

## Report #3 on Emergency Support

January 2024

Here in Jerusalem, the new year was welcomed with mixed feelings. While we hope for better times ahead, we are still in the midst of war and carry the trauma of recent events. Jerusalem is still home to tens of thousands of evacuees, unable to return home three months since the war began. Thousands of men and women are still serving as reservists, leaving their families and businesses behind. Our new normal includes terrible losses and disrupted routines, with no clear end on the horizon.

Our ability to partner with civil society organizations and institutions in Jerusalem is a beacon of hope amidst this turbulence. Viewing the sincere and inventive efforts of culture and community organizations, networks and individuals is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for the support of our friends in Israel and around the world which enables us to continue backing these ventures and making a difference for so many people in the city. While we continue to respond to emerging needs, especially those of the most vulnerable amongst us, we are also thinking about the day after and taking care of a long list of arts and culture institutions that are facing huge challenges. Many projects and programs funded through the Emergency Fund, were presented in previous updates, but are ongoing and continue to have a wide impact on the city, its residents and those seeking shelter within its walls.

**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.**

*\*Reporting on previous programs carried out in Oct-Nov was provided in Reports 1+2*

## Welfare, Health & Community Response for Evacuees & Jerusalem Residents

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Sponsoring equipment for evacuee schools	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 maintain 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>Comprehensive support of these efforts is being provided, based on the schools' needs.</p> <p><i>"We wish to thank The Jerusalem Foundation for the delivery of high-quality, impressive books and toys for our pupils. Following the absorption of evacuees from northern Israel, we received a heartwarming gift for the school in its entirety. The books and toys are exceptional and our pupils will surely enjoy and benefit using them."</i></p> <p><i>The warm welcome which the evacuees were received with and JF's efforts to support them are admirable and inspiring."</i></p> <p>(Orit Navon, Janusz Korczak School Principal)</p>	<p>36 Jerusalem schools have absorbed evacuee children;</p> <p>10 new schools have been established in the city's hotels.</p>
Biotechnology studies for evacuee youth at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Youth-Division Belmonte Science Laboratories Center	High School pupils from Israel's southern town of Sderot were unable to complete the practical component of their biotechnology studies, specifically since this course is not offered in all schools, and not all the pupils currently reside together	JF partnered with the Belmonte Labs to host and tutor the pupils, enabling them to carry out their individual lab project which is a matriculation requirement. Over 4 days, the pupils stayed in the Belmonte Center, experimented and studied with Hebrew U student tutors. While the Israeli Ministry of Education funded part of the program, it could not cover full costs; thus, JF support was invaluable in helping these teens achieve academic success.	24 pupils

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Partnership with local youth movements  And SAHI youth organization	Adolescence is a formative time and exposure to trauma, stress and ongoing conflict can impact teens' mental and emotional state. Accepting guidance and supervision can prove challenging at this period of self-discovery. Many teens have been impacted by the war and alarming trends of missing school and heightened engagement in negative behaviors are surfacing.	<p>JF has partnered with 2 leading youth groups in Jerusalem, The Scouts and Bne'i Akiva, to support youth from all backgrounds during these troubling times and prevent them slipping into risky patterns. The Scouts have conducted resilience workshops with professional guides for senior group members and guidance for promoting resilience for leaders of younger groups. JF has additionally subsidized the costs of the Chanukah holiday field trip to enable as many youth as possible to participate, as the war is already causing many families to struggle financially. Bnei Akiva are conducting resilience workshops for group leaders and coordinating their youth participants to volunteer at evacuee hotels, empowering them and giving them a sense of meaning at this difficult time.</p> <p>SAHI gap year participants are also working with local SAHI chapters to aid in a program for SAHI participants from southern cities evacuated to Jerusalem in order to provide positive engagement opportunities. Gap year alumni from the previous cohort were instrumental in creating and leading this program, showing that they are already implementing the leadership skills and experience they gained.</p>	<p>over 1,000 participants in resilience workshops; 280 went on Hannukah trip</p> <p>30 Evacuee youth participating with SAHI Jerusalem</p>

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
The Jerusalem Hills Therapy & Training Center	The horrific events of October 7 and the ensuing war have left difficult memories and caused mental and emotional harm to many. Welfare professionals require designated training to help patients process these traumatic experiences and specifically support children and youth who are showing PTSD symptoms.	The Jerusalem Hills Center specializes in training of therapy providers – counselors, psychologists & social workers. JF partnered with the center to enable the training of the staff of the Eden Therapeutic Boarding School from kibbutz Karmia in southern Israel, which houses teenage girls at-risk and is currently staying in Jerusalem; and social work teams from the southern Israeli town of Ofakim which was a site of brutal attacks on October 7. The staff are gaining tools for supporting their patients and clients as well as building platforms for self-care.	JF support enables 2 months of training and guidance for each group of professionals
'Mind-Body' Skills Group for Evacuees by CMBM Israel at Mishkenot Sha'ananim	<p>The horrific events of October 7 and the ensuing war have left difficult memories and caused mental and emotional harm to many. Suppression of the events and neglect to treat them can only lead to serious symptoms and disorders.</p> <p>CMBM Israel is an experienced nonprofit that supports trauma victims using an evidence-based model of stress and trauma-relief</p>	JF supported Mishkenot in hosting a Mind-Body Skills Group for practicing self-care and building resilience for survivors of October 7 attacks, including full board at the Maurice M. Dwek Guesthouse. Participants experienced 6 workshop sessions over 2 days, practicing mindfulness, meditation, movement and more as therapeutic means, as well as enjoying cultural respite music concerts. A participant who survived the attack on Be'eri shared: <i>"I leave this short retreat happy, tearful, and joyous, and will do everything I can so that many other people in my situation can experience this healing initiative".</i>	10 participants

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Open Space for Evacuee Youth	The prolonged stay in hotels is a challenge for many families and especially youth; they were torn from their homes, routines and frameworks, many after viewing or experiencing devastating events. Parents are wary of allowing their teen children to travel alone in a new city, yet the crowded feeling in the hotels and the lack of schedule increase tensions, leading to engagement in negative behaviors such as vagrancy and alcohol consumption.	The Municipality in collaboration with Community Centers welcome evacuee youth to supervised open spaces where they can engage with friends, participate in structured activities and enjoy free time playing foosball and table tennis. JF joined this meaningful initiative adding a creative layer – workshops to restore equipment and furniture that are donated to the spaces by JLM residents. The donations will be collected by the municipality and scaled-up jointly by evacuee youth and local at-risk youth, supervised by artists from Hamiffal Art Collective.	There are 4 centers throughout Jerusalem and an additional 10 within evacuee hotels. Workshops will be carried out over 3 months with some 1,300 youth participating

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Kiryat Hayovel Volunteer HQ	The outbreak of war, unprecedented evacuation and mass military callup disrupted the routine of many families, creating new struggles and needs. On the other hand, an inspiring amount of people sought to lend a helping hand wherever possible. To balance the needs and support, Rashut Harabim launched a local headquarters in Kiryat Hayovel.	<p>The headquarters provided support on 4 fronts: food and equipment drive for 2 weeks, in coordination with the city-wide headquarters, staffed by volunteers and managed by Rashut Harabim staff; coordinating volunteer cadres to support vulnerable populations – single mothers, elderly and families of reservists; community activities for boosting morale, including craft workshops, dance and music sessions, plays and more; and coordinating donations for lone soldiers who live in the neighborhood.</p> <p>Rashut Harabim CEO Inbar Bluzer Shalem shared: “ <i>We thank you for your invaluable support of our HQ at the outbreak of war. The Jerusalem Foundation’s timely contribution enabled us to provide immediately for many in our neighborhood. We embrace this opportunity to thank the Foundation for its extensive work for the people of Jerusalem during routine times and under crises.</i>”</p>	Some 1,200 adults, children & families benefitted from activities; 18 art workshops were conducted; 24 culture events were carried out

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Comprehensive Support of Reservist Students at the Azrieli College of Engineering Jerusalem	<p>Many of the thousands of men and women called up for reserve duty in the war are students of higher education. Their prolonged service and disconnection from home may have affected their wellbeing and they now require special attention and emotional, financial and academic support.</p> <p>Additionally, many are still on reserve duty even at the long-postponed opening date of the academic year and are missing out on courses due to their service.</p>	<p>JF partnered with the Azrieli College to provide comprehensive support to returning reservists and those still on duty, in three key areas: financial – scholarships for reservist students or those whose partners were on duty and have young children at home; academic – free tutoring sessions, access to online academic resources, recordings of lectures, loaning 'netsticks' to enable internet access when deployed and more; and emotional – subsidized therapy sessions, support groups, resilience workshops and referring to official help organizations when needed.</p>	<p>The entire initiative will encompass 450 students whom have served or are still serving as reservists (35% of Azrieli College students)</p>



## Cultural Respite for City Residents and Evacuees

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Daycare frameworks for evacuee children during Chanukah holiday	Following the initiative's success during the first weeks of war when schools were closed, JF partnered with the Tarbut Movement and the Jerusalem Municipality to open daycare programming for young children during the week-long Chanukah holiday, using art as a means to ease heightened stress and anxiety.	The makeshift schools and kindergartens opened for evacuees closed for the week-long Chanukah holiday. However, as these children had only just returned to educational routine, it was clear that some framework was necessary during this week. Thus the Tarbut Movement copied its successful model from earlier in the war, conducting activities from 8 am to 1:30 pm at 6 hotels across the city, entertaining children ages 3-6 with story hours, music sessions, games and crafts	168 children in 6 hotels across the city
Theater Company Jerusalem Shows for Evacuees at Hotels	Families from the south that have been evacuated to Jerusalem are traumatized and have no regular activities for the children, with the boredom and lack of routine intensifying distress.	TCJ, a local theater group, has conducted numerous small-scale performances from its repertoire and circus and theater workshops for evacuee children and families at hotels, bringing some cultural respite and quality distraction from the harsh reality.	1,150 children and parents enjoyed 15 plays and workshops in hotels across the city





Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
Hazira Toy Factory	Communities that have lost their homes are rebuilding their lives in other places, including makeshift kindergartens in hotels and other places. At the same time, routine culture activities have stopped for a while, and artists and institutions are seeking ways to maintain activities and livelihood.	Hazira theater and production house is demonstrating inspiring ingenuity, converting old theater sets into quality wooden toys which will be distributed to October 7 attack survivors and the new kindergartens established for evacuees. The project harnesses now out-of-use materials and provides some livelihood to artists and creators in this period of turmoil.	Toys distributed to some 400 children so far; expected to reach 1,000 children throughout the project
Bringing Art to the Doorstep	An additional response to elderly boredom and isolation, using art as a curative means to alleviate anxiety.	In collaboration with the Municipality, the Tarbut Movement and Helicon Poetry, art workshops were conducted at homes of lonely elderly, welcoming neighbors for a music, writing or drawing class and cultivating new friendships and circles of support.  <a href="#">Link to video clip summarizing the initiative</a>	600 participants (100 sessions)

## Double Impact – Relief for Refugees & Jerusalem's Vulnerable Populations and Support of Jerusalem's Leading Cultural Institutions

The evacuees (in the educational system established especially in the hotels and in existing Jerusalem schools) have benefited, as well as Jerusalem's most needy and vulnerable school-children. Double Impact has offered these children much-needed respite and outings during this period of mental and physical stress and hardship. The program has enabled an array of informal education opportunities at many of Jerusalem's recreational, artistic and cultural venues and institutions. In parallel, the double impact has enabled these venues and institutions to stay open and remain active; it has become a real lifeline for their continued existence during this challenging and stressful period.

The Double Impact program continues to be one of the most important and essential programs for 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 a great challenge to conducting school in a building that is not set up for learning spaces and 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. 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 and other vulnerable populations in Jerusalem.

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. 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.

The program is taking place in some 35 art & culture institutions across the city, including the Tisch Family Zoo, the Gottesman Family Israel Aquarium, the Botanical Gardens, the Ein Yael Archaeological Garden, the Bloomfield Science Museum, the Yellow Submarine, the Tower of David Museum, the Cinémathèque and the Train Theater. So far, some 71,000 evacuees and Jerusalem residents have participated in the program. Below is a summary report on sample Double Impact activities conducted, presenting the leading attractions and most engaging initiatives.



Program	Impact
The Gottesman Israel Aquarium & the Tisch Family Zoo- the leading institutions in highest demand by evacuees and Jerusalem residents alike	14,211
The Jerusalem Theater - over 10 children's plays	11,260
The Bloomfield Science Museum - visits of evacuees and special education school children	6,860
Ein Yael Archaeological Garden	4,506
The Train Theater	2,926
Sam Spiegel Film School on the Jerusalem Arts Campus - film screenings	2,486
The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens	2,095
The Tower of David Museum	4,000
Mashu Mashu Theater - theatrical productions for evacuee children	1,075
The Yellow Submarine - inviting evacuees to music concerts, free of charge	240
The Yad Yizhak Ben-Zvi Institute - culture respite activities for evacuee families	358
Other institutions and venues	20,983
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,000</b>

## Expressions of Gratitude from Double Impact Program Beneficiaries

### From the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens:

"We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for the 'Double Impact' initiative during the war. The program enabled us to stay relevant and contribute to the efforts of civil society in Jerusalem, as well as support evacuees residing in the city. On top of that, it provided crucial income for the Botanical Gardens, partially reducing the financial losses we have experienced due to the war. It is clear that much thought has gone into this initiative to ensure that it supports all those affected by the war, and in our eyes it has indeed reached its goals. It is truly not taken for granted and we are pleased that we could take part in it."

### From the Mashu Mashu Theater for Social Change:

"The 'Double Impact' initiative gave us exactly what we need in this complicated situation – an opportunity to put on our quality performances and provide some respite and inspiration to children whom deeply need it at this time, and moreover – the ability to keep up the financial security of some 15 local artists and guarantee the theater's continued standing throughout this crisis."

Besides the deep feeling of professional empathy and partnership that we received from JF staff, the support of our activities and budget were a substantial fortification for our organization."

### From the coordinator of activities for Holocaust Survivors at Misgav Lakashish (ultra-Orthodox), following a 'Double Impact' funded trip to the Gottesman Israel Aquarium and Tisch Family Zoo:

"The pre-booked buses dropped off the excited elderly as rays of sunlight broke through the clouds. One with a walker, one in a wheelchair, one supported by her devoted daughter and another leaning on a cane, the entire group swiftly strode with renewed vigor towards the guided tour of the enlivening aquarium paths."

Their looks said it all! The darkness in the site's entrance halls did not alarm them. They walked surely and were attentive to the explanations and professional guidance, gazing in wonder at the magical world of water that was clear through the glass, and cries of amazement rose from all sides."

The tour took two long hours. From time to time, their physical restrictions overcame them and they sat down for a short rest, still observing their surroundings in awe."

It was incredible to see this group of frail men and women sturdily climbing the pathway to the well curated butterfly booth, home to spectacularly beautiful colorful butterflies of rare varieties."

Warm feedback arrived as soon as the next day through phone calls, text messages and more. The satisfactory smiles and enthusiastic responses proved unequivocally: the complex preparations and detailed logistics were worth it all."

Thanks for this opportunity and we look forward to others."

## Emergency Response in East Jerusalem

Program	Description and Need	Details	Impact
The East Jerusalem Coalition – Emergency Headquarters	<p>In response to the intense needs and hardships experienced in east Jerusalem since October 7, JF supported 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.</p> <p>The coalition is the first collaboration of its kind to administrate emergency needs and responses in east Jerusalem.</p>	<p>The Coalition has orchestrated the distribution of food baskets to families in need and, in collaboration with health funds and local pharmacies, it helps fund the purchase of medication for those in need.</p> <p>Coalition volunteers are in regular contact with families in east Jerusalem, provide relevant information and help in accessing rights through the <b>Aa'ta Center</b> and continually assess needs on the ground.</p> <p>An additional focus is resilience workshops and support for local youth &amp; young adults through schools and the welfare bureau</p>	<p>Over 3,000 families have received food baskets;</p> <p>90 families were assisted in purchase of medicine;</p> <p>Over 200 participated in some 10 lectures on freedom of speech and media guidelines;</p> <p>54 social workers and 22 kindergarten teachers were trained to enhance resilience amongst young children in a program encompassing some 6,000 children from kindergarten through grade 5</p>
Training first response teams for emergencies	<p>East Jerusalem lacks professional first response emergency teams. As the area has high potential for tense outbreaks, and lacks safety infrastructure (i. e. bomb and earthquake shelters), this issue must be addressed, to guarantee quick response in case of casualties, and specifically during this tense period – both as a precaution and as a trust building initiative</p>	<p>JF is partnering with the Jerusalem Municipality and the Community Council of Beit Hanina to train first aid responders from amongst east JLM's youth and young adults. 2 levels of courses are available: first aid responder (44-hour course) for youth ages 15-17; and medics course (180 hours) for young adults ages 18-25. Training local responders will help build trust between authorities and the population and will enable efficient and accessible service in emergencies.</p>	<p>20 medics</p> <p>120 first aid providers</p>



## Double Impact

Left: Visit at Gottesman Israel Aquarium



Right: Visit at Tisch Family Zoo



Elderly and Holocaust Survivors touring the Gottesman Israel Aquarium and Tisch Family Zoo







Visits at the Tower of David Museum



Theatrical production for children at the Jerusalem Theater



Visits at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens



Biotechnology students from Sderot at the Belmonte Labs



Theater Company Jerusalem artists performing at hotels



Hazira Toy Factory.  
Above: JF Chief Programming Officer Ruth Diskin & Hazira CEO & Artistic Director Amit Drori

