Yet thanks to the British Jewish community, we were there. In your thousands you have helped us to provide water, food and shelter to those made homeless during the incredibly trying first weeks following the quake and through the second earthquake that occurred soon after. Josh Simons, our Senior Programmes Manager, was in Nepal within days, helping coordinate our immediate response and ensuring our long-term recovery work is well planned. Your support means that we will be there to help rebuild Nepal. Thank you.

The disastrous conflict in Ukraine may well have slipped down the news headlines recently yet one cannot overstate the horror that continues to be seen right on Europe’s doorstep. Over a million people have been forced to flee their homes. Parts of the large Jewish community in Ukraine, though not specifically targeted, are caught up in the conflict – thousands have been displaced and left with nothing. At this dark period in Ukraine’s history, World Jewish Relief continues with your help to not only meet these emergency needs but also to assist our participants escape the cycle of poverty through our livelihood programmes, as well as supporting older people at this time of national emergency.

You’ll have noticed a slightly different look and feel to previous editions of Reach Out. As the Jewish community’s leading humanitarian agency, we are incredibly proud of the work that we do amongst the world’s poorest Jewish communities and reaching beyond our own. Yet too often it’s been unclear who we are and what we do. Therefore, now is the time to move away from WJR; for us to speak loud and proud as World Jewish Relief. Our new look and feel will enable us to speak to more people in a clearer way than ever before.

Finally, inside you’ll read the wonderful news that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will be our new Patron.

We’d love you to tell your friends and family about the work that you’ll read about in this newsletter, that your generous support is enabling.

Thank you

Paul
Our corporate strategy

By 2020 we will:

- take 100,000 people out of poverty
- assist 50,000 older Jews
- assist those affected by disaster
A story of courage in Ukraine

Nobody can tell what will happen next. This is the feeling of over 1.2 million Ukrainians forced to flee their homes and the rest of the 44 million nationals whose country has been ripped apart by the ongoing conflict.

Despite a ceasefire, daily violations continue yet much of the world seems to ignore this conflict on Europe’s doorstep. Is it any surprise they feel forgotten?

World Jewish Relief, however, will not forget and we remain committed to Ukraine. It is only thanks to you that we managed to provide emergency support to over 18,400 people to ensure that they survived the bitter winter. Though winter has now passed, the scale of the problem is immense. Ukraine is suffering from an unprecedented economic, political and humanitarian crisis. People who once could have coped are now poor, the resilient are now helpless. Yet we continue to provide hope and opportunity to those affected throughout the country.

Margarita is 55 years old and now lives in Mariupol on the fringes of the conflict zone. 18 months ago she was leading a full, happy and successful life in Donetsk. Her family were active in the Jewish community, even visited Israel and regularly gave to charity. The fighting in Donetsk in May 2014 forced Margarita and her daughters to flee to Mariupol while her husband stayed behind to protect their home. World Jewish Relief provided emergency support including food, clothing and blankets to Margarita and her daughters to ensure that they could settle in their new city. Leaving everything has meant that this once stable, middle-class family have to start again to slowly rebuild their lives. Thanks to you and your generosity, including your fantastic support of our Pesach Appeal, we’re there to help them.

Margarita’s is a story that shows nobody is immune to the effects of the crisis. Those who once gave are now in need. The strong are now vulnerable. As the crisis continues, we go on with our vital work providing food, accommodation, medical care, job-skills training and emotional support to people like Margarita. There are approximately 6,300 Jewish individuals in the conflict zone and as fighting continues the need here remains huge but we are there to help them. Their crisis is our problem, your support is their salvation. From everyone at World Jewish Relief, thank you.
We empower older people
WORLD JEWISH RELIEF’S PROGRAMMES MANAGER BETH SAFFER RECENTLY VISITED UKRAINE TO CONNECT WITH OUR PARTNERS AND SEE FIRST-HAND THE IMPACT OF OUR ELDERLY WORK WHICH YOU’VE MADE POSSIBLE.

Ukraine’s elderly Jewish community, many of whom lived through the Second World War, have yet again been faced with extremely difficult times as a result of the Ukraine crisis. The military conflict has brought an endless period of worry, stress and uncertainty for the future.

World Jewish Relief’s empowering older people programme has made a huge difference to people’s lives by tackling loneliness and isolation. Over 1,200 older people and 300 younger people are involved in the programme throughout Ukraine. Bringing the two generations together enables new relationships and understanding to be developed.

During the past turbulent year, the programme has run stress-relieving workshops, individual consultations with psychologists and provided the opportunity for older people to gather with friends in safe places for much-needed respite and distraction. In the conflict-affected regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, even the sounds of shelling and bombing could not prevent older people participating in social gatherings, which have continued to represent a real lifeline for people living in these areas. We always reach out to the most isolated elderly people such as those unable to leave their homes. We also hope to get more elderly people to play an active role in the projects and their wider community – such as by visiting less mobile people, helping to organise events or being a telephone befriender.

At our recent seminar in Kiev, partners relished the chance to discuss common problems and hear from Aviva Trup from the Holocaust Survivor Centre in London on dementia, empowerment and bereavement. This is where we can see the other benefit of our support - bringing people together to learn from World Jewish Relief as well as from each other.

We extend our greatest thanks to the Desmond Foundation for generously supporting this programme. Thank you.
From horror to hope in Nepal

On 25 April an earthquake hit Nepal claiming over 8,000 lives. Thanks to your amazing generosity, World Jewish Relief was able to act immediately, providing food, shelter and safe water. Our Senior Programmes Manager, Josh Simons, was in Nepal, turning your financial support into action.

When I first arrived in Kathmandu, I was struck by the dust, it was everywhere and choking. It was the dust of tens of thousands of homes crumbled to the ground. It was the dust of the rescue effort desperately trying to save the last few lives.

Months on there is still rubble everywhere, on every street, in every neighbourhood, and in front of nearly every house. Thousands of families have lost everything. Beyond Kathmandu some villages have been wiped away completely. I visited Rasuwa district, North West of Kathmandu where, thanks to your support, we are working with a local organisation to provide 500 families with life-saving shelter materials.

It is here that I met Nanu, a 13 year old girl who is living in a makeshift tent with nine other women and children. When I met them, the only relief assistance they had received was a 15kg bag of rice. It was not nearly enough for everyone in their family, yet Nanu’s mother still invited me into her tent to eat lunch with her family. Declining, my heart ached with amazement that this family could extend such hospitality although they had lost everything.

This is just one of many similar encounters. Time and time again, I saw examples of Nepali resilience and pride. Despite the rubble and ruins, you can’t help but appreciate the natural beauty of this country and the generosity of its people.

Over the last months, as well as providing immediate relief such as food, tents and blankets to families like Nanu’s, your support has meant that we can help local communities get back on their feet. In the current monsoons, our priority is to help people who are now homeless to build safe shelters which will withstand the ongoing rain.

During my time in Nepal, I saw the absolute worst part of the human experience, the injured, the ill and worse; but I have also seen kindness, generosity and resilience. The earthquake was devastating, but the people here are hopeful. They know that organisations like World Jewish Relief will help to repair their country and rebuild their communities.

Thank you.
Welcoming our new Patron... Prince Charles

We are enormously proud that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has become the Patron of World Jewish Relief. This is the culmination of his long-standing involvement with the charity.

His Royal Highness, a fantastic friend of the Jewish community, was Patron of World Jewish Relief’s hugely successful Krakow Community Centre project, which was his brainchild. He opened the centre in 2008. He has also been Patron of our Wohl Livelihood Development Programme in Ukraine which has helped over 2,000 people towards getting back into work and bringing their families out of poverty.

At this critical juncture for the communities we help - particularly in Ukraine and Nepal - the patronage of His Royal Highness could not be better timed. We are grateful for his long-term commitment to a set of values we share.

World Jewish Relief’s Life Vice-President, Nigel Layton, was instrumental in securing the Patronage of The Prince of Wales. He said: “The support of His Royal Highness demonstrates once again the close connection between the Royal Family, World Jewish Relief and the UK Jewish community. His Patronage is for our full range of work, giving a ringing endorsement to our work in combating poverty amongst the world’s most vulnerable Jewish communities and reaching beyond the Jewish communities, particularly at times of natural disasters.”
A gift that keeps on giving

Article by Ron Millet, World Jewish Relief supporter, Leeds

Ron’s mum, Elly, recently left a gift in her will to World Jewish Relief, largely thanks to our role in organising the Kindertransport, which rescued her and thousands of other Jews from Nazi Germany.

My mum, Elly, was 91 when she died. She was a lively outgoing woman, with a zest for life and a friendly smile for everyone.

Elly was born in Vienna in 1923. Unfortunately at the age of just 15, on Kristallnacht, she was witness to Vienna being wrecked by Nazi thugs. She had already suffered from the growing prejudice of the time, cut off from her friends, banned from school and made to feel threatened.

Her father saw what was coming and got her on the last Kindertransport out of Vienna. In her own words, here is what that experience was like.

"... My sheltered childhood was suddenly shattered when my parents told me that I had been accepted for the Kindertransport to Britain... At the Western Railway Station in Vienna there were hundreds of children with their parents, crowded on that platform, hemmed in and harassed by strutting Nazi Storm troopers. What upset me most was seeing toddlers having to leave their parents. Inside the train we all crowded to the windows. As the train moved out of the station, I waved frantically to my parents, tears streaming down my face. I never saw my father again..."

When Elly got to the UK, she moved to Leeds. Concerts, theatre, art galleries and overseas travel when almost no-one travelled overseas - this was what she was going to do and this is what she did.

I’d like to thank World Jewish Relief - without them, my mum wouldn’t have survived. It makes me incredibly proud that she left a legacy to reciprocate the kindness to this wonderful organisation.

For more information on leaving a gift in your will to World Jewish Relief, please contact Alisa Avigdor, Director of Philanthropy on 020 8736 1277 / alisa@worldjewishrelief.org or visit www.worldjewishrelief.org/legacy

Elly’s record is one of 40,000 private files that World Jewish Relief holds in its historic archives. Please contact us to find out more and to see if we might hold your family history. Visit www.worldjewishrelief.org/archives
BAR OR BAT MITZVAH GIVING

We are excited to be launching World Jewish Relief’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah Giving programme.

Is your child embarking on one of the most important years of their lives? If they are coming up for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah and you’d like them to learn more about charitable giving, this could be the perfect way to do it.

Participants will learn about World Jewish Relief’s global work and we’ll help them to find ways to raise a small amount of money to make a huge difference. For an initial chat or to receive your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Giving pack please contact Samantha Martin on 020 8736 1265 or email sam@worldjewishrelief.org

WE’RE CELEBRATING UK NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

In early October, World Jewish Relief is celebrating UK National Grandparents Day with our take on the day – Grandparents Day at Sukkot.

This is a great chance for you to celebrate the relationship you have with your grandparent or grandchild, whilst also taking time to reflect on the lives of Jewish grandparents across Eastern Europe.

We’ll be celebrating with activities in shuls and schools across the country. To find out how you or your school/shul can get involved, contact Rafi Cooper at raf@worldjewishrelief.org or 020 8736 1258.

SUMMER RAFFLE

1st prize
£3,000 cash

2nd prize
Luxury vintage train experience

3rd prize
Helicopter ride over London

PLUS: 10 runner-up prizes of a family photoshoot

Take part in our Summer Raffle and win some fantastic prizes, whilst supporting our life-changing projects.

Play online at worldjewishrelief.org/raffle for chances to win: an amazing £3,000 cash prize; a journey through the picturesque countryside on board the Belmond British Pullman or Belmond Northern Belle, sister trains to the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express; or a private helicopter ride to see London from the skies with a glass of bubbly. Plus we have 10 runner-up prizes of a family photoshoot by Alan Fish, Living World Photography.

Play our raffle today and support our life-changing projects. Closing date is 12 August 2015.

All our prizes have been generously donated.
See our work

Insight trips are the best way to truly appreciate the work of World Jewish Relief. Join us to see the impact of our work first-hand and you will go home knowing that you have made a difference. All trips include visiting, meeting and spending time with the inspiring people we help in their homes and at the Jewish Community Centres. It is a unique opportunity to see firsthand the reality of living in the countries where World Jewish Relief provides help to those in need.

We are planning the following up-coming trips:

**OCTOBER 2015:**
Moldova (for bar/bat mitzvah children with a parent)

**MARCH 2016:**
Young Professionals Trip to Moldova

Fancy a challenge?

Challenge events are a great way to put your fitness levels to the test while fundraising. We have a number of running and cycling events you could take part in including the Milton Keynes Marathon, North London Half Marathon, Run to the Beat (10km run), the new, exciting Bear Grylls Survival Race and Ride for the Living bike ride in Poland.

For further information or an initial chat please contact Samantha Martin on 020 8736 1265 or sam@worldjewishrelief.org.

If you don’t fancy running or cycling, but want to participate in a sponsored event, contact Samantha to discuss the different options. From a sponsored silence to sky diving – there is something for everyone.

Get your shul involved

We want to keep you updated on everything that we do. That’s why several times a year we do public events with inspirational speakers talking about the countries that we work in.

Recently, we hosted a Ukraine Crisis Briefing event at the Manchester Jewish Museum, featuring leading international experts on Ukraine and international development.

Check out our website for upcoming briefing events.

If you would like your synagogue to partner with us to host one of these events, we can work with you to make this happen!

Get in touch with Richard Verber on richard@worldjewishrelief.org or 0208 736 1256 to find out more.

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