



ISRAEL NOW



Wednesday, February 15, 2023

As we watch the devastation in Turkey and Syria with the death toll currently estimated at 40,000, our hearts are broken. Please see below for information on ways to help and on where funds sent through the UJA Earthquake Relief Fund are going. Today's Israel Now touches on Israeli efforts to bring its expertise to help the relief and rescue efforts with this excerpt from an email this past Friday from UJA CEO Eric Goldstein:

"The Israeli government has sent a delegation of 150 search and rescue experts and a team of 140 medical personnel in a mission called "Olive Branches." As reported by the Times of Israel, the rescue team pulled out a 10-year-boy who had been trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building for 100 hours, bringing the total number of people now rescued by the Israeli team to 18. Also today, the medical delegation assisted in the reopening of a hospital in Kahramanmaras. Using Israeli supplies, they are now able to treat the wounded in the hospital's intensive care and operating rooms. The Israeli government also intends to send medical supplies to Syria, despite the Syrian government denying any request for aid. In an interfaith solidarity call convened this morning by the New York Board of Rabbis, we heard from Turkey's ambassador to the U.S. and the consul general to New York. Both thanked the Jewish community for our support and called out Israel, which has sent the second largest search and rescue team. On behalf of the New York Jewish community, I expressed our deepest condolences for the devastating loss of life."

UJA activated emergency protocols to approve immediate allocation of \$200,000 to five nonprofits, with more funding to be allocated soon to other organizations. The five initial organizations are:

- **JCD** and **The Jewish Agency**, the UJA's two largest overseas partners, to support their ongoing efforts helping members of the Jewish community and beyond. The city of Antakya, one of the devastated Turkish locations, has a small Jewish community, one of the oldest in the Islamic world. In addition to helping the Jewish community, the JDC is focusing on helping those who lost homes access the supplies needed to lives safely outdoors in harsh conditions.
- **Latet**, a leading social service provider in Israel, which is working closely with the Israel-Turkey Chamber of Commerce, various embassies, IsraAID, SmartAID, United Hatzallah, and others to send humanitarian aid. The aid is being delivered on donated Turkish airplanes.
- **Afya**, a longstanding UJA partner in crisis relief, which is sending five container loads of medical supplies via the Turkish embassy to support the needs of the injured.
- **The Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood**, based in New York and with longstanding ties to the Jewish community of Turkey, which is helping to provide food, shelter, and medicine.

This is just the beginning of **UJA's** support for relief efforts. If you would like to support their life saving work please [donate here](#).