



EMERGENCY NEEDS/ ACTION PLAN – UKRAINE



קרן היסוד
FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL



הסוכנות היהודית
JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL
ישראל

Every one of us, together.

March 24, 2022

Ukraine currently finds itself under fire. The Russian attack is moving quickly and fiercely through the country. Russian troops are advancing toward the capital city of Kyiv as Ukrainians live in fear of what is next. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have been heading toward the borders, as others are drafted to fight in the Ukrainian military.

Despite the chaos and uncertainty, The Jewish Agency continues to operate albeit under extremely challenging circumstances. As most people are trying to rush out of Ukraine, Jewish Agency teams are rushing in for the sake of saving lives.

An estimated 200,000 people who are Aliyah eligible live in Ukraine. Many of them receive services from The Jewish Agency including pre-Aliyah assistance, Jewish education, informal Jewish activities and much more. In 2021, there were 3,000 Olim from Ukraine, and we expect that number to increase dramatically in 2022.

There were 29 Shlichim stationed across Ukraine, with 65 members of their immediate families. An additional 90 local workers are employed by The Jewish Agency. Currently, the majority of the educational Shlichim and their families have been evacuated to Israel. Our senior Shlichim remained in the region to take care of evacuation and Aliyah operations as well as the community.

The Jewish Agency has a presence all over Ukraine. Although we are centralized in Kyiv, Odessa, Kharkiv and Dnipro, we are truly spread all over the country.

There is a major demand for leaving Ukraine and making Aliyah. We are hearing from many cities and communities that hundreds of groups want to leave and are interested in making Aliyah. As of March 7, we have received over 28,000 calls to The Jewish Agency's Global Center and to the special hotline established after the war started, out of which over 9,000 are requests to make Aliyah from Ukraine.

In addition to Ukraine, we are seeing an explosion of calls from Russia, Belarus and other countries in the region. We have received over 28,000 calls from people in Russia and Belarus with close to 9,000 requests for immediate Aliyah assistance.

At the current time, The Jewish Agency is focused primarily on emergency rescue and Aliyah operations in Ukraine and increasingly focused on assisting Jews in Russia.

Estimates for Aliyah from Ukraine requests are as high as 20,000 people. The Jewish Agency is planning for the Aliyah of 15,000 people over the next six months. The number of olim that we estimate from Russia could be closer to 25,000+.

The Jewish Agency has several Shlichim **on the ground in the area** making contact with Jews and Jewish organizations across the country. Our priority is making sure that those who would like to leave Ukraine and make a new life in Israel are able to arrive safely to any of the six border points that we have opened in five countries surrounding Ukraine.

Arriving at one of the border crossing points is extremely dangerous; there are transportation challenges and we are working with local coordinators and our point people, including Christian Friends of Israel, to help these groups arrive safely to the Western border.

We are assisting financially and logistically to provide transportation for future Aliyah. We are dealing with the challenge of leaving behind men between the ages of 18-60 in Ukraine. This is causing terrible heartbreak for the families who have been torn apart, with fathers and sons staying behind while mothers and their children advance across the border.





We have **opened six temporary housing stations** in countries on the border with Ukraine to provide shelter and care for those who will await Aliyah outside Ukraine. We are working at these border crossings in joint teams with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and “Nativ,” to enable the background checks and granting of visas for their Aliyah. These six centers will require serious financial and personnel investment by The Jewish Agency to care for the immediate needs of immigrants as they cross the border, and as they address the trauma they are facing having run from their homes. These centers are located in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Moldova. We already have 5,000 beds available to house those on the way to Israel to make Aliyah. We are constantly reassessing the needs and adding additional beds and services as necessary.

We have sent a large amount of **employees** from Israel and additional security for our six centers. Currently over 80 staff members are providing direct services on the borders. As those services grow, and demand for Aliyah grows, the demand for the presence of Jewish Agency professionals will grow as well.

This operation of collecting the requests to leave Ukraine from thousands of households, helping them to make it over one of the six border crossings, caring for refugees once they are over the border and then welcoming them into our temporary housing while they await Aliyah, accompanying them until their arrival in Israel, and finally bringing them safely into Israel to start their absorption, is truly at the heart of what The Jewish Agency is doing during this emergency. These are all being done under terribly difficult conditions that are always changing. We are constantly monitoring the situation in Ukraine and making decisions accordingly.

The Prime Minister’s Office has turned to the Jewish Agency to ask our assistance in creating a life-saving program for young people escaping Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. In response, the Jewish Agency has created a program to get 3000 young people out of these countries and bring them to Israel to participate in a six-month program. Many of these people are professionals in the areas of engineering, medicine, etc and our focus will be on converting their skillset in order to ensure their success in Israel. The program would focus on giving these young people solid skills to succeed in their new life in Israel. The courses would offer intensive Hebrew studies, degree conversation and other immersion skills. We will capitalize on Masa’s infrastructure and rely heavily on the Jewish Agency’s many years of experience in the area of “young aliyah”. This initiative has been given top priority by the Prime Minister’s office and will be matched dollar to dollar by each donation brought in by the Jewish Agency.



Security has become a major concern for Jewish institutions in Ukraine as war has created major instability. We want to provide as many institutions as we can with financing to help protect their buildings and their property. In the coming days we will transfer emergency financial assistance to 150 local, communal organizations across Ukraine. This will help them deal with the very difficult situation of being under fire, allow them to carry on as much as possible and ensure that they continue to exist. Our experience in 2014 taught us that this is a critical need for Jewish organizations. This assistance is in addition to our long-term grants to Jewish organizations in Ukraine who have applied to our Security Assistance Fund.

Finally, working with over 70 local municipalities and other governmental bodies, The Jewish Agency is leading a massive effort to mobilize Israeli donations to Ukrainians. Israelis are looking to donate goods and services towards their Ukrainian brothers and sisters. The Jewish Agency will deliver these goods to refugees in border countries and to olim upon arrival in Israel.

Our Areas of Immediate/Urgent Need

In light of the above, these are our most immediate needs:

1. Helping those who want to leave Ukraine and **make Aliyah** leave the country safely, arrive at one of our six border crossings, and wait for their approval. Jewish Agency Shlichim and local employees are helping Ukrainians who are eligible to make Aliyah, to reach their final destination. To date, The Jewish Agency has received 9000+ requests for Aliyah and expects that number to rise.
2. Allowing for the **Aliyah from those in Russia** asking for our assistance. Because of the situation, the availability of flights is slim and the cost is exorbitant.
3. **Creating safe and secure locations** to house potential Olim in one of the five countries sharing a border with Ukraine. Once people are safely transported out of the country, The Jewish Agency is housing and taking care of Olim as they await their approval for Aliyah. This is both a lengthy and expensive process.
4. We anticipate the need for **Aliyah rescue flights**. 3,000 Olim made Aliyah from Ukraine last year, but we know from experience that the number will likely increase to 15,000 new Olim due to the situation.
5. Providing **Security Grants** to local organizations in Ukraine. Local community organizations are desperate to receive emergency security funding in order to preserve and protect their centers under fire. The fear is that the fighting may lead to looting and other serious challenges to both people and property.
6. Providing an immediate **rescue for 3000 young Ukrainians**, Belarussians and Russians who want to escape their current reality and come to Israel. This opportunity would be focused primarily on career development. These young people would get a focused and intensive experience to provide them skills they will need to integrate into Israeli society, including language, cultural sensitivity and career training. Career training would include a doctors' relicensing program, and training in high tech, programming, the hospitality industry and more.



7. The influx of new Olim will impact our operations in Israel as well. They will require immediate financing of their basic needs as well as their long-term **integration needs** in our absorption centers that are focused on the absorption of immigrants from Ukraine. We estimate that of the Olim, 2,000 will need serious economic and emotional assistance from The Jewish Agency, including an average of three months of housing and care in one of our absorption centers.
8. We will need to move a **massive number of Jewish Agency employees** to the surrounding areas to help facilitate the intake of Olim, their immediate care and processing their Aliyah. In the coming days and weeks these refugees will require a large amount of human care. We have already sent many Shlichim to the six centers to help greet the influx of Olim.

The below numbers are based on the Aliyah and care of 15,000 people. (flights are based on six months and hotels are based on three months)

The Jewish Agency remains fully prepared to execute on the above listed items. We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of our partners and supporters in allowing us to perform our life-saving rescue operations around the world. **Thank you.**

Summary of Needs

| Need | Cost in \$US* |
|---|---------------|
| Transferring and Evacuating Aliyah Candidates | \$77,200,000 |
| Rescuing 3,000 Young Jews and Bringing them to Israel on an Absorption Program | \$12,600,000 |
| Emergency Security Support for Local Community Organizations | \$1,050,000 |
| Olim Flights | \$6,100,000 |
| Absorption in Israel | \$2,719,500 |
| Unexpected costs | \$4,600,000 |
| Total Ukraine Needs | \$104,269,500 |
| Russian Olim Flights | \$26,250,000 |
| Grand Total | \$130,519,500 |



Detailed Table of Needs

| Need | Cost in \$US* |
|--|----------------------|
| Transferring and Evacuating Aliyah Candidates | |
| Transferring Jewish Agency operation from Kyiv to Lviv / Warsaw; Israeli Shlichim to Ukraine and surrounding countries to help execute the emergency Aliyah operation; security officers to oversee the security operation | \$6,400,000 |
| Management and oversight of operation in various countries, including 24/7 situation room, digital targeting of potential Olim | \$2,100,000 |
| Operation of 24/7 emergency line to the Jewish community | \$1,500,000 |
| Aliyah Aid (Israeli solidarity effort) | \$350,000 |
| Transportation and security for transportation, including evacuation through humanitarian corridors | \$9,450,000 |
| Renting and operating shelters for Aliyah candidates in Ukraine and neighboring countries- transitioning before flying to Israel | \$57,400,000 |
| Total for Transferring and Evacuating Aliyah Candidates | \$77,200,000 |
| Rescuing 3,000 Young Jews and Bringing them to Israel on an Absorption Program | |
| Rescue of Young Ukrainians, Belarussians and Russians | \$12,600,000 |
| Total Rescuing 3,000 Young Jews and Bringing them to Israel on an Absorption Program | \$12,600,000 |
| Emergency Security Support for Local Community Organizations | |
| Security grants for the local organizations | \$1,050,000 |
| Total for Emergency Security Support for Local Community Organizations | \$1,050,000 |
| Olim Flights and Tests | |
| Chartered Olim flights to Israel | \$6,100,000 |
| Total for Olim Flights | \$6,100,000 |
| Absorption in Israel | |
| Absorption needs in Israel | \$2,719,500 |
| Total for Absorption in Israel | \$2,719,000 |
| Unexpected costs 5% | \$4,600,000 |
| Total Ukraine Needs | \$104,269,500 |
| Russian Olim Flights | \$26,250,000 |
| Grand Total | \$130,519,500 |

* Direct operational services are included.

Photos: The Jewish Agency for Israel, ~~depositphotos~~



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