical, and one humanitarian. With the Government of Israel and other major partners, JDC worked around the clock to address the needs of thousands of Israelis, ensuring populations on the margins and the organizations that serve them were not left behind.

- 54,929 children and young adults in 21,993 families received hygiene kits, medicine, food and basic supplies, games for children, and computers.
- 40,000 homebound older adults living in 140 of the country’s poorest municipalities benefited from a cross-sector effort designed to meet basic needs.
- 5,000 volunteers maintain daily contact with homebound Holocaust survivors and safely provide services like cooking and shopping.
- 28,000 activity kits were distributed to homebound elderly and those in residential institutions.
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BUILDING COMMUNITY

Strong community has proven vital during the coronavirus pandemic, both as a safeguard against isolation and a powerful tool for sharing knowledge and resources. That’s why JDC has continued to leverage its expertise to support Jewish communities worldwide.

- 59 young leaders from 33 Argentinean Jewish organizations engaged in a virtual edition of JDC’s program for directors of informal education initiatives.
- 40+ hours per week of diverse digital programming was developed, and hosted by Active Jewish Teens (AJT) participants.
- 850 community members from 10 countries and 90 cities joined a groundbreaking online FSU Global Shabbat hosted by JDC volunteer and leadership programs.

TIKKUN OLAM IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Guided by our Jewish values, JDC’s COVID-19 response also meets emerging humanitarian needs in the developing world.

- 504 staff members at Hessed Jewish Family Service, and volunteer centers across the FSU participated in 13 online trainings designed to maintain essential social services and build resilience.
- 30+ professionals from Jewish communities across Europe received guidance and the support of a robust professional network from online sessions offered by the European Council of Jewish Communities in partnership with JDC.
- 6,400 people facing financial strife, in close to 1,600 Jewish households across 11 European countries, received critical aid.
- 700 Jewish families in Argentina had their needs met by JDC in partnership with the country’s main Jewish community care organizations.
- 17 countries where JDC has helped newly poor Jewish families cover expenses like food and rent.
- 1,000+ geriatric care professionals in the U.S., Latin America, and Russia attended webinars led by JDC’s Israel experts, sharing knowledge and best practices.

Data reporting periods may vary by region or program. All figures as of June 2020. For the latest on our COVID-19 response, visit JDC.org/coronavirusupdates.