

Report on Emergency Support

December 2023

As the War continues, government agencies are slowly catching up, but it is still civil society that leads the way in responding to imminent needs, thanks to its inherent ability to be flexible and adapt programming and protocol in accordance with changing needs. With the help of friends in Israel and around the world, the Jerusalem Foundation continues to expand its emergency fund, created at the outbreak of the widespread tragedy, supporting the network of community organizations and agencies across Jerusalem, with a focus on those most affected by the disastrous events: Jerusalem's most vulnerable residents who are even more at risk in this difficult time, Jerusalem families of the bereaved and the injured, essential workers in the city, and of course, evacuees and war refugees currently residing here.

We thank our friends around the world for the generous and meaningful support for the emergency program. By partnering with some 100 community and culture institutions, we have reached tens of thousands of people across the city, including many of the 30,000 refugees residing in 37 hotels in Jerusalem, and we continue our work to reach more and more people facing serious challenges. We are assessing the continually evolving needs and adapting our responses to provide for the most urgent and relevant issues, while also thinking about the day after and taking care of a lost list of arts and culture institutions that are facing huge challenges. Below is a report on the emergency assistance provided over the past few weeks.

The Jerusalem Foundation is profoundly grateful for the support of its friends around the world, particularly during these difficult times of overwhelming tragedy. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership in projects of emergency assistance as well as in projects promoting communal strength, creative culture and future leadership across Jerusalem.

Welfare, Health & Community Response for Evacuees & Jerusalem Residents

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Emergency Response through Jerusalem Community Centers	Responses to the various emergency needs of each community in a range of neighborhoods across the city, focusing on the most vulnerable populations within the communities: elderly, people with special needs, people with mental illnesses, new immigrants without family support, and families of those on military reserve duty.	<p>JF has recently partnered with 3 additional centers: Meitarim (city entrance area), Ginot Ha'ir and Ba'it Va'gan, for a total of 17 community center collaborating with JF to provide emergency response.</p> <p>Warm comments were received from center coordinators:</p> <p><i>"JF supported activities have been therapeutic. Our recent activity, encouraging local families to host neighbors for an afternoon of respite, is empowering and beneficial to all. The hosts' sense of capability mixed with children's laughter help remedy our broken hearts".</i> (Neve Ya'akov community center coordinator)</p> <p><i>"The activities and programming that JF support have enabled are impressive. We've met hundreds of residents for respite, talks and precious moments of refraining from reading and hearing the constant discerning news. The funds that were made available to us with minimal bureaucracy enabled us to move fast and act for our communities. We've conducted over 50 different activities so far, focusing on residents for whom things are most difficult; single mothers, vulnerable elderly, youth at risk and new immigrants, alongside the more affluent families in our community whom are affected by the war: some 150 families of</i></p>	At least 50,000 Jerusalem residents

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		<p><i>reservists and 200 families of young soldiers in their mandated service period. We additionally make sure to invite families whom are hosting family members that were evacuated from the north and south, to support them as well. We have yet a long way to go in this situation, and are deeply grateful for your partnership".</i></p> <p>(Ganim community center coordinator)</p>	
<p>Sponsoring equipment for evacuee schools</p>	<p>While we are surrounded by uncertainty, the one fact that seems clear is that the situation is most likely to continue for weeks to come. Educational solutions are being sought for schoolchildren, to provide some healthy routine and retain their schooling. Children have been enrolled in tens of Jerusalem schools. Additionally, governmental and municipal agencies are opening school frameworks for evacuee children at the hotels where they are staying.</p>	<p>Comprehensive support of these efforts is being provided, based on the schools' needs – furnishings and accessories for schools and kindergartens; supplementation of teaching hours at designated schools; uplifting event recognizing teachers' efforts; activity kits for pupils and more. Installation of large tent for outdoor learning and play zone.</p>	<p>36 Jerusalem schools have absorbed evacuee children;</p> <p>10 new schools have been established in the city's hotels.</p>

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<p>After school programming for vulnerable children and parents who were evacuated to Jerusalem</p>	<p>Amongst the thousands of evacuees in Jerusalem, a few hundred are vulnerable families with at risk behavior– from neglect to actual violence or abuse, and mild or severe behavioral, emotional and learning difficulties of the children. Some are families that were already under the care of welfare services, and in other families these issues have arisen due to the circumstances. The lack of framework, work and the distance from home all lead to the exacerbation of inappropriate conduct.</p>	<p>Yad Rachel was selected by the Israeli Ministry of Welfare to operate after school programming for vulnerable children and parents, supporting them through these trying times, preventing precarious situations from deteriorating and providing a secure framework for children and parents. Conducted at the hotels where these families are staying, the programs are staffed by counsellors, a social worker and therapists, providing each parent and child personal and group therapy sessions with the aim of seeing immediate improvement in behavior and academic achievements.</p>	<p>22 programs for 440 children and their parents (20 children per framework)</p>
<p>Therapeutic spaces and nature therapy programming for youth at risk and survivors of the Nova Music Festival attack</p>	<p>At risk youth, and especially those dealing with previous traumas, are in great need for respite and therapeutic frameworks to help with the intensity of the situation and the distress it triggers in them.</p>	<p>Partnership with Ein Yael Nature Therapy Center continued, opening a therapeutic space in nature to help local youth and especially survivors of the Nova Music Festival attack process their experiences and trauma. Youth are welcomed to connect to nature and peers, as well as participate in ancient craft workshops and holistic therapy sessions. Staff is able to refer those needing extra attention to government funded therapy near their homes.</p>	<p>200 youth weekly</p>



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SAHI – Youth Group	Young teens staying in hotels suffer from lack of routine and boredom, which coupled with traumas they've experienced and the general uncertainty and stress of the war can lead to engaging in high risk behavior.	SAHI, a pioneering agent of empowering at-risk youth, has started groups for evacuee young teens staying at hotels, engaging them in positive behavior: participating in informal educational activities, harnessing their energy and free time to support vulnerable populations in Jerusalem, by packing food baskets and distributing them, and potentially joining regular SAHI groups in Jerusalem if their stay in the city is prolonged. JF support enables staff recruitment and training, purchase of materials and special activities.	25 youth
Sports activities	Sports is a useful way to improve overall wellbeing for all ages. Many of the evacuees have had their training routines disrupted and others need new, positive outlets for their feelings of anxiety, stress and uncertainty, and some anchor for their daily routine.	JF partnered with the Jerusalem International YMCA to open its state of the arts sports center for evacuees, free of charge, for two months. Additional collaborations with leading Jerusalem football clubs, Hapo'el Katamon and Beitar Nordi'a, enable regular football activities for evacuee children, as well as youth joining the clubs' professional youth groups so that their training can continue.	YMCA: 907 subscriptions Hapo'el Katamon: 154 children, 15 youth Beitar Nordi'a: 70 children

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Community Gardens – revitalizing activities in nature for Jerusalem residents and evacuees	Time outdoors, surrounded by nature, contributes to overall well being and helps reduce stress. Jerusalem community gardens are already a green haven for city residents. The gardens have seen an increase in demand for activities since the outbreak of war, which can no longer be accommodated on a volunteer basis, as is the regular operational system.	With JF support, the community garden program offers payment to regular volunteers to enable them to conduct additional weekly activities over 4 weeks, in 12 gardens throughout the city. Sessions include topics such as planting, seeding and practical gardening. Jerusalem residents and evacuees are welcome to join.	200 participants
Jerusalem Supports Families of Reservists	Many men and women are away from their families on reserve duty, leaving one parent behind to run the household and care for children while juggling work and other commitments. As the war is predicted to last for many more weeks, a comprehensive approach to supporting families of reservists is sought.	A model of 'adoptive families' will provide interested reservists' families with a regular contact to respond to diverse needs ranging from babysitting, cooking and errands to emotional support. Supporting families will be matched according to needs and demographics. To ease the introduction, adopting families will be given a kit to gift to their 'adoptees', funded by JF. Additionally, 'breather' events will be conducted for reservists' families, offering therapeutic circles, culture events and empowering spiritual content. The project is coordinated by 18 community centers throughout Jerusalem, in collaboration with the Municipality.	2,000 kits for families; 2 events per neighborhood

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Jerusalem Food Rescuers (JFR)	While on the one hand, food security for many Jerusalem families is not guaranteed, especially due to the emergency situation, 15 tons of fresh produce are wasted at the Jerusalem Wholesale Market weekly. JFR already save 3 tons a week, yet in the face of the crisis seek to triple their work in order to reach the growing circle of local Jerusalem families in need as well as providing for evacuees.	Apart from expanding their circle of employees and volunteers who can 'rescue' and distribute fresh produce, JFR are upgrading physical infrastructure to enable expansion of their worthy cause. JF support enables the purchase of a forklift and the installation of a cooling room in their Wholesale Market workplace.	Over 3,000 vulnerable individuals will receive 'rescued' produce.
Jerusalem Intercultural Center (JICC)	Interpersonal tensions between Jewish and Muslim residents are currently felt in all areas of life: in academia, at work, on public transport, in hospitals, schools and museums. Unless preventative measures are taken there is tangible potential for violence. Many Jerusalem institutes have multi-cultural boards, staff and clients, and face challenges in maintaining respectful work relationships amongst them.	JICC has developed a proven intervention model for imparting practical skills that help beneficiaries to successfully manage their multi-cultural work teams and function effectively to calm tensions during times of heightened disturbance. Workshops are conducted in institutes such as universities, hospitals, municipal agencies and transportation service providers, enabling continued collaboration and work.	10 workshops so far

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Children & adults with special needs and their families	During times of crisis, children and adults with special needs and their families need extra support. The stress, anxiety and trauma, coupled with changes to regular schedules and isolation at home, have heightened routine needs.	JF partnered with various organizations throughout Jerusalem: SHEKEL, Keshet, Tsa'ad Kadima and Beit Tamar, supporting children and adults with special needs and their families. Responses included helping with extra personnel costs at homes and centers, increasing availability at a special emergency hotline, reaching out to people and families, parental guidance sessions and online meetings for children and young adults with special needs.	1,232 children, youth and young adults
Nitzanim School	The Nitzanim school serves children ages 7-21 with mild developmental & intellectual disabilities, many of whom come from underprivileged families.	JF support enabled the purchase of 14 tablets for children, allowing them to join online classes when school was shutdown due to the threat of rocket fire. Additionally, a series of curative sessions were conducted for the entire school, including medical clowns and relaxation workshops.	120 school pupils

Cultural Respite for City Residents and Evacuees

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Art workshops and respite activities for evacuees of all ages at hotels	Families from the south and north that have been evacuated to Jerusalem are traumatized and have no regular activities, with the boredom and lack of routine intensifying distress.	Art is an excellent means for clearing the mind and keeping occupied. Led by Prof. Ido Bruno from the industrial design department, students from the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design conducted 4 types of art workshops in Jerusalem hotels: embroidery, painting on ceramics, ceramic sculpture and design, bringing quality materials and techniques to children, teens, adults and elderly.	37 sessions conducted for over 1,000 participants.
Wartime Songs – Cultural Respite Evenings for Elderly at Mishkenot Sha’ananim	Boredom and isolation are central issues for elderly, heightened at times of war and uncertainty. Designated cultural evenings, focusing on Israeli war themed songs and questions of art in wartime, provide respite and comfort.	With JF support, Mishkenot Sha’ananim produced a special program where Israeli war themed songs were discussed and then performed live. The event took place in a safe space, and ran twice due to the high demand.	Total audience of 360 at events
Mishkenot Programming for children	Quality cultural activities for children and parents dealing with the stress and trauma of the war	Mishkenot also produced literary related events for children – a series of meetings with highly regarded children’s authors, who read from their books and answered children’s questions about characters and storylines.	240 at 2 events conducted so far, 2 more events planned

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
<p>"Every Child Needs a Kite" (Janusz Korczak)</p>	<p>A spectacular community art initiative, bringing together local and evacuee children to each create a kite, that will all be flown at an uplifting central event during Hannukah.</p>	<p>Children will come together for a theater performance by the Orna Porat Theater Company, followed by a kite workshop, each decorating a white kite and transcribing a prayer for the swift return of all hostages on it. All participants will come together again on the first night of Hannukah to fly the kites and pray for the hostages' return.</p> <p>The initiative is coordinated by the Djanogly art center in collaboration with the Jerusalem Municipality.</p>	<p>5,000 children in total will participate</p>
<p>Bringing Art to the Doorstep</p>	<p>An additional response to elderly boredom and isolation, using art as a curative means to alleviate anxiety.</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Municipality, the Tarbut Movement and Helicon Poetry, art workshops are conducted at homes of lonely elderly, welcoming neighbors for a music, writing or drawing class and cultivating new friendships and circles of support. At the end of the program, a professional exhibit will be curated.</p>	<p>600 participants (100 sessions)</p>

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Therapeutic Spaces Throughout the City	Evacuee families and Jerusalem residents need frameworks enabling reflection and providing some healing distractions from the traumas they have experienced.	<p>JF partnered with two leading culture and art institutions in the city, Muslala and Hamiffal, to provide therapeutic spaces and healing activities for all interested – evacuees from the north and south and Jerusalem families. The program combines structured workshops and an open art studio for all ages, prompting creativity through varied art disciplines, accompanied by local artists and therapists to support guests.</p> <p>Hamiffal also welcomes artists staying in the city for a short residency program, ranging from 2 days to 2 weeks, in their gallery.</p>	<p>Hamiffal: 500 guests; 30 artists</p> <p>Muslala: 600 guests weekly</p>
Spectrum – Nocturno Live	Cultural respite is much needed by Jerusalem residents and evacuees alike, and especially events that are designated for wartime and reflect on our ongoing trauma.	A series of 10 performances at the Nocturno Bar bringing local emerging and established artists together under the newly initiated “Jerusalem Collective” for an hour of musical respite. Admission is free of charge, enabling many to benefit from the uplifting event.	700 participants

<p>Double Impact – Relief for Refugees and Jerusalem’s vulnerable populations and support of Jerusalem’s leading cultural institutions</p>	<p>Jerusalem is blessed with an abundance of Israel's most important sites and institutions, yet many of these are facing serious financial crisis due to the war as they had to close their doors. At the same time, evacuees staying in hotels and local children need some time outside and respite from stress.</p> <p>The Double Impact program is one of the most important and essential programs in the coming months. The hotels are very crowded and naturally create feelings of tension and it is proving difficult to hold formal or informal education activities on site. Long hours spent in small hotel rooms lead to difficult behavioral problems and stress within families, with friends and with other people. There is difficulty in releasing pent up energy and tension, especially these days, and so ‘getting fresh air’ mentally and physically is even more vital. There is also a great challenge to conducting school in a building that is not set up for learning spaces as described above, and getting out into the open air will dramatically improve this situation. Excursions and outdoor activities will be one of the greatest needs of the refugees, especially for children and youth at risk, and they will also serve the needs of the education system in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>The main idea of Double Impact is to create a new system of formal and informal education at many institutions and sites in Jerusalem that have large spaces. These spaces serve as locations for innovative education and for much-needed recreation and play. The added advantage of Double Impact is that it can also provide solutions for family leisure time outside the hotels, as well as for outings of groups of senior citizens and other adults who also really need this light relief. The program is taking place in the Tisch Family Zoo, the Gottesman Family Israel Aquarium, the Botanical Gardens, the Ein Yael Living Museum, the Bloomfield Science Museum, the Yellow Submarine, the Tower of David Museum, the Cinémathèque, the Train Theater and additional sites in which numbers are not included here. Additionally, an important component of Double Impact will be sporting activities in open spaces and sports centers. The idea is to optimize all these locations particularly during the morning and at times when they are under-used and less crowded. An efficient, sophisticated, safe transport system brings the children and youth from the various hotels to the Double Impact sites.</p>	<p>30,000 people have already participated in visits. (mostly children and youth but also groups of elderly) – some (not all) examples of numbers of visitors are below:</p> <p>The Gottesman Israel Aquarium is still the most popular destination – 6100 Tisch Family Zoo – 3600 Bloomfield Science Museum – 4900 Train Theater – 2500 Botanical Gardens – 1750 Ein Yael – 1650 Tower of David Museum – 1500</p> <p>Film Screenings at the Sam Spiegel Film School on the Jerusalem Arts Campus - 1600</p>
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Emergency Response in East Jerusalem

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
The East Jerusalem Coalition – Emergency Headquarters	In response to the intense needs and hardships experienced in east Jerusalem since October 7, JF has spearheaded the establishment of the East Jerusalem Coalition, a pioneering collaboration between various activists, organizations and municipal and government agencies in east Jerusalem who work together toward the shared goal of responding to residents' most basic human needs, providing relevant information regarding human and legal rights and boosting morale. The coalition is the first collaboration of its kind to administrate emergency needs and responses in east Jerusalem.	The Coalition has orchestrated the distribution of over 300 food baskets to families in need – some that regularly struggle financially and others who face hardship due to the war. Additionally, in collaboration with health funds and local pharmacies, it helps fund the purchase of medication for those in need. Coalition volunteers are in regular contact with families in east Jerusalem, provide relevant information and help in accessing rights through the Aa'ta Center and continually assess needs on the ground.	1250 families have received support through food baskets; 25 families helped with purchasing medication per month
Aa'ta Center	Due to extreme rise in unemployment rates in east Jerusalem and lack of access to social security benefits, there is an increased and urgent need to access benefits. However, many residents of the area don't know their rights or are unable to fill in the required forms in Hebrew.	Aa'ta Center has expanded its services and activities with increased staff and support for those who need help in accessing their rights. Further support has been provided for addition of legal advisors and more volunteers	4500 people have received support

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
JIPR policy document	While it was clear that the situation in east Jerusalem is precarious, the full extent of difficulties and needs was not obvious. Apart from the humanitarian crisis, the tense quiet and not-too-distant memories of unrest in the area during the May 2021 war with Gaza, led to fear of an imminent violent outbreak. JIPR formed a think tank to formulate recommendations for civil society, municipal and law enforcement agencies, to help de-escalate tensions and support the civil population.	JIPR has reached a list of initial conclusions that can help the situation, key of which are: the establishment of a HQ to coordinate all efforts to support the population; recommendations to law enforcement on treading lightly and postponing actions that might ignite conflict; supporting community centers in east Jerusalem; expanding informal educational activities for youth; and increasing availability of hotline services for human and legal rights inquiries.	Recommendation document is being used by Municipal and government agencies, law enforcement and NGO's working in east Jerusalem





Therapeutic Spaces – Hamiffal and Muslala



Double Impact – trip to the Gottesman Israel Aquarium



Ein Yael – therapeutic space for Nova survivors