From the Sahara Desert to the Atlas Mountains, Morocco has long been a home for Jews. JDC is proud to help support this small and vibrant community.

JDC entered Morocco at the height of World War II, when it gave food, medical care, and vocational training to Jewish refugees escaping persecution in Europe. For many of the 300,000 local Moroccan Jews who lived in poverty and lacked proper sanitation facilities, JDC helped found OSE (Oeuvre de secours aux enfants) in the 1950s, an organization that helped secure medical services for the country’s poorest Jews. OSE still operates today.

Starting in the 1950s, JDC also launched a full-scale assistance program that supported, among other things: homes for the elderly; Jewish school systems and nutrition programs within these schools; milk distribution stations; infant clinics and preschool centers that helped combat malnutrition and child mortality; and vocational training to help fight poverty.

Morocco’s community today is centered around Casablanca, and a few smaller communities around the country, including Marrakesh. Numbering 1,500 after waves of immigration in past decades, the Jewish community is vibrant, with more than 20 synagogues and many kosher restaurants serving locals and Moroccan Jews visiting from abroad. Today, JDC
works in partnership with the community to provide social welfare assistance to the needy and support Jewish education and cultural programming for this small but dynamic community.

**JDC in Morocco: A Snapshot**  
**CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE**

JDC provides essential care to elderly Jews at its Maison du Bel Age (Home for the Elderly) in Casablanca. The Maison du Bel Age has been a refuge for elderly Jews throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and JDC is helping to renovate the facilities. In addition, JDC partners with the community to provide cash assistance to poor and elderly individuals, as well as medical support through the OSE clinic. JDC also supports a Jewish home for the elderly in Tangier.

**COVID-19 RELIEF**

In the wake of COVID-19, JDC created a humanitarian relief fund for Jewish families struggling as a result of the pandemic’s economic fallout. Morocco is one of more than a dozen communities across the world that benefit from this fund. JDC also leveraged local institutions, like the OSE clinic and the Maison du bel Age, to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to the elderly and vulnerable.

**CHILDREN’S EDUCATION**

Investing in Jewish schools accomplishes two goals: It assures parents that their children will grow up with a foundation of Jewish knowledge, and it secures the future of Jewish Morocco by cultivating the next generation of its leaders. That’s why JDC supports the Ozar Hatorah Neve Shalom School in Casablanca, which allows children who can’t afford Jewish school the benefit of a high-quality education. Ozar Hatorah runs computer literacy classes, intensive courses in French and mathematics, and Jewish education classes.

**JDC in Israel: Images Across Time**