



## Paul Anticoni Chief Executive

On Friday 7 October 2016, we were sitting around the table having a conversation that felt pertinent to every supporter of our work.

If you saw our Rosh Hashanah appeal you'd have seen Svetlana from Odessa, Ukraine, the face of the appeal and the sweetest lady you can possibly imagine. When my colleague went to visit her home recently, her window pane fell into the road as he was speaking to her. Incredible. Her ceiling is mouldy, walls rotten and her apartment filled with damp.

This year, because of our Rosh Hashanah appeal, we will be repairing her home and giving her warmth, safety and dignity. It's truly life-saving and a very practical response to an unacceptable situation that so many of our extended Jewish family face in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

This is what World Jewish Relief does every day of the week, year in, year out. We support the world's poorest Jewish communities, mostly in the Former Soviet Union where there remain hundreds of thousands of Jews. So if an older person like Svetlana needs help fixing their home, we fix it; if someone's lonely, we bring them into the community; or if they lack the means to provide basics for themselves, such as food or medicine, we're there to provide for them. Not only that, but we don't want the next generation to face the same hardships in their old age as Svetlana, so we support younger people to find employment to escape the cycle of poverty.

Yet on that Friday something happened that forced us to challenge our priorities. I'm sure you all saw the devastation that Hurricane Matthew wrought in Haiti. Hundreds died. Whole towns were swept away, with tens of thousands of people displaced from their homes.

As you know, World Jewish Relief leads the Jewish community's response to international disasters, showing the world that we care for those beyond our own community. On that October morning we had the decision to make as to

whether, if we appealed for Haiti, we would we still raise enough money from our Rosh Hashanah appeal to fix Svetlana's home. We were well aware that appealing for those in Haiti could detract from our work in the Former Soviet Union. We could be competing with ourselves!

What is 'an emergency'? In international disasters, both natural disasters like Haiti or man-made emergencies such as the refugee crisis, we help people whose lives are devastated by a catastrophic event. Yet if you're old and lonely or have to choose between food and medicine or can't find work in Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia, every day is an emergency. No individual is more or less deserving than another.

So on 7 October we appealed for Haiti so that we could provide immediate support such as food and shelter and help Haiti to rebuild. But we know that Svetlana's house will not repair itself. So not only are we running an appeal for Haiti but we redoubled our efforts to make sure that our Rosh Hashanah appeal was not sacrificed. And thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we will be able to help in both contexts.

We will continue to do what we have done since 1933; support people who are facing an emergency every single day. We couldn't do all that we do without your help.

**Thank you.**

# Transforming dementia care

WORLD JEWISH RELIEF AND JEWISH CARE HAVE JOINED FORCES ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM DEMENTIA CARE ACROSS JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. BETH SAFFER, WORLD JEWISH RELIEF PROGRAMMES MANAGER, EXPLAINS HOW.

Over the last decade or more, we've seen a strategic campaign in the UK to increase public awareness and understanding of dementia. But in the Former Soviet Union, the situation is drastically different. Social and medical support is limited and people lack knowledge of dementia – many assuming it is a natural part of ageing.

As a result, many older people who develop dementia are excluded by society or withdraw themselves due to stigma and embarrassment.

Friends and even family members often don't know how to react. The life expectancy of a member of the Jewish community

is significantly longer than the average, thanks to the life-saving social care provided by World Jewish Relief and other organisations. But as we know, the likelihood of developing dementia increases with age, so this is leading to more cases within the Jewish community.

In order to support communities with this, we brought in Jewish Care's expertise as a social care provider to complement our more than 25 years of experience working in the Former Soviet Union. We are working with our partner, who deliver social care services to the Jewish population.

We have funded Jewish Care staff to run training seminars for homecare workers and staff in Jewish social welfare centres in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. In 2016 we trained more than 200 people and there was demand for more. Our ambition is to improve the lives of Jewish people living with dementia, but this isn't possible without transforming wider society's view of ageing and dementia, so we invited Government officials and civil servants to attend the trainings.

Each seminar started by covering the basics, such as 'What is dementia?'. We emphasise seeing the person and their needs first, not treating them as a patient with a diagnosis.

The aim is to create 'dementia champions' in Jewish organisations who can deliver new services and raise awareness in the community and beyond.

In a previous job I witnessed horrendous cases of discrimination of people living with dementia in State-run institutions in Belarus. I'm proud that World Jewish Relief is contributing to a ripple of change. As we know from the UK, it will take time, but it is achievable.



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# Transcending the bounds of faith

IMAGINE YOU ARE A TEACHER FROM SYRIA. A YEAR AGO YOU WERE STOOD IN FRONT OF A CLASS OF TEENS IN YOUR HOME TOWN, NOW YOU FIND YOURSELF WITH FEW PROSPECTS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHOSE LANGUAGE YOU CAN'T SPEAK. YOUR HOME HAS BEEN DESTROYED, YOUR COUNTRY IS IN TURMOIL, THAT SAME CLASSROOM NOW RUBBLE AND DUST.

There are currently over 65 million refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) around the world, with stories like this. Innocent people forced to flee their homes, leaving behind established roots and abandoning skilled professions.

To date, we have raised over £1million in response to the current refugee crisis, allowing us to support thousands of people in Turkey and Greece with life-saving assistance. But as we know, the refugee crisis has become a domestic story too, with the government pledging to resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in the UK by 2020. The British Government is providing housing, education and

healthcare, but a missing part of the jigsaw of full integration is the lack of employment opportunities.

From our successful programmes in Ukraine and Moldova, World Jewish Relief has built up a great deal of expertise helping vulnerable people to find jobs and break the cycle of poverty. We have used that expertise to implement a similar employment programme in Bradford.

In April 2016, World Jewish Relief launched the pilot Training and Employment Programme in Bradford - the sole resource in the area for specialist refugee employment support. The aim of the programme, funded by private donors and not from our emergency appeal, is

## Overcoming Barriers: Nadia's Story

Until last year, Nadia lived in Damascus, Syria. There she worked hard for years to build up her own retail business. Fearing the civil war raging around her, Nadia had little choice but to flee with her son, leaving behind their home and the 35 shops she managed in one of the city's main shopping malls.

Arriving in Bradford, she found herself unable to secure work due to her poor English. Enrolling on our programme, Nadia undertook an employment assessment, English lessons and a CV workshop and we were able to find her a work placement

at Marks & Spencer within the management team.

Despite excellent feedback, her manager didn't think her English was good enough to be employed at this stage, telling her to come back in six months. Since then, with her stoic drive and determination, she has enrolled on an additional English course at Bradford College and is taking every opportunity to practice, until she can "speak English the way she speaks Arabic". We continue to support Nadiya in her quest for employment.



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to prepare 1,000 Syrian refugees with the skills for, and access to, the UK job market. By enabling them to become ready for employment, secure work and contribute to society, we are reducing their dependency on state welfare and increasing their chance to successfully integrate. The programme provides services like employment assessments, CV workshops, interview practice, work placements and, crucially, English language classes.

Despite the hardships they have faced and many barriers that still lie in their path, the participants are highly motivated and their response has encouraged many other Syrian refugees to begin self-referring to the programme. As well

as the five jobs secured so far, many are on the verge of employment and there are lots of potential jobs lined up.

In January, the programme will launch in Coventry to help around 60 refugees, initially.

There has been an extremely positive public response, encapsulated by this email, received after a segment about the programme in July on BBC One and Radio 4:



*Dear World Jewish Relief,  
I listened to BBC Radio 4 news today about World Jewish Relief helping Syrian refugees in Bradford. I am a Muslim by faith, this gesture by you has humbled me and provided a new perspective into how we can transcend bounds of faith and give comfort to fellow humans.*

*Thanks, thanks and many thanks for your great work.*

# “Tears is all we have” — dreaming of a normal life in Ukraine

Vitaliy Kartamyshev,

Director, World Jewish Relief in Ukraine



IN OCTOBER I MET NATALIYA AND SERGEI IN THEIR APARTMENT IN KURAHOVO, JUST 25KM FROM THE FRONT LINE OF THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE. YOU CANNOT IMAGINE THE LEVEL OF HARDSHIP IN KURAHOVO.

Destitute people in tattered clothes are out on the streets without food, looking visibly distraught. Financially, the majority are living on half of what they need for basic survival. Lives so broken they have had to move to this unfamiliar town, their problems deepened by price hikes for basic food and clothes due to the large influx of Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

In a town of approximately 28,000 people, over half are internally displaced like Nataliya and Sergei. Their flat is tiny; just two rooms for living, cooking and sleeping, for which they pay 2,500Hr (£78) per month, plus utility charges. They have barely anything left from their subsidies as IDPs of 3,000Hr (£90). Their young children, Aleksander and Elizaveta, are blissfully unaware of their desperate situation - they know no different. When we meet, Nataliya is six months pregnant, her bump an extra concern for her.

She is certain that she couldn't support her baby if not for the food provision from World Jewish Relief. They are just one family we are providing vital food aid to, without which the family would likely go hungry, fall behind on bills or neglect medications.

Before war broke out, life was stable. Nataliya and Sergei had jobs, Aleksander went to kindergarten, they had salaries and could afford to buy plenty of food. Life was normal. The house they part owned in Krasnohorovka was just 500 metres from the front line. The conflict turned their lives upside down. Nataliya was pregnant with Elizaveta at the time and the stress during pregnancy meant she was born with a range of problems, including a motor neurone disease and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She was in prenatal care for two months and doctors said she was lucky to have a baby at all. On the day their home was destroyed,

Sergei was hiding in the basement when the heavy missiles were launched. “It was the scariest moment of my whole life.” He still suffers from shell shock and PTSD, and suffered damage to his eyes. His eyesight makes it even harder to find a job, in a town where the job market couldn't possibly meet the demand of all the IDPs desperate to earn money. The bank is still demanding mortgage repayments, even filing a law suit against them. Insurers have turned their backs on them and there is nothing they can do.

Sitting down with Nataliya and Sergei they tell me this, the lines of war and exhaustion etched on their faces. “We are tired. We live with the hope to see the end of this conflict. We want to take the children home, we want to sleep in our own beds, we want a normal life. We don't want to spend our days in endless hospital queues, living an IDP life.

We want to work and earn income. We are simple people and we are suffering. We became destitute and we will never again earn as much. We are on our knees - tears, tears and tears is all we have.” It is almost impossible to think that in the space of two years lives could be so ruined. In other circumstances, it could be any of us enduring this suffering.

When the topic turns to the assistance we are providing the mood changes. Not quite happiness, it felt more like relief. The uncertainty of their circumstances and dependency on handouts is gruelling. “We are not used to begging. We just want peace. The kind of aid we receive from you is extremely needed. Thank you for your help.” Leaving their home I couldn't help but be moved by their situation and the full gravity of our duty.

## Ukraine Update

### About the conflict

- The conflict began in 2014 and has since led to at least 9,758 deaths and over 1.4 million people displaced.
- The conflict is a protracted one with things having stalled on both the political and humanitarian fronts.
- The feeling from the Ukrainian population is despondency; they want a return to normality.
- Moscow and Kiev agreed on 19 October to end a deadlock on the conflict in eastern Ukraine by the end of November.
- Despite this peace deal, violence frequently flares up along the demarcation line. Over the first two weeks of November, 3,440 shells were fired from both sides.

### How we are helping

Over half of World Jewish Relief's programmatic work is in Ukraine, where every day is an emergency even for those not situated in the conflict zone.

Our project in the Lugansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine, where the conflict is being fought, is delivering food parcels and hygiene kits in the buffer zone and along the contact line. The packages include food like rice, oil and tinned goods, and the hygiene kits include nappies, soap, toilet paper and more.

**In total we will deliver 700 food packages and 1,104 hygiene kits, reaching 1,600 people.**

# Responding to Emergencies

THERE ARE CURRENTLY MORE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES BY CONFLICT AND CRISIS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE WORLD WAR II.

AIDA'S STORY IS REMARKABLE, BUT ALARMINGLY TYPICAL OF MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE HAD TO FLEE SYRIA.



When her teenage children were caught in a battle in the street on their way to school a year and a half ago, traumatised by the slaughter of their neighbours, Aida knew it was time to leave. With one son already dead, the hospital unable to treat his cancer, Aida wasn't prepared to say goodbye to any more of her children. She left her job as a nurse, her husband left his as a journalist and they made the journey to Turkey with their children. With every mile further from Damascus they felt safer, but their future was uncertain.

In Syria, Aida had been imprisoned, severely beaten and witnessed horrific violence against women. Now, she attends our Women's Support Centre in Gaziantep, close to the Syrian border; the only centre of its kind in the region. Aida loves being able to come to the centre. She is learning Turkish and in the evening goes home and teaches her husband. These language skills are their best hope of full integration.

The Women's Support Centre will help 1,000 women and girls like Aida, including widows, orphans and the sexually abused. It will provide health, vocational and psychosocial services, giving these women the opportunity to heal and form a support network.

Many who end up here have fled similar dreadful scenes in Syria: beheadings, rape, and the constant fear of bombings. They often leave with very little and in a rush, their lives turned upside down. The centre is a new lease of life and the participants are seizing every opportunity. The women learn Turkish, English and IT skills to improve their job prospects. Some train in childcare, while others focus on recovering from their trauma.

Even more than the practical skills being provided, we have seen that the centre's greatest quality has been as a safe space for participants to talk about their experiences and meet new friends.

In the first four months alone there

have been over 500 beneficiaries, many of whom use the centre for more than one purpose. One of those women is Yana, who is filled with optimism. "We have to improve our skills because we want a brighter future for our children. If we grow a new and better generation than before, we can make the world a better place."

## The Refugee Crisis Appeal

The Women's Support Centre is just one of the projects we've been able to initiate thanks to the astonishing response of the Jewish community to our Refugee Crisis Appeal. The funds raised have also allowed us to provide immediate aid to those most vulnerable in the form of rescue teams on the beaches of Lesbos, a mobile medical unit, and the provision of urgent food and basic supplies. In the year since the appeal was launched, we have made a difference to 17,557 lives.



HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF HOW WE ARE HELPING WHERE NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE STRUCK IN NEPAL AND HAITI

## Nepal

Over a year after the devastating earthquake in April 2015, we are focused on long-term solutions for Nepali people.

**Our agricultural livelihood programme helps farmers grow high value cash crops like tomatoes and cauliflower.**

We provide business plans, skills training start-up inputs (like fertiliser and tools) and mentoring and monitoring for the farmers involved. In areas lacking water suitable for agriculture, goat farming and beekeeping were introduced.

**We are on track to help 498 participants begin to earn an income and rebuild their lives this year. Over the next two years, our programme aims to reach 1,400 people.**

We have also conducted 10 Disaster Risk Reduction courses for the worst-hit communities, so they can assess risks and implement disaster plans in future.

## Haiti

**At the lowest estimate, Hurricane Matthew ended the lives of 546 people in Haiti. Realistically this figure is likely to be well over 1,000.**

In the devastating aftermath people were left without homes, livelihoods and in many cases, families.

**We are providing the most vulnerable with \$250 cash transfers to purchase materials for home repairs or food; a dignified and enabling way to provide humanitarian aid.**

We are providing additional vouchers for families to buy roofing materials, or agricultural supplies, such as seeds or fishing equipment. We are also conducting roof and whole home repairs for 34 families.

**In total, we will reach 1,104 people.**

We are looking for volunteers with relevant experience to strengthen our Rapid Response Team for future disasters. For more information see the back page.

# The seeds Weizmann planted

Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel and a founder of World Jewish Relief, was born and raised in Belarus. Indeed, he struggled on arriving in England, exclaiming: "You cannot imagine what it means for an intellectual to live in the English provinces and work with the local Jews. It's hellish torture!". Our connection with Belarus still runs deep - today we support vulnerable Jewish families across the country.

In a village outside Minsk, the capital, some 140 miles away from where Weizmann was born, lives Svetlana Voyevodkina, 41, a single mother with a large family. Svetlana has been out of work for years. "For many years I taught maths at a high school. I took maternity leave to have Sonja just over 7 years ago."

After giving birth she was unable to return to teaching as her middle child, Alexandra, developed health problems which required special care. She needed expensive medicine and frequent monitoring by a doctor. The authorities said she had to be home-schooled.

Svetlana's entire savings were spent on looking after her daughter. "What else could I do?" she says. "You do anything for your children."

Despite everything she was facing, she refused to give up and began to look for a way to earn money to support her children without having to leave Alexandra. At a Jewish community event, Galina, Svetlana's mother, learned about our work in Minsk and advised her daughter to approach us. "My mum was very insistent! It was thanks to her I found

out about the business training and was able to attend as she looked after the children. It changed my life."

In the past year nearly 2,000 people have found employment through our courses, which help people who have been out of work for many years find a sustainable job.

Svetlana became one of the most active participants in her cohort. "My whole family told me how much my self-esteem changed. I felt better about myself too." After completing the course Svetlana decided to become a beautician. "I decided it would give me a large enough income, but crucially allow me to still work from home." She has not forgotten her passion for mathematics either and gives weekly private lessons.

It wasn't only Svetlana's life which was transformed. "My eldest daughter saw what had happened to me and was inspired to go on the same training course."

Alexandra can now receive the physiotherapy she needs and the other children can attend after-school activities and receive additional tuition. If things continue, perhaps it won't be too long before Belarus produces its next Chaim Weizmann.

## 60 SECONDS WITH... BARBARA MOONT, ASTRONOMER

### What is your connection to World Jewish Relief?

I always liked the way the organisation was run and the work it does, helping people to help themselves. Both mine and my husbands grandparents came from Eastern Europe, so in other circumstances, it could have been us there now.

### How do you support the charity?

For four years I've been giving talks on astronomy to the English-speaking community in Zichron Yaakov. My husband Jonathan puts the presentations together, and I deliver them on topics ranging from the Moon to Spectroscopy. We do this all in aid of World Jewish Relief, show a short film about the cause and we raise between £2-3k per year!



### How often do you give talks?

As well as four-week long courses for about 30 people at a time, I sometimes give popular one-off talks, especially if there's something of interest in the news. Extra solar planets - planetary systems going round other stars - is one of my favourites, and it goes down well too!

### What advice would you give to anyone looking to do the same?

Even if only two people show up, don't give up! It grows from there and the best advert is word-of-mouth.

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Whether you're looking to achieve another personal best or have never been sporty, World Jewish Relief has the challenge for you.

**Run** the Virgin London Marathon 2017 (April 23rd 2017). Soak in the atmosphere as you run, jog or even walk the 26.2 miles past London's iconic landmarks.



**Cycle** from the gates of Auschwitz to the doors of the JCC, Krakow. Ride For The Living (June 22nd - 25th 2017) is a unique way to experience and support World Jewish Relief's work rebuilding Poland's Jewish community.

Community Fun Run, Tackle Tough Mudder... There is something for everyone.

Contact **Samantha Martin** on [samantha@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:samantha@worldjewishrelief.org) or 020 8736 1265 and see how your challenge can make a difference.

**Trek** Kilimanjaro, Walk the family 1k Maccabi GB



## OUR THANKS TO...

World Jewish Relief would like to thank the following supporters and their families for generous gifts left in their will:

Hillel Bender

Brian & Lynda Davis

John Jacques

Rene Nadler

Jack Vardy

Gifts in wills are critical to World Jewish Relief. We couldn't achieve what we do without the invaluable support of those who want to leave a lasting legacy. We wish your families a long life.

For more information about leaving a gift to World Jewish Relief in your will please contact **Richard Budden, Head of Individual Giving & Legacies** on 020 8736 1250 / [richardb@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:richardb@worldjewishrelief.org)

## CELEBRATORY GIVING

Mark a special occasion by supporting World Jewish Relief!

If you, or someone you know, is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or wedding you could use the opportunity to give hope for a better future to those in need.

1. If you know someone who is celebrating you can donate to World Jewish Relief in their honour. We will send them a Mazel Tov card to let them know you have donated.

2. If you have a special occasion coming up you can ask well-wishers to donate to World Jewish Relief in your name. We will keep you updated on who has donated and the total you raise.

For more information about Celebratory Giving please email **Hadas Morris** on [hadas@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:hadas@worldjewishrelief.org) or call 020 8736 1250.