CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD
I was particularly struck by the way we are able to personalise the services we provide. It would of course be easier to just give everybody the same support, but every one of our clients has different needs. We work hard to make sure that everyone gets the appropriate care, be it a pair of glasses, homecare, repairing their homes (page 4) or providing specialist care for those living with dementia (page 8).

It means that each year we can support 13,000 older people like Ida (page 3) with the personalised care they need. She is one of the people helped by our remarkable network of wonderful homecare workers who look after their most basic needs, and most importantly provide the friendship that makes such a difference to these isolated and vulnerable older people. It really shows the true spirit of an active and caring Jewish community.

I also met an inspiring group of young adults in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, who with World Jewish Relief’s help had established small businesses, were able to support their families and are actively engaged with the local Jewish Community Centre. In the last 8 years we have assisted almost 9,000 people to find work in the region – and we are continuing to use our expertise to help those in need beyond our Jewish community, as we are currently doing in Mozambique, following the aftermath of Cyclone Idai (page 6).

This year we commemorate 75 years since we, as The Central British Fund, rescued and rehabilitated 732 child Holocaust survivors following the liberation of the camps. Some of these children feature in the new BBC drama ‘The Windermere Children’ along with the inspiring CBF staff who cared for them. The first group were brought to the Lake District, where we gave them the language skills, education, and psychological help to establish new lives in Britain. This is a significant part of our history, of which we are immensely proud, and it continues to inform our commitment to assisting refugees at home and abroad.

We are incredibly grateful that British Jewry still continues to enable us to be there for people in times of need, both within and beyond our Jewish community. I hope you enjoy reading about our work.

Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Paul Anticoni
Chief Executive

I recently travelled to Ukraine to see the impact that our programmes have on the people we help. Inevitably, it is always daunting to see the scale of the task still facing us, but I was inspired by the modesty of our clients and incredibly impressed by the progress we are making.

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Ida dedicated 60 years of her life to her career as a children’s ophthalmologist. She helped tens of thousands of children to see, and was proud to pioneer new treatments. She even volunteered as an eye-care specialist at her local Jewish community centre until she was 80. Now she is 94, and almost blind. Ida had no children and never married. Her friends and colleagues have all passed away - she is totally alone. Trapped in her one room apartment which she has been unable to leave since 2014.

But World Jewish Relief gives Ida a respite from her isolation in the form of her companionship homecare worker, Lilia. Ida spent years helping other people to see, and now Lilia is her eyes to the outside world.

Lilia is Ida’s only source of company - she reads to her, chats to her, listens to music with her and tells her all the weeks’ news. With Lilia’s company, Ida is no longer alone and even though she is sometimes confined to her bed for months at a time, Ida takes solace in Lilia who has given her a reason to smile again.

“This is for me like a breath of fresh air! After all, before, I was an active participant in the life of our community! And now, thanks to Lilia, I learn about everything that is happening there! Lilia and I celebrate all Jewish holidays, and for me it is so important! Thanks to your project, I now have a wonderful companion and a person close to me. For lonely old people this is a priceless gift.”
I travelled to Kharkiv to photograph World Jewish Relief’s Home Repairs Campaign which repairs homes across Eastern Europe through the kindness of donors in the UK. Alexander stands proudly with his white beard and pony tail and laughs when I tell him he’d be considered the coolest person around in some areas of London. He leads a lonely life, sitting in front of a 14” black and white TV at the end of his mattress as the days pass by. Alexander doesn’t have a toilet, there’s a huge hole in the bathroom wall and the window in his apartment allows freezing air to come inside. I was acutely aware that Alexander wanted assistance, but he did not want pity.
When I asked Leonid and Olga how they celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover they bought out some traditional Matza and put it on the table in their lounge, which is also their bedroom. Their kitchen also doubles up as the bathroom and is in need of total refurbishment. Their state pension doesn’t cover their needs, with Leonid suffering from various illnesses. Leonid and Olga were quiet but very sweet together. Their weathered faces told a million stories. I told them we’d take some photographs of them together like on their wedding day, which they were delighted with. Their apartment has a view but is otherwise bleak and as I left I thought more about their daily lives, Leonid’s illness, the climb up those many stairs without an elevator… and I had a very heavy heart. **Thankfully World Jewish Relief’s Home Repairs Campaign has transformed their home, and their lives.**
Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall on 14th March 2019, at Beira, Mozambique. The wind and rain destroyed homes, rivers burst their banks and floodwaters rose. The extent of the devastation was so vast that the true impact of the cyclone was not known immediately. It took emergency workers days to gain access to areas entirely cut off by flooding and collapsed roads.

1.85 million people were affected.
240,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.
142,000 people were displaced.
$2 billion of damage was caused.

World Jewish Relief launched an emergency appeal, and our humanitarian team were on the ground just nine days after the disaster struck. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we were able to roll out aid provisions within two weeks of the cyclone through our partners ADPP - our fastest response yet.

It is not just the swift provision of emergency supplies that is required at times like this. In the immediate aftermath when the need is most acute, we focus on keeping people safe and preventing the spread of disease, with shelter and hygiene kits, and food supplies.

The long road to recovery

by Emily Dean at World Jewish Relief
But we do not stop there. The effects of a crisis are not just felt in the short term, it can take years for a community to recover from such unimaginable loss.

In Mozambique, the communities we supported in the days and weeks following the cyclone were made up of subsistence farming families, many of which had a single parent. We worked with them to ensure the 2,250 farmers had a secure food supply and stable income.

We distributed starter kits containing tomato, cabbage, lettuce, pepper, garlic and onion seeds, and provided agricultural advisors for each area, so the farmers could be trained in the best techniques for farming high yield and high value crops.

The programme has seen great success, with an uplift in production and food security for all the farmers participating. On average, each household used 40% of what they produced for their own consumption, and sold 60% at markets.

In the wake of the cyclone, most families could not afford even a single meal a day and relied solely on food handouts. Now they can afford two good meals a day and nearly a quarter of the families managed to make enough money to send their children back to school.

Maria Aisa was one of the farmers on our programme. She has been making £40 a month from her crops of onions, tomatoes and lettuce.

‘Without this project I would have had to find manual labour work to earn enough money to buy some seeds; but it would have taken so long that I would have missed the growing season. Idai washed away all the crops I had before. I am grateful because thanks to this project I am able to feed my children and pay for their school.’

DISASTER FUND

Last year 166.5 million people needed humanitarian assistance, more than double the UK population. However, huge numbers of people are becoming increasingly affected by disasters that do not make the news. Homes are lost, productive land ruined, schools shut, diseases spread. With the absence of news coverage, fundraising opportunities are scarce. However, we don’t just want to be present where the cameras are, but where help is needed.

Through our Disaster Fund, we respond when funding is otherwise limited. In December, we partnered with CDRC to provide essential food supplies to 1,500 people affected by Typhoon Phanfone that struck the Philippines on Christmas Day causing 100,000 people to be displaced and £50 million worth of damage.

DONATE TO WORLD JEWISH RELIEF’S DISASTER FUND

Your donations can help us save lives when disaster strikes.

www.worldjewishrelief.org/firstresponders
Humbled by Georgian pride

World Jewish Relief’s dementia training programme is changing the way people are cared for across eastern Europe. Debbie Livingston ran programmes at University College London (UCL), training relatives and staff to provide better care for people living with dementia. She travelled to Georgia with World Jewish Relief staff members Judith and Natalya, to introduce our dementia training across the country.

Georgia has a long and rich history. Jews have lived here since the time of the Second Temple and escaped the persecution experienced by those in other regions. But the last century has been tumultuous and often tragic and the number of Jews has dwindled, leaving a population disproportionately old and infirm. Even so the welcome was warm, open and genuine.

Like other countries where World Jewish Relief works, there is no state support in Georgia for people living with dementia, nor is it understood by the public. Families are left to care for their relatives with little knowledge about how to do so.

The World Jewish Relief training course is aimed at those who work with older people on a daily basis, showing them how to spot the early signs of...
dementia, understand how it progresses and what to expect from a person who is diagnosed with dementia. It encourages them to put the person with dementia at the centre of the care to help them enhance their quality of life. In the capital Tbilisi, the training session gave space for about 30 healthcare staff to think about the people they care for. We asked the participants to reflect on how they would want to be viewed and looked after in their later years. Tears flowed as the emotions came to the surface. Dementia does not have boundaries. The fears are international, and teaching people the skills to support families going through the dementia journey is essential.

“It was great to see how the course participants had changed their ideas about dementia and vastly improved their knowledge of the condition.”

After the session, they talked about the clients they help and began to realise many of them already showed signs of dementia. It was a light bulb moment for them, and a great step forward for the provision of better care.

After visiting the larger cities of Tbilisi and Kutaisi, the last stop on our trip was Gori. Best known as the birthplace of Stalin, it is an incredibly deprived area, with 85% unemployment. Heavily damaged by airstrikes in the war with Russia in 2008, many buildings still lie in ruins. There is no traffic, the streets are devoid of people and the shops are empty.

The very last person we met on this trip really showed me the importance of my visit and the immediate impact of our training. We went to visit Mikheil, who has advanced dementia. He is incredibly frail with virtually no mobility and the ravages of his dementia means he cannot speak and has very little comprehension. His World Jewish Relief care worker has been with him for more than 5 years and comes most days to dress him, feed him and keep him company. All this she does with love and care.

However, following our training session just two days earlier, she had begun to understand that what she did and the manner in which she carried it out made a significant difference to his quality of life. The training put into perspective the value of what she was doing and gave her pride in her role in his life.

During our visit we noticed a beautiful old piano that used to belong to his wife. It had lain silent for many years. We asked if it still worked, and if he liked music but no one had ever thought to try. One of our group started playing an old Jewish song and Mikheil turned his head and smiled for the first time in years.

Dementia care is an ever-growing issue in Georgia and other parts of the Former Soviet Union. We can’t cure it, but we can help make the life of some of the most vulnerable older Jewish people so much better and more dignified.

Thanks to your support, World Jewish Relief has provided dementia training for 152 carers in Ukraine and Georgia. We are working on expanding the programme into Belarus, reaching more vulnerable older people and families dealing with the effects of dementia. We could not run life-changing programmes like this without your help.
‘The expectations I had... were shattered’

*Emma Izon* travelled to Lviv, Ukraine with Young World Jewish Relief to see the impact of our work

**MY PRECONCEPTIONS OF UKRAINE CENTRED ON SOVIET TOWER BLOCKS AND FREEZING TEMPERATURES. I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY APART FROM ITS SHRINKING NUMBERS FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM.**

But 60 percent of Ukrainians live below the poverty line, and meeting the older Jewish people supported by World Jewish Relief really put that into perspective. I was fortunate to speak to some people whose lives were changed by their programmes.

On the fourth floor of a dilapidated Soviet-era building we met 90 year old Bella. She was thrilled to welcome us into her home and I immediately felt at home, the décor reminding me of my late Grandma’s house in Birmingham. But the sense of comfort and familiarity quickly vanished when I noticed the state of her home.

Bella was born in Kyiv but during the war was evacuated together with her sister and parents. She had no childhood to speak of - in evacuation, life was a daily battle against disease, starvation and the freezing cold. She never saw her grandparents again. After the war, she moved to Lviv and studied to be a doctor. She was evidently a very clever lady. Bella was married, but her husband sadly passed away over 10 years ago. Now, although she remembers the past well, she forgets what happened yesterday - and is unable to leave her home.

We were joined by Bella’s World Jewish Relief homecare worker who visits once a week. Bella is so grateful for the support she receives because without it, she’d have no other visitors. It was hard to see a person so isolated.

The expectations I had before I went were totally shattered. Lviv is a city proud of its history and determined to share its story. The Jewish community survives in the most difficult circumstances but is full of warmth.

I was able to see how World Jewish Relief’s range of support has changed people’s lives, giving them purpose, friendships, a comfortable home and a community and I’m incredibly proud to be an advocate for this charity.

Would you like to join World Jewish Relief on an Insight Trip? Email us on info@worldjewishrelief.org or call 020 8736 1250 to find out more
...Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity this Rosh Hashanah you have helped us repair almost 100 homes for vulnerable older Jewish people. Your kind messages were sent to Kharkiv, Ukraine, to let them know that they are not alone, and brought a smile to their faces.
WHERE
YOUR MONEY
GOES

For every £1 spent, 80p goes towards our life-changing projects supporting older Jewish people and those escaping poverty around the world. We invest the other 20p to manage our income and to help raise the next pound.

To make a donation please visit worldjewishrelief.org