

JCSR 2016 Year End Report

General

In 2013, reacting to the severity of the Syrian refugee crisis, a special group of devoted Jewish organizations came together to form—the Jewish Coalition for Syrian Refugees (JCSR). From June 2013 to August 2015, the first phase of its work, JCSR allocated more than \$500,000 to aid thousands of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Through its organizational partners, JCSR helped support programs that provided critical medical, nutritional, and psychosocial care to those in need.

In September 2015, JCSR expanded the scope of its work and began focusing on the needs of refugees and migrants across the Middle East and Europe. During this second phase, the JCSR partnered with organizations in Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Serbia and the Balkans. Together with these organizational partners, JCSR worked to provide food, shelter, winterization kits, medical supplies, personal hygiene products, and other essential items to refugees as well as much needed psychosocial support for first responders.

In total, the Coalition has raised just over \$2M. This funding has been allocated to more than 20 organizations including international partners—such as UNICEF, Save the Children, International Refugee Committee, and Jewish organizations—such as World Jewish Relief and HIAS—as well as Israeli Organizations—such as NATAN, IsraAid, Israel Flying Aid, Israel Trauma Coalition, and Ziv Medical Hospital.

2016 Overview

As the number of Syrian refugees continued to grow in 2016, JCSR remained steadfast in its dedication to raising funds to address this ever-intensifying crisis. JCSR held three allocation rounds in 2016; providing over \$860,000 to 11 distinct organizational partners. These funds aided refugees in Serbia, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Projects ranged from delivering life-saving medical supplies to individuals arriving in Lesvos, Greece on rafts to providing psychosocial support to first responders in Serbia.

In June 2016, JCSR collaborated with the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees and Heart to Heart International to facilitate a large scale interfaith volunteer initiative to aid Syrian refugees. During this event, more than 800 volunteers worked together to assemble more than 7,500 hygiene kits, which were distributed to refugees in Turkey and in displaced person camps in Syria. Heart to Heart International matched the volunteers' efforts and contributed another 7,500 hygiene kits. Overall, it is estimated that these kits brought relief to over 15,000 refugees.

With the dramatic and devastating increase in fighting in Syria at the end of the 2016, JCSR began a large scale appeal to raise funds for those fleeing Aleppo. Thus far, we have already allocated funds to one of our partners, International Blue Crescent, who is working to meet the needs of these of refugees (more information below).

Recent Allocations:
December 2016
(by country)

Serbia

In this most recent allocation round, JCSR funded Trag, a local philanthropic organization that provides on-the-ground services to Syrian refugees in Serbia. In particular, JCSR supported Trag's InfoPark project which aids refugees by providing them with information and assistance upon their arrival in Belgrade as well educational services—such as language courses—and basic necessities— such as food, medical care, and transportation to asylum centers.

Greece

Three out of seven of JCSR's recent grants were dedicated to aiding Syrian refugees in Greece. JCSR allocated funding to HIAS, a JCSR member organization, to assist in the opening of a legal office in Athens. This new office will serve a dual purpose; it will support refugees traveling to Athens for immigration related interviews and it will also allow HIAS to strengthen its relationships with embassies within the EU which, in turn, will allow them to better advocate for refugees seeking family reunification.

JCSR also provided two grants to the World Jewish Relief. The first grant will be used to protect women in Athens who have been deemed the most vulnerable (such as victims of abuse and trafficking, pregnant women, and unaccompanied women with children). WJR will provide these women-in-need with shelter and basic necessities. The second grant will support WJR's mobile school, which will provide educational and social support to 200 vulnerable children in Patras, Greece.

Finally, one of the JCSR's longtime partners, NATAN, decided to shift the focus of their work from Serbia to Greece, after recognizing the country's growing needs. In December, NATAN began providing first aid training as well as psychosocial and educational services to refugees in Chios, Greece.

Germany

In December 2016, JCSR began partnering with KIMIYAA, a British-based non-profit that assists recently resettled Syrian refugees across the globe by connecting them with professional mentors and vocational training. KIMIYAA will utilize JCSR's funding to aid refugees in Germany.

Jordan

Through our partner organization, IRAP, JCSR is helping to provide legal services to refugees in Jordan. These services include assistance with issues related to resettlement efforts as well as general legal counsel. IRAP's program specifically focuses on aiding the most vulnerable refugees –such as children, women and individuals who identify as LGBTI.

Syria

Due to the recent intensification of the conflict in Aleppo, Syria, the JCSR decided to make a special emergency grant to the International Blue Crescent. This funding will be used to provide basic necessities such as food, personal hygiene products and household appliances to the displaced persons who fled Aleppo and are now living in displaced person camps in Akhtarín, Syria.

**Breakdown of the Allocations of Funds
2013-2016
(By Sector)**

