

JNF CANADA

EMERGENCY AID

TO ISRAEL'S SOUTH

Join the Jewish National Fund of Canada in supporting the heartbroken, bleeding communities in Israel's south

Under the cover of rockets launched in the early hours of Oct 7, hundreds of Hamas terrorists invaded western Negev communities and towns where they proceeded to shoot, burn and torture hundreds of civilians while taking others captive. Entire families have been forced to flee their homes, while others still are searching for their loved ones and burying their dead.

Now, as Israel counts its dead, cares for its wounded and prepares for war, new threats loom over the north.

In these challenging times, JNF has launched a series of emergency measures to aid the embattled communities of the south with whatever they need, including the donation of ambulances, medical and psychological assistance, food, and shelter, as well as bringing cheer to their children, many of them still holed up in bomb shelters.

The details for each project are as follows:

HOSTING FAMILIES EVACUATED FROM THE WAR ZONE IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL

JNF Canada is hosting families who have been forced to evacuate from cities and towns in the western Negev as the region becomes embroiled in war.

JNF is mobilizing and hosting the families at hotels located in Israel's safer regions. We aim to make a difference by providing a safe, supportive environment in which these families, who have witnessed so much death and destruction, can slowly heal, and begin to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.



Residents living in a building which got a direct hit by a missile fired from Gaza, in North Tel Aviv, seen being evacuated on October 7, 2023. Militants from Gaza sent a barrage of rockets into central and southern Israel this morning. Photo by Tomer Neuberg/Flash90

BRINGING CHEER TO THE CHILDREN FROM ISRAEL'S SOUTH

JNF Canada has launched a series of educational and recreational activities for children who remain in the south or have been evacuated with their families.

The activities, run by our devoted staff and volunteers at the KKL-JNF Education & Community Division, include musical and theatre performances, arts and crafts, games, guided sessions and more, providing joy and reassurance for children who have witnessed their worlds turning upside down.



Photo by JNF Photo Archive

EMERGENCY TRAUMA SUPPORT FOR TERROR VICTIMS AT THE SDEROT RESILIENCE CENTER

JNF Canada is seeking to fund one-on-one trauma therapy sessions with trained mental health providers at the Sderot Resilience Center.

The chronic PTSD that so many southern residents are living with has become exacerbated by the terrifying events of October 7. The heartbreak and uncertainty has made their lives a living hell. Unsurprisingly, the Resilience Center in Sderot has been swamped with requests for psychological support, and it is buckling under the strain.



Photo by Bonnie Sheinman, JNF Photo Archive

EMERGENCY AID TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH

Israel's south has experienced unprecedented and unfathomable destruction and loss since the onslaught unleashed from the Gaza Strip. JNF has launched a drive to provide aid in prompt response to the changing needs of affected locales

JNF Canada is in direct contact with the relevant authorities in the western Negev and receiving ongoing updates about their immediate needs. Funds will be transferred for these purposes as required.



A rocket is fired from the Gaza Strip by Palestinian militants hit a building and cars in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, October 9, 2023. Photo by Chaim Goldberg, Flash90

RENOVATING AND UPGRADING EXISTING BOMB SHELTERS

JNF Canada has committed to renovate and upgrade existing bomb shelters in communities in southern Israel.

Due to lack of use in past years in low-income communities, a lot of bomb shelters have fallen into disrepair.

Your generous donation can make a world of difference. By donating to JNF Canada's effort you are literally saving lives.



EMERGENCY AID TO 9 CITIES AND REGIONAL COUNCILS IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL

JNF Canada has decided to provide an emergency package to support nine local authorities and cities in southern Israel in the amount of one million NIS per authority, responding to the immediate needs following the massive attack they experienced.

The emergency basket includes bomb shelters to be deployed in the communities, generators, equipment for the formation of a local emergency team, and computers.

Support of this project will directly contribute to the security and wellbeing of the Israeli residents living in these communities.



Courtesy of Sderot Municipality

PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT US EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMMUNAL RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

The heroes who fended off the terrorists during the initial onslaught were members of the communal rapid response teams, civilians organized in local defense units who faced the terrorists with bravery while protecting their families and community.

JNF Canada has decided to allocate a sum of NIS 200,000 per community to equip the emergency teams in communities close to the border with the Gaza Strip.

We must ensure that those who are entrusted with the safety of the communities in Israel's south are fully equipped and prepared to face any threat.



A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip by Palestinian militants hit an apartment building in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. October 9, 2023. Photo by Chaim Goldberg, Flash90

This is an unprecedented event, a heartbreaking and earthshattering time for Israel and for Jewish communities around the world.

Now is the time to come together as an international family and unite for the people of the western Negev, who have suffered unimaginable tragedy.

Your support is more than just money. It is a huge, comforting hug to the stunned and grieving people of Israel. Join us in holding the bereft, repairing the brokenness, and taking the first steps to collective healing.



Bomb Shelter Upgrade in Be'er Sheva

PROJECT COST

\$50,000

\ Who you will help

In response to the horrific Hamas attacks against communities in southern Israel on October 7, 2023, JNF Canada launched the Israel Resilience Fund.

We've spent decades supporting social infrastructure in Sderot, Be'er Sheva, Ashkelon and other periphery communities in the Gaza envelope, knowing that they receive less support and services than metropolitan centres. We've built close relationships with their community leaders and residents, and we will be there for them now in their darkest days.

These attacks have destroyed many communities, but they will never destroy our spirit. We stand together, as one Jewish community, ready to help Israelis in this unimaginable time.

\ Your donation will fund

Be'er Sheva is urgently collecting funds to renovate an existing bomb shelter which, due to lack of use in past years, has fallen into disrepair. It requires an upgraded ventilation and A/C system, a new heavy-duty interior lock and security features, cleaning and installation of new furniture. These upgrades will make it ready to protect citizens of Be'er Sheva in the coming weeks, and years ahead.

Location

Be'er Sheva is the largest city in the Negev Desert, and the fourth most populated in Israel.





Food Sustainability Centre in Lod

COMMUNITY FOOD SUPPORT URGENTLY NEEDED

\ Who you will help

In the city of Lod, 36% of the city's residents live below the poverty line. Most families are Ethiopian, have language and cultural gaps, and struggle to integrate into the employment market and society. Living below the poverty line means that families struggle to put food on the table. When people are routinely hungry, they cannot concentrate at school or at work, and instead are only focused on where their next meal will come from. It's impossible to break the cycle of poverty that keeps families stuck in difficult situations if you cannot first meet your basic needs.

To ensure all citizens of Lod are properly fed and cared for, the city is launching three sustainable food initiatives. These initiatives will be housed in a central multi-purpose building and provide widespread benefits for Lod – it will create opportunities for employment and livelihood, social empowerment and local pride, and self-generated income. Once built, the program expects to serve 400 families in 2023, and 1000 families by 2025.

\ The Location

Lod is 15km southeast of Tel Aviv.



Food Sustainability Centre in Lod

\ Your donation will fund

Price: \$165,000 CAD

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Lod city requires a multi-purpose building that will house 3 food programs. With the recent attacks, it is even more critical to support the community's food security and ensure that no one goes hungry.

Most urgently, the Food Salvaging Program will collect surplus (leftover) warm food from nearby IDF bases and distribute it to families in need. This solution serves two important visions: It salvages food that would otherwise go to waste, while providing families in need with warm, high-quality meals.

Serving the long-term need of the community, a **Community Market**, run by volunteers and students, will collect and distribute large quantities of unsold produce from nearby farms, bakeries and merchants, that are typically thrown away. The long-term goal is to develop a large network of merchants so that leftover food is redistributed to the people who need it. Finally, a **Vegetable Garden** will combine ancient Ethiopian cultivation practices with technological innovation like hydroponics (growing food in water), creating a food-centered community garden space.



