



JDC ISRAEL PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026



REDUCING GAPS



GROWTH



RECOVERY



THE JOINT





It is with great pride that we present this listing and description of our current JDC Israel programs. It is a listing of our long term programs as well as the countless interventions that we launched in the response to the challenges Israel is facing post October 7.

We hope this comprehensive overview of our work will serve as a resource you can share in multiple settings.

Please note: this information is also available electronically.

Should you wish to learn more about any initiative, the JDC team will be glad to provide additional details.

At the bottom of each page, you'll notice a set of hashtags. These are a way to tie the program to the key issues JDC is addressing and placing the specific program within a broader context.

This listing of our programs is a living resource. As we continue to develop new programs, we will add new entries, ensuring that you always have the most up-to-date picture of JDC Israel's work and innovation.

Amy and Hadas

Sample Hashtags

# Prosperity in Cities	Revitalizing War-Affected Cities with Hope and Opportunity
# B.B.B	Build Back Better Strengthening Public Systems for all Residents of Israel
# Employment	Building Resilient Employment Pathways for Recovery and Growth
# Recovery	Uplifting Injured Soldiers, Reservists, and Families Toward Renewal and Strength
# Future Generations	Nurturing Children, Youth, and Families Toward Stability and Success
# Optimal Aging	Engaging Older Adults as Leaders in Community Renewal
# Resilience and Trauma	Innovating Mental Health Support for a Thriving Tomorrow

JDC Israel

JDC-Israel

Year Launched: 1969

Target Population: Children, youth, and young adults at risk; people with disabilities and/or mental health challenges, people struggling economically; older adults; marginalized and minority communities; displaced Israelis; Israelis traumatized by October 7 and the Iron Swords War; ministries and civil service workers of the Israeli government. Every week, over 1 million Israelis benefit from services developed by JDC-Israel.

Program Description: Since 1948, Israeli society has faced entrenched social disparities, with some segments of the population—including at-risk youth, people with disabilities, and low-income families—struggling to access basic opportunities and services.

The Iron Swords War has only intensified these challenges. Those who were already vulnerable are now facing even greater emotional, economic, and physical hardship. At the same time, many individuals and families who were previously stable have been plunged into vulnerability due to trauma, displacement, job loss, and the collapse of small businesses—especially in affected regions where local economies have been severely disrupted. The loss of livelihoods has widened existing gaps and created new pockets of urgent need across the country. This new group of vulnerable people will be incorporated as a focus in JDC Israel's mission in the coming years.

JDC-Israel is a social innovator, committed to strengthening Israeli society's capacity to care for all its people. Operating in partnership with the Israeli government, municipalities, NGOs, and the private sector, JDC-Israel designs, pilots, and scales innovative programs aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of Israel's most vulnerable populations.

Its diverse work addresses key challenges facing the State of Israel, as follows:

Optimal Aging (JDC-Eshel): Developing services and policies to support the elderly in maintaining independence and quality of life.

Promising Futures for Young Israelis (JDC-Ashalim): Advancing opportunities for children, youth, and young adults at risk to break the cycle of poverty.

Workforce Integration and Productivity (JDC-Tevet): Assisting individuals facing employment barriers, and helping businesses thrive.

Independent Living for People with Disabilities (JDC-Israel Unlimited): Promoting inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Promoting Wellbeing in the Community: (JDC-Mental Health Initiative) Helping individuals overcome trauma and regain a sense of stability and resilience.

System Efficiency and Effectiveness (JDC-Elka): Enhancing the capacity and performance of public and civil service systems.

Desired outcomes: Greater social equality in Israeli society; improved quality of life and greater self-reliance for vulnerable people of all backgrounds; greater resilience among local communities; a range of scalable intervention models that can be adopted by government and other stakeholders for widespread implementation.

Since October 7, JDC-Israel has mobilized resources and expertise to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery solutions, focusing on trauma care, community resilience, rebuilding, and cross-cutting efforts.

In the coming years, JDC will be focusing on recovery, rebuilding, and social growth.



JDC-Israel Cross Organizational Hackaveret:

Israel's Center for Social Innovation

Year Launched: 2016

Department: JDC Cross-Organizational

Target Population: Aspiring social entrepreneurs from diverse and often marginalized Israeli communities, including people with disabilities, the ultra-Orthodox, and Arab Israelis.

Program Description: Israel is facing major social challenges, including a rapidly aging population, increasing economic disparities, widening scholastic gaps among children, people with disabilities who struggle to access services. We need new solutions, but every year, hundreds of social innovations fail to launch because their creators lack the necessary resources, know-how and connections to get them off the ground.

Hackaveret is JDC's center for social innovation in Israel, designed to transform bold ideas into scalable ventures that address the country's most urgent social challenges. Through a structured and inclusive approach, Hackaveret provides emerging entrepreneurs with expert mentoring, strategic planning, seed funding, and access to key networks. Its three programmatic tracks—the Incubator, the Accelerator, and the Scalerator—support ventures at every stage of development, from proof of concept to national scale-up.

Hackaveret prioritizes diversity by inviting individuals from target populations to create solutions for the very issues their communities face. Following October 7, the program rapidly adapted to support wartime resilience, selecting and funding 13 grassroots initiatives focused on mental health, trauma recovery, and community stability. These ventures, including digital wellness tools and trauma-support programs, are now being implemented across hospitals, schools, and social service networks.

Hackaveret has developed an expertise in trauma-informed entrepreneurship, and is assisting families that have been impacted by the war to develop social ventures to commemorate their loved ones.

Desired Outcomes: Ventures that develop innovative, practical solutions to entrenched social issues; strengthened capacity of social entrepreneurs to scale impact nationally; broader inclusion of marginalized populations in social innovation; and measurable improvements in community resilience, mental health, and social wellbeing.

#Technology #Innovation for Social Impact



Mashiv HaRuach (Frontline Cities)

Department: JDC-Israel, Cross-organizational

Year launched: 2024

Target population: An estimated 84,000 Israelis of all ages, across six frontline cities: Ashkelon, Karmiel, Ma'alot Tarshicha, Nahariya, Ofakim, and Rahat.

Program Description: Following the October 7 attacks, tens of thousands of Israelis—many seeking social support for the first time—are now grappling with trauma, economic hardship, and insecurity. This is especially true in Ashkelon, Ofakim, Rahat, and Nahariya—frontline cities already facing deep-rooted challenges such as poverty, limited services, and disengaged youth. The Iron Swords War has only intensified these struggles.

Mashiv HaRuach, which is a pillar of JDC's crisis response, addresses the urgent needs confronting these communities. The program draws on JDC's decades of experience in these regions, including long-standing relationships with municipal leaders and a foundation of effective local programs. Working with residents and city officials, Mashiv HaRuach designs targeted solutions that promote community resilience, rebuild a sense of security, and foster healing.

Key components include:

- Restoring community resilience through workshops, support groups, and citywide events that reduce trauma and build social cohesion.

- Activating public spaces by creating safe, vibrant environments that encourage gathering, promote healing, and restore civic pride.
- Expanding neighborhood support by equipping local leaders to assist vulnerable residents and appointing easily reachable support contacts within each neighborhood.
- Fostering civic identity through public tributes to local heroes and cultural events that boost morale and reinforce a shared sense of purpose.

Desired Outcomes: Strengthened community resilience; restored sense of personal safety and resilience; improved morale through cultural and social activities; growth in community voluntarism; greater local capacity to address trauma and foster healing.

#Resilience, trauma, and mental/physical health #Community resilience #North Recovery #South Recovery



Machar (Tomorrow Initiative)

Department: JDC-Israel, Cross-organizational

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Residents of hard-hit northern Israeli communities whose access to essential social services has been disrupted due to the collapse of local welfare departments.

Program Description: As the fallout from October 7 and the ongoing war continues to strain communities across Israel, Northern localities—many of them on the frontlines—are grappling with deep disruptions to core municipal services. In the aftermath of prolonged rocket attacks and mass displacement, municipal welfare systems in the North have been overwhelmed, leaving thousands without access to critical support. These departments—already under-resourced before the war—now face surging demand and diminished capacity.

Machar is a targeted initiative led by JDC and the Ministry of Social Affairs to rebuild, modernize, and future-proof collapsed welfare departments in frontline northern Israeli localities. Through Machar, JDC embeds skilled professionals into local municipalities to guide recovery, train welfare staff, and introduce real-time data tools that identify service gaps and streamline delivery. The model promotes smarter, more adaptive systems that respond to community needs in real time. Piloted in Kiryat Shmona, Shlomi, and Ma'ale Yosef, the initiative is now expanding to Hurfeish, Nahariya, Tzfat, and an additional locality still to be selected.

Desired Outcomes: Fully restored and upgraded welfare departments; renewed access to essential social services for vulnerable residents; enhanced municipal capacity for crisis response and recovery management; a scalable model for welfare system resilience across northern Israel.

#Resilience, Trauma, & Mental/Physical Health #Community Resilience
#North Recovery #Improving Public Systems



Data & Digital Division (DIDA)

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: JDC-Israel divisions and program managers; civil society organizations; government and tech sector leaders; indirectly, all Israelis served by JDC programs

Program Description:

JDC-Israel's Data & Digital Division (DIDA) leads a strategic effort to align rapid technological advancements with urgent social needs in Israel. By embedding digital tools and social values into the fabric of Israel's welfare ecosystem, DIDA ensures that innovation promotes equity, access, and resilience.

- **Tech by Design** integrates smart, data-driven tools into JDC programs, enabling more personalized, timely, and scalable service delivery for vulnerable populations.
- **The Social Chair** ensures that social principles—like accessibility, fairness, and rights protection—are embedded in national digital systems from the outset, through close collaboration with tech leaders and government ministries.
- **Social Inside** shapes Israel's innovation culture by training future tech leaders, starting with the IDF, to prioritize human needs and social impact in the development of new technologies.
- **Tech4Social** partners with high-potential NGOs to co-develop tailored digital solutions, helping them scale their services and measure outcomes more effectively.

Desired Outcomes:

Digitally enhanced and inclusive service delivery; national digital infrastructure built on social equity; a tech sector guided by social responsibility; and a civil society empowered to grow and innovate through technology.

#Technology #Innovation for Social Impact



JDC-Ashalim:

Promising Futures for Young Israelis

Background

After more than 25 years of social R&D to benefit Israel's young generation, **JDC-Ashalim** has amassed expertise in the field and become a trusted partner of government ministries and NGOs, leading national efforts to improve opportunities for children, youth, and young adults across the country. Approximately 75% of JDC-Ashalim's pilot programs have been adopted by government and scaled into national services.

Originally focused on children and youth at risk, JDC-Ashalim expanded its mission in 2020 to promote **social mobility** for vulnerable young Israelis up to age 30. This shift recognized that birthplace and parental socio-economic status remain powerful predictors of success in Israel—especially in the remote or underserved areas and minority communities. Without intervention, these young people face limited opportunity, which in turn affects Israel's broader social and economic resilience.

Currently, JDC-Ashalim works to promote the growth and strength of Israel's young generation: identifying those most impacted by instability and trauma of recent years, rebuilding resilience and supporting recovery, and improving quality and accessibility of key services. By meeting the moment, JDC-Ashalim activities today provide immediate and long-term benefits – for each child in need and for the benefit of Israeli society.

Responding to War

The **Iron Swords War** significantly disrupted the lives of Israeli children and families, particularly in Israel's North and South. It came on the heels of the Covid-19 pandemic years, where repeated school closures, high levels of health-related stress and financial instability affected child development and led to professional burnout.

During the war, over 200,000 Israelis were displaced, including 70,000 children and youth. Virtually all of the country's young people have been impacted to varying degrees by two disrupted school years, prolonged reserve duty absences, and ongoing missile threats.

The war has deepened the vulnerability of those already struggling beforehand and expanded the circle of those in need of assistance, placing more young people at risk due to instability, traumatic experiences, displacement or loss.

In response, JDC-Ashalim has **adjusted its strategy** to focus on **recovery and growth**, to ensure promising futures for Israel's young generation.

Looking Ahead

With nearly half of Israel's population under age 30, the future of the country depends on the success of its young people. JDC-Ashalim is committed to:

- Promote long-term healing for children, youth and young adults directly affected by war, especially in hard-hit regions
- Address the new risk behaviors and the growing number of youth and young adults in distress
- Restore the resilience, strength and adaptability of young people across the country
- Create opportunities for advancement and social involvement among Israel's younger generation.

Recovery and Growth for Young Israelis

In the coming years, JDC-Ashalim will respond to the pressing needs of Israel's young generation through a range of programs and activities that: help individual young **people** heal and succeed despite exposure

to poverty, crisis, or disadvantage; modernize and upgrade **professional practice** in the services that influence their lives and futures; and influence **policy** to ensure effective and lasting solutions.

We are launching targeted programs for:

- **Early Childhood** whose development was disrupted by the war
- **Students and Teachers** seeking to reengage in learning
- **Children, Youth and Families** affected by trauma, loss or crisis
- **Young Adults** facing repeated disruptions to study or employment
- **Hard-hit Regions** where children and families were displaced or under fire

While most programs are designed with a universal lens to serve vulnerable Israelis from all sectors of society, some programs are tailored for the specific needs of marginalized groups (Arab, Haredi, Bedouin, Druze). Our programs are increasingly integrating tech, AI and data-driven tools.

Today, Israel's vulnerable young people need relevant and effective solutions for the new situations they are experiencing. At JDC-Ashalim, we are putting these solutions in place to guarantee a positive and fulfilling future for our next generation and for our country.

Reimagining Daycare

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2022

Target Population: Birth to 3-year-old children and their parents; early years educators and local management.

Program Description: Promising equal building blocks from birth has been a long-standing mission for JDC. Since 2022, we have the privilege of leading a revolutionary mission to ensure quality, accessible daycare and early learning and enrichment opportunities– nationwide.

Side-by-side with the Ministry of Education and major NGO partners, we are defining new standards and regulations for daycare educare, creating local leadership of municipal early childhood services, and upskilling teams.

Reimagining Daycare aims to ensure high-quality, accessible early childhood education for all children, particularly those living in poverty or rural areas. Thus far, we have introduced and trained municipal leadership for the early years in over 200 locations, trained daycare staff and directors, introduced a curriculum and standards for supervised daycare. Since the start of the program, the proportion of babies and toddlers in supervised daycares has increased from 25% to nearly 50% of this age cohort.

There is still much to be done – particularly in quality assurance and access to daycare for underserved groups in Israel. Those are our goals for the next two years of the program.

Desired Outcomes: Improved quality of early childhood care; expanded access for children in underserved communities; enhanced professional capacity among early childhood supervisors; strengthened infrastructure for equitable, national early childhood education.

#Children and Youth #Education



Young Family Hubs

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2025-2026

Target Population: Children 0-6 and their parents in Jewish and Druze locations in the North

Program Description: 1 in 4 children in the North exhibit developmental delays, a significant increase from before the war. Many parents are balancing earning a living, caring for their young children's needs and their own need for support, and are seeking a centralized address.

Young Family Hubs offer an integrated, one-stop-shop model that combines developmental screenings, therapies and enrichment for children, with emotional support and community-building resources for parents. JDC is preparing to launch the first Young Family Hubs, aiming to gradually establish a network of some 10 centers in northern Israel. Building on its trusted partnerships with local municipalities and government ministries and its involvement over the years in developing early childhood centers, JDC-Ashalim leverages its experience to design and implement these hubs effectively.

Desired Outcomes: Improved developmental outcomes for young children; enhanced emotional support for parents; stronger local ecosystems for early childhood care in regions affected by crisis.

[#Children and Youth](#) [#North Recovery](#) [#Prosperity in Cities](#) [#Health](#)



GROWTH

Early Childhood Health Promotion

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: Various modules started between 2021 and 2025

Target Population: Children aged 0–9 with developmental delays and their primary caregivers from all sectors of Israeli society, policymakers in the Israeli health system.

Program Description: Children living in Israel's geo-social periphery face widening developmental gaps, particularly in emotional and physical wellbeing. Of the country's two million children aged 0–9, an estimated 300,000 need diagnostic and therapeutic services, yet long wait times, inconsistent treatment availability, and limited access remain persistent challenges—especially in underserved communities.

Early Childhood Health Promotion addresses these disparities by combining system-level planning with direct support for children's health and development. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, JDC-Ashalim engages nurses and dieticians to promote healthy nutrition practices in public and private daycare centers, helping establish lifelong healthy habits. At the same time, the initiative is developing an advanced technological forecasting model to identify municipalities with the greatest gaps in early intervention services. This tool guides decision-makers in expanding access, improving service quality, and targeting resources more effectively to where they're most needed.

Desired Outcomes: Improved child nutrition; increased access to quality early intervention services; enhanced data-based policymaking; reduced disparities in child development between regions.

#Children and Youth #Health



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

EmpowerED Learning

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: High school students and educational staff in both Jewish and Arab schools, educational networks and leadership

Program Description: Israeli high school students are increasingly struggling to engage in their studies, following the disruptions of Covid-19 and the Iron Swords War. At the start of the 2024-2025 school year, 30% of surveyed students reported a deterioration in academic achievements. Similarly, 33% of evacuated youth during the first year of the war were either hidden or open dropouts from school.

EmpowerED Learning reimagines the secondary school years educational experience in order to better equip students with the tools needed to thrive and meet the complex challenges of today's reality. We are leveraging our experience introducing innovative teaching methodologies such as STEM, outdoor learning and internship programs alongside our long-time collaboration with the Ministry of Education to create a model for flexible, inquiry-based learning in Israeli high schools. Participating high schools will also create varied learning spaces for hands-on experiences, community engagement, and personal development. In the coming years, we will expand the program to reach 50 high schools across the country, which will be transformed into supportive school environments that build students' lifelong learning abilities and sense of purpose.

Desired Outcomes: Increased student resilience, adaptability, engagement and participation; development of life skills and future readiness; strengthened school-community connections.

#Children and Youth #Education



Haredi Education Advancement

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: Various modules started between 2020 and 2025

Target Population: Principals, educators, guidance counselors, psychologists, parents and over 30,000 students across the Haredi education network.

Program Description: Almost a quarter of Israel's schoolchildren are studying in the Haredi school system, and the population growth in Haredi society continues to increase. At the same time, the majority of Haredi teachers have lower credentials than teachers in the general education system, and will be challenged to address the educational and social-emotional needs of a growing student body in the coming years.

Haredi Education Advancement leverages our expertise in student-growth educational approaches and respect for JDC within Haredi society to build out the professional development for Haredi educators. This multifaceted initiative is building effective school leadership, enhancing teaching quality, and fostering stronger family-school collaboration.

- **School Leadership Development:** In partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Avney Rosha Institute, this culturally adapted training and certification track equips Haredi principals with skills in pedagogy, management, and team leadership and with peer mentorship.
- **Educational Quality Enhancement:** Targeting boys' schools, the program trains teachers and education network managers to improve instructional quality and address students' emotional, social, and cognitive development through inclusive, personalized teaching.
- **Parent-School Partnership:** Program facilitators and educational psychologists help build a supportive school climate with lasting ties between families and schools through structured engagement and school-based parent groups.

Desired Outcomes: Educators equipped with best practices and tools to support student development; higher educational standards; certified leadership corps; and family engagement and school collaboration.

#Children and Youth #Education #Haredi



Returning Northern Youth

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: 2,000 teens in 30+ moshavim, kibbutzim and towns near the northern border

Program Description: Teenagers in northern Israel are returning home after extended displacement and exposure to war-related trauma. Many are grappling with anxiety, disrupted routines, economic strain, and emotional distress, making it difficult to reintegrate into daily life. In their rural hometowns, overwhelmed local systems often lack the capacity to address the unique and growing needs of these youth.

Returning Northern Youth supports some 2,000 teens by expanding local youth services, reinforcing emotional and social support networks, and implementing an education-welfare model tailored for remote communities. The program is also recruiting new staff to the region, training and providing mentorship to some 50 youth counselors and community professionals. We are drawing on decades of experience in youth rehabilitation and deep-rooted partnerships with municipalities in leading this effort to rebuild youth resilience and strengthen local systems of care.

Desired Outcomes: Improved emotional wellbeing of teens; strengthened professional capacity; establishment of a sustainable education-welfare model for youth in rural northern communities.

#Children and Youth #North Recovery
#Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience



Benefits for Financial Resilience

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2022

Target Population: Israelis directly affected by the war or in financial distress, all sectors, nationwide

Program Description: The war in Israel in Israel has deepened economic disparities, especially in the North and South, leaving many Israelis—facing unemployment, shuttered businesses, or other emergency-related hardships—struggling to access financial benefits they urgently need. Even in routine periods, navigating Israel's benefits system is complex; in emergencies, it becomes overwhelming.

The Benefits for Financial Resilience project tackles the barriers that prevent vulnerable individuals and families from realizing their rights, with two modules: **Benefits Centers** help residents understand their eligibility and navigate the process to access government allowances and payments. There are some 40 centers which serve about 2,000 families annually, in partnership with local municipalities and the Ministry of Welfare. The newest centers are in the North and will activate mobile teams to reach residents in rural communities. The **Benefits and Rights Lab**, a partnership with Hebrew University and the Ministry of Welfare, conducts research on barriers to access, develops tech-based tools to streamline the process, and trains future social workers through a new academic course on Israel's benefits system.

Desired Outcomes: Improved quality of life and economic resilience for individuals and families in distress; expanded institutional capacity to deliver benefits more effectively.

#Children and Youth #North Recovery
#South Recovery #Prosperity in Cities



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Families in Crisis

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: Families coping with domestic violence or high-conflict divorce, all sectors

Program Description: Life crises can lead to loss of emotional control, anger, and potential violence within the family. Especially during wartime, marital tension is intensified, with PTSD and heightened aggression contributing to a surge in domestic violence: within six months of the Iron Swords War, women's hotlines reported a 30% rise in calls, mostly from new cases. Also, divorce rates have risen in recent years, attributed in large part to pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic and the war.

Families in Crisis takes a dual approach to managing family instability, preventing domestic violence and supporting families through difficult separations. The program seeks to prevent intimate partner violence by identifying and treating early signs of aggression among men at risk, particularly during the early stages of conflict. Parallel efforts focus on families undergoing separation, offering targeted services to manage conflict, reduce harm to children, and avoid drawn-out legal and emotional battles. Interventions are delivered through a network of professionals and municipal partners.

Desired Outcomes: Increased number of men experiencing life crises receiving treatment; families better able to manage the separation and divorce process.

#Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience #Children and Youth
#North Recovery #South Recovery #Women



Tech for All

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Children and youth aged 5-18 and educators in peripheral communities (all sectors); Indirect: municipal leadership, hi-tech industry.

Program Description: 25% of Israeli adults struggle with poor digital literacy, creating barriers to employment, education, and economic participation. This gap begins in childhood and disproportionately affects Arab communities and Israel's geo-social periphery, threatening the economic strength of Israel's economy in future years.

JDC, together with partners, is developing the Tech for All initiative to advance AI, digital literacy and tech skills for Israeli students. The initiative will include AI-enhanced learning that leverages artificial intelligence tools for personalized learning, tech track studies for gaining STEM competencies and experiences as a pathway to hi-tech careers, and afterschool digital skills development activities for low-income students. The initiative will also enhance teacher competencies in AI-enabled pedagogy, digital literacy and tech integration.

Desired Outcomes Enhanced student engagement, improved academic achievement, reduced digital gaps between communities. Integration into national education curriculum.

#Children and Youth #Education



KEREM Early Childhood LeadUp

Department: JDC-Ashalim

Year Launched: 2022

Target Population: Intermediate and senior leaders from all sectors influencing the early childhood field

Program Description: Investment in the early childhood years yields benefits both to the children themselves and to society as a whole in future years, with the return on investment in Israel estimated at 1:5. Yet, Israeli government early childhood spending is one of the lowest in the Western world.

We are partnering in leading the KEREM Early Childhood LeadUp prestigious leadership training program that aims to prepare high-ranking professionals to champion investments and policies for early childhood services. KEREM trains cohorts of highly experienced leaders in early childhood, and so far have trained 60 participants in the first two cohorts. A third cohort is planned to open in 2026.

KEREM brings together a diverse group of professionals in pivotal roles at both local and national levels, and fosters trust, shared dialogue, and collaboration. This continuously growing leadership network will develop and implement policies, services and responses for families with young children—and ultimately create new opportunities for children across the country.

Desired Outcomes: Formation of a leadership corps dedicated to elevating of the quality of early childhood services in Israel, through peer learning, partnerships, and policy change.

[#Children and Youth](#) [#Improving Public Systems](#)



This image shows a blank sheet of lined paper, likely from a notebook. The paper is white and features a light blue border. Inside the border, there are 20 horizontal lines, evenly spaced, providing a guide for writing. The lines are thin and black. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There is no text or other markings on the page.



JDC-Elka

Advancing Effective and Efficient Public Systems

Better Systems · Better Services · Better Lives

Background

JDC Elka has been at the forefront of strengthening Israel's public systems, working to ensure that all residents can access the public services they need to thrive. Through partnerships with government ministries, local authorities, civil society organizations and the business sector, we tackle system-wide challenges and transform them into opportunities for meaningful impact.

Our work focuses on modernizing government operations, promoting digital transformation, advancing equity through improved resource utilization, and building stronger connections between national and local leadership. We run comprehensive professional development programs, create innovative data-driven solutions, and build professional alumni networks spanning over 800 senior public servants committed to improving Israel's public service infrastructure.

Responding to War

The events following October 7 validated JDC-Elka's systems-thinking approach. Our networks mobilized quickly, digital tools became lifelines for emergency coordination, and regional programs supported vulnerable communities under strain.

Key emergency responses included:

- At the national level, JDC-Elka worked closely with the Prime Minister's Office, government ministries and others to strengthen, coordinate and align emergency efforts, and activate cross-sector solutions for rapid response.
- Northern Initiative: Supporting the local municipalities and regional efforts in rehabilitation and development of northern Israel
- Arab Municipalities: Expanding emergency capacity where vulnerability was highest
- Alumni Networks and Emergency Capacity Building for NGOs: Leveraging cross-sector trust and leadership for real-time crisis response

Looking Ahead

As Israel enters a critical phase of recovery and rebuilding, JDC Elka is driving the rehabilitation of public systems that support long-term national strength that can withstand future challenges.

Strategic Pillars for Reconstruction

1. Digital & Data Transformation
2. Resource Utilization
3. Systems Integration & Leadership

Digital Leaders for Local Government

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2016

Target Population: 33-40 senior public sector managers from local and national government— including municipal CEOs and senior government officials

Program Description: Digital Leaders for Local Government is a 10-month program led by JDC-Elka, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the Israel National Digital Agency. Designed in response to the urgent need for more resilient, tech-enabled public systems in the wake of national crises and ongoing technological shifts, the program strengthens the digital capacity and leadership of local government. It equips senior public sector leaders — including municipal CEOs and senior government officials — with the skills, tools, and vision to lead digital transformation. Participants gain expertise in AI, data strategy, change management, and emergency digital resilience. They also lead applied digital projects to improve local service delivery and engage with global best practices through international learning modules, building a national network of leaders committed to modernizing public service.

Desired Outcomes: The program aims to develop a national network of senior public sector leaders with the capacity to drive digital transformation across local and national government. Graduates will lead resilient, future-ready public systems by applying advanced tools in AI, data strategy, and change management; implementing digital solutions that improve local service delivery; and fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration.

The program builds a diverse leadership network built on program alumni and others to advance systemic, equitable digital transformation.

#Public Systems #Local Government #Digital Transformation
#AI & Data #Service Delivery #Crisis Resilience



Digital Leaders for Central Government

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2015

Target Population: Senior executives from government ministries, local authorities, and civil society; approximately 30–40 leaders per annual cohort.

Program Description: As artificial intelligence and data technologies reshape the public sector globally, Israel's central government must modernize its systems to meet the evolving needs of its citizens. Despite having access to vast amounts of public data, many government bodies lack the digital strategies, AI capabilities, and cross-sector collaboration needed to transform this information into smarter services and effective governance.

Digital Leadership for Central Government is a JDC Elka initiative designed to build a professional network of senior change agents (Elka Public Service Network) who will champion digital transformation across Israel's public sector. The program combines knowledge expansion, skill development, and hands-on application through three interwoven components: a professional track on AI, data strategy, and digital project leadership; an international track featuring study tours and global case studies; and an applied innovation track where inter-ministerial teams co-develop and implement digital and data-driven solutions.

By equipping leaders with advanced tools and a collaborative mindset, the program aims to improve decision-making, streamline processes, and design personalized, citizen-centered public services.

Desired Outcomes: Build a cross-government network of digital leaders to advance AI and data-driven innovation, improve public service delivery, and drive systemic transformation in Israel's central government.

#Public Systems #Central Government
#Digital Transformation #AI & Data
#Inter-Ministerial Collaboration
#Service Innovation



National Infrastructure Leaders Program

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: Mid-level managers in Israel's public sector who work in national infrastructure projects; indirect: all Israeli residents.

Program Description: Israel's population is growing faster than any other developed nation, with density projected to reach over 580 people per square kilometer by 2050. Yet public infrastructure investment remains low, under 2% of GDP, and infrastructure projects often take over a decade to complete. Without a unified national approach, congestion, inefficiency, and fragmented planning will continue to impede inclusive growth and quality of life.

The National Infrastructure Leaders Program is a pioneering initiative led by JDC Elka, in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance, to build a cross-sector network of change agents who will drive strategic reform in Israel's infrastructure systems. Each 300-hour program equips approximately 30 public sector professionals with the tools, global exposure, and collaborative mindset needed to design and implement more coordinated and innovative infrastructure solutions.

By connecting key decision-makers, fostering trust, and promoting a shared language across sectors, the program lays the groundwork for impactful, long-term transformation — advancing national productivity and equitable access to infrastructure for all.

Desired Outcomes: Create a unified, cross-sector infrastructure network (JDC Elka Public Service Network) that improves national planning, boosts productivity, and enhances quality of life through collaborative, long-term solutions.

#Public Systems #Infrastructure #Cross-Sector Collaboration
#Betterlife #Strategic Planning #NationalProjects



The Metro Forum (“ForumMetro”)

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: 40 senior professionals across 24 municipalities, national government, and transit agencies; indirectly impacting millions in Israel’s Tel Aviv metropolitan region.

Program Description: Israel’s Tel Aviv Metropolitan Metro Project is the country’s largest infrastructure initiative, intended to connect 24 municipalities through three lines, 109 stations, and 150 kilometers of track. With a projected cost of 150 billion NIS, the project’s success hinges not just on engineering, but on seamless cooperation between national agencies, local authorities, and NTA Metropolitan Mass Transit System. Past experience with light rail development shows that adversarial stakeholder dynamics can lead to massive delays and cost overruns, while trust and collaboration can accelerate timelines and enhance project outcomes.

To address this, JDC Elka launched the Metro Forum (“ForuMetro”) – a strategic platform to foster cross-sector collaboration and metro-readiness among senior leaders. The Forum convenes CEOs, city engineers, architects, planners, and executives from 13 local authorities, NTA, the Metro Authority, and key government ministries. Participants engage in monthly sessions, shared learning, professional consultation, and domestic and international study tours.

An overseas workshop will introduce a global model of integrated metro development, will deepen peer learning and inspire Israeli stakeholders to champion a more coordinated, people-centered approach to metro implementation.

Desired Outcomes: Strengthen trust, alignment, and metro-readiness across all key stakeholders to improve execution quality, reduce delays, and maximize the metro’s impact on urban development and public well-being.

#Public Systems #Urban Mobility #Metro Readiness
#Cross-Sector Collaboration #Stakeholder Equity
#Tel Aviv Metro



Leaders for Better Aging: National Network for Multidisciplinary Innovation in Aging

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2021

Target Population: 30 senior managers in each cohort from government, healthcare, academia, NGOs, and industry; ultimately benefiting 3.5 million older Israelis by 2065.

Program Description: Israel is facing an unprecedented demographic shift. By 2065, the number of older adults is expected to triple, reaching 3.5 million and comprising nearly a quarter of the population. This surge poses immense challenges to Israel's healthcare, welfare, and social systems – potentially compromising the health, independence, and well-being of millions of older adults. Without urgent, collaborative action, this shift could spark a social and economic crisis.

Leaders for Better Aging is JDC's national initiative to develop a cross-sector network of professionals capable of responding to the complexities of an aging population. The 19-month program equips influential figures from government, healthcare, civil society, and the private sector to lead system-level innovation in Optimal Aging – ensuring older adults enjoy health, purpose, and community.

Backed by government and philanthropic partners, the program has become a catalyst for aging-focused solutions. Alumni have driven major innovations, from scaling nationwide medication delivery and digital ID recovery to launching intergenerational and caregiver-focused models – proving the power of a multi-sector response to real-world challenges.

Desired Outcomes: Build a national network of leaders equipped to implement scalable, system-level solutions that improve quality of life for Israel's aging population.

#Optimal Aging #GeriatricPublic Health
#Cross-Sector Network #Innovation in Aging
#Population Aging #Quality of Life



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Advancing Civil Service Workforce and Processes

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: Applicants for professional positions in five top tier government ministries, and existing professionals in said ministries.

Program Description: Israel's civil service is under pressure. Complicated hiring practices, bureaucratic obstacles, and declining public trust have contributed to a fragile workforce—weaknesses tragically exposed during the October 7 crisis. Without intervention, the system risks losing further ground in competing for the country's most promising candidates for civil service careers.

Advancing Civil Service Workforce and Processes seeks to address the issues that are hindering civil service recruitment etc. Drawing on its trusted relationships across government agencies, JDC Elka has partnered with the Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Finance to launch a high-level task force to lead national civil service reform. The task force will conduct a thorough assessment of current hiring practices, analyze key barriers, and recommend practical solutions. The Government of Israel is expected to consider these recommendations to streamline the application process, shorten the timeline from application to interview, and make the process more accessible, transparent, and user-friendly for applicants and the government.

Desired outcomes: A shorter, more efficient hiring process, possibly leading to an increase in both the number of applicants and the number of candidates who successfully complete the hiring journey; enhanced reputation of the government as a respected, competitive, and desirable employer; gradual reversal of the 30% decline in applications for civil service positions.

#Public Service #HR Reform #Hiring & Recruitment
#Civil Service #Process Improvement #Talent Pipeline



Mawared

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2020

Target Population: 58 Arab local authorities and over 1 million Arab Israeli residents over the life of the program.

Program Description: Arab Israeli local authorities face persistent disparities in employment, education, health, and infrastructure. Although the Government of Israel has allocated billions of shekels through initiatives such as Resolution 550 to close these gaps, many Arab municipalities lack the professional capacity to fully access and implement these resources. As a result, essential services remain underdeveloped, and opportunities for residents are left untapped.

Mawared, launched by JDC Elka in 2020, addresses this gap by strengthening the ability of Arab local authorities to access and utilize public funding effectively. At the heart of the program is a new municipal role – the Resource Integrator – a trained professional embedded within local authorities to lead strategic planning, intergovernmental coordination, and economic development efforts. Integrators receive ongoing training and support from JDC Elka on local, regional, and national levels, working hand-in-hand with mayors and senior municipal staff.

To date, Mawared has driven a 75% increase in public fund utilization across participating municipalities and has established Integrators as critical liaisons for Resolution 550 implementation and systemic advocacy at the national level.

Desired Outcomes: Empower Arab local authorities to access and manage public resources more effectively, leading to improved services, stronger local economies, and reduced social and economic disparities.

#Arab Society #Municipal Capacity
#Resource Utilization #Economic Development
#Government #Mawared #550



Resource Utilization in Peripheral Municipalities

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: 24 local authorities in Israel's geographic and social periphery, directly working with dozens of appointed Resource Integrators and indirectly supporting tens of thousands of residents.

Program Description: Local authorities in Israel's periphery face structural and operational disadvantages in accessing and utilizing government resources, often lacking the necessary expertise, coordination mechanisms, and institutional capacities. These gaps contribute to persistent inequalities between strong and weak municipalities, limiting the quality of services available to residents. In response, JDC Elka and the Ministry for the Negev, Galilee, and National Resilience are implementing a systemic program to support 24 local authorities in building their capacity to maximize government funding and resources.

The program begins with a diagnostic phase to map current challenges, identify barriers, and assess the needs and skills of Resource Integrators within each municipality. Based on these findings, a tailored support package is developed, including individual coaching, digital training, peer-learning networks, and a technology platform. A core goal is to align the Resource Integrator role with municipal priorities while fostering collaboration between local and national stakeholders. The program also generates actionable insights for the Ministry to inform national policy and future investment strategies.

Desired Outcomes: Improved capacity of peripheral municipalities to access, coordinate, and utilize government resources efficiently, contributing to greater equity, municipal resilience, and service quality.

#Periphery #Municipal Capacity #Resource Utilization
#Government Funding #Equity #Resilience



National Lay Leadership Initiative – Synergy

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2019

Target Population: 300 NGO board members and lay leaders, reaching hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Israelis annually across diverse communities.

Program Description: In the wake of a multi-front war, Israel's public systems are under immense pressure. Civil society, especially NGOs, has stepped in to meet critical needs – from trauma recovery to housing, health, and community resilience. However, many NGOs lack the governance capacity required to manage this surge in demand and complexity.

The National Lay Leadership Initiative strengthens Israeli civil society by building a robust network of trained lay leaders. Through its Synergy program, JDC partners with major companies to train senior professionals for NGO board service, while also recruiting, mentoring, and placing board members across 40+ NGOs. A structured support system ensures these new directors integrate successfully and make a measurable impact.

In parallel, JDC supports seven rapidly scaling NGOs with management consulting, flexible grants, and board mentoring to help them sustain growth. These interventions have already transformed services for tens of thousands affected by war, including evacuees, injured soldiers, seniors, and underserved minorities.

Desired Outcomes: Strengthen Israel's NGO sector through strategic board placement, leadership training, and capacity-building – ensuring vital services reach vulnerable populations nationwide.

#Civil Society #NGO Governance #Lay Leadership
#Board Development #Capacity Building #Synergy

Northern Initiative: Homecoming, Rehabilitation, Development (HRD)

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: 300,000 residents in 24 northern Israeli localities, including Jewish, Arab, and Druze communities impacted by conflict.

Program Description: Israel's northern region stands at a critical crossroads. After many months of conflict and mass evacuations, 24 cities, towns, and rural areas—already underserved before the war—now face the urgent challenge of restoring services, reintegrating 60,000 evacuees, and catalyzing long-term regional growth. Although the Government of Israel has committed over 15 billion NIS to northern rehabilitation, many local authorities lack the capacity to plan, coordinate, and implement recovery efforts at the scale and speed required.

JDC Elka's Northern Initiative, in formal partnership with the GOI and its new Tenufa Letzafon bureau, supports municipalities with hands-on project management, planning expertise, and strategic guidance. JDC embeds professionals in each locality to co-develop homecoming, infrastructure, and development plans that meet national standards while reflecting local realities. Simultaneously, regional roundtables and multisector teams tackle broader growth areas such as housing, education, medtech, tourism, and employment.

The initiative ensures public funds are efficiently used, evacuees return safely, and the North emerges stronger—ready to thrive and attract new residents and investment.

Desired Outcomes: Ensure the sustainable return of 60,000 evacuees, strengthen municipal capacity, and drive long-term regional development and population growth through coordinated planning, infrastructure renewal, and multi-sector collaboration.

#HRD #GoNorth #Tenufa/Elka/Local
#Qualityoflife #Gohomestayhome
#livesraelidream



REDUCING GAPS



GROWTH



RECOVERY

Elka National Public Systems Networks

Department: JDC-Elka

Year Launched: 2016

Program Description: The Elka National Public Sector Networks represent a powerful, cross-sector community of senior public leaders who have completed JDC-Elka's flagship professional development programs. These include Digital Leaders for Local Government, Digital Leaders for National Government, National Infrastructure Leaders, Forum Metro, Leaders for Better Aging, the Mawared Integrators Program, and the National Lay Leadership Initiative.

Together, these graduates form a national leadership ecosystem that spans local and central government, civil society, and philanthropy. The network provides a platform for shared learning, policy innovation, and collaboration across systems—advancing the collective capacity of Israel's public sector to respond to complex challenges with resilience, creativity, and equity.

Desired Outcomes: The network aims to cultivate a national leadership community committed to building resilient, future-ready public systems. It supports cross-sector collaboration, fosters a culture of innovation, and empowers alumni to lead systems change that improves service delivery, strengthens public trust, and advances equitable governance across Israel.

#Public Systems Network #Lessburnout
#BetterSystemsbetterservicesbetterlives
#Makethecall #Solutions #Crisis Solutions



REDUCING GAPS



GROWTH



RECOVERY

This image shows a blank sheet of lined paper, likely from a notebook. The paper is white and features a light blue border. Inside the border, there are 20 horizontal lines, evenly spaced, providing a guide for writing. The lines are thin and black. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There is no text or other markings on the page.



JDC-Eshel

Optimal Aging for 100 years of Life

Background

For decades, JDC-Eshel was the backbone of Israel's aging services—helping design and scale much of what older adults rely on today. Seven years ago, we made a strategic shift: from building services to reshaping the whole system. Today, JDC-Eshel is Israel's engine for optimal aging—designing, piloting, and scaling solutions so older adults live longer, healthier, more connected lives. Working with government, municipalities, HMOs, employers, and communities, JDC-Eshel turns demographic change into a civic advantage: older adults are not only service recipients but contributors to resilience, cohesion, and growth. We strengthen local systems with tools, training, standards, and data—and move models from pilot → replication → national scale. JDC-Eshel's Dashboard of Optimal Aging—a first-of-its-kind national measurement system—provides a shared compass and unified language, enabling all ecosystem stakeholders to align on a unified goal, track progress, and coordinate action.

Responding to War

The events of October 7 and the ensuing war created unprecedented needs—housing loss, prolonged displacement, health decline, and emotional distress—while also revealing older residents as anchors of community. JDC-Eshel responded with a system-wide strategy that, from late 2023 through 2025, advanced three cross-cutting processes: tailored responses for new and newly vulnerable populations (evacuees, older adults in war-torn municipalities, homebound older adults, Holocaust survivors); adapting core models to emergency and recovery—

embedding trauma-informed practice, protecting function and mental health at home, equipping front-line staff, and codifying standards to move models from pilot → replication → national scale; and treating recovery as a regional challenge across the North and South. The crisis amplified existing vulnerabilities: 40% of older adults struggle financially, 28% feel lonely (7% are socially disconnected), 33% have difficulty with daily tasks (IADL), and many spend -10 years in poor health—underscoring the need for prevention, connection, and system readiness.

Looking Ahead

Over 2025–2027, JDC-Eshel will drive socio-economic growth by mobilizing independent mid-lifers as a national asset—expanding purpose, work, and civic contribution—while doubling down on prevention for vulnerable and at-risk older adults. We will build age-ready places where older people show up and take part, strengthen local systems so recovery and independence are sustained at home, and rally partners around clear goals and shared metrics—continuing to turn pilots into national practice and to make optimal aging a cornerstone of Israel's resilience and cohesion.

National Year of Service for Mid-Lifers

Department: JDC Eshel

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Older adults as well as the communities they volunteer in.

In 2025-2026: four groups of 15-22 individuals each, positioned in four cities/regional councils in the Gaza Envelope region: Ofakim, Eshkol, Sha'ar HaNegev, and Merchavim. Program will expand over the next five years plans to encompass 42 groups of 15-20 seniors each, across Israel.

Program Description: Since October 7, social needs across Israel have intensified, particularly in peripheral regions, while many older adults are seeking meaningful ways to stay active during retirement. Despite their willingness, there are few structured opportunities for seniors to support recovery and community resilience, nationwide.

This pioneering JDC-Eshel initiative enables Israelis aged 55+ to volunteer full-time for one year in underserved municipalities across Israel. The program addresses critical local needs in welfare, education, health, and resilience-building while offering older adults a structured framework for meaningful engagement post-retirement. Volunteers live in host communities, work in group-based placements, and receive training, housing, and ongoing support. With four groups already active in the South and plans to expand to the North in 2025, the program strengthens both community resilience and national solidarity, turning demographic change into a civic opportunity.

Desired Outcomes: Older adults positioned as contributors to society, not dependents; enhanced national solidarity and social cohesion; yields high returns across social, economic, and educational sectors.

#Older Adults #Volunteering #Community Resilience
#South Recovery #Civic Participation



Blue Zones: Health, Recovery, and Resilience

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Older adults. Currently active in five municipalities in the Gaza Envelope: Hof Ashkelon, Sderot, Shaar HaNegev, Sdot Negev, Eshkol

Program Description: Blue Zone: Health, Recovery, and Resilience is a five-year regional initiative inspired by the global concept of “Blue Zones”: places where older adults enjoy longer, healthier lives thanks to active living, strong social networks, and supportive environments. Led by JDC-Eshel in partnership with the Ministry of Health and local municipalities, the program supports older adults in the Gaza Envelope and Western Negev as they recover from prolonged trauma and displacement. This coordinated regional effort combines over 50 workshops on health management, nutrition, sleep, stress reduction, and fall prevention with professional training, volunteer leadership, and investments in accessible infrastructure such as walking paths, parks, and public spaces. The program also fosters community spirit and participation through regional health events and organized walk-a-thons, creating an environment that promotes wellbeing, resilience, and connection across the region.

Desired Outcomes: Healthier, stronger, more resilient older adults that can continue to offer support and boost morale in their communities.

#Older Adults #Health #South Recovery
#Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience #Healthy Lifestyle



Muni100 – Municipalities Advance Optimal Aging for 100 Years of Life

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2020 (pilot phase), national rollout 2024

Target Population: Older adults living in the community, as well as the municipal systems that serve them. Program expected to reach 40% of Israel's older adults (about 480,000).

Program Description: One in three older adults of today is expected to live to age 100, and Israel's cities are not built for a reality in which so many of their residents are senior citizens. Muni100 is a national initiative, modeled after the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities framework, designed to prepare local authorities across Israel for a 100-year life expectancy.

Research shows that communities with engaging and accessible public environments foster healthier, higher-quality lives for seniors. To achieve this, the program provides municipalities with practical tools to remove barriers and develop inviting public spaces, services, and opportunities that keep older adults physically and socially active.

Muni100 operates through a three-stage model: national planning and pilot selection (2020–2022); formation of municipal strategic master plans (2023–2024); and implementation and integration (2024–2026). It partners with a diverse range of cities, including urban, rural, Arab, and other vulnerable communities. The program also aligns local action with the national indicators (goals) for Optimal Aging, fostering environments that promote health, inclusion, and resilience for older adults.

Desired Outcomes: Increased presence and participation of older adults in public life; improved municipal readiness for demographic change; and formation of a replicable, measurable national model for age-friendly cities in Israel.

#Older Adults #Optimal Aging #Prosperity in Cities
#Municipal Systems #Age-Friendly Cities



GROWTH



All the Way Home: Housing Transition Support for Older Adults

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2025 (pilot phase)

Target Population: Older adults whose homes were damaged or destroyed, requiring temporary or permanent housing solutions.

Program Description: The July 2025 conflict left over 11,000 people homeless, among them about 6,600 older adults. Prolonged hotel stays, in addition to being costly, undermine the health and wellbeing of seniors. Targeted intervention is urgently needed, to help uprooted older adults return to their familiar homes as quickly as possible.

All the Way Home is an inter-ministerial and municipal initiative providing personalized, hands-on support to older adults navigating housing transitions after displacement. The program equips municipalities with tools to assess needs, secure housing rights, locate and match homes, coordinate safe renovations, and support relocation. A pilot in Bat Yam and Ramat Gan is refining the model for expansion to additional municipalities.

Desired Outcomes: Shortened displacement periods for older adults; fair access to housing resources; improved post-crisis housing safety and suitability; and formation of a scalable national model.

#Older Adults #Housing #Post-Crisis Recovery
#Improving Public Systems



Rehabilitation in the Community

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2024 (pilot phase)

Target Population: Pre-frail older adults who are transitioning back to community care, following hospitalization; the program has a target to reach 600 seniors by the end of 2025, and an additional 1,000 participants by the end of 2027.

Program Description: Rehabilitation in the Community pilots re-ablement services in Meuhedet HMO clinics across six cities, with plans to expand to additional HMOs nationwide. The program works hand-in-hand with hospitals to support long-term recovery after discharge. It focuses on pre-frail older adults because timely, targeted intervention at this stage can reverse or slow functional decline, preventing more serious health deterioration and hospitalization. Patients meet their family physicians to review discharge letters and co-create tailored plans focused on fall prevention, mobility, home safety, and daily function. To date, 320 pre-frail participants have enrolled, and nearly all completed the process. A typical case (S., post-fall) shows improved confidence, safer habits, and reduced re-hospitalization risk through guided follow-ups and a home visit. Looking ahead, JDC-Eshel aims to expand post-discharge care to a new region (six clinics) and to strengthen hospital-based prevention through routine delirium screening, promotion of patient mobility, and (possibly) improvements to in-patient nutrition.

Desired Outcomes: Faster recovery at home; improved functional independence; fewer re-hospitalizations; and sustained integration of re-ablement into routine HMO care.

#Older Adults #Health #Rehabilitation #Primary Care
#Improving Public Systems



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Coming Home - Recovery and Emotional Support for Older Adults in the North

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: Returning evacuees and distressed older adults in northern Israel—including homebound individuals and Holocaust survivors—across five locations. Of this broader group, 1,500 older adults, with priority given to Holocaust survivors, will receive in-home one-on-one therapeutic care.

Program Description: As older adults begin returning to their homes in northern Israel following evacuation, many are experiencing disorientation and lingering trauma from the upheaval.

This integrated recovery initiative strengthens the capacity of local municipalities to support seniors during the post-crisis period. It provides training and professional guidance to local social service teams, enabling them to respond more effectively to the emotional and practical needs of older adults. Additionally, it sends professional therapists to provide in-home emotional support, addressing rising rates of depression and suicide among the elderly, and helping to boost their sense of stability and wellbeing.

Desired Outcomes: Enhanced resilience and responsiveness of local welfare systems; reduced emotional distress and suicide risk among older adults; greater stability, dignity, and wellbeing for seniors during post-crisis recovery.

#Older Adults #North Recovery
#Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience #Home-Based Care



Preventive Nursing Care – Elevating the Caregiver Profession

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2024 (national model adoption in 2025)

Target Population: Paid caregivers and the frail older adults they support.

Program Description: Paid caregivers are often the most consistent presence in an older adult's life. Yet most lack awareness of their potential to prevent decline in the charges they care for, and the tools to do so.

Preventive Nursing Care transforms home-based care in Israel by training caregivers to preserve and, where possible, restore older adults' functionality. Caregivers learn to identify lost abilities, assist seniors with walking and balance, support daily living activities, provide emotional encouragement, foster family connections, and ensure adherence to medical instructions. This approach not only delays deterioration but can help older adults regain physical and cognitive skills and resume activities they had abandoned. In 2024, JDC-Eshel's model became the sole national training standard for skilled caregivers, adopted by the National Insurance Institute.

Desired Outcomes: Greater independence and quality of life for older adults; slowing or reverse of functional decline; elevation of the caregiving workforce through a unified national training model.

#Older Adults #Caregivers #Home Care
#Training & Standards #Improving Public Systems



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Tech for Aging

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: Older adults, technology developers, and stakeholders in the aging ecosystem.

Program Description: Tech for Aging advances Israel's AgeTech Ecosystem—a collaborative platform connecting government, private sector, entrepreneurs, academia, NGOs, and older adults—to accelerate innovative solutions for aging. The program educates the tech community about the needs of older adults while promoting digital literacy and access among older users. Through workshops, hackathons, bootcamps, and the nationally adopted Aging.IL Innovation Community, Tech for Aging fosters networking, co-creation, and policy advocacy to ensure solutions are practical, inclusive, and impactful.

Desired Outcomes: Accelerated development of effective tech solutions for older adults; increased digital inclusion; and Israel's emergence as a global leader in AgeTech innovation.

[#Older Adults](#) [#AgeTech](#) [#Digital Inclusion](#) [#Innovation Ecosystem](#)



REDUCING GAPS



Quality Employment for Older Adults

Department: JDC-Eshel

Year Launched: 2025 (two-year pilot)

Target Population: Midlife and older adults, alongside employers seeking to adapt to a multi-age workforce. The two-year pilot will engage 45 employers, including 25 in a full accompaniment process.

Program Description: Quality Employment for Older Adults prepares Israeli businesses for the era of 100 years of life by promoting continuous, age-friendly employment. In partnership with the Government of Israel and drawing on 20 years of international experience, the program assesses employers' readiness for multi-age workplaces, recognizes those meeting defined standards, and guides organizations in implementing inclusive employment practices. By working with employers over the two-year pilot, the program will further a sustainable national model that benefits employees, employers, and the broader economy.

Desired Outcomes: Extended workforce participation for midlife and older adults; employers equipped with practical tools for multi-age employment; greater social and economic resilience through inclusive labor practices.

#Older Adults #Employment #Workforce
#Age-Friendly Workplaces #Policy & Systems



This image shows a blank sheet of lined paper, likely from a notebook. The paper is white and features a light blue border. Inside the border, there are 20 horizontal lines, evenly spaced, providing a guide for writing. The lines are thin and black. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There is no text or other markings on the page.



JDC-Israel Unlimited

Background

In Israel today, more than 1.7 million people live with one or more physical, cognitive, sensory, developmental, neurological or psychiatric disabilities. Despite important progress over the years, **significant disparities persist between people with disabilities and the general population**—limiting their ability to fully participate in society, access equal opportunities, and lead independent lives. Barriers in housing, employment, and community inclusion are compounded by reduced earning potential and higher living costs, making everyday life more complex and less equitable.

JDC-Israel Unlimited (JDC-IU) was established in 2009 as a partnership between JDC Israel and the Government of Israel with a mission to create a more inclusive Israeli society by **advancing the independence and autonomy, quality of life, and full societal participation** of people with disabilities. JDC-IU works to shift systems, services, and attitudes – recognizing that true inclusion requires long-term, sustainable change.

Responding to War

In the **wake of the October 7 attacks and the ongoing war**, JDC-Israel Unlimited moved swiftly to address the urgent and evolving needs of people with disabilities. The sharp rise in life-altering injuries among both civilians and soldiers has placed unprecedented pressure on Israel's health and social service systems. In response, we have **expanded and intensified our efforts to ensure that individuals with both congenital and newly acquired disabilities receive the support, services, and opportunities** they need to live with dignity, independence, and full inclusion in society.

Our Strategic Focus Areas

JDC-Israel Unlimited operates through large-scale initiatives designed to create system-wide change. These initiatives integrate innovation, service design, policy, and cross-sector collaboration to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

- Traditional systems often take a “one-size-fits-all” approach. JDC-IU’s **personalization** initiative promotes a person-centered model in public services – assessing the needs, goals, and preferences of each individual and tailoring support accordingly. Through this shift, we’re building a more responsive, efficient, and empowering service system.
- We focus on **independent housing in the community**, ensuring individuals can choose where and with whom they live, with access to services that support autonomy and social connection.
- In direct response to the war, we are working to serve those with newly acquired injuries by strengthening the Israel’s **rehabilitation** ecosystem, expanding services, and ensuring long-term recovery and inclusion.

Expanded Supported Housing

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2018

Target Population: The program currently supports 83 adults with complex or severe disabilities as they transition to independent living in the community.

Program Description: Young adults with severe and complex disabilities often encounter significant barriers to independent living. Traditional housing models frequently lack the necessary resources and flexibility to accommodate their needs, leaving many individuals in institutional care or living with family. This not only limits their personal growth and autonomy but also restricts their full inclusion into community life.

The Expanded Supported Housing program was launched to address this critical gap. Building upon the foundation of the original Supported Housing initiative – which served individuals with less complex needs – this enhanced program is specifically tailored for those who require more intensive support. The program is designed as a long-term, holistic intervention that begins well before the transition to independent living and continues after the move to ensure stability and sustainability.

Participants receive 11 to 17 hours of weekly support, depending on their needs. Services include personalized preparation for independent living, assistance in locating and adapting suitable housing, support in navigating and accessing benefits and rights, ongoing mentoring, and structured training in essential life skills such as home maintenance, budgeting, cooking, and personal care.

The goal is to empower these young adults to live meaningful, autonomous lives within their communities. By providing a comprehensive support framework, the program enables participants not only to live independently but also to engage socially, economically, and culturally – realizing their full potential and improving overall quality of life.

Desired Outcome: Young adults with severe and complex disabilities living independently within the community.

#People with Disabilities



Room to Belong

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: People with disabilities who are transitioning from institutions to community apartments. The program will reach 350 individuals across 20 institutions; it also builds a scalable, evidence-based model that, when expanded, has the potential to benefit 3,300 institutionalized adults.

Program Description: Room to Belong is an innovative program designed to support people with disabilities who are transitioning from long-term institutional settings to inclusive community living. Despite national policy promoting community-based housing, Israel currently lacks a formal process for transitioning institutionalized adults who require 24/7 care. Room to Belong fills this gap by offering personalized transition planning, fully staffed apartments for up to six residents, and robust support for individuals, their families, and institutional staff.

Participants will receive customized support before and after their move, including independent living skills and round-the-clock assistance, helping them gain autonomy and dignity as members of their communities.

Families—often uncertain about the transition—will benefit from workshops, one-on-one guidance, and tools to ease their concerns and actively support their loved ones. Institutional staff will receive on-site training, protocols, and guidance to ensure readiness for this shift in care.

As the model scales, it holds the potential to fundamentally transform disability services in Israel—replacing isolation with inclusion, and institutionalization with meaningful community life.

Desired Outcome: Participants will benefit from living as independently as possible within a community, with autonomy over their daily lives.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Person in the Center

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2019

Target Population: 250,000 children and youth with disabilities, and their families seeking disability recognition and service eligibility.

Program Description: Person at the Center is a groundbreaking national initiative aimed at streamlining and improving disability recognition and service eligibility processes for children and youth with disabilities in Israel. Today, families must navigate numerous distinct, complex, and bureaucratic processes across various government ministries, resulting in duplicated efforts, inconsistent terminology, and significant emotional and logistical strain.

This program, in partnership with eight government ministries, proposes a proactive, unified, digital, family-centered process that simplifies access to rights and services. The new model includes:

- A **single digital application** submitted once and shared across ministries
- **Inter-ministerial trust agreements** where one agency's assessment informs others
- A **family support system** providing guidance, transparency, and accessibility

The initiative is moving into the implementation phase, with goals to reduce bureaucracy, shorten processing time, and improve trust and clarity for families.

Ultimately, this program lays the foundation for systemic inter-ministerial reform, creating a more efficient, empathetic, and effective experience for children and youth with disabilities, and their families.

Desired Outcome: Citizens with disabilities get the help they need, faster.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems



Bridge to Recovery

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Newly disabled rehabilitating in the community after hospitalization; an anticipated 600 people per year, for two years.

Program Description: Since Oct 7, Israel has seen a sharp rise in the number of individuals requiring rehabilitative care, with more than 35,000 people newly classified as having a disability. Looking ahead, the demand for rehabilitation is expected to double within five years—from 15,000 to 30,000 people annually.

The country's rehabilitation wards are stretched beyond capacity, and hospital-based care often ends too early, while community-based rehabilitation – though proven to reduce mortality, increase recovery, and lower costs – remains fragmented, difficult to access, and largely unsupported. Today, only 40% of patients complete their rehabilitation plans.

The Bridge to Recovery Initiative aims to fundamentally transform how rehabilitation is delivered in Israel by establishing a coordinated, person-centered model for community-based care. The program partners with local HMOs and healthcare providers to create dedicated units of rehabilitation specialists, case managers and peer mentors to guide patients from hospital discharge through their full recovery journey. These multidisciplinary teams proactively support patients, coordinate services, manage appointments, remove bureaucratic barriers, and provide both emotional and practical support.

The overarching goal is to build a national infrastructure for community-based rehabilitation, improving patient outcomes while relieving pressure on hospitals. Bridge to Recovery ensures that no individual faces the path to healing alone—and lays the foundation for systemic change across Israel.

Desired Outcomes: Increased completion rates of rehabilitation plans; stronger, more effective community-based rehabilitation systems.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems
#Rehabilitation



Tech for Heroes

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: By the end of 2025, the program will reach 180 injured soldiers, with plans to expand further in 2026.

Program Description: Tech for Heroes is an emergency initiative that empowers Israeli soldiers injured since October 2023—over 18,500 and rising—by equipping them with personalized assistive technologies that restore independence, functionality, and dignity. Many of these veterans now face life-altering disabilities and must navigate a new reality, often with little guidance.

While the government provides stipends for assistive devices, many soldiers are unaware of what technologies exist, how to choose the right ones, or how to integrate them into their lives.

Tech for Heroes closes this gap. Building on JDC's success with its Smart Homes program, it offers a tailored, hands-on approach. Each veteran is matched with suitable technologies such as smart home systems, communication aids, mobility tools, and cognitive supports. A dedicated technology coordinator helps each participant personalize, install, and integrate these tools, ensuring they are used effectively and sustainably.

Beyond individual support, the program also works at a systemic level, with plans to integrate the coordinator role into national services for injured soldiers.

Desired Outcome: Tech for Heroes is creating lasting impact—helping those who served regain autonomy, reduce dependence, and rebuild their lives.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems
#Rehabilitation #Reservists



Personal Budgeting

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2019

Target Population: Program will reach 390 people with disabilities, and over 100 participating service providers.

Program Description: Government disability services in Israel have traditionally offered limited flexibility, often assigning people with disabilities to predefined programs rather than empowering them to choose what best fits their lives. The Personal Budgeting program aims to change that.

This program enables individuals with disabilities to manage a personal budget and select services that reflect their unique needs, goals, and preferences—whether government-provided or community-based. The approach shifts the system from one that is system-centered to one that is person-centered, promoting autonomy, inclusion, and independent living.

During the course of the program, many participants report feeling genuinely acknowledged and understood for the first time. Many also demonstrated notable progress in daily living skills and decision-making capacities—foundational components for achieving greater independence and quality of life.

Guided by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this initiative reflects Israel's broader shift toward rights-based, inclusive service models—and lays the foundation for a more equitable and empowering future for people with disabilities.

Desired Outcomes: Greater autonomy, choices, and opportunities for people with disabilities; increased inclusion in Israeli society; increased efficiency of government resources.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems



Supported Decision Making

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2019

Target Population: Adults with disabilities who are looking for an alternative to legal guardianship. There are currently 119 participants, with target of reaching 150 participants by the end of the pilot in 2026.

Program Description: Supported Decision Making is a groundbreaking legal framework that enables adults with cognitive or psychiatric disabilities to make decisions about their own lives—while receiving structured support from a trusted individual. Unlike traditional guardianship, which removes a person’s legal autonomy and transfers decision-making authority to another, Supported Decision Making preserves the individual’s legal capacity, offering a respectful, rights-based alternative that is centered on dignity, agency, and self-determination.

Under this model, the supporter’s role is not to make decisions on behalf of the individual, but rather to help them understand information, weigh options, and communicate and implement their choices. The relationship is built on trust, respect, and the understanding that every person, with the right support, can exercise meaningful control over their own life.

Today, an estimated 15,000 adults in Israel who currently live under legal guardianship could, with proper support, manage their own affairs. This program empowers them—and many others—by training community volunteers as decision-supporters, developing practical tools, and building a scalable model in partnership with government.

Desired Outcome: Greater autonomy for people with disabilities, as supported decision-making agreements replace court-appointed guardianships.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems



Digital Literacy for People with Disabilities

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: An estimated 720 people with disabilities (cumulative since 2023), by the end of 2025.

Program Description: In today's increasingly digital world, many people with disabilities face significant barriers to full participation in everyday activities due to a lack of digital skills. This digital divide often limits their access to vital services and opportunities, from managing healthcare appointments and accessing educational resources to finding employment, handling banking transactions, and even ordering groceries online. The inability to confidently use digital tools can contribute to social isolation and reduce independence.

Our digital literacy program is designed specifically to address these challenges by empowering people with disabilities—and their caregivers—with the essential skills needed to thrive in a digital environment. Through personalized training and supportive learning experiences, participants will develop the confidence to navigate computers, smartphones, and various online platforms safely and effectively.

By equipping them with practical digital competencies, the program opens doors to greater autonomy, enabling individuals to manage their own medical care, pursue education and job opportunities, engage with their communities, and access everyday services from the comfort of their homes. Caregivers, too, gain valuable knowledge that helps them provide better support and advocacy.

Ultimately, this program fosters empowerment and inclusion, helping participants break down barriers and fully embrace the benefits of a "smarter" world—where technology serves as a bridge to independence, connection, and opportunity.

Desired Outcome: Increased digital literacy for people with disabilities.

#People with Disabilities #Technology #Education



Equals in Market

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2020

Target Population: Consumers with disabilities; 20 leading businesses and 19 nonprofits in Israel.

Program Description: Every day, people with disabilities face significant barriers when using everyday products and services. When accessibility isn't prioritized, simple tasks can become frustrating, time-consuming, or impossible without assistance. Many must rely on expensive, specialty products or forgo options altogether. This drains valuable time and energy that could be spent pursuing personal goals, limiting independence and freedom.

Israelis with disabilities make up 20% of the population and represent \$18 billion in annual consumer spending, yet their needs remain largely overlooked by businesses. The Equals in Market Initiative aims to change this by amplifying the voices of people with disabilities and inspiring companies to adopt inclusive design practices.

Guided by the principle "Nothing About Us Without Us," the initiative involves people with disabilities directly through focus groups and panels to provide real-world insights on product accessibility. JDC has partnered with over 20 of Israel's leading companies, offering personalized guidance to help incorporate universal design features, making products accessible for all.

The program also leads industry forums and trains social media influencers with disabilities to promote inclusion and awareness and works with local municipalities to encourage local businesses to adopt accessible practices.

Desired Outcome: Accessibility embedded into core practices and operations in the private sector, for a more inclusive consumer experience.

#People with Disabilities #Business Sector



TechAbility

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2022

Target Population: High-tech innovators active in the disabilities space.

Program Description: While Israel is renowned as the “Start-up Nation,” many services for people with disabilities remain stuck in the pre-digital era, with insufficient public and private investment in cutting-edge technology. This initiative aims to change that by bringing together tech entrepreneurs, social activists, NGOs, and business leaders to develop innovative solutions addressing the diverse challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Launched in 2023 by JDC-Israel Unlimited and the Hackaveret social innovation hub, TechAbility advances independence and integration for people with disabilities through technology. TechAbility also trains professionals, equipping them with tools and mentorship to champion technological innovation. The program collaborates closely with government partners, including the National Insurance Institute, Ministry of Finance, and Israel Innovation Authority, ensuring people with disabilities remain a national innovation priority.

In response to the Gaza war, JDC swiftly mobilized TechAbility to meet urgent needs, awarding grants to entrepreneurs who developed or adapted tech solutions for thousands affected, including those newly disabled. This initiative exemplifies how Israel's tech ecosystem can be harnessed to create impactful, inclusive solutions.

Desired Outcomes: Formation of an ecosystem for collaboration among tech innovators in the disabilities space; increased creativity and collaboration around technology to benefit people with disabilities.

[#People with Disabilities](#) [#Technology](#)



Mental Health Caseworkers:

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2024

Target population: Terror victims, those with newly diagnosed psychiatric disabilities since Oct 7, and those who have experienced a sharp deterioration in mental health

Program Description: In response to the October 7 attacks, ongoing rocket fire, evacuations, and displacement, many Israelis—particularly those with psychiatric disabilities—have experienced a sharp deterioration in mental health. The national mental health system faces severe strain due to increased demand, staff shortages, and bureaucratic hurdles that hinder access to timely care.

This program targets those newly recognized by the National Insurance Institute with mental health disabilities due to war-related trauma, as well as individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions whose situation has worsened. Many of them face social isolation, loss of livelihood, and detachment from known support systems.

Coordinators work proactively to identify individuals, assess needs, provide rights navigation, and ensure access to available services—whether through formal rehabilitation pathways or more flexible, community-based solutions. The goal is to improve well-being, restore functional stability, and foster long-term reintegration through responsive, personalized care.

Desired Outcome: Support that is curated towards people who are newly diagnosed as a result of October 7, whose needs are unique in terms of what they experienced and the kind of support they need.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems
#Recovery #North #South #Resilience and Trauma
#War Victims: Physical and Mental Recovery



Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities:

Department: JDC-Israel Unlimited

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: People with disabilities, including those with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental health challenges, who are disproportionately affected during security crises, natural disasters, and emergencies.

Program Description: Emergencies—whether security crises, natural disasters, or other disruptions—consistently reveal critical gaps in the protection and support available to people with disabilities. From inaccessible shelters and unclear communication to the lack of tailored evacuation plans, people with disabilities are often left without adequate resources during times of crisis, often endangering their lives.

To address this, we are building a national, cross-sector initiative that ensures people with disabilities are fully included in emergency preparedness and response efforts.

The initiative focuses on improving the accessibility of physical spaces such as public and private shelters, enhancing the availability of real-time information about accessible resources, and training local volunteers to provide direct, appropriate support to people with disabilities during emergencies. It also includes public awareness campaigns and guidance to help individuals and communities adapt homes and neighborhoods for greater safety and inclusion.

Together, these efforts create a comprehensive, scalable model that centers the needs of people with disabilities—ensuring that no one is left behind when it matters most.

Desired Outcomes: Formation of a cohesive, inclusive emergency preparedness system that ensures people with disabilities are protected, informed, and supported at every stage of a crisis—from their homes, through evacuation, to community shelters—ultimately reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience during emergencies.

#People with Disabilities #Improving Public Systems
#North #South





JDC-Mental Health & Wellbeing

Background

Israel is facing a deepening mental health crisis. Even before October 7, the system was stretched, with 80% of resources devoted to individual therapy reaching only 20% of those in need, and community-based solutions were scarce. Each new escalation—from October 7 to Iranian missile attacks—has triggered further waves of distress, with over 50% of Israelis reporting ongoing anxiety. All Israelis need support, yet there will never be enough therapists to provide individual treatment to everyone. At the same time, alternatives are available: experts estimate that 65% of people requiring some type of intervention can be successfully treated with other models, highlighting the need for scalable, community- and technology-based approaches.

Our Response

JDC's National Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative is transforming Israel's mental health ecosystem by broadening care beyond individual therapy, emphasizing prevention, and resilience-building. The Initiative brings timely, affordable, and credible support closer to communities while coordinating services and introducing data-driven approaches to strengthen the system.

Key Pillars

- **Broadening and expanding care:** Scalable, evidence-based alternatives to one-on-one therapy, delivered in communities and through digital channels to reach more people.
- **Strengthening the system:** Promoting cross-sector collaboration, establishing quality standards, and introducing a national

dashboard to track key metrics, guide evidence-based decisions, and improve coordination.

- **Building resilience:** Tools and programs that empower individuals and communities to recognize distress, strengthen coping skills, and foster long-term well-being.

Looking Ahead

Building on lessons learned, JDC will deepen its work on community-based and digital solutions while advancing systemic improvements to bring greater order and coordination to the mental health field. The initiative will also identify unique and at-risk needs, develop tailored responses, and map service gaps to apply best practices and technology where they can have the most impact. These efforts ensure the mental health system meets immediate needs and better prepares Israelis and the country for future crises.

Support Close to Home: Community Mental Health Network

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: Israelis across the board experiencing various levels of distress, particularly the estimated 80% who can benefit from community based, non-clinical support. The program will operate in over 200 locations, home to approximately 85% of Israel's population.

Program Description: JDC is working with government ministries and city councils to place trained Mental Health Coordinators in communities across Israel. These professionals will expand mental health support beyond clinics. The program focuses on the local arena, the most effective place to reach people and strengthen resilience. In each location, coordinators assess needs, and build tailored plans for introducing new services, using a JDC-curated catalog of vetted, evidence-based mental wellbeing interventions.

Desired Outcomes: In 200 locations, covering 85% of Israel's population, residents will have access to proven, evidence-based interventions; mental wellbeing services will become a core part of local leadership's approach; coordination across all levels of government will be improved, building a more effective system for mental wellbeing support nationwide. Together, these changes will strengthen resilience—both for individuals and for the broader mental health system.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience #Women
#FutureGenerations #North #South #Arabs #Elderly



National Mental Health and Wellbeing Dashboard

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Policymakers, providers, and stakeholders nationwide; aimed at improving strategy, coordination, and resource allocation to benefit Israel's population.

Program Description: Israel faces a profound mental health crisis compounded by fragmented data scattered across disconnected sources—research, government, HMOs, and NGOs—making it difficult to gain a comprehensive, real-time view. This lack of centralized, accessible information hinders timely, coordinated, and strategic decision-making.

In response, JDC is developing Israel's first National Mental Health Dashboard: a groundbreaking digital platform that consolidates diverse mental health data into an intuitive, interactive tool. Like a car dashboard, it delivers key indicators at a glance, tracking clinical needs, population wellbeing, system performance, and community support. The Dashboard is being built through a phased approach involving proof-of-concept development, strategic partnerships for data-sharing, creation of a centralized data portal, and collaborative stakeholder engagement to ensure it reflects national priorities and on-the-ground realities.

Desired Outcome: The Dashboard aims to centralize and organize Israel's fragmented mental health data into a single, accessible platform—transforming not only how information is used, but also what is valued and measured, including expanding the system's focus to prevention, wellbeing, and community-based care. By offering real-time, reliable, and predictive insights, it aims to guide policymakers, providers, and communities toward smarter, faster, and more coordinated decisions.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience
#ImprovingPublicSystems



Quality Seal Standards for Mental Wellbeing Initiatives

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: The Quality Seal is a resource for Israel's entire mental health and wellbeing ecosystem—supporting and guiding government and community stakeholders, the public, and intervention providers in identifying, creating, and promoting effective, credible support interventions.

Program Description: Israel's rapidly growing mental health field—especially amid national trauma—lacks a system to ensure that support outside the clinical arena, such as digital tools, community programs, and peer support, is effective and evidence-based. This gap creates risks for users and challenges decision-makers in identifying what works.

To address this, JDC is developing Israel's first Mental Health & Wellbeing Quality Seal—a professional validation tool that promotes standardization and quality assurance. Rather than imposing top-down oversight, the Quality Seal offers a clear, research-based framework for interventions to demonstrate credibility and impact.

Developed with the Maytiv Center at Reichman University and informed by models from five countries, the Quality Seal includes 14 core criteria covering theoretical foundation, expert oversight, track record, effectiveness, user experience, and evaluation. Its creation follows a collaborative, phased process with government, academic, and mental health partners to tailor criteria and design an interface suited to Israel.

Desired Outcome: The Quality Seal aims to establish standardized, high-quality practices across Israel's mental health and wellbeing ecosystem. As a trusted, research-based benchmark, it seeks broad adoption to create a shared baseline and raise the professional standard for non-clinical interventions. Its criteria are already being applied within JDC initiatives like Nafshi and the Community Mental Health Network.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience
#ImprovingPublicSystems



Nafshi Platform: Central Access to Mental Wellbeing Resources

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year launched: 2023

Target population: General Israeli population

Program description: Following the October 7 attacks, over half of Israelis experienced clinical anxiety levels, yet many did not know where to turn for help. Launched just two weeks after this crisis, JDC's Nafshi website consolidates over 750 vetted mental health services and resources into a user-friendly platform. It offers a trusted, centralized starting point where users can filter and access tailored support, including self-help tools, informative articles, and listings of workshops and support groups. The platform also serves as a psychoeducation hub, raising awareness about mental health, normalizing conversations, and providing practical guidance for coping with trauma and stress.

JDC strategically promotes Nafshi during moments of national trauma, driving strong engagement and addressing urgent mental health needs. In spring 2025, the site was redesigned to improve user experience, and JDC is integrating AI technologies to deliver personalized guidance and more precise search results. The long-term strategy focuses on sharpening target audiences and encouraging direct content contributions from service providers and organizations, strengthening Nafshi's role within Israel's mental health ecosystem. To date, Nafshi has garnered close to 200,000 visits.

Desired Outcomes: Nafshi enables the Israeli public to easily access a wide range of trusted mental health and wellbeing resources and services—helping users find support tailored to their specific needs—in one central digital platform. Alongside, Nafshi is a vital platform for raising awareness and providing practical mental health support.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience #Women
#FutureGenerations #North #South #Arabs



First Light Early Detection Program

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Public local service providers trained to detect mental health distress in the general population.

Program Description: Since October 7 and the ensuing war, the general population has been exposed to unprecedented levels of trauma and ongoing stress. Over 65% of Israelis experiencing mental distress do not recognize they need help and do not seek assistance, highlighting the urgent need to identify and support individuals earlier. The First Light Early Detection Program addresses this by training a diverse range of public-facing service providers—including police officers, daycare personnel, and emergency dispatchers—to recognize early signs of mental health distress in the communities they serve. The training also focuses on provider wellbeing, equipping participants with coping strategies to manage burnout and stress, thereby strengthening their resilience.

To date, over 375 professionals in seven cities have been trained. In 2025, the program will expand to new locations, including northern Israel, while deepening impact in pilot cities through advanced psychological first aid training aimed at building a broader network of early responders. This proactive, adaptive approach seeks to prevent mental distress from escalating into long-term PTSD or severe mental illness amid ongoing national crises.

Desired Outcomes: Provide early mental health prevention at the local and community level by equipping public service providers with the skills to detect distress, provide initial response, and connect individuals to appropriate services or referrals—thereby reducing escalation of mental health conditions.

[#MentalHealthWellbeingResilience](#) [#North](#) [#South](#) [#Arabs](#)



Digital Mental Health & Wellbeing Solutions

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: The general Israeli public, with focused support for unique groups including youth and reservists and their families.

Program Description: Israel is facing an unprecedented mental health crisis, with millions affected by ongoing war and its profound emotional toll. The mental health system, already strained prior to these events, remains overwhelmed and primarily focused on traditional one-on-one therapy, limiting its ability to meet the soaring demand. As part of JDC's Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative, digital mental health solutions are being leveraged to broaden access and provide scalable, validated support that removes barriers for the general Israeli population.

A key strategy is to harness technology to expand resources, particularly for vulnerable groups such as reservists, while strengthening the overall system's capacity. Main examples include the Dugri "Real Talk" app, which offers a safe, anonymous community space fostering resilience among reservists and their families; following a successful pilot with over 1,250 partners of reservists, JDC is supporting its integration into Israel's Ministry of Defense to reach hundreds more. In parallel, JDC partners with Maccabi HMO to pilot digital solutions that provide mental health support during emergencies and offer a therapeutic companion to alleviate therapist wait times and reduce clinical overload.

Desired Outcomes: The program provides trusted, accessible digital mental health support beyond clinical care—expanding options for people across the continuum of need. These solutions promote prevention and wellbeing, fostering greater resilience in individuals and communities. They also help close systemic gaps and strengthen the overall mental health system, reducing long-term social and economic impacts.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience #Women
#FutureGenerations #North #South #Arabs #Reservists



Early Detection & Care for the Ethiopian Israeli Community

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: Ethiopian Israelis (approx. 175,000 individuals, representing 1.8% of Israel's population)

Program Description: Ethiopian Israelis are less likely to seek help, placing them at higher risk of mental health decline. In response, the Ministry of Health approached JDC to adapt JDC's national early detection program for this community. JDC will collaborate with the Ministry of Health to ensure services are culturally tailored and aligned with community needs.

This model includes:

- Mapping community needs through a comprehensive research process, including an attitudes survey and in-depth interviews, to better understand barriers, needs, and tailored solutions.
- Appointing and training mental health liaisons within HMOs and community health clinics to ensure services are responsive and culturally appropriate.
- Creating a dedicated role—a community coordinator—to identify and support Ethiopian Israelis at early stages of mental distress, encouraging them to seek help from relevant practitioners in each health fund.
- Expanding the number of mental health professionals from within the Ethiopian Israeli community, particularly within stratified services provided by the HMOs.

Desired Outcomes: JDC and the Ministry of Health are piloting this model in the Clalit HMO, with the aim for all four main HMOs in Israel to adapt this process and tailored support interventions to be more culturally appropriate for Ethiopian Israelis. These adaptations are expected to increase utilization of mental health services and improve mental wellbeing within the community.

#MentalHealthWellbeingResilience #North #South



REDUCING GAPS

 THE JOINT

Psychoeducation: Raising Awareness & Promoting Mental Wellbeing

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: The general Israeli public

Program Description: In response to growing mental health challenges exacerbated by recent crises, this program focuses on increasing public understanding of mental health and building resilience through comprehensive psychoeducation. By framing mental resilience as a vital part of a healthy lifestyle—alongside nutrition and exercise—the program aims to reduce stigma, encourage positive coping habits, and integrate mental wellbeing into everyday life, strengthening overall resilience and fostering a greater willingness among Israelis to seek help.

The awareness campaign plan includes:

- Crafting clear, motivating messages that overcome stigma and encourage individuals to seek help and utilize available mental health services
- Engaging non-mental health professionals as community change agents to broaden the program's reach
- Building partnerships with businesses, philanthropists, media, and other stakeholders to amplify impact

Outreach approaches will leverage digital campaigns, influencers, professional networks, and targeted collaborations to ensure tailored engagement across diverse audiences.

Desired Outcomes: To significantly raise awareness and acceptance of mental health resilience across Israel, foster a culture that embraces proactive mental wellbeing, and establish a sustainable network of change agents and partners. Ultimately, the program seeks to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge and tools needed to maintain mental health and effectively cope with challenges.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience #Women
#FutureGenerations #North #South #Arabs



Diversifying the Mental Health & Wellbeing Workforce

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: Emerging mental health support providers, including subclinical and wellbeing-focused roles beyond traditional clinical professions.

Program Description: Israel faces a critical shortage of clinical mental health professionals, limiting timely access to care. This program aims to diversify the mental health workforce by creating new support roles and pathways that complement traditional clinical care. Through specialized training for emerging professionals—covering mental, physical, cognitive, and social wellbeing—combined with efforts to promote their services, the initiative expands the reach of mental health support across the population. It also adds a layer of capability to existing support roles, ensuring that individuals who do not require clinical intervention still receive meaningful, structured assistance. By mapping models of similar roles in Israel and abroad, the program identifies opportunities to introduce new positions and professional pathways, fostering a more flexible and responsive mental health ecosystem.

Desired Outcomes: To increase the variety of mental health support options available, reduce bottlenecks in clinical care, and broaden access for those seeking help. The program will cultivate a diverse pool of trained support providers focused on promoting wellbeing, enabling a more adaptive, scalable, and community-oriented mental health system.

#ALLIsraelis #MentalHealthWellbeingResilience
#ImprovingPublicSystems



Mental Health & Wellbeing Innovation Community

Department: Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: The initiative engages technology entrepreneurs, startups, researchers, investors, and corporates to develop and scale innovative mental health solutions.

Program Description: This initiative is an innovation community dedicated to advancing early detection, screening, and prevention of mental health challenges. It provides a strategic space for actors in the innovation ecosystem to pilot and implement cutting-edge, data- and technology-based solutions that address critical gaps in mental health care, fostering the development of scalable, high-impact interventions.

Desired Outcomes: To use innovation to accelerate the creation and adoption of effective mental health solutions, improving early detection and prevention, strengthening care systems, and enhancing wellbeing across communities.

[#ALLIsraelis](#) [#MentalHealthWellbeingResilience](#)





JDC-Tevet:

Economic Recovery and Employment to Build Back Better

Background

After more than 15 years of connecting marginalized populations to employment—reaching over 550,000 Israelis and transferring more than 75 services and infrastructures to the government—JDC-Tevet launched an expanded strategy in 2022 to address the persistent challenge of *poor-quality jobs and low income* for Israel's vulnerable workforce.

We understood that in addition to our continued support and upskilling of marginalized groups, tackling **the barrier to quality employment** required an additional layer—a new focus on encouraging and guiding improvements among Israeli employers, especially in weaker industry sectors where these populations were trapped in low-income jobs. Without modernization, employers across Israel's “economic periphery” would continue to lag behind, unable to offer opportunities for growth to their poorer workers—both current and future.

And so, in January 2023, JDC-Tevet's new work plan was approved, in coordination with 13 government ministries, all committed to the same idea: advancing quality employment (for the workforce) and increasing employer productivity (for the workplace), with the aim of driving economic growth and stimulating wage increases for the benefit of Israel's underserved communities.

Responding to War

The events of October 7 and the ensuing war shook Israel's economy. Yet it quickly became clear: JDC-Tevet's framework and approach were more relevant than ever to advance Israel's standing in the OECD as we try to prevent pre-existing vulnerable populations from falling further behind. In the year and a half since, we have driven three major processes—developing programs for “new populations” in urgent need of support; adapting existing programs to the realities of the emergency; and tackling employment as a *regional* challenge that demands *regional* solutions, especially for the North and South.

Looking ahead, we know that **employment**—in all its dimensions—is a cornerstone of **rehabilitation: personal, communal, and national**. *Work* speaks both to an individual's sense of worth and purpose, and to the larger framework for economic security and recovery.

In that light, JDC-Tevet's work has evolved to focus on building a more resilient workforce and workplace—to **Build Back Better**. Two pillars guide these recovery efforts:

The Workforce: Employment as Rehabilitation

- New vulnerable populations—evacuees, reservists and their families, and those injured physically or emotionally—face the risk of long-term exclusion from the labor market. JDC-Tevet is launching programs which work to instead keep them engaged and active in employment, preventing poverty and dependency. Many will need to make significant career changes or pivots to achieve this.
- We continue to support historically marginalized populations, including Arab and Haredi communities and other vulnerable groups, with programs that remove barriers to employment and create pathways to sustainable careers, to prevent them from falling even further behind.

The Workplace: Productivity for Economic Recovery & Growth

- We support small and medium businesses in weaker, low-productivity sectors— i.e. construction, agriculture, manufacturing, trade, and services—that were damaged by the war yet remain

The Workforce: Employment as Rehabilitation

Back on Track – Employment Rehabilitation

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: 1,000 newly injured, physically or mentally

Program Description: JDC launched Israel's first trauma-informed Employment Rehabilitation pilot to support newly injured individuals, including soldiers, prevent them from dropping out of the workforce post-injury. Without timely, personalized intervention, these individuals face a significantly increased risk of chronic unemployment and long-term dependency. The program provides participants with a specialized employment counsellor, working one-on-one to build a tailored process over six months, helping clients to regain financial independence, purpose, and reintegration into the workforce. The program's innovative approach was developed through partnership with NATAL—the Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center—and has now expanded to collaborate with the Government of Israel. The first-of-its-kind program currently supports 418 participants and is now working in 18 locations including five hospital rehabilitation units, with the goal to reach 1,000 participants in total.

Desired Outcomes: Participants gain the skills, confidence and support needed to reintegrate into the workforce, providing them with financial independence and a renewed sense of purpose. Success is about participants re-engaging with the workforce and creating new paths to employment early in the rehabilitation process.

#Employment #Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience



Vocational Training & Job Placement - in the North & South and for Reservists

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: 1,200 participants, including those who were evacuated from the North and the South and reservists

Program Description: Israel lacks a mechanism that can rapidly bridge the supply and demand gap in a way that addresses regional needs, especially those brought about by the war. In response, JDC has launched a program designed to close this gap now and in the future. Through tailored vocational training and targeted job placement, the program equips war-affected job seekers with the in-demand skills and helps employers adapt recruitment to the realities of evacuees and others deeply affected by the war.

Beyond the immediate outcomes, the program builds lasting employment infrastructure, enabling war-affected regions to continue addressing these challenges in the months and years ahead, ensuring that Israel's embattled North can rebuild and grow. The program model addresses the needs of evacuees and others in fragile situations, ensuring comprehensive support from intake to job placement and retention. The program places an Employment Relations Coordinator in the region, who works together with the JDC team to identify local employers, secure relevant job positions, and connect to the right local training provider. Once established, courses are adapted to the needs of the employer and the needs of potential participants, after which the course can begin recruitment. To date the program has partnerships with over 130 employers and has launched over 50 training courses.

Desired Outcomes: Assist war-affected jobseekers through intensive career retraining and direct placement; ensure participants enter positions with improved employment conditions and higher salaries than before the war; achieve at least six months of job retention for participants post-placement. In addition, creating a model for long term government adoption which will continue to drive quality employment in the North and South.

#Employment #North Recovery #South Recovery



Career Support for Spouses of Reservists

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: 1,000 spouses of reservists and caretakers of the newly injured

Program Description: JDC-Tevet's pilot program supports the spouses of reservists serving extended duty, as well as family members of caregivers for the newly physically or mentally injured, reintegrate into the labor market. The program aims to assist 1,000 participants by offering personalized and flexible employment solutions tailored to their unique needs and life circumstances.

The program combines one-on-one support with peer learning and community-building to enhance self-confidence, motivation, and professional direction. It was built based on JDC-Tevet's experience and knowledge from the Back on Track program, which provides employment rehabilitation to the newly injured. Participants will engage in a structured yet adaptable process that includes individualized coaching, small group sessions, and access to innovative tools. Additional services include emotional support referrals, rights navigation, and workshops on digital tools, networking, and personal branding. The program is guided by core principles of personalization, flexibility, professional coaching, peer support, a strengths-based approach, and the use of innovative technologies. Through active participation, participants will be empowered to remain in the workforce, effectively using employment as a model for resilience.

Desired Outcomes: Prevent workforce drop out for reservist spouses and family caregivers; support a return to the workforce for those who have already dropped out of the labor market; integrate participants into flexible work options or retraining opportunities

#Employment #Mental Health & Wellbeing and Resilience #Women



Jobify – AI Powered Job Search Support, with focus on injured soldiers and reservists

* Integrating advanced technologies and data platforms into the world of work

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: 50,000 registered users

Program Description: Israel's reservists face a major employment crisis: 75% report financial hardship, with 48% experiencing significant losses. 60% feel job insecurity, and 41% have been fired or forced to leave their jobs. In response to these challenges and the escalation in numbers of those seeking new employment, JDC-Tevet developed Jobify, a virtual, AI-powered career center connecting job seekers to immediate opportunities and has now expanded it to target reservists and other vulnerable populations. By aggregating listings from Israel's largest job boards and analyzing users' skills through a CV upload or AI questionnaire, Jobify builds personalized profiles and suggests tailored openings, career paths, and study programs. Since launching in July 2024, Jobify has reached 130,000 users seeking jobs, and lists around 70,000 job openings across Israel—including 10,000 in the North.

The expansion to support injured IDF soldiers and reservists has been built in partnership with the Association of IDF Disabled Veterans and National Insurance. As part of this effort, 3,000 injured soldiers and 2,000 (non-injured) reservists received information about Jobify, expanding their awareness of job opportunities and training resources. We also partnered with 130 major employers, who collectively posted 3,000 targeted job openings that give preference to injured soldiers, as well as reservists.

Desired Outcomes: Assist vulnerable Israelis, including reservists and injured soldiers as well as populations in the North and the South, regain financial stability, adapt to a shifting labor market, and rebuild their futures.

#Employment #People with Disabilities



Eitan – Escaping Chronic Unemployment

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2025

Target Population: The program supports individuals aged 30–50 who face chronic employment instability, including: those earning below the median wage (8,500₪); people who have filed for unemployment or income support more than three times in the past five years; single mothers and Israelis (including those from Arab society), with low educational attainment; workers in low-wage or unstable sectors (sales, services, and administrative roles); so far the program has reached 250 participants and will continue to expand.

Program Description: JDC-Tevet's Escaping Chronic Unemployment Program addresses employment instability by guiding jobseekers into sustainable, quality employment. Designed for individuals at risk of workforce dropout, the program combines technological innovation, personalized coaching, and flexible support to create lasting changes in participants' careers and lives through group sessions and individualized coaching. Participants are recruited through a digital screening system that reduces the burden on employment bureau staff and ensures a strong initial fit. Once enrolled, participants enter an intensive guidance phase focused on identifying potential, building motivation, and developing skills aligned with market needs. Through both individual coaching and group sessions, they receive personalized support, practical tools, and a clear path toward meaningful employment.

The final phase ensures long-term job retention by offering continuous, data-driven follow-up and flexible responses to workplace challenges. The program integrates AI-based tools for monitoring and matching, emphasizes soft and professional skill development, and provides tailored support packages that address each participant's unique barriers and aspirations. Designed for scale, the model is adaptable to different regions and populations across Israel. The program has already supported 250 participants across eight employment bureaus—including Be'er Sheva, Ashkelon, Haifa, and Jerusalem. This program builds on the deep experience and expertise of JDC-Tevet in identifying needs and applying new methods of career guidance for Israel's most vulnerable populations.

Desired Outcomes: Helping participants to achieve lasting employment

[#Employment](#) [#North Recovery](#) [#South Recovery](#)



Vocational Pathways – Advancing Employment in Vocational Schools

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2023

Target Population: Students from Israel's vocational high schools, including all 24 Arab vocational schools

Program Description: Vocational Pathways operates within vocational high schools across Israel to establish robust apprenticeship programs that prepare students for career pathways and upward economic mobility. The program enhances capacity of school employment coordinators and collaborates with employers to link students—primarily from underprivileged backgrounds—with valuable opportunities.

It also delivers pre-employment training, tackling the persistent issue of vocational graduates entering the job market with inadequate skills, which often results in low-paying jobs. The program spans the entire vocational school network, providing training for vocational coordinators at all schools. It concentrates efforts at 37 vocational high schools, including all 24 Arab vocational high schools. Employer relations coordinators identify businesses that can offer quality opportunities. Students receive mentorship and guidance to establish strong career trajectories as they transition into the workforce. This program builds on JDC-Tevet's expertise working with employers and advancing internship models in traditional industries.

Desired Outcomes: Prepare students in vocational schools for career pathways and upward economic mobility

#Employment #Children and Youth #Arab Society



Sintek – Gap Year for Arab NEET Youth

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024 (program was conceived pre-Oct 7)

Target Population: Arab Youth transitioning between high school to employment

Program Description: Sintek is an innovative program for young men and women in Arab society, which aims to provide tools and skills for personal development, social engagement, and occupational and academic guidance. Recognizing the gap in pre-career opportunities for Arab youth who do not serve in the army or National Service, Sintek offers a comprehensive alternative that equips participants with the tools, skills, and experiences necessary for personal growth and career readiness. The program focuses on helping these youth develop in core areas such as life skills development, job market preparation, and digital literacy. Participants also engage in intensive Hebrew and English language acquisition, tailored to the needs of higher education and the modern workplace. The Sintek program includes options for students to transition into vocational training and job placement through career counseling and ongoing personal empowerment. Ultimately, the goal is to help these young Arab adults build a meaningful path toward social and economic integration. The first cohort concluded with 121 participants across eight municipalities, and the program is set for relaunch in the coming school year.

Desired Outcomes: Help Arab youth transition from high school toward meaningful employment and build sustainable futures.

[#Employment](#) [#Children and Youth](#) [#Arab Society](#)



Career Pathways: Guidance Designed for the Haredi Community

(Cluster of programs inc. Hanoach, Netivim, Netiva, Derech Eretz, Yesodot)

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: Varies

Target Population: Vulnerable Haredi populations such as young men and women at risk

Program Description: This cluster of programs aims to support Haredi men and women—many of whom are experiencing or at risk of poverty—by guiding them toward sustainable career paths. JDC-Tevet creates culturally sensitive frameworks that align with Haredi values, working through trusted community figures who understand the unique social norms and serve as employment mentors. Participants gain exposure to the world of work, build career awareness, and begin earning credentials that support quality long-term employment. Key programs include:

- **Hanoach** – Partners with Haredi yeshivot to help young men prepare for financial independence while continuing Torah study, offering employment-readiness workshops, skill-building courses, mentoring, and more.
- **Netivim** – Reaches out to young Haredi men who have left yeshivot, training counselors to identify their needs and guide them toward meaningful career paths, including the army.
- **Yesodot** – an innovation in vocational training with employers from the construction industry. Participants start as general laborers following a 20 day training and their salary is paid by the employer from day one, so they don't need living stipends. Then they learn to be assistant electricians by day and go to school at night to earn credentials as certified electricians.
- **Derech Eretz** – Provides community-based outreach to help Haredim transition out of poverty through employment.
- **Netiva** – Works in Haredi girls' high schools to offer 12th-grade students the tools, information, and guidance they need to select for themselves and pursue high-quality careers

The Workplace: Productivity for Economic Recovery & Growth

Nine2Ten / Lawrence I. Field Business Management Training Program - in partnership with McKinsey

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Middle managers from struggling industries

Program Description: JDC-Tevet is equipping managers with the critical skills needed to navigate crisis and rebuild Israel's economy in the wake of war. Middle managers will gain the tools to overcome adversity, restore stability, and drive growth—transforming today's hardships into a foundation for a stronger tomorrow, ensuring a more resilient and thriving Israel for the future. The training curriculum is built upon McKinsey's globally applied A2E model, which identifies nine key management behaviors and skills essential for the recovery and growth of small and medium sized businesses.

Even before the war, research by the OECD indicated that Israeli managers faced a significant management skills gap: 35%-40% below the OECD average. They were unprepared to navigate crises, lacking the tools and resilience to lead effectively in times of upheaval. Today, these managers' skills are more critical than ever, as businesses across Israel's northern and southern borders face the impact of ongoing war and economic collapse.

Desired Outcomes: Reach at least 4,000 middle managers from selected Israeli businesses and build these managers' skills to improve their decision-making, increase their resilience, and drive their business's operational efficiency

#Employment #North Recovery #South Recovery



360⁰ – Industry Partnerships to Boost Productivity

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2023

(conceived pre-Oct 7 but adapted and implemented after)

Target Population: Businesses from four main struggling Israeli industries: Construction; Manufacturing; Agriculture; Trade and Services. Approximately 200-300 small and medium businesses will be served in 2025.

Program Description: October 7 and the ensuing war have caused severe damage to Israel's economy, business sector, and workforce. Even before the war, small and medium businesses specifically in peripheral regions needed assistance. JDC-Tevet, in partnership with the Regional Clusters, and other industry partners, designed the 360 program to provide innovative, tailored solutions to small and medium businesses in these industries, with the goal of helping these industries Build Back Better.

JDC-Tevet recruits businesses through referrals from partners and marketing to professional unions and networks. Once the intake process is complete, the program performs a comprehensive diagnostic process of the business—assessing strengths and risks. Next, they are **matched** with industry consultants to identify potential solutions, and support is given to the participating businesses in implementation. Businesses receive 50 – 200 hours of consulting and accompaniment throughout the process depending on their individual needs, including adapting new technological and innovative practices that can improve business productivity. Businesses also have access to innovation and management training to help them build capacity within their work systems. At the end of the process feedback is collected from the businesses to measure improvement.

Desired Outcomes: Rebuild and strengthen Israel's small and medium businesses in struggling sectors through improving performance in three key areas of businesses: (1) adopting advanced technology/digitization; (2) developing human capital; and (3) advancing work and management processes. Provide tools to help the struggling industries across Israel address the current challenges, ultimately expanding the economic capacity of the region and its residents

#Employment #North Recovery #South Recovery



Building national systems and infrastructure for employment and productivity, with a focus on the North and South

The National Dashboard for Employment and Economic Growth / Adapting to the North with *T'nufa* (government administration for Rehabilitation the North)

Department: JDC-Tevet

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: Decisions makers, government ministries, local authorities

Program Description: The Israeli government first initiated the EMUN System as a response to the Oct 7 emergency—to deliver real-time, cross-sector insights for emergency response, recovery, and strategic planning. JDC-Tevet has since partnered with the GOI to continue to develop the Emun System, focusing on data for employment and productivity—with a goal to create a clear, unified picture of the economic landscape in Israel, based on data from 15 various government ministries.

The dashboard relies on shared indicators to create a shared language that informs decision-making such as the development of programs and responses aligned with the current situation and the national targets. This “Employment & Productivity Dashboard” is working to inform decision-making such as the development of programs and responses aligned with the current situation and the national targets—essential in both routine times and in emergencies like these.

Desired Outcomes: Create a clear, unified picture of the employment and productivity landscape, based on data collected from 15 various government ministries—to drive decision-making and monitor progress on economic development.

#Employment #Improving public systems



Region Up

Department: JDC-Tevet

Program Name: Region Up

Year Launched: 2024

Target Population: JDC-Tevet has established four regional partnerships and connected with 300 partners in the Western Negev, Eastern Galilee, Western Galilee (with Beit HaKerem), the Haifa Metropolitan Area

Program Description: Region-Up is a comprehensive, regional economic development strategy designed to address employment and productivity challenges in Israel's periphery. It is built around the understanding that sustainable change requires both national-level vision and local-level responsiveness. Region-Up combines JDC's proven national programs with strong regional partnerships to create tailored, impactful solutions. Region-Up uses a dual approach of top-down implementation –working in partnership with the GOI to adapt and implement national employment programs at the regional level–as well as bottom-up engagement through developed regional clusters that bring together key stakeholders like local government, employers, academia, civil society, and philanthropy to identify region-specific needs. These forums generate grassroots insights that inform program design and help ensure community buy-in.

Desired Outcomes: Foster a broad ecosystem that shares resources, expertise and infrastructure with the aim to advance region-specific actions to boost economic development.

#Employment #Improving public systems #North Recovery
#South Recovery



A large rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in blue, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing.



A large rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in blue, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing.



