



Operation “Rising Lion” – Spotlight on the North

After 12 days of intense fighting in the war against Iran, a ceasefire was reached on June 24, 2025.

During Operation “Rising Lion”:



29

Civilians
killed



3,491

Civilians
Injured



10,996

Displaced
Individuals



38,700

Property Tax
Claims Filed

The coordination mechanisms established after October 7 were reactivated. At JFN, we are in ongoing contact with the Home Front Command, the Prime Minister’s Office, civil society umbrella organizations and volunteer networks, local authorities, and PSOs (philanthropy serving organizations). These connections enable us to provide donors and foundations with up-to-date information about needs and how to help.

At the same time, we are closely tracking the impact of the war on the northern region and the emerging needs there. This update focuses specifically on the northern front.

Although most of the physical damage occurred in central Israel, the consequences for residents of the north are deeply felt. The region is experiencing the overall effects of the conflict-trauma, sustained stress, the shutdown of local economic activity, and economic losses – on an intensified scale. After a year and a half of ongoing evacuation and life under constant fire, many residents are once again facing frequent alarms and a lack of personal security, exacerbating the ongoing trauma.

The slow recovery of economic activity was again disrupted due to strict civil defense guidelines, causing a major setback to the economic rehabilitation in the North. There is growing concern that attention to the region's recovery will fade from public and policymaker awareness. Additionally, the high costs of the war may lead to cuts in government budgets previously allocated for northern rehabilitation, and philanthropic resources may be diverted to other urgent needs.

As of today, nearly 70% of northern residents have returned to their homes. However, the path to the full return of the population remains lengthy, and a complete picture will emerge over the summer break, and more clearly with the start of the school year.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan for Northern Rehabilitation

Despite the ongoing security situation, the professional teams at the Tenufa Directorate have continued their work uninterrupted.

A multi-year government resolution to rehabilitate and revitalize the North totaling **9 billion shekels** is expected to be approved this summer, alongside two additional resolutions:



Economic Acceleration & Business Revival Program



Planned Budget:
589M shekels

Aimed at strengthening industrial zones, attracting high-tech companies, establishing a grant fund, launching a state-backed loan guarantee fund, providing vocational training, etc.



Communities Within 0–2 km of the Border Fence



Planned Budget:
900M shekels

Includes building rental neighborhoods for young families, subsidizing land plots, making capital investments in agriculture, funding public buildings, kindergartens, daycare centers, etc.

In the upcoming period, the Northern Foundations Forum will host a series of joint zoom sessions with Tenufa Letzafon – the governmental directorate for the rehabilitation of the region. These sessions will present the strategic plan for the rehabilitation of the North and offer the philanthropic community an opportunity to provide feedback and highlight priority investment areas

Local Authorities & Civil Society

Since the start of the current conflict, local municipalities have been at the forefront, addressing the needs of affected residents. Their relative preparedness stems from the exercises and drills conducted over the past year, in preparation for a multi-front war, and close collaboration with civil society organizations.

However, many municipalities still report severe shortages of essential emergency equipment – first aid kits, mattresses, detection & rescue gear, shelter equipment, generators, etc. To help meet these needs, the government allocated designated budgets through the Ministry of Interior and funding was also provided via the national lottery (Mifal HaPais). Civil society promptly joined the effort, distributing equipment to municipalities, equipping shelters, and providing kits for children's recreational activities.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) allocated \$10 million for urgent needs, including medical and trauma relief. Grants have been given to national volunteer organizations supporting municipalities, among them northern ones, in emergency readiness, equipment acquisition, shelter equipping, recreational activities for kids, and more. Additional grants were approved for **Rambam Hospital** in Haifa and for **CSPC – The Community Stress Prevention Center** founded by Prof. Mooli Lahad, operating in the North.

Arab Society: Shelter and Emergency Preparedness Gaps

The confrontation with Iran has clarified that the missile threat is nationwide – not limited to border areas. A 2018 State Comptroller report revealed that **approximately 46% of Arab citizens lack standard protective** shelters, compared with only 26% of the general population. The current conflict intensifies the challenge, as quick and inexpensive solutions – like mobile shelters used against Hamas and Hezbollah – do not meet Home Front Command standards and fail to protect against ballistic missiles, except for one model approved for open areas in the absence of a better option.

Beyond shelter gaps, another challenge in the Arab society relates to behavior and awareness: there is lower consciousness about emergency preparedness, compliance with life-saving guidelines, and training for emergency and rescue teams.

Despite these obstacles, since October 7th, civil society organizations in the Arab community have been actively strengthening local resilience through networks of volunteers, immediate response systems, and mental-health support.

In response to urgent needs on the ground, Qudra (Arab Philanthropists Network) allocated 500,000 shekels to launch an emergency fund, which will support:

- Providing equipment to existing Emergency Response and Community Resilience Teams across up to 70 Arab local authorities.
- Supplying public shelters located in schools, mosques, churches, and community centers, in coordination with 56 Arab local authorities.

Qudra is now seeking to raise \$500,000, in addition to the 500,000 shekels already pledged, to significantly expand its aid and impact. We invite members of the philanthropic community to join this initiative.

For more information, please contact:

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Solidarity & Community-Led Initiatives

Despite the challenges, inspiring grassroots initiatives highlight the strong community spirit of Northern residents:

- Drawing from the extensive experience gained by the Kiryat Shmona municipality in managing a complex urban evacuation, the Community Resilience Coalition team developed a model of the city's evacuation process in order to share this valuable knowledge with other municipalities currently facing similar challenges.
- "Passing It Forward" – Activists from Matzpinim are gathering insights from their unique personal experiences to compile a support guide for central Israel residents entering evacuation and reconstruction periods.
- Amid the missile campaign, Kiryat Shmona and other Northern communities – despite their own hardships – opened their homes to residents from Central Israel: those impacted by the attacks and those seeking a short recreational.
- "Galilee Residents Working Together" – a local initiative in the Galilee to organize and prepare public shelters in the region.

We pray for more peaceful days ahead and for the safe return of the hostages.

If you'd like to share your own work in the North – either ongoing or emergency related, or request additional information, please feel free to reach out.

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