



# SOUTH AFRICA



BY THE  
NUMBERS

56.5 MILLION  
COUNTRY POPULATION

52,300  
JEWISH POPULATION

## In South Africa, JDC partners with local communities to empower women — improving livelihoods and broadening horizons.

**With a diverse people and vibrant culture, South Africa is a center of innovation on the African continent. That's why JDC is proud to partner with local communities across the country, empowering women to achieve their dreams.**

Through Imagine More — the nonsectarian initiative launched in 2021 — JDC identifies sustainable, cost-effective, and cutting-edge solutions to build the capacity of women and better their livelihoods while preserving their rights, dignity, and well-being. Imagine More leverages Israeli innovation and technology with Jewish philanthropy to help women establish businesses, also providing them with access to finance, training, and technology.

Helping women in South Africa achieve parity in health, education, and earnings, JDC's work is critical to the future. But in its first year alone, Imagine More reached 375 women and indirectly supported an additional 700 family members, both in South Africa and other African countries.

We are also committed to strengthening ties with South African Jewish communities, whether through holiday celebrations with local partners, classes on beekeeping and gardening, or volunteer work.

In South Africa, JDC puts Jewish values into action for those who need it most — each and every day. Our work has just begun, and we're already seeing the profound impact on women's lives.

### JDC in South Africa: A Snapshot UBUNTU BEEKEEPING PROJECT

JDC partners with South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) to help urban and rural women install beehives, teach them beekeeping, and train them to establish honey production businesses. This program aims to promote an exchange of knowledge between those with beekeeping experience and those without.

This project also aims to increase food security in rural South Africa by increasing commercial food





production; facilitating access to financial services; increasing agricultural land productivity; connecting women to local and international markets; addressing poverty and inequality; and promoting economic development in South African communities.

## AGRIHUB



Small-scale farmers who use traditional methods are often pushed to the margins of the formal economy. That's why JDC partners with the South

African Urban Farming and Food Trust (SAUFFT) to run AgriHub, a program that delivers services and products that enable people start their own agricultural businesses (e.g., plant nurseries, agricultural support, and tools) and help smallholder farmers improve their businesses (e.g., connections to markets, information sharing, and facilities for sorting, packing, and processing goods).

AgriHub's overall aim is to improve food security and increase urban farmer income by establishing a network of AgriHubs in Cape Town and other urban centers. The project focuses on women farmers, helping them establish agricultural businesses, build community with other women, and access markets to sell their goods.

## SAVING GROUPS

Launched in 2022, JDC is partnering with the South African NGO Community Organization Resource Centre (CORC) to establish saving and credit groups. The groups are community-led and provide access to



small loans, thus increasing the community's economic opportunities and building financial resilience. The groups also benefit from access to the full network of more than 600 saving groups managed by CORC. The overall aim of this project is to increase economic opportunities for women.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY

JDC partners with local Jewish organizations — like Mensch and the Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg and Cape Town — to plan experiential and immersive learning about urban agriculture and beekeeping; organize team-building days through gardening and food preparation; package gifts, such as jars of honey, for Rosh Hashanah; and sponsor household gardening pods and beehives.



# JDC in South Africa: Images of Our Work



**Images from left:** Attendees prepare food at a Jewish-community event sponsored by JDC and its local partner, Mensch. Local farmers learn business skills at an AgriHub workshop in Langa, South Africa. Young Jewish-community members haul a bowl of vegetables at an event sponsored by JDC and its local partner, Mensch. Women learn about small loans at a CORC workshop.

