

PHILANTHROPY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOURCES



Dear JFN Members,

In recent weeks, the unfolding circumstances present challenges and dilemmas to the Israeli and international philanthropic community that are unlike any we have encountered before. The devastating disaster that has befallen our nation has a profound impact on both Israeli society as well as the global Jewish community.

We are acutely aware that on-the-ground needs are ever-shifting, a situation that can pose challenges in decision making and coordination of philanthropic assistance amid the surge of emerging requests. Just as in routine times, during emergencies, it is JFN's responsibility to formulate and provide you with effective tools.

In the attached document, you will find proposed action principles and practical information for philanthropy. The aim is to empower you in navigating the nuanced challenges of your philanthropic endeavors in the current context. We earnestly recommend a thorough review and implementation of these guidelines to enhance the impact of your giving.

PRINCIPLES OF ACTION AND PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CURRENT PHILANTHROPIC CHALLENGES

In these critical times, our community of donors faces the imperative to contemplate the strategic steps we can collectively undertake. Each one of us stands in solidarity with the organizations we support, confronting the myriad challenges they are facing.

Challenges: Social Organizations

- Attending to the urgent needs of their target populations, devising innovative solutions, and swiftly adapting to the evolving landscape.
- Temporarily stopping operations due to government mandates, while remaining committed to honoring salaries and fixed expenses.
- Grappling with budgetary challenges, as funds are reallocated from governmental sources. There's a heightened risk of donors backing out on commitments due to the redirection of contributions to pressing emergencies. Furthermore, there's a lack of attention to the continuous needs of organizations in the coming months, potential economic crisis looming, and a limited governmental response adding to significant fundraising uncertainty.
- Coping with a shortage of human resources, with a particular emphasis on associations engaging employees and volunteers responding tirelessly to myriad emergency demands. This includes individuals whose livelihoods have been directly impacted by the conflict and those with personnel serving in the reserve forces.

PRINCIPLES OF ACTION AND PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CURRENT PHILANTHROPIC CHALLENGES

Challenges: Philanthropy

- Navigating the intricate landscape of changing needs on the ground, a dynamic that evolves daily and sometimes even hourly.
- Balancing the intention to contribute to specific responders with the desire to address the diverse spectrum of needs, avoiding unintended discrimination.
- Gaining insight into the dynamics of the philanthropic arena: what elicits a response, from whom, and what does not? (For this purpose, we are here to provide meaningful discussions).
- Contending with the uncertainty surrounding responses already provided and those slated to emanate from governmental bodies and public institutions, encompassing short-term, medium-term, and long-term considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHILANTHROPIC GIVING AMIDST CURRENT CHALLENGES

Top Advice - Connect with Philanthropic Peers: Reach out to fellow contributors in our philanthropic community to consult and collectively brainstorm efficient ways to adapt your activities to the current situation. Shared thinking and collaborative action magnify strength, especially in times of crisis. We are here to facilitate connections based on your needs, interests, and areas of activity.

Engaging with Regularly Supported Organizations

- If not done already, establish contact with each organization you contribute to, to understand the implications and consequences of the current situation. This includes assessing the organization's resilience and the impact on the target populations it serves, while striving to uphold all existing commitments. Initiate direct communication with the directors of the organizations you support, even if they may not necessarily provide emergency responses. Check with them if there are specific needs and identify available contacts who can provide assistance. Your experience with them and the direct connection is critical.
- Assure Support for Regularly Supported Organizations: Ensure ongoing support for organizations you already endorse, both in regular and emergency capacities. Some organizations may not be directly involved in emergencies now, but their role in civil society is no less meaningful post-conflict.
- Advance Donations for 2024 Operations: Whenever possible, expedite donations for the 2024 operational year. No doubt, the current liquidity bottleneck could potentially lead to the collapse of organizations, particularly those actively working amidst the conflict.
- Consider Redirecting Project-Specific Donations: If feasible, think about redirecting project-specific donations to support the organizational infrastructure of the organizations you support, especially those expected to respond to recovery, crises, and assistance to affected populations. Discuss with administrators the best way to use donations to stabilize the organization. Many organizations in the social sector you support may need to alter their work plans, find alternative solutions, and even develop working methods to adapt to the current situation.

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- **Flexibility in Reporting for Operational Ease:** For organizations operating during the crisis, be flexible in reporting requirements to ease their workload. Strive to quickly approve grants to enable organizations to respond in a timely manner to the diverse needs of different populations.
- **Encourage Collaboration Among Supported Organizations:** Suggest to the organizations you are in contact with to consult with similar entities in their field. Explore options for collaborative efforts to leverage resources and streamline efforts. Improved coordination for syncing efforts can lead to operational efficiencies in the field.

Giving to Organizations in Emergency Situations and Targeted Support

- **Aligning Expectations with organizations:** Many donors and foundations express the willingness to fund the most pressing needs at the current moment. However, there exists a substantial gap between this intent and the actual implementation capability. Our recommendation is to meticulously assess the practical execution capacity before transferring substantial sums. This ensures that the support effectively reaches critical areas and guarantee that your intended donation will indeed be utilized for its intended purpose. Despite the organization's goodwill, ascertain that it possesses the capabilities, tools, and skills to execute plans during emergencies, and that the funding you propose genuinely serves its designated purpose.
- **Foundations and Donors Interested in Granting Equipment and Supplies:** Our suggestion is to refrain from directly purchasing or sending equipment unless it has been agreed upon with the organization and aligns with their specific needs. In most instances, it proves more advantageous to provide funding to the organization itself for the purpose of procuring required items. This holds especially true for the military, where adherence to FIDF regulations is recommended.
- **The Prolonged Nature of This Endeavor:** Anticipate a protracted, multifaceted engagement in this situation, necessitating support at different junctures, both short-term and long-term. The complete financial picture, pertaining to the needs of civil society organizations and affected populations, will gradually unfold. The reconstruction task is substantial and will endure for an extensive duration. We recommend planning contributions to be impactful and sustained, not solely during the immediate timeframe but also in the medium and long term. Specific needs, such as the reconstruction of the Gaza envelope, demand significant investment and may only manifest in the coming weeks. Being capable of providing ongoing support is pivotal, and the evolving situation will offer clearer insights week by week.

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- Considerations for Long-Term Societal Impact and Philanthropic Endeavors: Noteworthy is the significant impact on society, both civil and philanthropic, with the emergence of over 300 spontaneous civic organizations, albeit with a subsequent closure rate of 20%. While encouraging and supporting these grassroots initiatives, it is imperative not to lose sight of the strategic role that organizations and donors play in the long term. Their experience and stability are invaluable contributors to sustain efforts beyond immediate crises.

Recommended Sources of Information

- JFN Website: In this time of crisis [the JFN website](#), is providing a daily updated catalog of organizations with a track record in emergencies and innovative initiatives showing both immediate and sustained effectiveness.
- Civil Leadership Initiatives: Recognizing current needs, civil leaders have penned a letter to the Prime Minister's office, urging emergency support for civic organizations. Read the letter [here](#) and advise organizations you collaborate with to [connect with the civic leadership](#) support team for ongoing updates and emergency grant details.
- Volunteer Mobilization: Activating volunteers during such times poses unique challenges. The Israeli Volunteer Council has recently published [toolkits and work modules](#), addressing varied volunteer needs in the current scenario.
- Strategic Donor Practices: Dr. Ronit Amit, a researcher on global philanthropy during crises, has curated [five recommended documents from worldwide sources](#). These resources offer insights, recommendations, and guides tailored for donors and private philanthropic entities during emergencies.
- Civil society activity in Israel in the Iron Swords war: [This document](#) reviews civilian activity in the first weeks of the war, presenting trends, challenges and insights.
- [JFN Israel's website](#) is frequently updated with summarized materials of meetings and thematic briefings specifically curated for donors and foundations.
- ['Israel Rises'](#)-This national platform acts as a centralized conduit, bridging the gap between on-the-ground needs and resources and donations from the business and philanthropic sectors. Its aim is to fortify societal and economic resilience and provide effective support during wartime and the subsequent recovery period.

JFN stands ready to fully assist you in navigating the complexities of philanthropy during these challenging times. For any inquiries, we are only a phone call away. We are glad to collaborate on devising optimal strategies to confront challenges the current situation imposes on philanthropic endeavors, among other realms. Each donor and foundation, according to their reflections, dilemmas, and needs.

Undoubtedly, this is a significant moment for the citizens of this nation, the global Jewish community, the philanthropic community, and civil society. We are confident that together, we can fortify ourselves to rebuild, rectify, reconstruct, and rejuvenate.

Wishing for brighter and safer days ahead.

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JFN Israel Team