



We Provide Aid for Vulnerable Jews



JDC PROGRAM DASHBOARD

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OUR WORK

We Provide Aid To Vulnerable Jews

...because Jews in many parts of the world go hungry, lack medicine, and are missing the other critical resources they need to live full lives.

We provide the essentials—food, medicine, clothing, shelter. And we give hope—jobs, training, and transformative support for Jews in need. We do this as partners with, and as part of, local Jewish communities from Latin America to Europe and the former Soviet Union to North Africa, building and evolving care networks to ensure the most vulnerable have a lifeline. Whether we are serving elderly Jews in post-Soviet states who survived decades of oppression—even the Holocaust—or Jewish families whose life savings vanished overnight due to political or economic collapse, we ensure poor and vulnerable Jews know they're not forgotten.

Without the fundamental elements of survival, people can't live a dignified life. That's why we do this work. That's why the future needs us now.

PROOF POINTS*

*All statistics as of June 2019

All proof points are illustrative and do not represent all of JDC's programs

55,000 PEOPLE ARE HELPED BY JDC on any given day.

18+ MILLION HOURS of home health care were provided to vulnerable Jews living in desperate conditions in the last year.



Today, life-saving food, medicine, and homecare are provided in the former Soviet Union (FSU) to nearly 90,000 of the world's poorest Jews in countries like Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Russia.

5,300  volunteers in 44 communities

110,000+

impoverished and often isolated Jews across Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America receive life-saving aid from JDC in a single year.

EMERGENCY AID DURING WORLD WAR II

Following the Nazi invasion of Poland in September 1939, **JDC opened shelters and soup kitchens that by 1941 were helping to keep alive 630,000 Jews.**

CRISIS IN ARGENTINA

Responding to Argentina's 2001-02 economic crisis, which soon impacted neighboring Uruguay, JDC helped create and fund a network of **75 community social assistance centers that by 2004 were assisting over 36,000 Jews suddenly facing desperate levels of poverty.**

Home Health Care in the Former Soviet Union



Liudmila Starikovich lives just a 10-minute walk from the nearest supermarket, but she's entirely dependent on her JDC care team for food, medicine, personal hygiene items, and more.

Disabled all her life and severely overweight due to a hormone condition, Liudmila hasn't been outside in nine years.

"My JDC homecare worker is the sunshine in my window," she said. "Since I have a cataract, she reads to me. She bathes me, she cooks for me, she does laundry for me, she cleans. She is my eyes, my legs, and my ears."

Starikovich is one of nearly 90,000 elderly Jews JDC cares for across the former Soviet Union. Most live alone, and many live on pensions as low as \$2/day.

After paying her utility bills, Starikovich — a retired librarian and the daughter of two World War II veterans — is left with just \$40 each

month. Without JDC assistance, she's sure she wouldn't be able to survive.

"We Belarusians have lived through so many terrifying tragedies — Chernobyl, the war, the Holocaust," she said. "It's necessary to support those who are in need, and there are plenty of us. Without JDC support ... well, I don't even want to think about that."

Jewish values are at the heart of JDC's mission and response, said Svetlana

Marshak, the director of social work at the Hesed social welfare center in Minsk.

"Our work isn't easy, and I can't deny that we face difficulties," she said. "Still, I love this work and I do it because I'm Jewish, our clients are Jews, and supporting the vulnerable means guaranteeing the future of our community."

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Marshak, who's worked for JDC since 2005, said some cases move her to her core: Liudmila Starikovich is one of them.

"Many destinies have passed before my eyes over the years, but there are some cases that really reach the soul ... the ones where you realize that if JDC didn't exist, we could really lose a person," she said. "With Liudmila, the closest person in her life is her homecare worker. JDC has become her *de facto* family."

Across 11 time zones and 11 countries, JDC provides more than 18 million hours of home health care each year and operates 69 Hesed social welfare centers — the largest Jewish humanitarian relief effort since World War II.

But that scale isn't what Starikovich thinks about each day.

For her, JDC is closer to home, more intimate: It's a hot meal delivered, a comforting conversation, a dignified life.

"This organization has helped me since 1998, and I've never encountered anything other than utter kindness and understanding. They know the needs of a person," she said. "It's not only the aid they provide — they just get it."