



For decades, The Jewish Agency has had a significant presence in Ukraine to serve its Jewish population of nearly 200,000. We've sent *Shlichim* (Israeli emissaries) to serve local Jewish communities, teach in Sunday schools and bring an Israeli flair to summer camps. We've also formed partnerships with regional Jewish organizations, offered professional training and employed staff in Ukraine to help guide those looking to move to Israel through the Aliyah process.

This week, the Russian army launched an attack on Ukraine. The fog of war is still thick, but it is known that a number of cities were attacked from the air and Russian ground forces infiltrated Ukrainian territory on several fronts. This is an extremely dramatic and exceptional situation.

We took a few important and drastic steps right away. We relocated our *Shlichim* and their families that are on the ground countrywide doing vital work in the Jewish community to a safer location so they can continue this work. We are also sending in more personnel to assist them.

Our local employees in Ukraine continue to work from home and we are in constant contact with them. We also advanced salary payments to these employees to ensure their ability to stock up on food and other necessities and emergency care packages were provided.

Working with the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), **we opened an emergency hotline** for those in Ukraine who urgently need to make Aliyah and for the 1,500 young Ukrainians in Israel on our programs who are separated from their families and need to reach them. **The hotline is operating in Hebrew, Ukrainian and Russian** and we're ramping up with additional staff to support the expected demand. The Ukrainian *olim* (immigrants) are expected to arrive with very little belongings and likely in a difficult emotional state that may require psychological support and follow-up. We are preparing to address the unique needs of this unusual situation.

The security of local Jewish communities and community institutions is of course

foremost in our minds during this period. **We are accelerating the implementation of a program offering protection to Jewish institutions throughout Ukraine through The Jewish Agency's Security Assistance Fund.** Additionally, we are preparing to distribute emergency grants to Jewish community organizations across the country to upgrade their safety measures in the face of challenging realities (e.g., prevent looting during the war). This crucial aid will make it possible to sustain these essential organizations.

Last year, 3,100 olim from Ukraine arrived in Israel. An additional 385 immigrants arrived from Ukraine since the start of 2022, of whom 100 came earlier this week on a pre-planned flight in cooperation with the IFCJ. **We know from experience that the number of olim may double imminently due to this crisis.**

We are continuing to closely monitor the situation and are coordinating efforts with our partners and all relevant Israeli government ministries to address various needs due to the escalation. **As ever, we are committed to ensuring the security of the Jewish people and are ready to take further action as needed to ensure the security of the Jews of Ukraine.**



Amira Ahronoviz

CEO and Director General

The Jewish Agency for Israel

For information regarding the Aliyah (immigration) process to Israel, our emergency hotline toll-free phone numbers are:

Calling from Ukraine:

0800504603

For Relatives in Israel:

1800228055 extension 4

Hotline Activity hours (in local time):

Saturday-Thursday: 8am-8pm

Friday: 8am-6pm



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