C H A N G I N G L I V E S
F O R G O O D

Reach Out
July 2020
The virus and lockdown have been painful for many. We’ve tragically lost a number of close World Jewish Relief friends during the crisis and are proud in this Reach Out to commemorate the lives of Irving Carter, Trevor Green and David Lazarus whom we will miss dearly. For all of you who have lost family members and made great sacrifices during this period we are with you.

During lockdown, we took the opportunity to phone many of our supporters offering a chat and a friendly voice to ensure all was ok. It was the least we could do given all the support we’ve received from you over the years. Many celebrated our Jewish values of helping those within and beyond our community. Others welcomed how we connected our past history with our current priorities. And inevitably half said we send too much communication to them and the other half not enough. Hopefully that means we are spot on!

Unsurprisingly we have been inundated with requests for our help from all our programme areas, and we are doing all we can to respond quickly and effectively. We have expanded our support to elderly Jewish clients throughout eastern Europe whose isolation during this period has been more painful than ever.

Equally, having worked so hard to help younger Jewish community members secure employment and a source of income in recent years, we’ve seen many lose their jobs and require emergency support just to put food on the table. The provision of food packages has kept families alive but we know we need to help them find work again.

For the refugee communities we assist at home and abroad, the triple disaster of the virus, loss of income sources and displacement remains traumatic. And on top of all that, we’ve continued to assist victims of disasters in Haiti, Ukraine, Mozambique and Myanmar. Our recent Covid-19 appeal, seeking donations towards this entire operation, has won great support for which I thank you all.

With British Government funding, World Jewish Relief has been delivering a unique project in Rwanda, a country with which our community shares a tragic story. This programme is breaking the cycle of poverty for rural Rwandans. I am delighted to report more on this project in this edition of Reach Out.

Keeping you updated on what we do and why we do it is important to us. We thrive as a charity on being open and honest with our supporters, recognising that without you we would be completely lost.

Keep safe and well.

paul@worldjewishrelief.org
COVID-19: OUR GLOBAL RESPONSE

As the pandemic spread around the world, we started work with our brilliant local partners to get aid and awareness to where it’s most needed - from conflict zones to crowded refugee camps. Each of our partners has specific areas of expertise which we have utilised to be as effective as possible in mitigating against the spread of Covid-19. Our programmes supporting older Jewish people in eastern Europe and helping the younger generation back into work all continue, but have been adapted to provide extra care to those who need it, in line with the government advice of each country. We are responding to the pandemic in 15 countries around the world, including Haiti, Moldova, Belarus and here in the UK. Below is a snapshot of our work in three very challenging environments.

A region torn apart by conflict, Eastern Ukraine is ill-equipped to respond to a virus outbreak. Having provided humanitarian support in this area since the fighting began, we acted quickly, providing a key hospital with essential care items including 400 medical grade masks for doctors and 3,000 disposable masks for patients. We are also distributing disinfectant and hand sanitiser. We have sent food packages to 200 older people, single parent families and families with many children, with sufficient supplies to last for two months.

We have been working in rural Mozambique since it was struck by two devastating cyclones last year, destroying land, lives and livelihoods. We are providing portable handwashing stations, PPE and important safety information; our team is demonstrating effective hand washing, teaching social distancing, providing masks and distributing buckets and taps to the most vulnerable households. These measures are helping to ensure the communities that we have been working with to rebuild livelihoods since the cyclones, have some protection against the spread of the virus.

Sadly Covid-19 is spreading in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh - home to more than a million Rohingya refugees. With a dense population and serious overcrowding, the virus is a huge threat to life. We have been working with partners on the ground to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and slow the spread of the virus by running an awareness campaign, providing PPE and hygiene items and giving food packs to families who are unable to work due to lockdown. We are also supporting the local Bangladeshi community who are equally at risk.

To make a donation to World Jewish Relief’s Covid-19 response programmes, just return the donation slip provided in the freepost envelope, or go to worldjewishrelief.org/covid19
world jewish relief’s expertise in helping people get into work was recognised this year by the uk government with a significant grant of half a million pounds from the department for international development (dfid) towards our work in rwanda. for more than eight years we have been transforming the lives of jewish people in former soviet countries by helping them into employment. with a proven track record of success, we are now using the knowledge we’ve built to benefit vulnerable young people in rwanda.

Together with our partners in rwanda, unm and sacca, we are helping young people from poor backgrounds and fractured families in a country that has suffered tremendous trauma as a result of the genocide 26 years ago. this new project, which begun before the covid-19 pandemic, helps young people to create successful farming businesses, or guide them towards vocational careers in the local area, such as construction and beauty. we introduce them to employers and teach them how to develop business networks and access markets. farming in rwanda is traditionally viewed as a low-income and low-skilled profession, but world jewish relief has given rwandan farmers the opportunity to greatly increase their income by producing high value crops and having access to the right markets.

ekaterina mitiaev, head of impact and livelihoods at world jewish relief says:

“This programme will awaken more than 2,500 vulnerable young people to the possibility of a future of prosperity and dignity. not only will they substantially increase their incomes and lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty but they will also become role models and create jobs for others.”

olive is 22 years old. she completed a two month internship as a hairdresser after graduating from sacca’s hairdressing course, part of world jewish relief’s dfid funded programme. olive left school
at 17 but had been struggling to find work. She had been stuck at home with no hope for her future and felt like a burden to her family until she was accepted onto the course. Olive says, “I had always liked doing hairstyles, but although it was a passion I had never seen it as a career or a way to make money.” She says the internship has given her a new sense of aspiration and ambition. The realisation she can achieve things gives her a great sense of pride and she is so much happier now that she can help her family. With this programme, World Jewish Relief will be able to transform the lives of so many other young people like Olive, and give them a future to look forward to in the months and years to come.

In addition to vocational courses, we are working with groups of farmers to provide intensive training in modern agricultural techniques including how to grow high yield, high quality crops such as tomatoes. They are shown how to analyse the results of their first season’s harvest - part of the training to help them develop an entrepreneurial mindset. In previous years this has enabled farmers on our programmes to increase their income by at least a factor of 7. Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, the harvests continue to succeed, allowing some small amount of security for the farmers.

With the new grant from DFID, we know that we will be able to reach more and more people with this kind of sustainable income. Thanks to this programme, World Jewish Relief is able to work towards helping young people whose lives have been devastated by the genocide to build their own livelihoods and feel part of a community. The effects of the genocide will continue to be felt across the country for generations to come, but with these small steps, we can help young people have the hope of a better future.

World Jewish Relief began work in Eastern Rwanda in 2000 in recognition of the shared history of genocide between the Jewish community and the Rwandan people. Guided by the Jewish notion of Tikkun Olam, healing the world, World Jewish Relief reaches beyond our community at times of major disaster and in contexts that resonate with our own Jewish experience. There is an incredibly emotive and tragic shared history of persecution between the Jewish community and the Rwandan people. Just like the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe, Tutsi people experienced pogroms and discrimination at work, in educational institutions and on the streets. The legacy of the genocide still permeates the everyday of individuals, and poverty remains widespread. We are equally proud to work with Holocaust survivors throughout eastern Europe and genocide survivors in Rwanda.

Paul Anticoni, Chief Executive, World Jewish Relief
I was reborn in Windermere in 1945. The promise of England was a dream to a teenage boy who no longer believed he could believe in dreams.

Michael Perlmutter

75 YEARS AGO, WORLD JEWISH RELIEF, THEN THE CENTRAL BRITISH FUND FOR GERMAN JEWRY (THE CBF), CARRIED OUT ONE OF THE GREATEST OPERATIONS IN ITS HISTORY, BRINGING 731 CHILD CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVORS TO BRITAIN AND PROVIDING REHABILITATION SO THAT THEY COULD LEAD FULL AND HAPPY LIVES. THE CHILDREN BECAME KNOWN AS ‘THE BOYS’ - ALTHOUGH NEARLY 200 WERE GIRLS. THIS IS THEIR STORY.

In 1945, following the liberation of Auschwitz, Jewish philanthropist Leonard Montefiore went to Europe, on behalf of the CBF, to explore what could be done to help the thousands of survivors of the Holocaust. He suggested the most vulnerable survivors, orphaned children, could be brought back to Britain in the empty cargo holds of returning RAF planes. It was an audacious plan - not only did the CBF need to find funding, but they also had to convince the Home Secretary to allow the rescue. The Chairs of the CBF met with the Home Office, and eventually won through - under strict conditions that the children would stay no more than two years and there would be no cost to Britain. They set about fundraising, estimating it would cost £1million (£81 million in today’s money) to make the rescue and rehabilitation plan possible.

Thanks to the support of the British Jewish community, enough money was raised to bring the children to safety. On 14 August 1945, members of the CBF watched as planes carrying 305 child survivors landed in Britain. The months of hard work had paid off, and they were finally safe.

The children were taken to Windermere, which would be their home for the next 3 months. It was a green, quiet place - a place for them to begin to heal from the horrors of the camps. CBF staff ensured life was good at Windermere; ‘The Boys’ attended English classes, swam in the lake and enjoyed film screenings. It was a golden period of normality.

One of ‘The Boys’, Abraham Zwirek said of that time:

“When I woke up in the morning and looked around, I thought I was in heaven. There were white sheets on the bed and white bread to eat.”
MEET ‘THE BOYS’

Sir Ben Helfgott
Ben survived the concentration camps, death marches and slave labour. He was 15 when World Jewish Relief rescued him and brought him to the UK. He became captain of the British weightlifting team and represented his adoptive country in two Olympic Games.

Dr Harry Olmer BEM
Harry survived slave labour and numerous concentration camps. He made it to the UK by chance when another boy dropped out. Harry went on to become a dentist, supported by the CBF throughout his studies.

Harry Spiro BEM
Harry survived the death marches and concentration camps. In Britain he ran his own factory, employing hundreds. He says “As survivors, we went through terrible things, but World Jewish Relief, you believed in us and you brought us back to life”.

Moishe Malinicky z”l
Moishe’s parents and siblings were killed at Treblinka. He survived the Holocaust, and once in the UK became a caterer. His story was featured in ‘Who Do You Think You Are’, where his grandson, barrister and TV host (Judge) Rob Rinder explored his experiences.

Roman Halter z”l
Roman was sent to Auschwitz, but as a metal worker, he was saved from extermination. He escaped and was hidden by a German couple. In the UK he became an architect, sculptor and celebrated artist.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn z”l
Hugo was 13 when he was sent to Auschwitz, but told guards he was 19 and a carpenter, which saved his life. He became a renowned Rabbi and much-loved radio broadcaster.

The children were given psychological care under the guidance of CBF employee, Dr Oscar Freidmann, himself a Jewish refugee. Friedmann strongly believed they should be given as much freedom as possible and many of ‘The Boys’ reflect that this hallowed time gave them back their humanity.

Leonard Montefiore and Oscar Freidmann took enormous personal interest in the individual needs of each of the children for many years and through the CBF they helped ‘The Boys’ with suitable education and employment opportunities. They kept close contact with them, attending weddings and keeping up a lively correspondence.

Thanks to the commitment of these men, the children had the best possible opportunity to start anew after the horrors they had suffered.

A new drama and accompanying documentary telling the story of the first group of child survivors rescued by the CBF was broadcast on the BBC in January. ‘The Windermere Children’ featured the stories of some of the boys and girls brought to the UK after being liberated from Theresienstadt. It also shed light on the dedicated and forward thinking CBF staff like Leonard Montefiore and Dr Oscar Friedmann, who aided their recovery.

Our extensive archive of documents from the period contains detailed information about the children and their experiences after arriving in the UK. As well as ‘The Boys’ we have records for around 65,000 Jewish refugees who came to Britain from Nazi Europe. If you think any of your family may have been among this number, you can contact our volunteer archives team by emailing archives@worldjewishrelief.org and they will try to find any documents we may have, and return them to you.

Working with refugees is in World Jewish Relief’s DNA - it is where we began, and we still support refugees today. Thanks to your support, we can continue to help vulnerable refugees integrate into society and find employment, as we did 75 years ago.
MEET OUR PARTNERS

We work with partners all over the world to deliver our programmes - without them, we couldn't do what we do. We believe they know their communities best, can access the most vulnerable people, and understand the cultural context better than any international agency. Meet just a few of our many partners here, and learn more about their work.

UKRAINE

IRINA RUDKO
HESED RAKHAMIM

How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?
Seven years

What's your favourite thing about the job?
Of course, we can't change the entire world but to return the taste of life and relieve solitude is something we are able to do for those who are most in need. World Jewish Relief is a real partner you can rely on and share challenges you face. It is a privilege to have such a partner.

What's been your response to Covid-19?
We support lonely older people and people with special needs who are at risk with food, medicine and protective items; everything is delivered by volunteers who also do their best to listen to them, to share their fears and thoughts. We support families where parents have lost their jobs due to lockdown and we have set up a support hotline.

UK

CHARLIE FRASER
TERN

How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?
Seven years

What's your favourite thing about the job?
Our partnership with World Jewish Relief has allowed us to reach refugees across the UK and give them access to self-employment support. Being able to help them become entrepreneurs, launch businesses and take control of their own futures is incredibly motivating and rewarding.

What's been your response to Covid-19?
We support more than 160 refugee entrepreneurs. We were able to establish that Covid-19 was causing a cashflow crisis in this community. In April, we were able to successfully raise £15,000 to distribute as micro-grants. This has ensured that over a third of the entrepreneurs we work with could access financial support. World Jewish Relief is helping us shape what comes next, leading efforts to ensure that refugees have access to laptops and digital skills training. This is essential as we begin to move out of emergency support efforts and into the recovery phase of the crisis.

BELARUS

IRINA RUDKO
HESED RAKHAMIM

How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?
I have been working with World Jewish Relief at Hesed Rahamim since November 2016

What is your favorite thing about the job?
What I like most about my job is understanding that I work for people, people for whom our support is really important - vital, even - and who are grateful for our work.

What’s been your response to Covid-19?
There was a catastrophic shortage of PPE in our country. Our need was particularly high, given that we carry out about 18,000 homecare visits a month. Thanks to World Jewish Relief, we were able to provide more than 100 clients and their carers with PPE. It also helped from World Jewish Relief’s staff have allowed us to redistribute the funds we received previously and has given us extra funds to help those clients who are becoming even more vulnerable and needing support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

RWANDA

GILBERT MUGWANEZA
UMI

How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?
I have been working with World Jewish Relief for three and half years, since September 2016.

What’s your favourite thing about the job?
In my job I really like to provide technical agricultural training to the young farmers and what impresses me most is seeing them making money, and change their living conditions all due to their success in agriculture.

What’s been your response to Covid-19?
We started the lockdown in March, and during that period many activities had to be stopped. I applied for a travel permit so that I could keep providing support to our young people who are engaging in agriculture. I delivered chemicals for preventing and controlling plant diseases, and also provided technical support. Despite the lockdown and heavy rains, our farmers are now harvesting their tomatoes and Irish potatoes and they are already making good money.
**HAITI**

**ELENIA SHYNGARYOVA**

**How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?**

Haiti Survie has worked with World Jewish Relief to provide a response to victims of disasters since 2016.

**What’s your favourite thing about the job?**

I like it when I get to work with partners in other countries to mobilize resources to help those who need it most. I get involved to ensure that support is provided as quickly as possible and to mitigate the impact of the crisis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank from the bottom of my heart everyone who, through their support, helps World Jewish Relief to support partners around the world to respond to crises.

**What’s your response to Covid-19?**

We provided a month’s food for families who were living in critical and difficult situations with confinement- more than 425 people have benefited from this support. We are also promoting handwashing practices by raising awareness and disseminating information. Be certain that your support makes the difference and greatly helps to change the living conditions of communities living in extremely precarious situations. Much remains to be done and without your support we could not continue to help the most vulnerable.

**POLAND**

**ALDRIN CALIXTE**

**How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?**

Since 2008! During more than 10 years with the support of World Jewish Relief, we managed to implement very important projects that have significantly improved the quality of life of people with disabilities in Kharkiv.

**What’s your favourite thing about the job?**

I like the opportunity to implement projects that change the lives of people with disabilities. I am happy when I see that due to my work, a spark of hope is kindled. Many people with disabilities become more independent and no longer need outside help. All this is achieved thanks to World Jewish Relief’s financial support, as well as the advice of the entire team.

**What’s your response to Covid-19?**

We have provided information to our beneficiaries on all issues related to the coronavirus, including keeping deaf people informed by translating all official TV reports into sign language. We delivered food and medicines to people with disabilities who cannot get to stores on their own. We are very grateful to World Jewish Relief, who provided us with additional funding. Thanks to this support, 100 people with disabilities regularly received free food packages and hygiene products for two months.

**UKRAINE**

**ELENA S HYNGARYOVA**

**How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?**

Since April 2020.

**What’s your favourite thing about the job?**

It is a great pleasure to be able to deliver food to the poor and destitute people of Cox’s Bazar district who lost their jobs due to the lockdown, and the Rohingya refugees who were forcibly displaced from Myanmar. After receiving food parcels, the smiles of the distressed people makes you forget all the troubles.

**What’s your response to Covid-19?**

We have provided food and protection materials to 750 Rohingya and vulnerable host communities with World Jewish Relief funding. We distributed 50,000 leaflets in Bengali and Burmese languages among the Rohingya and host communities, raising awareness about Covid-19. We are extremely grateful to World Jewish Relief and other sponsors for their overall support during the global Covid-19 epidemic.

**BANGLADESH**

**NIZER HOSSAIN ISDE**

**How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?**

Since 2008.

**What’s your favourite thing about the job?**

I like the opportunity to implement projects that change the lives of people with disabilities. I am happy when I see that due to my work, a spark of hope is kindled. Many people with disabilities become more independent and no longer need outside help. All this is achieved thanks to World Jewish Relief’s financial support, as well as the advice of the entire team.

**What’s your response to Covid-19?**

The health services within Cox’s Bazar and the camps are not prepared to respond to an outbreak and are currently failing to meet the existing caseload. There is such widespread poverty and already a reliance on humanitarian aid for survival. lockdown puts already vulnerable families at risk of starvation. We have provided food and protection materials to 750 Rohingya and vulnerable host communities with World Jewish Relief funding. We distributed 50,000 leaflets in Bengali and Burmese languages among the Rohingya and host communities, raising awareness about Covid-19. We are extremely grateful to World Jewish Relief and other sponsors for their overall support during the global Covid-19 epidemic.

**SEBASTIAN RUDOL**

**JCC Krakow**

**How long have you worked with World Jewish Relief?**

10 years

**What’s your favourite thing about the job?**

JCC Krakow focuses on rebuilding Jewish life in a place which for so many years has been associated with a tragic past. Our mission is to provide members of the local Jewish community of all ages and backgrounds with a safe space, where they can freely express their Jewish identities. Being able to meet and work with this community on an everyday basis is an incredibly rewarding experience. Many of our members grew up not knowing they were Jewish and have discovered their heritage at a later stage. Seeing Jewish life in Poland, and that there are people who are rediscovering their Jewish roots is important to me as a Pole.

**What’s your response to Covid-19?**

A key part of our programming is taking care of over 200 senior members (among them 50 Holocaust survivors), who are the most at risk population. In order to ensure their needs are met, JCC Krakow is providing them with food and medicine deliveries on a weekly basis as well as phone counselling 2 or 3 times a week as part of our Coronavirus Relief Programme.
IN MEMORY

My heartfelt condolences go out to all those who have lost a loved one during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our community has suffered terribly and I want to pay a particular tribute to three individuals whom we will miss enormously.

Paul Anticoni, Chief Executive, World Jewish Relief

TREVOR GREEN
Trevor Green has been described as someone who ‘wore his heart on his sleeve and worked tirelessly and enthusiastically for charitable organisations’. Here at World Jewish Relief, we can vouch for that. Trevor’s immense kindness, warmth and generosity will remain with us always. In 2018 Trevor pledged to support a campaign led by our Patron, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, to rebuild the homes of older Jewish people in Ukraine who were living in appalling conditions, unable to afford repairs. He joined us on a visit to Zaporozhye, Ukraine, to see this work first-hand, and it was an honour to travel with him and to call him our friend. Trevor and his wife Yael always joined us for special World Jewish Relief occasions and we will miss him tremendously. Our thoughts are with Yael and her young family, and with Trevor’s brother Nigel.

IRVING CARTER
Irving Carter was a legendary supporter of World Jewish Relief, whose determination to ensure Jewish families across eastern Europe lived a better life led to the transformation of 10 Jewish Community Centres. Classrooms, kitchens, playgrounds, consultation areas and disability centres are safer, accessible to all and well equipped as a result of Irving’s generosity and persistence. He has, without a doubt, changed lives for the better. With a cheeky sense of humour and an exacting set of standards, Irving was a deeply caring individual who found it unbearable to think that members of our community could live in such poverty. He made us all laugh and inspired us to do more. Our thoughts go to Gillian, Malcolm, Suzy, Shoshana and Debra.

DAVID LAZARUS
A passionate supporter of World Jewish Relief, in 2008 David Lazarus pioneered a fundraising drive to purchase a minibus, and then filled it with clothes and supplies and drove all the way to deliver it to a vulnerable community in Ukraine. As one of World Jewish Relief’s most dedicated and compassionate fundraisers, David joined a further five trips to eastern Europe, always championing the practicalities of voluntary help. An extremely thoughtful and pragmatic leader, David regularly contributed invaluable guidance and advice to our Chief Executive, and as the Chair of the Jewish Volunteering Network, David was instrumental in transforming volunteering in our community. All of our thoughts go to Gaby, Micah and Lily.
Like many others, I was inspired by Captain Tom Moore and decided I too would walk round and round my half acre garden on behalf of World Jewish Relief.

Being Jewish myself I like to support Jewish causes. I attended a breakfast seminar on World Jewish Relief’s work in eastern Europe and was so impressed by the efficiency and enthusiasm of its small, dedicated staff and by the knowledge and expertise of the local workers in the field that I decided I would make it my favourite charity.

World Jewish Relief helps not only destitute Jews but also brings aid to others, irrespective of race or religion - its current appeal is helping those suffering from the economic effects of lockdown in 15 of the poorest countries worldwide. In 5 weeks I have raised £5,500 through donations from generous friends and strangers, and have walked the equivalent of 55 miles.

We ourselves have all had a taste of isolation but we, with our mobile phones and email access cannot compare our experience with the plight of those older people World Jewish Relief support, who are totally cut off. I was particularly moved by the case of Ida in the winter issue of Reach Out who, after a 60-year career as a ophthalmologist saving the sight of thousands of children, is now, at 94, going blind herself. She has no family, all her friends are dead, she has not left her flat for six years and is totally isolated. I had a fellow feeling, for, like Ida, I am 94 years old, have no relations and have had a long professional career - but there the parallel ends. I have a home, a large garden, good sight and good health, a wide circle of friends and a wonderful young couple sharing my home. World Jewish Relief sends Lilia, a carer, to Ida once a week to bring her news of the community, read to her, listen to music with her and celebrate the Jewish festivals with her - giving Ida, she now says, a reason to smile again. I wrote to Ida and World Jewish Relief got it translated and Lilia read it to her - I hope it cheered her a bit.

Robin is still walking her garden to raise money for World Jewish Relief. You can support her by going to worldjewishrelief.org/robinmyers
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

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

Jane Goodman
David Hyman
and the many donors who wished to remain anonymous

Donate to Celebrate

Mark a special occasion by supporting World Jewish Relief

Whether you’re looking to give a meaningful gift or celebrating yourself, why not mark a special occasion by giving some of the world’s most vulnerable Jewish people something to celebrate too?

For more information about Donate to Celebrate contact Richard Budden on 020 8736 1250 or richardb@worldjewishrelief.org

worldjewishrelief.org/donatetocelebrate